



Panel Discussion: From left: Robert James, John Maddox Roberts, David Silver, Peter Scott and Bart Kemper.

Photo by Karen Connell

CONVENTION

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set up when I started to receive a shock that continued throughout the convention. The room, scheduled to seat 200 or 250, filled up completely.

By the time we started, people were leaning against walls. We all, panelists and audience, had a great 80-minute session. We did our best to turn it into a seminar and encouraged questions and statements. The audience responded nicely. All the panelists were great, and the moderator did his standard recovering, er, retired lawyer's act of dancing around and looking busy, whilst trying to avoid exposing his own growing bald spot to the audience's very pointed horns. It was great fun! And we had to herd the audience out to make room for the next panel, continuing conversations down the hallway into the main concourse.

Later that day, Bill Patterson and a group he selected did the "predictions" panel to an equally packed room. I had to miss it because Peter, Andrea and I were off making a few purchases and getting set up for the second Annual Robert A. Heinlein Memorial dinner. Bill's panel included Dafydd ap Hugh, Brad Lyau and Hugh Daniel. Sorry I missed it; but I'll be able to see it in rerun form this

Thanksgiving weekend when the panel will be given on Saturday at LosCon29 in Burbank, Calif.

Who's coming to dinner?

Our dinner at the Eulipia followed. Sixty-three guests attended, including invited guest authors Niven, Brin, Bear, Benford, Maddox Roberts, Malatre, Moon, Silverberg, Haber, and probably half of the rest of the room who were there on their own hook as Society members. And of course, Karen Anderson, Poul's widow, and an author in her own right.

We all managed to fit in up there. Drinks and food were excellent, both dinner upstairs and the pre-dinner reception held downstairs. Service was a leetle slow -- the banquet room is new, and I honestly do not think they ever tried serving 63 entres at once. But, they got it to us. Bob and Karen Haber Silverberg had to slip quietly away, because of very firm other commitments; but next year "ve vil serve on time!" Bob and Karen were very gracious when they had to leave.

The master of ceremonies stumbled along with the program after dinner, first welcoming everyone, then introducing Charles N. Brown, retiring editor of *Locus Magazine*, one is also of our founding Board of Directors, who regaled us with his memories of Robert Heinlein, and was graciously in tears when

he finished.

RAH on video

Then we slipped in the surprise we'd planned and the reason Peter Scott had to miss that time away from the convention overseeing me to be sure I got the electronics hookup right.

We played a video of Walter Cronkite's interview with Robert Heinlein and Arthur Clarke during the Apollo mission's first landing on the moon in 1969.

Many of us had never seen that interview, and some didn't even know it was scheduled at the time or that a tape existed. Some folks in our audience were not even alive when Armstrong and Aldrin set foot on her. Only thirty-three years, but oh, so long ago! It was the height of the evening.

I introduced Bill, Mike Sheffield and Alan Milner, whose plane arrived from Boston just in time to see the Cronkite interview and eat his kept-warm steak after his introduction. Mike is our blood drives chair, and Alan our fundraising chair. Alan got to introduce himself after Mike was finished by saying, "Mike only wants your blood, but I want your money!" I think he was waiting to deliver that line a long time.

One of the authors rushed over after Alan

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