

THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY

News and Announcements



Look for The Heinlein Society at Renovation, the 63rd annual World Science Fiction Convention, August 17-21, 2011, in Reno, Nevada. We'll be there with panels, a blood drive, an exhibit of rare artwork owned by Robert Heinlein, a fan table, prizes and giveaways in our party suite and more.

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HEINLEIN SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

July 16, 2011: One thousand "I Grok Heinlein" ribbons have been ordered to give away at Renovation. Stop by The Heinlein Society fan table to pick up yours. We also have more of our "Pay It Forward" ribbons for Society members and volunteers.

There are enough donors signed up for the blood drive to go ahead, but we'd still like more. See information on page 3 for how you can make your donation pledge. We'll have copies of Bill Patterson's *A Martian Named Smith* to give away as donor incentives, and probably some other Heinlein books, as well.



Mike Sheffield,
THS President

In the Renovation Art Show, we'll be displaying three rare paintings the Heinleins owned, along with copies of the publications in which they originally appeared: March 4, 1946 *Life* magazine (A moonscape by Chesley Bonestell); February 8, 1947 *Saturday Evening Post* ("Green Hills of Earth" by Fred Ludekens); Program Book from the January, 1976 New York Star Trek Convention ("Uhura" by Kelly Freas).

Members:

Go online at heinleinsociety.org to choose how you would like your future newsletters delivered, by mail or a PDF by email.

The Heinlein Society

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www.heinleinsociety.org

HEINLEIN SOCIETY COMMITTEE NEWS: BLOOD DRIVES

The total for all Heinlein Society-sponsored blood drives is now more than 10,000 units. Quite a milestone, to be sure. How fast will be get to our next 10,000?

Renovation Blood Drive:

Wednesday, August 17, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Renovation and The Heinlein Society will sponsor a blood drive for the Reno-area United Blood Services. The bloodmobile should be parked under the walkway between the Atlantis Hotel and the convention center.

Giving blood only takes about an hour; anyone 16 and up, and in good health, can give blood. For more information on the requirements to be a donor, visit the [United Blood Services website](http://UnitedBloodServices.org) at unitedbloodservices.org/learnMore.aspx

Heinlein readers will recall the National Rare Blood Club was an integral part of his novel *I Will Fear No Evil* and, in an appendix to the novel, he informed his readers that the organization he had written about actually existed and deserved their support. Mr. Heinlein traveled extensively to promote this important cause and frequently donated himself.



The Heinlein Society has made blood drives a permanent, ongoing effort, and continues to invite all to participate in this critically important effort. Life-saving blood is always in short supply, and a healthy person may donate every 56 days. According to the Red Cross, each blood donation can save up to three lives. It is a safe and quick procedure, usually taking no more than an hour of one's time.

For more information on Heinlein Society blood drives, visit the Heinlein Society website.

While walk-ins are welcome, we'd appreciate as many as possible to pre-register. To sign up to give blood at Renovation, email: chairman@heinleinsociety.org.



Thank you for paying it forward!

Blood drives coming up soon:

See heinleinsociety.org/blooddrives for more upcoming donation opportunities.

Comic-Con International, San Diego, CA
comic-con.org
July 21-24, 2011

Gen Con, Indianapolis, IN
www.gencon.com
August 4-6, 2011

Dragon Con, Atlanta, GA
www.dragoncon.org
September 1-5, 2011

Arisia, Boston, MA
www.arisia.org
January 14-15, 2012

DunDraCon, San Ramon, CA
www.dundracon.com
February 17, 2012

Lunacon, Rye Brook, NY
www.lunacon.org
March 18, 2012

Emerald City Comic-Con, Seattle, WA
www.emeraldcitycomicon.com
March 30, 2012

Marcon, Columbus, OH
www.marcon.org
April 7, 2012

PAY IT FORWARD

The banker reached into the folds of his gown, pulled out a single credit note. "But eat first — a full belly steadies the judgment. Do me the honor of accepting this as our welcome to the newcomer." His pride said no; his stomach said YES! Don took it and said, "Uh, thanks! That's awfully kind of you. I'll pay it back, first chance." "Instead, pay it forward to some other brother who needs it."

Between Planets
by Robert A. Heinlein

HOW YOU CAN PAY IT FORWARD

Donate blood, whether at a Heinlein Society blood drive or elsewhere.

Organize a blood drive in your area, or at a convention you attend. Contact The Heinlein Society for assistance.

Donate Heinlein books to your hometown library. You never know when you'll affect the life of someone by introducing them to Heinlein.

Support the Butler Public Library in Robert Heinlein's hometown of Butler, Missouri. See page 7 for more information.

Practice "pay it forward" in your everyday life.

The most important aspect of Robert Heinlein's legacy that we at The Heinlein Society support and adhere to is his concept of paying it forward.

The long-running, and very successful blood drive program is one of the primary ways we "pay it forward".

The Heinlein Society also sponsors an educational CD sent for free to teachers and educators around the country.

