

7TH WORLD SCIENCE-FICTION CONVENTION

SEPT. 3-7 1949
CINCINNATI OHIO

SCIENCE, *fantasy,*
and
SCIENCE-FICTION

The Magazine of Facts and Fictions

The Convention Supplement
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SCIENCE *fantasy,* and SCIENCE FICTION

The Magazine of Peace and Progress

The Convention Supplement

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#29

Although we present a complete program report of as many of the 1-day conventions as possible, such a report on a World Science Fiction Convention we consider out of place, just repeating an account you probably have already read. Therefore you will find herein only a brief summary of the program, which is being reported in detail in other magazines, notably *Fantasy Times*.

Our report, for the most part, deals with the human interest in the convention, many several hundred word stories by convention attendees, written after the event while it is still fresh in their

memories. The most interesting part.... was it in one of the smoke-filled roomsduring the auctioning of the cover painting which brought the highest price....or was it just being there among the numerous fans, enjoying every moment? We will let the fans appearing in the following pages tell you.

Again we offer our apologies for the inferior reproduction of the half-tone cuts (the photos) herein, it appears with our limited equipment trying to print such is a much too difficult process. Thanks to Driscoll Press for printing the cover picture.

'Science, Fantasy, and Science Fiction'

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THE CINVENTION

REPORT OF THE 7th. WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

Although officially the 7th. World Science Fiction Convention did not start until Saturday, Sept. 3, to quite a number of fans it had already begun Thursday evening, to many more Friday morning. By noon the arrival of new fans had become a steady procession through the lobby, and that evening the Metropole Hotel, headquarters of the Cinvention, was fairly roaring with the vast number of fans encamped under its roof.

Friday evening saw the official meeting of The Fantasy Artisans Club being held, two hours later work started on *The Cinvention Daily*, a mimeographed fanzine planned to run daily for four issues, one each day of the convention and a final 2 page wind-up issue. Doomed to become a single issue venture, due to the lack of support from fans, it still scooped many news items in its 6 pages,

and remains an accomplishment by the fans who labored over it. Art Rapp, representing Spacewarp, worked through till after 2 A.M. on it, with the assistance of several Michigan boys. Bill Kroll and John Grossman, representing The Fantasy Artisans Club, were there supplying the artwork, as well as yours truly representing this magazine.

Shortly before 1 A.M. Bill Kroll, Henry Chabot and myself took temporary leave of this project. During this middle-of-the-night interval we, together with Ron Stone visited the studios of WCKY, a Cincinnati radio station. There we met Cliff Baker, MC of a late night show known the nation over, the Nighthawk's Club, and entered into a discussion of science fiction and conventions.

Cliff had never come in contact with fandom or read science fiction, however we gave him the dope, and he put in a good plug on fandom and the Cinvention shortly after his program began at 3 A. M. Because of station regulation, Cliff had explained beforehand, no details of the location of the Cinvention could be broadcast, however the primary objectives of fandom and World Conventions were emphasized and summarized in his chat over the air.

Returning to the hotel Bill and myself resumed work on *The Cinvention Daily*, continuing to after 8, when it was turned over to Art Rapp for

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The Fantasy Artisans Club - Official Meeting at the Cinvention, Sept. 2. l. to r.: Sol Levin, Henry Chabot, Jack Gaughan, John Grossman, Lester Fried, Ed Cox, Walter Coslet, Bill Kroll, Michael DeAngelis and Ray Nelson. Photo by Dietz

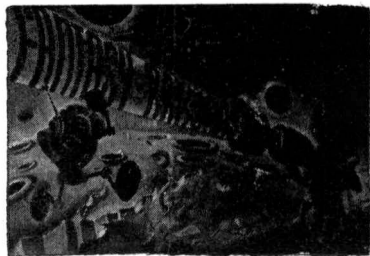
completion. (Copies are still available from Art Rapp, 2120 Bay St., Saginaw, Mich. at 5 cents each.)

