

ANDY PORTER AT THE PHILCON...



OPO #24, December 18, 1964; From Pat & Dick Lupoff, Merry Hell, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603; for Apa F & Apa L; written by Dick Lupoff, Student[!]

"Just for the record, the entire Pacificon committee -- not just me -- takes the position that the Hugo Study Committee has nothing whatsoever to do with nominations, that whatever Halevy said from the platform about what would be done, it wasn't done. Halevy changed his mind and even if he hadn't the other three members would have overruled him. And it's a damn good thing for the Hugo Study Committee too. If you want to put through ANY sort of reform at all, for God's sakes stay out of the Hugo nomination fracas."

-- William Donaho
November 30, 1964

Considerable space in this small periodical has been devoted lately to the affairs of the Hugo Study Committee (I do like that name better than Hugo Investigating Committee), and the above quotation constitutes the first paragraph of one of the early responses to the Open Letter recently circulated through Apas F&L (and elsewhere). About the only reaction that comes to mind, to the above ¶, is "Now you tell me?"

Upon sober reflection, however, two further points become noticeable: [1] What the Chairman of the P'Con Business session did at that session certainly has whatever binding force any BSession action has, but once the session was adjourned, that was IT. Ex post facto mindchanging has no bearing upon this committee. Aside from that, the Pacificon has been over for three months now; the P'ConCom is a ghost, nothing more, and its powers now are nil.

[2] The Hugo Study Committee will accept supplementary nominations as announced in the open letter, and will make recommendations to the Loncon Committee as planned. Once these recommendations are made, it is up to London to do what they want with them...put 'em on the ballot or put 'em on the fire. They are only recommendations, and if Loncon sees fit not to heed them, that's their business, and there will be no screams from Dick Lupoff. [I do not speak for Harlan Ellison.]

The Fanoclast Petition has been Noted, and will be included in our supplementary nominations in the spring or our report to the Business Session, or both.

It might interest you to know that responses to the open letter are very slow in coming...fans, it would seem, love to sound off in the fan press, but are not nearly so eager to co-operate with a constituted authority, even as un-authoritarian a one as I have tried to make this committee.

But I'm writing this the evening of December 6, trying to get a couple of OPOs ahead because of School that starts tomorrow morning at 8:30. That leaves over three weeks before the cut-off date for responses to the open letter, and I have hopes of a goodly bunch of them in that time.

Pat and I enjoyed the Fanoclast meeting December 4, and will try to make more in the future. New York is a nice place to visit but Poughkeepsie is Merry Hell.