A new program we're working to start is called "Heinlein For Heroes", in which we hope to send Heinlein novels for free to members of the military from the U.S. and countries around the world.

We have also approved two \$500 scholarships for the 2012-2013 school year. Details on applying to come.

In all our programs we could use your support, your enthusiasm, and your volunteer help. Stop by The Heinlein Society fan table at Renovation, or visit our website, to offer your support!

HEINLEIN SOCIETY AT RENOVATION

For attendees of Renovation, the 69th World Science Fiction Convention in Reno, Nevada, August 17-21, 2011, a reminder that Hugo ballots are due July 31. In the RAH universe, Heinlein Society Director **Connie Willis** is up for a **Best Novel Hugo** for *Blackout/All Clear*, and **Bill Patterson** is up for a **Best Related Work Hugo** for Volume 1 of his RAH Biography *Robert A. Heinlein: In Dialogue with His Century, Volume 1: (1907 - 1948): Learning Curve*.

Heinlein Society obligations and functions at Renovation will include:



www.renovationsf.org

Wednesday:

Setup of **THS's Art Show realia exhibit**. This exhibit will display a portrait of Nichelle Nichols as Lt. Uhura, which was part of a set of seven "Officers of the Bridge", painted by Kelly Freas was also once displayed in the Smithsonian Institute as part of a Star Trek exhibit. "The Green Hills of Earth", by Fred Ludekens, was painted to accompany the publication of that story in The Saturday Evening Post in 1947. And a moonscape, painted by Chesley Bonestell, was part of a group of eleven which were published in the March 4, 1946 edition of Life Magazine as part of an article titled "A Trip to the Moon by Rocket".

Setup of **THS's Fan Table**. Look for our "I Grok Heinlein" ribbons and other handouts.

Heinlein Blood Drive, 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The bloodmobile should be parked under the

walkway between the Atlantis Hotel and the convention center.

Education Workshop, including the Heinlein Society's Educators' CD, version 2.

Thursday:

Be on the lookout for the **Heinlein Society Party Notice** on the party board and in the daily newzine. Volunteer labor is always welcome, if you check in at THS's fan table.

Friday:

Annual General Membership Meeting, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 11:00-14:00. Come vote for three members of the Board of Directors for the term 2011-

2014. President Michael Sheffield will also present a "State of the Society" on Society activities in the past year.

After the Annual Meeting, a work party to prepare the THS party suite will gather. Again, volunteers welcome.

Heinlein Society Open Party, Atlantis Casino, room 1638 (but check the listings or THS table to confirm). We plan to open the doors at 20:00.

Daily:

We hope to have someone at THS's fan table on a continuing basis.

Look for Heinlein Society members on panels throughout the convention.

Keith Kato, Vice President/Secretary

HEINLEIN SOCIETY COMMITTEE NEWS: NEXUSFORUM

Recent Activities on The Heinlein Society NexusForum David Wright Sr. July 3, 2011

Membership 143

Total of members who have posted at least once. 99

Average posts for members who have posted is 67.7



NexusForum

A recent discussion on the RAH Discussion

Forum dealt with the 'Cut' vs. 'Uncut' versions of RAH's works.

A second one is based on a photograph of the Los Angeles Fantasy Society of its members from Forest Ackerman's biography which included, among others, Robert and Leslyn Heinlein.

In the Community Chat Forum, a link which tells the history of Silicon Valley's role during the cold war, lead to more discussion.

Also, in the Community Chat Forum, Robert Pearson and Tina Black, introduced themselves to the other members.

In the 'Reviewing Stand' Forum, Peter Scott continued discussing George Friedman's Book, *The Next Hundred Years* in a thread entitled "The Next Ten Years".

In the 'Speakeasy' Forum, members discussed a recent list of Amazon's most 'Well Read Cities'.

Also, the possible beginning of an interesting debate over the subject of 'Lying Is Not Patriotic' has been started in the 'Speakeasy'.

Most active Forums	Topics	Posts
RAH Discussion	262	3498
Community Chat	233	1555
Reviewing Stand	125	864
Speakeasy	179	1726

www.heinleinsociety.org/thsnexus/

IN THE WORLDS OF HEINLEIN: BUTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

A significant part of Robert and Virginia Heinlein's legacy is their support of the Butler Public Library, in Butler, Missouri. This small library in the town in which Robert Heinlein was born is home to the Heinlein Reading Room in the Heinlein Addition, built by donations by Mrs. Heinlein. The library also receives support from income from some Heinlein book titles.

Some Heinlein Society members have supported the Butler Public Library through the purchase of library cards, including myself—Deb Houdek Rule and husband, Geo Rule, and Jim and Audrey Gifford who put on the Heinlein Centennial, though none of us live near the library.

I also built the library a website gratis, with hosting donated by The Heinlein Prize Trust. Geo and I donated a set of the Virginia Edition, and two copies of Bill Patterson's Heinlein biography.