The morning of the first day of the convention was by then well under way, with most fans in the Ballroom, where the convention was held, meeting each other and entering into discussions. Later registration began, fans received their CInvention Booklets, and the autograph seekers turned out in full force.

Close after 1 P.M. the convention was called to order by Charles R. Tanner, chairman, who stood silhouetted against the 9 x 12 backdrop, a magnificent painting by John Grossman and Bill Kroll. Mr. Tanner introduced Don Ford, who welcomed us all, then delegated Melvin Korshak to introduce the many professionals and known fans present.

Speakers for the afternoon were Lloyd A. Eshbach, Author Guest of Honor, who spoke on STF and publishing, Lester del Ray, who spoke about the 1930's style of sex in STF today, and the need for changes to bring it up to date and further, and Ray Palmer, who made an honest and forward talk, telling of his resignation from Ziff-Davis, his purchase of Clark Pub. Co., publishers of 'Fate' and 'Other Worlds', his plans to edit the 2 mags, and his hope to again become active in fandom, now that he is his own boss in such matters.

The evening session opened after supper with Jack Williamson taking the platform and speaking about the differences in the weird, fantasy and science fiction story. V. T. Hamlin, creator of the Alley Oop comic strip, was next, he spoke on the differences between his



Club Exhibition Backdrop - Full Color Painting by Sol Levin.

strin, which has science as a prop for the human drama, to science fiction, in which science is foremost.

In closing he commented on the several prozine covers displayed for the auction, which he cared little for. E. E. Smith, Ph.D., the next speaker, answered this comment to the effect that the covers are not our fault or the editors', but are to be blamed on the publishers. He continued his talk telling how he enjoyed a STF convention much more than any other, and ended talking about his Skylark stories.

Thus ended the first day, soon after which fans flocked to the inevitable smoke-filled rooms. About 11 Sunday morning The National Fantasy Fan Federation held their meeting in the Ballroom. Main item of interest were plans to publish further art folios.

The program for the afternoon was the auction, which continued well into the evening, then interrupted to continue the following morning. With a total of 152 listed items on display, it was quite impressive, more so with many additional unlisted items. Outstanding

Continued on Page 9

Fan Reports.....

James V. Taurasi said;

I was very impressed by the open discussions and votes for the 1950 Convention site. Never in all the reports of past conventions have I read where the convention site for the next year was picked so honestly and democratically. I only hope that in future conventions this practice will be continued. The disappearance of the "smoke-filled room" in picking conventions is a sure sign that science fiction fandom is growing up. Portland won the site fair and square and I hope all fandom will go all out and support them in their '50 Convention.

Impressive and heart-warming was the TV show put on by Dave Kyle, and numerous authors, book publishers and fans. Their discussion was serious. They treated science fiction the way it should be treated. Any non-STF reader listening in would have gotten a good viewpoint on STF and not the Buck Rogers bang, bang they usually get. The same goes for the newspapers' reports on the Convention, tho they didn't go as far.

It was fun to meet fellow fans I hadn't met in over ten years, but it was surprising how old the boys are getting. Ten years ago they were just kids, now they are men (and women). Yes, some even have grey hair (some have no hair!) Yes, tho we'll still have the teen-agers with us (and we need them), the old-timers are now in their 30s and most are married.

Ray Palmer made an impression with the fans, and tho he believes in voices, the fans love him. The highlight

of the convention was Ted Carnell from England. I hope that British fans can make it every convention. A closer tie with the British fans is needed. Donating \$300. so fans in England and Australia can have promags and books is another good sign that fandom is growing up and beginning to take care of its own. Why not keep donating \$15 whenever possible and keep this good work going as long as needed? How would you feel if you couldn't get a pro or fan mag?

All in all, I had the best time of my life at the Convention; thank you, Convention Committee. Next year Portland!

