

The Heinlein Society, a non-profit corporation, is an educational charity.
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Report from ConJose

By David Silver

The Society spent a good deal of time and effort attending this year's World Science Fiction Convention in San Jose, Calif., ☐ ConJose as they called it.

For those who haven't attended sci-fi conventions (and that included me until last year's World Con in Philadelphia), it can be an unusual experience. Think of a combination business convention-seminar-party time-formal dance-awards ceremony-and what have you. Yes, there are folk walking around in Klingon costumes, and gamers rolling twenty-sided dice, and collectors, publishers, agents and authors trying to sell books and promote themselves and you have it; but there's almost as much variety in sci-fi conventions as the number of them held.

Glancing over at the upcoming sci-fi cons listed on Locus Magazine On-Line for next year, I see about sixty thus far, all over the United States, Canada, and elsewhere. More will be listed as dates firm and information is received. It would be wonderfully effective if we could attend only a quarter of these next year.

We could use a few more good members interesting in attending Cons for us. Let me know, please.

The reason we spent so much effort this year attending World Con and others is directly related to our goals as a Society:

* Education can be well-promoted at panels held at these conventions ☐ and we are developing attractive panel presentations to fulfill this aim;

* Fundraising and membership recruitment doesn't begin or continue without exposure to more and more people: people donate to people, and people volunteer to work with other people whose efforts they respect, not for causes ☐ and we are receiving favorable exposure by efforts at Conventions;

* Library and blood drive services can become effective only through ongoing efforts to educate and ☐ recruit membership and to convince people to appreciate the works of Robert Heinlein.

Now to the report. ConJose was held over the four-day Labor Day weekend. Most of us arrived on Thursday. Our

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first Society event was held that afternoon.

A visit to the library

Bill Patterson, Peter Scott, Geo and Deb Houdek Rule, myself and my wife Andrea Silver, and a guest of Bill's, Javier Ruiz, visited the Heinlein Collection of manuscripts and other items held in the Special Collections Library at University of California, Santa Cruz. We were very graciously received by Paul Stubbs, one of the librarians, who had some actual artifacts (Heinlein's computer, chair, electric typewriter, some other things including a painting of their home in Colorado Springs) for us, as well as ☐ most importantly, many separate original manuscripts each of us had asked to view. We spent two hours there. It is a beautiful building, quiet and well-designed.

All the library staff was helpful; and we were sorry to miss Rita Bottoms, the other librarian, whose husband was ill and who had to leave before we arrived to attend him.

I was allowed to examine the manuscript of "Methuselah's Children," which included something really amazing. It seems Robert kept the outlines he submitted to John Campbell with this story; and, actually, the whole novel was a combination of plots and themes outlined for four separate stories he proposed to Campbell.

I could also see a very strong influence in one aspect of the outlines from certain H. Rider Haggard stories I've read. The phraseology used in the outlines reflects Haggard's usage at bit. Perhaps one day, for someone