But I'd like to ask for more support for this worthy library. Please donate books. Library Director, Linda Hunter tells me they accept almost any books, with Amazon, Borders, or other bookstore editions welcomed. Books need not be Heinlein's nor Heinlein-related.

As there are quite a few authors in the Heinlein Society, I'd like to ask each of you to send the Butler Public Library a copy of your own books. And be sure to autograph them!

After the Heinlein Centennial in 2007,
Geo & Deb Rule,
Library Director Linda Hunter,
Jim & Audrey Gifford and family



A report from Butler Public Library Director Linda Hunter:

The library is very busy this summer with our summer reading program. Our theme this year is "Around the world in 60 days" and we have 84 children that are signed up. In June we had 35 attend our "Make a flag" activity. Each

child had to make up a country and design a flag for it. They had to name the country, tell what continent it was on and what language was spoken there. The flags are on display in our juvenile area. Our last activity we had was "Fairy Tales & Lunch". We told fairy tales while the children ate food from that story. A good time was had by all who attended. Our last activity is "Learn how to read a map". Each child will create a map and hopefully, learn how to read a road map. Missouri road maps and Bates County maps will be a take-home treat. All children who complete the program will be invited to our Pizza and Movie Party that is held in July.

The Butler Lions Club sponsor this reading program.

The library continues to grow and we are always needing new books and more money.

Butler Public Library
100 E. Atkison Ave.
Butler, MO 64730
660-679-4321

Deb Houdek Rule

www.butlerpubliclibrary.org

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IN THE WORLDS OF HEINLEIN: PUBLISHING NEWS

Most of Heinlein's literary works are part of The Heinlein Prize Trust represented by agent Eleanor Wood of Spectrum Literary Agency. Ms. Wood and Art Dula of The Heinlein Prize Trust provided us this publishing and movie/television options and rights update:

Thor Halvorssen of Nocturne LLC has renewed the option on *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*. The contract dates back to 2009.

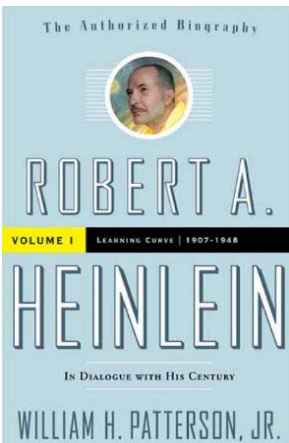
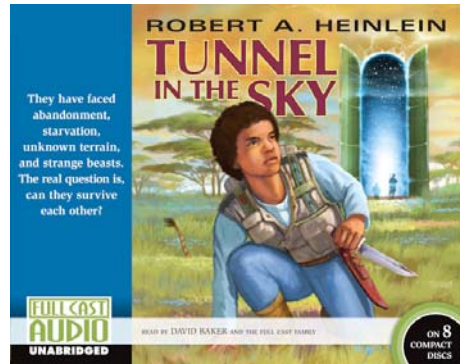
Revolt in 2100 has been optioned.

Friday has been optioned for a Canadian television show.

The audio edition of *Tunnel In the Sky* was just released from Full Cast Audio.

Blackstone Audio bought audio rights to Robert A. Heinlein's last novel, *To Sail Beyond the Sunset* (currently in production).

The Virginia Edition of the complete works of Robert A. Heinlein in a limited edition is nearing completion. Thirty-six volumes have been printed, five more were sent to the printer the week of July 11, and the final five volumes will be sent to the printer in August, with the entire set to be complete in mid-September.



Baen is reprinting several titles, with introductions by William H. Patterson, Jr. Titles include *Sixth Column*, *Farnham's Freehold*, *Assignment in Eternity*, and *The Star Beast*.

William H. Patterson, Jr., was nominated for a Hugo award for volume 1 of his biography of Robert A. Heinlein, *In Dialogue with His Century: Volume 1 (1907-1948): Learning Curve*, published by Tor. The biography has also won the 2011 Locus Award for Non-Fiction!

The Heinlein Society has no special connection nor influence in what is published related to Robert A. Heinlein and his works.

For all copyright and publication queries contact:

Eleanor Wood
Spectrum Literary Agency
320 Central Park West, Suite 1-D
New York, NY 10025
fax: 212-362-4562

IN THE WORLDS OF HEINLEIN: HEINLEIN PRIZE TRUST

The Heinlein Prize Trust represents a significant portion of the estate left by Robert and Virginia Heinlein including many of their literary properties. In addition to investments, the Trust has the income from most of the Heinlein copyrights.

The second Heinlein Prize was awarded to the CEO of SpaceX, Elon Musk, for Accomplishments in Commercial Space Activities on June 29, 2011 in a luncheon ceremony in Washington, D.C. An award of \$250,000, a Lady Vivamus sword from Robert Heinlein's novel *Glory Road*, and an award diploma were presented to Elon Musk in recognition of his achievements in creating a business which successfully engages in commercial space ventures.