Ed Cox said;

The Convention, my first conventionthe whole thing was so new to me that there aren't too many outstanding memories, but one was even before the convention started. On the night before the first day 9 fans piled into Harry Moore's car and we went over to D. C. Richardson's home to see him and his collection. We made it and proceeded to divide our attention among the books, the FFM-FN cover or g equals on the walls and a group of pros. Upstairs were his magazines, which we scooped over.

Other big moments (or hours!) included the time I walked into the convention hall first to see it swarming with people, all fans!, me, who had never seen a real live fan until the day or two before....I proceeded to get autographs from all and sundry, an interesting past-time. The auctions were good too, only

I didn't bid much at all. It was the first time I had seen so many originals, in fact except for the ones I saw in Richardson's collection they were the first I'd ever seen!

The NFFF meeting for official business held in Dale Tarr's room was also something to remember. It was, I believe, one of the first times so many officers of the club were able to meet in person and work out problems and plans.

One particularly outstanding memory is of the TV broadcast WLWT made covering the Cinvention, with a sort of round-table (serious) discussion among authors, artists, publishers and fans. It was a fan's dream to see a TV broadcast like that. It also shows how much this stuff called science fiction advances!

And not the least of my memories are the times when I met, and enjoyed the convention, with fans with whom I've corresponded for so long.

Art Rapp said;

I dunno much to say about the convention I haven't said already in the WARP article. There are one or two minor additions...the sad disillusionment

of Singer upon learning that Pat Crossley wasn't really Margaret St. Clair. Someone had informed Ben that Pat was the authoress, but didn't want people to know it. According to the MSFS boys Singer spent a day or so of the con busily spreading the info to anyone who'd listen.

What I liked most about the Cinvention was the number of famous people there. I'm an incurable hero-worshiper, and any STF writer who has crashed the prozines is a hero to me.

One of the big surprises of the con, to me, was meeting Rog Phillips. I'd figured him to be a bespectacled, small, Caspar Milquetoastish chap lurking in the background...I used to have a theory that all STF authors were weaklings who wrote about big brawny heroes to compensate for their own failings. Well, having met him yourself, you can see how far wrong I was! Of course, Bloch and GOSmith had done a lot to shatter that theory at the Torcon, but this convention finished it off completely!

Another guy I enjoyed meeting was Ray Higgs, the demon mimeo-whirler. He turned out to be a quiet, easy-going and likeable guy with a fascinating st-

Among the Cinvention attendees....

MANY PROS - AUTHORS, ARTISTS AND EDITORS - BROUGHT BIG INTEREST,
INCLUDING THOSE PICTURED AT RIGHT

THEY ARE:

- No. 1 - E. E. Smith (C)
- No. 2 - E. E. Evans & ? (C)
- No. 3 - Melvin Korshak
- No. 4 - Ray Palmer (C)
- No. 5 - l. to r. Eshbach, Judith Merrill, Evans and Milt Rothman
- No. 6 - V. T. Hamlin (C)
- No. 7 - Lester del Ray

- No. 8 - Charles Tanner
- No. 9 - Jack Williamson (C)
- No. 10 - Ted Carnell
- No. 11 - Lloyd A. Eshbach
- No. 12 - G. O. Smith
- No. 13 - Don Ford

Credits: Nos. marked 'C' by Walter R. Cole, others by your Editor.



ore of info on amateur journalism.

Ray Nelson said;

I was lost in a 67 dimensional fan-nish spacewarp, and remember only a few snatches of it. All the rest is a rose-tinted blur of fan club meetings, pros and burlesk girls. A few snatches come to me tho.

Like the time a herd of fen piled in to Harry Moore's car two layers deep and roared off for the house of Richardson across the river. At his house I got my first look at the pro authors. What a letdown! I always had the deepest contempt for Doc Smith's space opera, but the man in the flesh was about as good humored and civilized a gent as I've ever met. Jack Williamson, on the contrary, has always been one of my favorites, but in the flesh....he's a huge guy, very, very quiet, with a sort of blank look on his face, and he gave me the creeps.

