

The Heinlein Society, a non-profit corporation, is an educational charity.
<http://www.heinleinsociety.org>
 PO Box 1254
 Venice, Calif., 90294 USA

Fall 2002 Issue

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

The Heinlein Society

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

Continued on page 2



‘Stranger’ discussion: From left to right: Dr. Robert James, Ph.D., English, UCLA; Bill Patterson; Prof. Herb Gililland, USNA (Captain, USNR, retired) and Geo Rule.

Photo by Art Dula

CONVENTION

from page 1

else will write a piece on these outlines and influences that may be in them and succeed in having it published in The Heinlein Journal, or elsewhere, for your delight and enjoyment. Something to do in my spare time, eh?

Deb Houdek took some photos of this visit we posted on our website, on our archives page. Look under Conventions.

Late Thursday afternoon, Peter Scott, Andrea and I left Bill and everyone else to their own devices; and I touched bases with the manager of the Eulipia, to ensure whether he'd been successful in obtaining some equipment we needed for the program for the Friday night and ensure he was ready for sixty-plus guests we expected.

He had and assured us he was. It is a

beautiful little restaurant, nice bar, in very good taste, with a good menu. The staff we met were very friendly and helpful. I was a little worried about how more than 60 people would fit in that banquet room of theirs, but assured they all would.

Then Peter, Andrea, and I enjoyed a nice Italian dinner at the San Jose Hyatt, which was a bit far from the convention center, but nicely appointed, with an excellent restaurant including patio seating, around a good sized pool and spa.

‘Heinlein 101’

Later Thursday night Robert James arrived at the airport (having arranged to take a Friday off from his classes); and we picked him up and lodged him in the hospitality suite Andrea and I had rented. Robert, Peter, myself, and two others: Bart Kemper and author John Maddox Roberts, were scheduled to kick off our first panel the next morning at

9 am, Heinlein 101. Robert is an English teacher with a Ph.D from UCLA, whose writings you might recognize if you subscribe to The Heinlein Journal. He wrote a beautifully researched article on Leslyn MacDonald Heinlein, second wife of Robert. Peter owns a software consulting company up in Seattle; and Bart is an engineer from Louisiana and was then the C.O. of a combat engineer company in the Army Reserve - National Guard. Just your standard bag of ordinary Heinlein readers, sorta. John is a good friend of and co-author with Yoji Kondo, then our newest Board member; and Yoji had asked John to appear on a couple of our panels.

We checked in to the Convention Center, and safely found each other in the Green Room, managed to find the room where Heinlein 101 was scheduled, and started to

Continued on page 3



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

Photo by Karen Connell

CONVENTION

from page 2

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

Continued on page 4



CONVENTION

from page 3

was done and handed him a check, but Alan vil be back to that well, und soon.

Then I got to eat my kept-warm steak — which was very nice, as folk chatted and filed downstairs, and then pay the consolidated bill. It was a wonderful evening. My only regret is it seemed to go by in such a blur. Several nice folk took photos, Deb again, Art Dula, who is the Estate's attorney, and a very nice non-member named Karen Connell, but whose application I hope to see soon. Karen brought several chat room hosts from AOL's science fiction forums. All those photos are on the website too.

Blood drive success

Saturday saw the Heinlein Memorial blood drive Mike Sheffield had pitched at the dinner. This is the second time we've conducted the drive at WorldCon. It was a



Dinner conversation, Top photo: Left row, front to back: Charlie Brown, Jenni Hall; Mike Sheffield; Keith Kato. Right Row, Front to Back: Debbie Levi, (Hidden: possibly John and Beth Roberts), Richard Ahern and Rosella Alm. **Above:** First Row (Backs to camera): Art Dula; Bart Kemper; Rayma Kemper; Chris Soens; Trevor Lamb. Second row, (Facing camera): Dafydd ap Hugh, Sachiko Yamada, John DiPalmero and David Glenn-Anderson.

Photos by Karen Connell

Continued on page 5



Waiting for dinner: Left row, front to back: Fred Moulton, Frances Van Cleave and Kent Van Cleave. Right row, front to back: Jake Keaton, Patricia Mathews, Gary Rubin, Elizabeth Moon, Kay Metzger and Valerie Johnson.

