

THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY

June 2024 Newsletter



Cover: Tom Doherty proudly displays his Heinlein Award medal and plaque, flanked by Board Member Beatrice Kondo (left) and her mother Ursula Kondo (right).

Editor: Jim Dutton

[Society Directors and Committee Chairs](#)

Copyright 2024 by The Heinlein Society

[The Heinlein Society](#) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



Follow Us!!

Contents

Letter from the Editor & My Balticon 3

What are Members Up To? 6

Balticon 58 and the Heinlein Award 7

THS Board Elections 10

Heinlein for Heroes 11

Tom Doherty Interview 14

Education Digital Download Are you a Coward? 27

Member News 28

Heinlein Society Blood Drives 30

The Heinlein Journal 31

From the Archives - 2002 32

Upcoming Cons 33

Letter from the Editor & My Balticon

Your intrepid editor attended his first author/reader-oriented Con the last weekend of May, and our June Newsletter will devote a good bit of content to the [Balticon 58](#), including my experiences there.

Due to extra time spent away from business to prepare for, attend, and recover from the travel to Baltimore—plus developing the new newsletter format—this issue is running late. I apologize for that, and hopefully now that I have the format nailed down I can go back to sending out email notifications on the first of each newsletter month.



At Balticon, my wife Betty and I met some people I'd only known from phone calls and Zoom for Board meetings. John (JT) Tilden, Betsey Wilcox, and Beatrice Kondo from the Board, and Committee Chairs Herb Gilliland and Will Hamilton. Meeting these great people personally made the long drive to and from worthwhile. We had a great time with them, plus a few other Society members who came by our fan table.

Meeting my Heinlein Society colleagues in person cemented some relationships and friendships which are pleasant online, but so much more real face-to-face.

We also enjoyed meeting and chatting with some of the vendors, program participants, and Con staff. It's a great experience and I urge everyone to consider trying it if you haven't before.

I attended a few panels, and as an author, found myself chomping at the bit to 'help discuss' the topics. 😊 Next year I'll make sure to sit on some of the panels instead of in the crowd!

My wife, Betty, and I had a room directly overlooking the hotel's atrium area, and including the registration area and the Heinlein Society fan table. As it was my first Con of the type, I knew nothing about adding ribbons to the Con badge, but I'm a quick learner, and I quickly and neatly added ribbons as fast as JT and Betsey could hand them to me. Somehow, though, Betty wound up with a longer ribbon chain than me by adding the *TANSTAAFL* and *I Grok Heinlein* ribbons I missed out on. Well, I didn't want to be a hog! My Society Membership came up for renewal on June 10th, and I opted for Life, so I'll get to add that ribbon next year!

I met several up-and-coming authors, and had a great visit with Shahid Mahmud of ARC Manor, plus met Alan Smale both at the ARC Manor booth and attended a panel he participated in: *Make Everything Worse for Your Character*. I have a trick for that in my own writing. Anytime things are going too well in the story, I ask: *What could go wrong now?!* Alan agreed it's a direct approach.

Jenn Brinn, Ken Schrader, Rosemary Claire Smith, and Jack Campbell also served the panel.

Tom Doherty participated in a panel: *The Great Divide: Genre vs. Literary*. With Chris Oakley as the moderator and also empaneled by Scott Andrews, Sarah Avery, and convention MC Mark Van Name, the entirely genre-dominated panel came down heavily in favor of genre fiction.

The Con had no one there to run the virtual side of the panel, so I was pressed into service (volunteered) to run the



notebook computer handling the virtual broadcast. Essentially, that tasked me with bringing up questions from the internet and ferrying a mic around the room when attendees had questions or comments. About halfway through I got better getting the mic to people, and the one question from the internet wanted me to ask a couple of attendees to *move over* and stop blocking the faces of the panelists. I got them to move over, then a late arrival recreated the issue, but I thought the viewers probably had a chance to memorize the faces by then. 😊

My last panel was *50 Years Ago in Science Fiction*, moderated by our own past-President John (JT) Tilden. Tom Doyle, Yakira Heistand, and John Ashmead rounded out the panel. John Ashmead, among other impressive resume entries, was an assistant editor for Asimov's SF Magazine for years, and what he brought to the discussion from that experience added a lot to the event. JT was a fantastic moderator, and helped make that panel my favorite of the weekend.

For a few years, I've wanted the opportunity to try out a Shake Shack. With a franchise just across the side street, there I was. I found the food good, but in today's fast-food marketplace, WAY overpriced, sadly. For what lunch on Sunday cost, Betty and I could have had another full meal at the Thai restaurant (B-More Thai) we all patronized on Friday night. Additional thanks to Betsey Wilcox for Uber'ing us to and from that meal.

The Con, in its 58th iteration, is expertly organized and run. The staff was well prepared and ready to go at every turn of the various events it contains. Add in friendly, polite, and helpful, and you have a Con that's a pleasure to attend.

The Inner Harbor area was pleasant to visit, and there are some convenient places to eat near the hotel.

Betty and I will definitely have Balticon on our annual calendar from now on.

Jim Dutton – June 5, 2024

What are Members Up To?