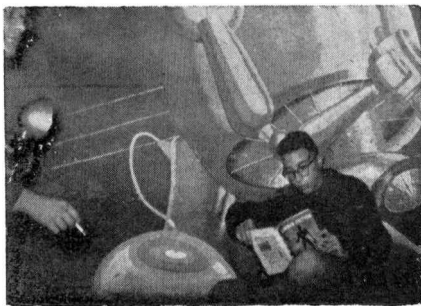
The unfavorable impression made by all the pros was corrected by meeting Judith Merrill and hearing her speech and later comments in a bull session, and by meeting other pros such as Rog Phillips, Ray Palmer, Hannes Bok and many others.

Rog even went so far as to take in the local burlesk with some MSFSers, human fen and me. (Anything Ben Singer tells you about me and the second girl from the right, first chorus, is no-ught but lies. Besides how did he know?)

Another moment that returns to me was when we sat around an all-night diner talking about everything from space drives to the traffic regulations in Detroit. Then we walked across the bridge into the next state and strolled ar-

ound the empty streets till false dawn started to lighten the horizon, then walked back to our hotel rooms.

Maybe you think I should have written more about the formal program of the C invention, but you can see that sort of stuff anywhere, and for me the things in the formal program were just rest periods between the really important events, like watching the sun come up out of the Cincinnati skyline.



Henry Chabot, being photographed by Cincinnati Enquirer photographers.

Lee D. Quinn said;

One's first convention is always colored with confusion. The uninitiated usually step back and try to gather names from the everpresent shouts of greeting and good old fashioned reminiscing. That is, this is done at anything but a science fiction convention. On the first day you begin to realize this. One second I was walking into the hotel with some fans I came with....the next one I found myself walking alone. The boys were all a few yards behind, shaking hands with many strange people. "Ah well," I sighed, "I never knew they had

relatives here!" How was I supposed to know that the strangers were pen pals and cell mates at other conventions?

After a bit of confusion we (the group) staggered up to the reservation desk. Here we met with more of the confusion. The desk muttered "Quinn... Quinn... These damned futuremen, they got me all confused! Oh yes... here it is. You have a nice double room. Wonderful room... yes... wonderful."

After explaining that I had written for a single he said, "Haven't you any friend out here you can double up with?" Well, I thought, there is always Will Sykora. After talking with Will we thought it would be better if we got two singles. I told the desk clerk this and he replied "That's too bad. It seems we only have double rooms." Muttering strange invocations we accepted.

As editor of One Fan's Opinion I'll give you some of my opinions of the Cinvention. As much as I hate to admit this I believe fans are human. They seem to act just as any other group at a convention in a strange town. After the business sessions are over they even talk like humans! And after seeing a great many of the BNFs with their hair down (a figure of speech to indicate that they were under the influence of alcohol) I

think they are regular fellows and not the horrible orges they are said to be in the crusading fan magazine.

Now to the west coast fans, I say... "See you in Portland in '51!" And to each one of you... I'd like to talk to you in my fanzine... the friendly fanzine... One Fan's Opinion.

Henry Chabot said;

Here's an anecdote coming from the Cinvention if you can use it; In Cin-cy it was my dubious pleasure to share a room with Michael DeAngelis, who has made himself notori...er...popular with fans as an all-around crackpot. The division of the bed was fairly simple - I slept under the covers and he on top. On the first night after the four of us (Bill Kroll, Ron Stone, Frank Dietz and myself) had visited WCKY, I was surprised to note that Mike was going to bed without removing his clothes, not even his battered brown fedora. Shrugging this off as another of his non-conformist idiosyncracies, I went to sleep.

Upon getting up in the morning I was surprised to see him changing his clothes. I asked him the reason and he replied, "Oh, they look as though they had been slept in!"