Photo by Karen Connell

CONVENTION

from page 4

resounding success, despite being held at a hotel about a quarter mile away from the Convention Center.

The folk from the Stanford University bloodmobile unit were happy, however, that we had arranged facilities inside in an air conditioned ballroom at the Fairmont.

Mike eased their worries about the slow early turnout by prowling the Convention Center with advertising and, possibly, judging from results, used a cattle prod to move donors on over. But, I can't vouch for that.

My blood pressure was down enough this time; and it was a pleasure to donate again after many years from the surgery that led to my somewhat early retirement.

We had 100 volunteers, from whom Stanford collected 80 units. Next year in

Toronto, our goal will be twice that. We're learning how to arrange these things. Mike and the LAFSF found a cache of pins Robert Heinlein originally designed and commissioned for donors years ago; the donors all received a pin; Ginny sent autographed copies of "I Will Fear No Evil" (and "The Cat Who Walks Through Walls" for those who donated last year).

I'm not sure how many of the authors we invited found time, but I know Elizabeth Moon spent the entire afternoon chatting with and thanking donors for their donation. A very nice lady, who is one of the advisory panelists who will select the winner of the new Heinlein Award for science fiction that will likely be awarded at next World Con in Toronto. We are honored to be a sponsor of that new, and really long-awaited, award, which our board member Yoji Kondo has organized.

40 years after Hugo

Saturday afternoon, Bill Patterson, Geo Rule, Dr. Robert James, and Cap. Herb Gilliland, a U.S. Navy Academy Professor of English who is also one of the Heinlein Award panelists, presented their panel on "Stranger in a Strange Land" called "40 Years After the Hugo." Again the room was packed to literal overflowing, people were actually standing outside the open doors in the hallway listening to the panel all throughout the hour and one-half it was scheduled. I squeezed in for a time, but gave up my place to one of the folk hanging in the hallway. I get to listen to Bill, Robert, and Geo all the time anyway. Geo is our newly appointed committee chair for scholastics and academics; and he's doing a bang up job organizing it.

Continued on page 7



Holding court: George Rule and Bill Patterson at Heinlein Society Booth. *Photo by Art Dula.*

The
Heinlein
Society

Visit the Web site:
<http://www.heinleinsociety.org>

Join today!
Sign up your friends tomorrow!

CONVENTION

from page 5

More panels

Saturday evening we had a nicely attended informal reception at the hotel that Peter Scott organized to discuss and start planning the forthcoming Centennial Celebration of Robert Heinlein's birth.

Andrea Silver went shopping, served as hostess and prepared the food refreshments for us. Nothing she hasn't happily done before elsewhere, but the Board of Directors voted her their thanks at our next meeting. Several of our guests at this reception joined the Society at our annual general meeting the next day.

Sunday saw a panel named Heinlein's

Children, intended to discuss writers who have followed in Heinlein's footsteps. Joe Haldeman moderated. The panel also included Brad Lyau and John Maddox Roberts, as well as Eleanor Wood, of Spectrum Agency, which represents many authors and, of course, the Heinlein Estate. It was well-attended and very enjoyable. We were sorry that Larry Niven was unable to attend, to serve on the panel. Perhaps he'll be able to serve next year.

Sunday afternoon, the Heinlein Society conducted its first general membership meeting. Bill Patterson was reelected to a three-year term as director and, with Tawn Johnson, unable to continue to serve due to family illness, Alan Milner was elected our newest board member, also for a three year

term. Over thirty people attended the meeting, and several of those, non-members, joined the Society. Ms. Eleanor Wood attended as our honored guest.

I am pleased to announce also, that at the board's first meeting after the general meeting, Mr. Patterson was again elected by the board to serve as President of the Society and Chairman of the Board. Or "pro tem" chairman, as he insists, evidently expecting the Burroughs Irrelevancy Bus to arrive any moment and intending to surrender the gavel to Robert when he holds out his hand. We attended receptions that evening following the award of Hugos and dinner. We were able to thank for their help Joe Haldeman, Eleanor Wood, and, as always, Karen Anderson, who

Continued on page 8



Distinguished guests: In the foreground, with her back to the camera, is Robert Heinlein's literary agent, Eleanor Wood. Left row, front to back, Steve Lovekin, Nick Lovekin and Laurie Williams. Right row, front to back: Joel McKinnon, Alexandra Bear, Erik Bear, Astrid Bear, Greg Bear.