Because not everything is money, and not everything is even the spiritual adventure of space exploration. There's something to be said for having a quality of life and doing interesting and strange things well

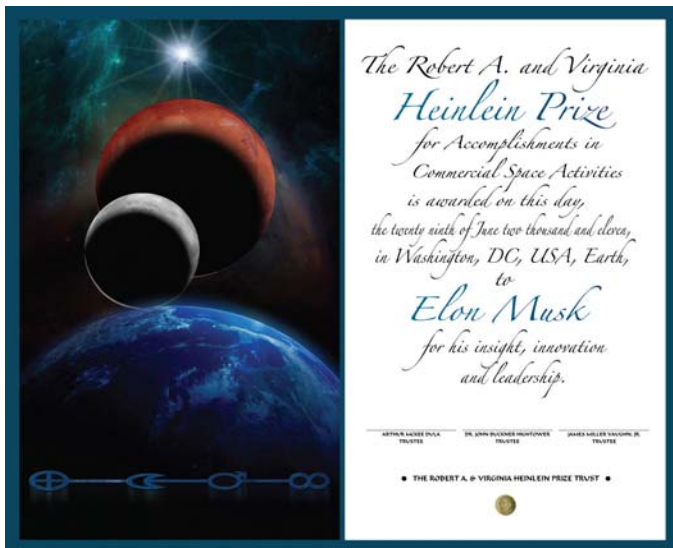
Art Dula of The Heinlein Prize Trust explaining why the Lady Vivamus sword from *Glory Road* was presented to Elon Musk as part of the Heinlein Prize

The Heinlein Prize, first awarded to Peter Diamandis in 2006, is a reward for substantial accomplishments in the area of private, commercial space activities, with the emphasis on *accomplishments*. Said Art Dula, Trustee of The Heinlein Prize Trust, "If the Falcon 1 had flown, and that was it, he [Elon Musk] wouldn't have won the Prize. Instead, a business has been built here that employs over a thousand people in good jobs in America, beats the Chinese price for rockets, and that's amazing!"

The Heinlein Prize Trust is continuing and expanding its educational role. The very well received *Have Spacesuit – Will Travel* program has expanded from its initial schools and focus. Astronauts Leroy Chiao, Ph.D., and Dr. Don Thomas, have been joined by Dr. Jonathan Clark

M.D., M.P.H. of the Baylor College of Medicine to bring the program to elementary students in Colorado, and to college Aerospace Engineering students in Boulder, Colorado, and at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. In the adult program accidents and means of crew protection are the emphasis. A possible collaboration for a permanent location student groups could visit is being discussed.

Art Dula, Trustee,
The Heinlein Prize Trust.
heinleinprize.com



ENCOUNTERING THE HEINLEINS BY MICHAEL CASSUTT

ENCOUNTERING THE HEINLEINS

by Michael Cassutt

On a windy Friday evening in late March 1977, I was a 22-year-old disc jockey and aspiring writer living in an apartment in Tucson, Arizona, when my telephone rang. My girlfriend, Cindy, had driven to Phoenix that day to see her brother: I assumed Cindy was calling to tell me she had arrived.

Instead I heard a male voice on the line. "Is this Michael Cassutt?"

"Yes."

"This is Robert Heinlein."

Heinlein readers can easily imagine my stunned reaction. I had read all of Heinlein's published science fiction by this time; he was by far my favorite writer in any genre, and the most influential.

He was also a semi-mythic figure, well-known and visible to the public until around 1966, the time I was devouring his books. Then he became reclusive and even a bit mysterious for the next several years.

I had written him a fan letter in the summer of 1970, offering my thanks for *Red Planet* and *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* and all the others, and wondering why there had been nothing new since 1966? And why Mr. Heinlein was out of the public eye?

My letter was answered with a form letter and handwritten P.S. by his wife, Virginia, noting that her husband had been ill for much of the past year, but had a new novel about to be published (*I Will Fear No Evil*). She added that he had appeared on

the CBS broadcast of *Apollo 11* in July 1969 – something I had forgotten. (I was ill with pneumonia at the time.)

Soon thereafter, as I went off to college and acquired a subscription to *Locus* magazine as well as other contacts in the SF field, I would hear bits of information about Heinlein: he was still recovering from illness in 1971. In December 1972, he and Ginny appeared on a cruise ship anchored off Cape Canaveral for the launch of *Apollo 17*.

I can remember my excitement at picking up a copy of *Publisher's Weekly* in early 1973, and seeing a half-page announcement of a new Heinlein novel – *Time Enough for Love: The*

Michael Cassutt is the author of six novels, from 1986's *The Star Country to Heaven's Shadow* (Ace 2011, with David S. Goyer). He has also written extensively on manned spaceflight, co-authoring the autobiographies of astronauts Deke Slayton and Tom Stafford, compiling the *Who's Who in Space* encyclopedia (three editions) and publishing articles in *Air & Space*.