25 - Photos - 25

of the Cinvention

NOW AVAILABLE - SEE INSIDE BACK COVER

among these were 27 original strips of **Alley Oop** contributed by V. T. Hamlin, the complete set of originals from the first issue of **Other Worlds**, and many stills from various fantasy and **STF** movies. Just one record was known to be broken, the highest bid for a book; \$36. was bid for a copy of A. E. Van Vogt's **Weapon Makers**.

Immediately after a number of us fans and pros prepared to attend what was probably the biggest event in the history of fandom, a one-half hour TV show conducted by and featuring fans and pros, while the many unable to attend prepared to view it on the set in the Ballroom.



Cliff Baker, MC of the Nighthawk Club of WCKY, Cincinnati.

Although the program was completely unrehearsed, it went off beautifully, taking part were Miss STF 1949 complete in costume, Dave Kyle as MC, pros E E Smith, Ph D. Judith Merrill, Jack Williamson and Fritz Leiber Jr., artists Hannes Bok and John Grossman, fans Ted Carnell, Forrest J. Ackerman, Bob Tucker and Walter R. Cole, book publishers Lloyd A. Eshbach, Jim Williams

and Melvin Korshak, and Doc Barrett, his son Jimmy and E. E. Evans. Several of the cover originals were shown too, particularly that one bought by Walter Cole for \$48.

We arrived back at the hotel and the evening session began, with English Guest of Honor Ted Carnell taking the platform. He spoke on fandom in England, the red tape he had to go through to get over, and their project to publish **New Worlds**.

George O. Smith followed, giving a very interesting and humorous talk, then Arthur J. Burkes followed, his subject was the power fans actually have on the material in the **STF** pulps.

Winding up the 2nd. day of the convention was a round-table discussion of **STF**. Taking part in this were E. E. Evans as moderator, Judith Merrill as editor, Lloyd Eshbach as a publisher, Fritz Leiber Jr. as an author and Milt Rothman as a fan.

The third day dawned bright and early, with the main auction resumed in the A.M. This continued all through the morning, ending shortly after noon. A total of 233 items were auctioned off, with a total receipt for the Convention of \$980.15, and with practically every fan present owning at least one item. Soon after the fan auction was started, this was interrupted and delayed however for the business session.

The business began soon after Fritz Leiber Jr. had given a short talk 'to quiet the audience', first and main topic was the voting for next year's convention site. Three ballots were cast, results for the first: New York - 48, Washington - 29, Portland - 36, New Orleans - 8;

25 - Photos - 25

of the Cinvention

Now available are complete sets of photos of the Cinvention, probably the most complete sets, with a total of 25 shots. Included are all the speakers, many of the more prominent fans and other items of interest.

Three sets are available, in three prices:

Mixed 2¼ x 3¼ and 4 by 5 prints -	\$2.50
All 2¼ x 3¼ prints -	\$4.00
All 4 x 5 prints -	\$5.00

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second: New York - 60, Portland - 60; third and deciding vote: Portland - 67, New York - 23.

The financial status of the Cinvention was then given, with a total expenditure of \$443.96, a total receipt of \$1807.15, the Cinvention made a profit of \$863.18, much of which was contributed to worthy causes, such as buying STF books and mags for Australian and English fans.

The fan auction resumed soon after and continued till just before the Banquet. Although planned that 20 per cent of the intake should go to the Cinvention, due to the large profit in already this was vetoed, was not required.

The banquet was held in the Grill of the Metropole, and featured an excellent variety of food, sufficient in

quality and quantity to satisfy everybody. After we again retired to the Ballroom, to enjoy the last session of the Cinvention. Before the session started though photographers from the Cincinnati Inquirer took some shots of fans in costumes; Jean Bogert of Phila., Nancy Moore of Cincy, Henry Chabot of New York, Art Rapp of Mich. and Miss STF 1949.

The last session was as entertaining as expected, winding up the convention in a happy note. It began with a short space opera by the Phila. group, followed by Sam Moskowitz reciting of his beloved poem "The Raven", and ended with the Cincinnati group assembling on the platform to receive an impressive applause for the splendid job.



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