Photo by Karen Connell



Table talk: Left row, front to back: Robert James, Bill Patterson, Andrea Silver and Brad Lyau. Right row, front to back: Geo Rule, Deb Rule, Marilyn Niven, Larry Niven.

Photo by Karen Connell.

CONVENTION

from page 7

had a special reception celebrating her many years of attending WorldCons, and was graciousness in itself.

Monday morning we Killed the Lawyers, in a panel I moderated, discussing Robert Heinlein's take on the role of the law and lawyers. Art Dula and Herb Gilliland were the other panelists. Another volunteer panelist, L.N. Collier, a lawyer from Missouri right down the road from where Heinlein was born, got tangled up in emergent litigation and was unable, sadly, to catch the plane but sends his best wishes to us all. Next year I'll be able to ask him far enough in advance for him to block out that spot on his calendar; and we'll all be able to enjoy his wit and intelligence in

person, rather than on the Internet only. There's a report on that panel in the archives section on the website. See, the post David Wright reproduced after it was made on alt.fan.heinlein.

Then Bill, Alan and I retired to the hotel, discussed the future budget for 2003, next year's plans and, when it was appropriate for me to do so, I made sure all the half-emptied bottles were properly prepared for transportation out of town. And then we went home.

Remember your dues

Speaking of budget and plans, membership dues for 2003 are payable on Jan. 1. Please, "Don't make me come find you. You won't like it."

I'd like to thank everyone who participated, but especially Peter Scott, who despite a back strain and quite a bit of

pain limped on and did absolutely essential work to help make everything work out. And, of course, my long-suffering, and very tolerant and patient wife of thirty-six loving years, Andrea, for all that she did to make sure all of us were at the proper place, at the proper time, with the proper equipment and in the proper uniform ready to do our job throughout the Convention. And, of course, Ginny, always Ginny, without whose long years of inspiration and devotion very few of us would have considered starting this thing of ours and Robert's.

"The Lieutenant expects your names to shine!"

*David M. Silver
Secretary-Treasurer
The Heinlein Society*

THS visits RAH archives



By Geo Rule

A delegation from The Heinlein Society, joined by Javier Ruiz of L. Ron Hubbard's Author Services, visited the Robert A. Heinlein archives during Worldcon.

The Heinlein archives are located in the special collections section of the McHenry Library on the beautiful tree-lined campus at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

The special collections web site can be found at <http://library.ucsc.edu/speccoll/index.html>.

Along for the jaunt were President Bill Patterson, Secretary-Treasurer David Silver and his wife Andrea, chairman of the Heinlein Centennial committee Peter Scott, Geo Rule, and Deb Houdek Rule.

We were greeted by Special Collections Unit Head Paul Stubbs and his helpful staff. The UCSC crew had thoughtfully displayed several Heinlein artifacts in preparation for our visit. We all got to sit in the same chair that RAH sat in to write, and rest our hands on his typewriter from the '50s -- the same one used to produce such classics as "Citizen of the Galaxy" and "Starship Troopers."

Also on display was his word processing unit, used for later works. It is a primitive personal computer by current standards, but top-of-the-line for its day. It will still turn on, but refused to boot to the command line despite the best efforts of David Silver and Geo Rule to coax it

Continued on page 10



On display: Geo Rule, (top photo) seated before Robert Heinlein's computer. David Silver, tried to figure out if the message displayed actually means anything. The group turned it on to see if it actually still worked. The electric typewriter dubbed the "coffin" owned Heinlein is also on exhibit at the special collections library University of California at Santa Cruz, which houses Heinlein's archives.

Photos by Deb Houdek Rule

ARCHIVES

from page 9

into life.

For Heinlein fans, it was a magical moment to be able to interact with these objects.

The serious work began when the archives staff brought out the manuscripts and notes we had requested in advance. Among those examined were "Sixth Column," "Stranger in a Strange Land," and "If This Goes On --." Interesting conversations broke out all over the table, and it was difficult to decide whether what was being read right then was more or less interesting than what Bill was telling Javier at the same time or what Peter was pointing out to David simultaneously.

After too short a visit, we filed out and headed back to San Jose and Worldcon.