Lives of Lazarus Long. [NOTE: *The May 1973 hardcover had a slightly different type face and design than that in the early PW ad, omitting the subtitle.*]

Heinlein "re-emerged" into the world in 1973, with the publication of *Time Enough for Love*, as well as the "unearthing" of his 1941 Worldcon guest of honor speech in *Vertex* magazine, which also published the first "new" Heinlein short story in years. His 1973 Forrestal lecture at Annapolis was published in *Analog*.

I had sold a couple of short stories by then, one to an SF magazine, one to a mystery mag. I attended

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the SFWA Nebula Awards event in Los Angeles in April 1974, where I saw Mr. and Mrs. Heinlein in person.

So by 1977, they were much less remote figures than they had seemed.

Which is why, when I learned that Robert Anson Heinlein would be appearing at the Tucson SF Expo in conjunction with a blood drive, I wrote to 6000 Bonny Doon, Santa Cruz CA, and volunteered to be part of the team.

The Science Fiction Expo was a massively-ambitious event with guests ranging from Heinlein to Harlan Ellison, Robert Bloch, Jack Williamson, numerous other writers as well as film personalities (Johnny Weismuller) and astronauts (Pete Conrad).

I expected, at most, a post-card in return, perhaps directing me to the appropriate parties on the Expo committee.

I did *not* expect a telephone call from Mr. Heinlein himself, making me chairman of a committee of one.

Most of the ninety-minute conversation dealt with the mechanics of putting on the blood drive – the number and address of the local Red Cross office, the contacts there, questions to be asked, etc. I dutifully took notes.

Naturally I managed to sneak in a couple of questions. I had read that RAH had started work on a new novel the previous fall. He said he was only "halfway through it," and that he was trying to keep it from growing too long. "I want to keep the hard-cover price under ten dollars."

He was concerned about the long drought in their area. "Ginny's having a tough time keeping her plants alive."

I telephoned Cindy at her brother's: "Guess who I was just talking to?"

Within a couple of weeks, I received a package from the Heinleins that included a photocopy of "Are You a Rare Blood?", the RAH article from the *Compton Encyclopedia Yearbook*, and several pages of "Notes for a Handbook on Blood Drives at SF Conventions," dated from January 1 to January 14, 1977.

By then I had already followed Mr. Heinlein's instructions, had contacted the appropriate local Red Cross officials as well as the chairman of the SF Expo. My job in radio made it relatively easy to arrange for public service announcements, which I recorded and sent around to other stations. I kept the Heinleins apprised of the planning by letter.

The looming problem was this: the SF Expo team had wildly over-estimated its attendance. They had predicted that 5,000 people would come to Tucson that June

– this at a time when few, if any, World SF Conventions could claim that many attendees. Yes, there were *Star Trek* cons on that scale – but this was not a *Trek* con. Nor was it being held, like the giant *Trek* events, in a major city.

Even the date was a problem: the University of Arizona, with its 30,000 students, ended its term in mid-May, three weeks before the Expo. How many attendees were lost because of that?

It was obvious by early May that attendance at the

BLOOD DONATIONS	
DATE	PLACE
7-10-76	Center
BLOOD GROUP	O POS
ANTIBODIES	
Received	gallon pin
(NO.)	(DATE)

© Heinlein Archives, courtesy of The Heinlein Prize Trust. No light matter to the Heinleins, they kept every one of the thousands of blood donor cards sent to them, all now in the Archives.

ENCOUNTERING THE HEINLEINS

SF Expo would be a fraction of the hoped-for figure – 500, not 5,000.

This presented obvious financial problems for the expo committee. It also meant that the blood drive wasn't going to get that hundred units. Or even 70. Or 50.

I wrote to the Heinleins warning them. Ginny responded that they had been hearing of problems with the Expo, but that they were committed to an appearance at a smaller event in Phoenix the weekend prior, and were still planning to come to Tucson.

And they did, arriving on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 1, 1977, and checking into the Tucson Marriott. I received a call at the radio station that afternoon, inviting me over.

I walked into the Heinlein suite, and found myself face-to-face with Robert and Virginia, but with Jack Williamson and G. Harry Stine, too. Elizabeth Brown, the widow of Fredric Brown, was also present. There were certainly others, probably twenty in number, none of whom I knew personally. Sensing this, Mr. Heinlein introduced me to Jack Williamson and Harry Stine.

The impromptu party broke up around four, at which time Mr. Heinlein suggested that we check out the facilities for the next day's blood drive. Which we did.

Then he invited me to join Ginny and him for dinner. "Invite your girlfriend, too."

In fact, I telephoned Cindy from the Heinleins' suite: "Guess who wants you to come to dinner?"

Although I had found Heinlein, in 1974, to be older than his years, slow of speech and unsteady on his feet, in June of 1977 he seemed more vigorous – deliberate and precise in manner, but witty and energetic. Although he was pale ("I have skin cancer, so I have to stay out of the sun"), he seemed healthy.

