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August 11, 1987

Mr. Walt Willis  
32 Warren Road  
Donagadde, North Ireland BT21 OPD

Dear Mr. Willis,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Edie Stern, and I've been a fan of yours for a long time. Ever since Joe Siclari (my husband) introduced me to your work through reprinting some of your pieces in Fanhistorica, I've been digging through his collection looking for other gems. I've thoroughly enjoyed reading your articles and your fanzines.

I am also the Chairman of Tropicon VII. Tropicon is a small, relaxed convention with some programming. Tropicon VII will be held in Fort Lauderdale, December 2 - 4, 1988. On behalf of the convention, I would like to invite you and your wife to attend Tropicon VII as our Fan Guests of Honor.

As our guests, your expenses will all be paid, including travel, room and board. You need not make any speeches, nor participate in any formal programming. If you wish to participate in panels, and so forth, that would be wonderful. However, if you do not, our other professional attendees will comprise the formal program. We would be delighted with whatever you want to do.

I know you have not accepted a GoH invitation in many years. Joe was the one who extended to you the Fan GoH invitation on behalf of last year's Worldcon, Confederation. The number of invitations you've received should be a clear indication of the esteem in which you are held in the U.S., and of the strong interest that American fans have in meeting you again. After all, it's been 25 years.

As you consider this invitation, please bear in mind that Tropicon is a small relaxed gathering. You have many fans in the U.S.; this would give your friends the opportunity to come down and visit with you on this side of the ocean.

South Florida has many advantages in December. Disney World and Orlando are not too far away (ask me - I'm on the Magicon "Orlando in '92" Worldcon bid-committee). While you may find Disney closer to home in France, there is no other Cape Kennedy. If you would like, we can arrange a special tour of the spaceport. Joe and I would be glad to be native guides for any (post) convention holiday.

We are planning to attend Conspiracy in Brighton. Perhaps we will see you there. If not, I've enclosed an International Reply Coupon for your response. I wasn't an active fan in '62, so I've never had the opportunity to meet you. I would be honored if you would accept my invitation, and spend part of next winter on the beach in Fort Lauderdale with your friends.

Sincerely,

Edie Stern  
Chairman, Tropicon VII