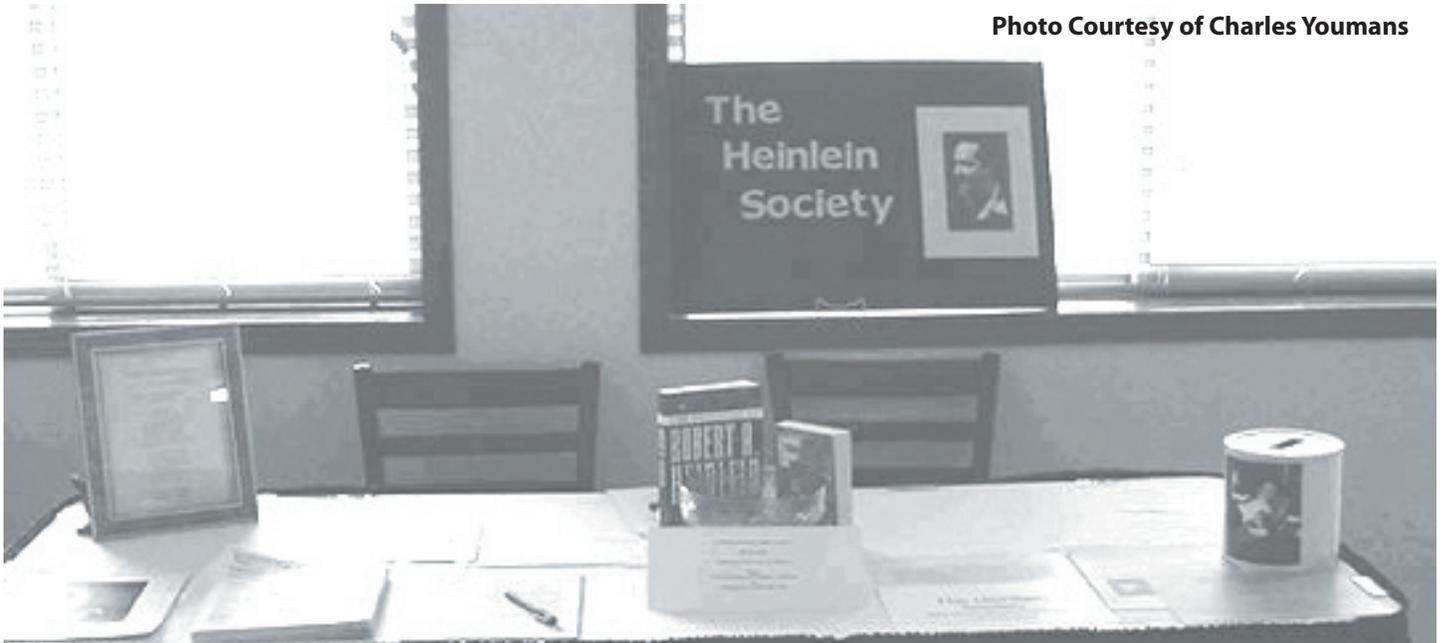


Society Activities Reports

Photo Courtesy of Charles Youmans



Heinlein Society Fan Table at MisCon17, Memorial Day Weekend, Ready to Go

tab for them in the hospitality room and nobody took advantage. In exchange for the help, Con Security hung around more and registration staff pointed out our table as THE place to visit.

Last Day Of The Con:

Don't blow off the last day. Many fans attending the con are stingy with their money the first couple of days, by the end of the con they are getting tired and generous. Continue your presence at least until the dealer room closes.

But What Do I Say?

The Heinlein Society has an excellent website and everything they stand for is listed on the site. Read it, read it again, mull it over and make it your own. This is much better than having a rote speech written down. Just talk to folks, find out what their first Heinlein book was; what does Heinlein mean to them? One fellow was talking about his relationship with Heinlein; and I found out later it was David Gerrold ... another hint: know what the GOHs look like.

We had several nice surprises, many of the fans we talked to we knew from the 'outside' and never knew they read and enjoyed SF. Since MisCon is so small there were many friends we meet up with every year. This made our first attempt at a Heinlein table easy on us.

What Will Be Different Next Year?

Advertising:

- The local TV stations have community service spots, and the public access station is available
- I'm planning to distribute Flyers in the bookstores and ask MisCon to include us on their flyers

Panels:

- Find out the theme for next year and arrange panels that fit the theme - Participate in a couple of other interest panels
- Have a room party and take the Con Com and the GOHs out to dinner or for cocktails.
- Offer to help with movies in the video room, I have a large selection, surely we can come up with something.

Start earlier, the best strategy I can recommend. By the time I was in a position to offer, a lot of the things I had planned were already in place. MisCon 18 will be the place to be in 2004.

But most of all ... Even though I have a hard time believing in myself, I believe in Heinlein and what he has taught me. His memory makes it easier.

Elizabeth Youmans, RN, who lives and works in Missoula, MT along with her husband Charlie, who bakes for a living. They are owned by one cat. His name is Smudge.