Ginny was white-haired, but still slim and striking. She was protective of her husband, helping to move him along when fans loomed, offering reminders of phone calls to be made, people to be met. She was also a bit humorless. (On a couple of occasions throughout the weekend Mr. Heinlein made jokes that seemed to go right by her.)

Both Heinleins smoked cigarettes.

Cindy arrived at the suite, and we ordered hamburgers and beer from room service. For the next several hours, the four of us simply talked. (For some reason, I never for a moment considered asking Mr. Heinlein for an interview. Selfish of me.) Much of it was simple social chatter – where were Cindy and I from, where did we work, etc? The Heinleins spoke of their own health struggles. At one point Robert tapped his teeth and said, "These are still mine. Arthur Clarke has a mouth full of false choppers."



Michael Cassutt
THS Archivist

Torn between my desire to prolong the evening, but mindful of the danger of wearing out my welcome, I kept an eye on the clock. Somewhere around eight-thirty I decided I had imposed enough. Cindy and I excused ourselves, thanked our hosts, and drove off into the night.

But what a magical afternoon and evening it was. The next morning, before heading back to the Expo for the blood drive, I sat down at my typewriter in the office of radio station KHYT, and made the following notes:

- Heinlein's one and only try for political office took place in Los Angeles in 1938. Dorothy Parker was one of the contributors to his campaign.
- The novel *Sixth Column*, based on a story by John W. Campbell titled "All," was written in Chi-

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cago in 1940. RAH says he needed the money to buy a car and "get the hell out of Chicago".

- Space Cadet was written in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1947.
- Heinlein's health gave him problems during World War II.
- Heinlein's last stint in Hollywood was around 1965 [actually, early 1964]. The project [XXII Century] never materialized and the producers "moved across the street and made Batman, and made a fortune".

• Heinlein referred to *The Worlds of Robert A. Heinlein*, published by Ace in 1966, as a "bottom of the barrel collection" and is trying to get the rights back. He is scrupulous about having rights to his earlier material reverted to him – in some cases, so he can see that it is never published again.

• Mrs. Heinlein says that the pseudonym her husband used for his teenaged romances from the 1950s was "R. A. Heinlein". [Note: *Why didn't I search out the stories? I had no idea what magazines the stories had appeared in.*]

• On baseball: I had mentioned Manny's off-hand references to the Yankees in *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress*: "I stopped paying attention to baseball around 1927."

• On critics: I had asked if he really thought that no critic had written anything insightful about his work. "Of course not." He then cited David Samuelson's then-recent article about the Future History stories [NOTE: *Samuelson spoke to RAH*

while preparing the paper, "Major Frontier Worlds of Robert A. Heinlein: The Future and Fantasy," originally published in Voices for the Future, Thomas D. Clareson, Ed. Bowling Green, OH: Bowling Green University Popular Press, 1976. Reprinted in Robert A. Heinlein, Joseph D. Olander and Martin Harry Greenberg, Eds. New York: Taplinger, 1978]

• On book reviews: RAH published three reviews in *Astounding* during World War II. [I went looking for these in the University of Arizona library, which had an excellent SF collection from the estate of

Fredric Brown, but was unable to find the pieces. Year later I learned that they were not listed on the contents pages of the magazines in question.]

• The Heinleins' house located 15 miles north of Santa Cruz in the mountains (1200 feet), yet it commands a view west to the Pacific. The property includes an orchard and is surrounded by an electrified fence. The house itself is circular, with battlements.



© Heinlein Archives, courtesy of The Heinlein Prize Trust.
The Heinleins' Bonny Doon house

Interior features include built-in furniture and sound system.

• "The Black Pits of Luna" was written in four days, and sold to *Saturday Evening Post* for \$4,000, astounding money for 1948, and pretty good for 1977.

• I mentioned the writer James Oberg, who had been publishing articles in *Analogue*. "Oberg writes a good stick," he said, a comment I was happy to pass along to a very happy James Oberg.

The blood drive took place on Thursday, June 2, 1977, and went very smoothly. The only negative

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was the number of units we got – 35 rather than the 50 we had hoped. Because the event had raised awareness of the need for blood donations, the Red Cross professed itself satisfied, and so did the Heinleins. (They were interviewed on local television and radio throughout the weekend, and took at least one side trip to the University of Arizona medical center to tour facilities.)

The Heinleins remained in Tucson for the balance of the Expo, and hosted a party on Saturday night in their suite.

Cindy and I were present, off and on, for much of the Expo, too. Other incidents I witnessed: at the Saturday night party, one of the convention volunteers, a young woman, asked RAH why he and Ginny didn't have children. I expected a bit of Heinlein frost – instead, he simply shrugged and said, "We wanted them, but they never came."

At the close of one of the afternoon panels, Mr. Heinlein wanted to talk to astronaut Pete Conrad, who was at that moment surrounded by autograph seekers. He turned to me and said, "Do you know if Conrad's rank is captain or a commander?"

"Retired captain."

"You're sure?"