With this issue, I'm trying an experiment to reshape the Heinlein Society Newsletter into more of a magazine format publication with more content, more graphics, and hopefully more news about what our members are up to.

So if you've attended a Con or other interesting event, written a book, given a lecture, met other Society members for a get-together, won an award, or just have something interesting to say to other members, let me know about it!

A picture with captions or a full story is welcome.

Want to send in a review of a Heinlein novel or something that reminds you of a Heinlein novel? Send it in. We've run reviews by Heinlein Society Secretary Betsey Wilcox for many issues now, but Betsey doesn't have a monopoly on interesting reviews, so join in. 😊

As opposed to the old days of print, it doesn't cost us one red cent to add pages to the newsletter, just my time ... which I somehow got ~~hood-~~
~~winked~~ talked into volunteering, so send you interesting experiences!

Send any Newsletter contributions to:

[News for the Heinlein Society Newsletter](#)

Balticon 58 and the Heinlein Award

In April's newsletter I gave a big buildup to **Balticon 58**, where The Heinlein Society presented **Tom Doherty** with the **2024 Heinlein Award**.



Board Member Beatrice Kondo introduced Mr. Doherty, but not before we all suffered a few moments of panic. The Opening Ceremonies offered several awards, and they held the Heinlein Award to the end. None of us had seen Tom Doherty. We sat in the front rows at the left of the auditorium, and when the Master of Ceremonies, Mark Van Name, began to announce the award, Beatrice began to ask him to delay, thinking Tom hadn't arrived yet. With a smile Mark pointed across to the front row at the very *other* end of the auditorium. "Tom's right there."

Sigh of relief. 😊

For any who don't know, Beatrice's father, Yoji Kondo, started the award in 2003.

Tom gave an interesting talk for his acceptance speech, giving a lot of history of not only his rise through the publishing ranks from sales to publishing and launching Science Fiction/Fantasy imprints, but interesting stories of people he's worked with and authors he and his publishing outfits helped develop ... like Frank Herbert, Robert Jordan, and Orson Scott Card.

Much of that information is also in his interview included below.

Pictured: Ursula Kondo, Betsey Wilcox, Beatrice Kondo, Jim Dutton, Tom Doherty, and Herb Gilliland.



On Saturday, Will Hamilton and Betsey Wilcox conducted an interview of Tom in the same auditorium where the Opening Ceremonies took place the night before. While Tom touched on some of the same information as in his acceptance speech, he gave the abbreviated version of that talk and treated us to a fascinating and lively interview.

Later in the day, my wife and I saw Tom in a panel, a Kaffeeklatsch, and of course the dinner honoring him as the Heinlein Award winner, which filled up a private dining room at a nearby restaurant.



Pictured at dinner (left to right): Herb Gilliland, Terry Cox, Ty Arnold, Betsey Wilcox, Will Hamilton, Ursula Kondo, Tom Doherty, Tatiana Doherty, John (JT) Tilden, Beatrice Kondo, Jim Dutton, Betty Dutton, and Steven Daviss.

At dinner, Tom continued to hold forth with more anecdotes from his colorful time in the business. Your editor had the pleasure of sitting beside Tom, with Terry Cox just across from us. Terry also contributed some interesting information about writing and about publishing.



Here's a picture of the Society Fan Table, with Betsy Wilcox, Jim Dutton, Betty Dutton, Will Hamilton, and Ty Arnold.

I'd like to point out that generous Balticon fans, and THS Members, donated 195 books to the Heinlein for Heroes program during the Con, and you can see the donation box right of the table.

THS Board Elections

Note: The Nomination process and Board Elections are a privilege for Active Members. If you have let your membership lapse, please renew to get in on the fun! Plus, all active members are in the drawing to win a set of the [VIRGINIA EDITION!](#)

The nominating period for Board members for the 2024 election is now open. The Board has three (3) seats up for election with three (3) sitting Board members, Walt Boyes, Mike Sheffield, and Betsey Wilcox agreeing to run for re-election. You may nominate any THS member in good standing or nominate yourself to fill any of these seats on the Board. The Nominating Committee will verify membership status and willingness to serve with each nominee. Nominations will be open from 8 June to 13 July 2024 at 11:59pm PDT. Please supply a short bio to include what you hope to do or will continue to do for THS if elected and a photograph suitable for inclusion on the ballot.



Voting will be done electronically, and members will be sent an email with instructions and a link to the host website when voting opens. Voting begins 9 Aug and will close 25 Aug 2024 in accordance with the bylaws. Watch your email for official notification and instructions on the voting process. In the meantime, if you would like to nominate a member of The Heinlein Society for the Board of Directors (including self-nomination), please send replies to:

nominations@heinleinsociety.org:

Name of Nominee _____

Your Name _____

Thank you in advance for your participation.