Pictures taken at the visit can be found on the Society's website at http://www.heinleinsociety.org/ConJ_DebRule.html.



Above left: Peter Scott, standing in front of Bill Patterson, and an assistant research librarian examine Robert A. Heinlein's actual manuscripts that are neatly arranged in the boxes and carefully aligned piles on the table. **Above right:** A display of some of the people whose works are archived at the library. **Right:** From left to right: Bill Patterson, Deb Houdek Rule, Geo Rule, Peter Scott. Seated in the foreground: David Silver.

Photos by Deb Houdek Rule.

Paying it forward

Fundraising report

By Alan Milner

The fundraising committee is looking for people, ideas and, well, money. Your money, as a matter of fact.

The founders of the Society have been funding the development of the organization out of their own pockets, but we are rapidly reaching the point where the continued growth of the Society will require infusions of revenue far beyond our individual capacities.

If we all agree with Robert's belief that one should pay the generosity one receives forward to the next recipient, unto the next generation, it becomes incumbent upon us to put our money where our mouths are; and the more who give, the less we need from each individual donor. Take that as a hint. In fundraising, as in misery, we love company.

We are now in the process of finalizing the operating budget for the year 2003, which will help us define the goals and objectives for the coming year and several years to come, culminating with the 2006-2007 centennial anniversary of Mr. Heinlein's birth. As soon as that task has been completed and the budget has been voted and approved by the Board of Directors, we will be in a position to kick off the Society's first annual fundraising campaign and, guess what? You're all invited to participate!

Membership dues will get us only so far, but dues alone cannot cover the cost of our basic operations. We are all going to have to dig a little deeper, into our own pockets, and then into the pockets of friends, relatives, associates, acquaintances, and then anyone else who has ever been thrilled by Robert's work ... and that number, colleagues, runs into

multiple millions. All we have to do is find them, and pluck them.

Believe it or not, in my work as a professional fundraiser (and for those of you who do not know, I am retired from that profession and doing this on a strictly voluntary basis), I often resorted to metaphors drawn from Robert's work. As readers, I challenge you to find them and forward your examples to me at SageMerlin@aol.com.

But, don't worry, I will be traveling to various events around the United States during the next year so, the chances are that sooner or later, we will meet, at which point the society will be a little richer and you will be a little happier for having been given an opportunity to express your generosity.

*Alan Milner
Fundraising chair
The Heinlein Society*

100 years of Heinlein

By Peter Scott

The Society aims to preserve and promote Heinlein's legacy to the greatest audience. A golden opportunity to do that is on the horizon: July 7, 2007 will be the 100th anniversary of Robert Heinlein's birth. A better excuse for bringing the master's name to public attention will not appear in our lifetimes, barring the discovery of flat cats on Mars.

Five years is not as long as you might think; this is the optimum length for a fundraising campaign. We can leverage that time to great advantage.

What can we do? Firstly, we'll need ideas to sift through. Be neither shy nor modest with your suggestions; we can decide what's impossible later, but right now, think Big. A plaque on Mars? Why

not — there must be several spacecraft scheduled to leave for and arrive at the Red Planet between now and then. A statue in Butler, Mo? A Heinlein Library? Don't like my ideas? Then send me yours. Whatever we do, it will be principally an excuse for getting mass media coverage so that as many people as possible will hear about Heinlein.

Secondly, we'll need money and people. No matter how little time and money you have, you can make a difference. Even if you're so busy that you figure you have an hour a month for this effort — that's over a work week by the time H-Day rolls around. That counts!

We'll set up a structure that will allow people to take on a task and recruit more people to whom they can delegate work

or who can float elsewhere in the organization. (The hierarchy will be very reminiscent of the cell structure in "The Moon is a Harsh Mistress," absent the secrecy and dodging the Warden's goons.)

Right now, we've just started. I am the Society's Centennial Committee chair by virtue of being the first to volunteer for the job. If you've got ideas, money, or time to donate, get in touch with me at Centennial@psdt.com. Here's our chance to make the name of Robert Heinlein shine. Let's make him proud!

*Peter Scott
Centennial Committee chair
The Heinlein Society*

The Heinlein Society

**Interested in
joining?**

**Visit the Web site:
<http://www.heinleinsociety.org>**

THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY
PO BOX 1254
VENICE CA 90294-1254
USA

Place
postage
here