The one thing I knew better than Heinlein's work was astronauts. "Absolutely sure."

Mr. Heinlein turned away and said in a voice that could only be described as commanding: "Captain Conrad!"

Pete Conrad, the third man to walk on the Moon, instantly rose into the air and spun to face Mr. Heinlein: "Yes, sir!"

The weekend was as exhausting as it was fascinating.

In December 1977, I mailed Ginny a report on the failed blood drive – "The Best Laid Plans" – intended for publication in the proposed blood drive handbook. She responded that she and Robert were about to leave on a trip that would last until mid-January.

A year after the Expo I would have another lengthy telephone conversation with RAH (he had called me on some SFWA business), then would see Ginny again at the Phoenix WorldCon. (RAH was then recovering from brain surgery and not yet cleared for air travel. He was, Ginny said, well enough to drive himself into Santa Cruz and take in a movie...)

I would see them again – briefly – at space development conferences in 1982 and 1983, and kept up a sporadic correspondence with Ginny until the late 1990s.

On the last day of the convention, as night fell, Cindy and I grabbed dinner at an outdoor café. "Look," she said. "Isn't that the Heinleins?"

There, walking hand-in-hand, were Robert and Virginia, Robert in a blue blazer and white slacks, Virginia in a summer dress. They were not just walking, but almost gliding, as if ice-dancing.

Sure enough, when they reached a vantage point that gave them a view to the west, where the sun was setting over "A" mountain, Robert took Ginny's hand and twirled her.

And that is how I will always remember them.

Michael Cassutt



© Heinlein Archives, courtesy of
The Heinlein Prize Trust

HEINLEIN THE INVENTOR BY LARS HEDBOR

Heinlein the Inventor

Lurking under the side table in my dining room is a device I first read about a couple of decades before it was invented. At the push of a button (or a cat's incautious step), my Roomba will roam the floor, sweeping and vacuuming the little messes that are part and parcel of living in a house with children.

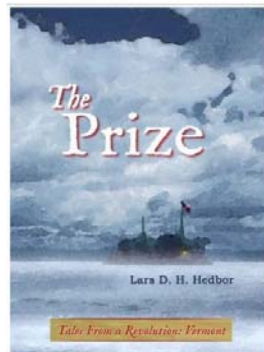
Robert Heinlein described the thing in his 1956 novel, *The Door Into Summer*, of course, launching Danny B. Davis' career as an inventor focusing on the problems of household automation with what he called the Hired Girl brand self-directing vacuum cleaner.

There are differences, naturally – where Heinlein envisioned tubes and cams, the Space Race provided miniaturized electronic circuits, culminating in the integrated circuit chip.

The waldoes (also invented by Heinlein, in the eponymous short story) he expected to pick up larger items detected are absent, and in their place are sensors that guide the Roomba around such obstacles.

However, the basic “prowl” pattern, and the autonomous return to the charging base he described are certainly there, along with the most essential of the device's features – it will clean a floor without human involvement.

Lars D. H. Hedbor is a Web designer and author, with a new novel of the American Revolution – The Prize – just released. Although his genre is historical fiction, his writing is strongly influenced by Heinlein's character-driven approach to storytelling.



For the most part, too, iRobot's engineers followed Davis' engineering practice of making the device's major parts field-replaceable. One could wish that they'd hewn closer to that guideline, but then, they didn't have Davis (or Heinlein) on staff to insist.

Far more influential than the still-nascent consumer-facing domestic automation field, though, is another development that Heinlein described in the same novel. “Drafting Dan” is a tool used by engineers and

architects to create technical drawings, replacing the old tilted-top drafting table and kneaded eraser in nearly all applications.

Again, Heinlein's – or Davis' – invention could not anticipate the advent of microcomputers and miniaturized electronic circuits, relying instead on mechanical linkages and vacuum tubes. However, it is recognizably a computer-aided drafting machine, clearly described five decades ago, and a solid decade before the very earliest

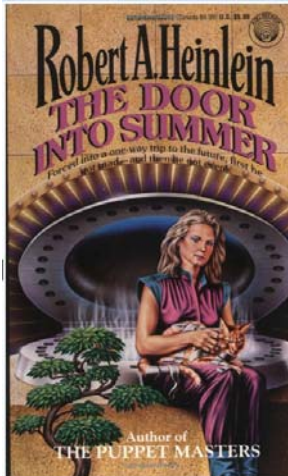
There was not too much difference between *Hired Girl*, Mark One, and a vacuum cleaner. But the difference — that it would clean without supervision — was enough; it sold.

***The Door Into Summer* By Robert A. Heinlein**

HEINLEIN THE INVENTOR

versions of CAD software were created for various manufacturing concerns.

Just as Heinlein anticipated in *The Door Into Summer*, by the year 2000, nearly any engineer or architect worth his salt was working at a keyboard instead of a table. Draftsmen were not thrown out of work by the thousands, as Davis' friend and business partner John Sutton predicted, but instead found better working conditions and tools that enabled them to be more productive than ever.



Heinlein's credentials as the inventor of the water bed are well-known, but it was in *The Door Into Summer* that he really let loose with his inventive streak. Just as he expressed his poetic side through the character of Rhysling, Heinlein released his inner inventor through Danny Davis, and as in so many other things, thereby changed the world.

Lars Hedbor

This must have been inspired by "Drafting Dan"!

The KAD II Koh-I-Noor Auto Draw is electronically controlled to produce rapidly a virtually limitless library of lettering styles, symbols and designs used in engineering, electronic and architectural drawings, as well as the drawings of many other disciplines. Once demonstrated, KAD II requires no special operating skills.

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Courtesy of The Heinlein Prize Trust

This clipping, with the notation, "This must have been inspired by 'Drafting Dan'!" is in the Heinlein Archives *Door Into Summer* file, Opus 125. Also in the file is a letter thanking Computer- vision, makers of one of the first CADD systems for inviting the Heinleins to a celebration of their company's 10th anniversary in 1979.

HEINLEIN SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Our by-laws, adopted by the Board of Directors in 2002, and as amended, require that the board conduct an annual general membership meeting each year during the time and at the place of the annual World Science Fiction convention, when held in North America, and when not at a place in North America, at whatever place it shall determine.

This is written notice of that meeting, as required in our by-laws, to each member entitled or likely to be entitled to vote at the meeting. You will be entitled to vote only if you are registered as a regular member and only if your dues are fully paid up through the current year of 2011 at the time of the meeting. An opportunity to make dues current will be afforded members prior to and at the beginning of the meeting. Supporting members are not entitled to vote, but, subject to ruling of the chair, may address the meeting.

This year's meeting will be our Society's tenth annual general meeting. The meeting will be held during Renovation, in Reno, Nevada, at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Friday, August 19, 2011 from 11:00-14:00. Visitors are encouraged to attend, subject to ruling of the Chair.

The regular order of business specified in the by-laws to be observed is that customary for non-profit membership charitable corporations and will include election of three directors of The Society for three positions on the Board for

a term of three years, as specified in the by-laws.

Further business consistent with the by-laws will occur at the meeting.

You may vote at the meeting in person, or by an assigned written proxy, if you are eligible to vote at the time of the meeting. All proxies must be written, signed, and notarized, or accompanied by a clear and legible photocopy of a government-issued photo identification containing a signature for comparison purposes, to be valid.

Further, the proxy must designate in writing the person to exercise the proxy; and must be received by the Secretary of the Society by postal mail or in person at or before the time of the meeting. If you mail your proxy to the Society's postal address in Long Beach, California, please note that an officer of the Society will finally check that post office box address on the morning of August 12, 2011, and it is solely your responsibility to ensure it arrives by that time. You may designate any natural person to attend the meeting and vote your proxy. The by-laws specify that failure of a non-attending member to designate a proxy shall constitute designation of the president as the holder of the proxy of the member not in attendance.

We all hope as many of the Society's members as possible do attend the meeting.

AGENDA
The Heinlein Society
10th Annual General Membership Meeting
Renovation—The 69th World Science Fiction Convention
Reno-Sparks Convention Center
4590 South Virginia Street
Reno, Nevada 89502-6013
Friday, August 19, 2011, 11:00 AM PDT
Room TBD

As required by Article I, Section 7 of the By Laws of The Heinlein Society, the Agenda of the Annual General Business Meeting is as follows:

1. Roll call.
2. Reading notice and proof of mailing.
3. Reading of minutes of last preceding [2010] Annual General Business Meeting.
4. Report of THS President, Michael Sheffield.
5. Report of THS Vice President-Secretary, Keith Kato.
6. [Report of THS Treasurer, Pamela Somers.]
7. Election of Directors for the 2011-2014 term.
8. Transaction of other business mentioned in the notice.
9. [Good of the Society.]
10. Adjourn.

Note: Provided that, in the absence of any objection, or by majority vote of those present who are eligible to vote, the presiding officer may vary the order of business at his or her discretion.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

/s/ Keith G. Kato

Vice President-Secretary

The Heinlein Society

3553 Atlantic Avenue, #341

Long Beach, CA 90807-5606

Renew your membership online at
www.heinleinsociety.org/join.html

Detach here to mail:

Name:

E-Mail Address:

Street Address:

Home Telephone:

City:

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

I wish to join and work on the following projects (check as many as you wish):

Annual Membership Dues Check
(Please enclose check):

Other Projects I'd like to see
The Heinlein Society work on:

- Membership
- Library support
- Scholarships-Academics
- Blood Drives
- Fund-raising
- Education

Regular Membership \$35 _____
***Supporting Membership: \$15** _____

*Supporting membership is available **only** to students enrolled for a degree or certificate, or retired on a limited income. It confers **no** eligibility to vote or hold Society office.



The Heinlein Society

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Long Beach, CA 90807-5606

www.heinleinsociety.org