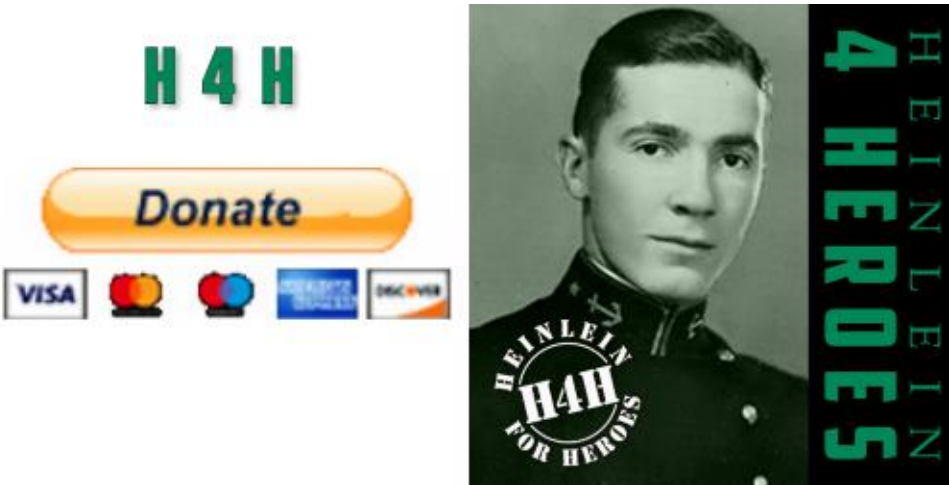
Will Hamilton

Chair, Nominating Committee

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Heinlein for Heroes

Society Board member John Seltzer is the long-time face and muscle behind the H4H program. Board member Beatrice Kondo has recently joined the program. US Servicemen around the world have John and Beatrice, along with everyone who generously donates, for the hours they can escape to worlds of adventure and fancy.

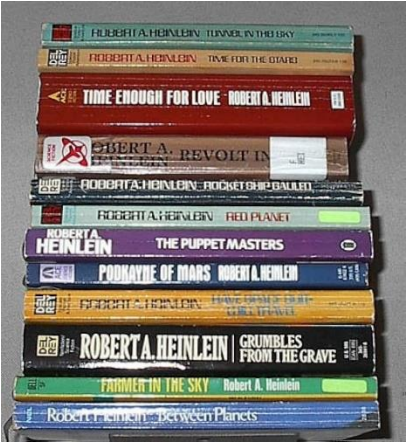


April 2024 Report

Donations	
Betsy Wilcox	\$50.00/monthly
Books Donated in APRIL	
Jan Gephardt, Weird Sisters Publishing	18-SF
Dan Miller, Half Price Books	288-SF
Dan Miller	3-RAH & 8-SF
Books purchased in APRIL	None
Shipped in APRIL	
30 boxes	545 books
H4H activity for Fiscal Year 2024 (8 months)	
264 boxes	5,031 books

May 2024 Report

Donations	
Betsy Wilcox	\$50.00/monthly
Books Donated in MAY	
Ken Walters Dan Miller Beatrice Kondo/Balticon	20-SF-h/c 44-RAH & 27-SF 195-SF
Books purchased in MAY	None
John Seltzer from Greg Funke John Seltzer from eBay Beatrice Kondo from eBay	43-RAH & 520-SF 122-RAH 62-RAH
Shipped in MAY	
30 boxes	594 books
H4H activity for Fiscal Year 2024 (9 months)	
294 boxes	5,625 books
H4H Program Total Since Inception	49,979 books



THANK YOU LETTERS

Team,

I would like to say thank you for all your support through my journey as a service member. Operation Paper Back and Books for Soldiers have enabled me to become a better leader. It has also allowed me to invest time into other

leaders in which made them better. I can't thank you all enough for your support.

- Jojo Whitworth

A Generous Contributor

Hi, John,

I'm so glad you got them and were pleased to receive them! Thanks for the confirmation. You will continue to receive periodic crates of brand-new books from Weird Sisters Publishing as we come out with them and periodically update them. I'm especially eager to send you some of the titles we have in the production pipeline for 2025. I really love and support the H4H project and its ongoing mission. You guys rock!

Many thanks,

Jan S. Gephardt,

Chief Cat-Herder,

Weird Sisters Publishing LLC



Tom Doherty Interview

This isn't the interview at Balticon. Earlier, Joy Ward, along with THS Vice President Walt Boyes (also a member of the Science Fiction Writers of America), interviewed Tom separately for the Society. Here is that interview:



Tom Doherty, in His Own Words: An Appreciation for the 2024 Heinlein Award at Balticon 2024

By Joy Ward, with Walt Boyes (pictured from their wedding)

Hi, my name's Walt Boyes and I am the vice president of the Heinlein Society, www.heinleinsociety.org. I've been a writer and an editor for a long time. With me is Joy Ward, a published author and editor, and a consumer psychology researcher who has done many, many interviews, including several years' worth of interviews for Galaxy's Edge Magazine. Also with me is Tom Doherty, founder of Tor Books and the chair of Tom Doherty Associates. Tom is the 2024 winner of the Robert A. Heinlein Award. The award is bestowed for outstanding published works in science fiction and technical writings that inspire the human exploration of space. This award is in recognition of Tom's work in bringing the inspiring books of hundreds of authors writing about our future in space to public awareness. Welcome, Tom.



Joy Ward:

Tom, I'm so honored to be interviewing you. You are much more than a groundbreaker, you're a space-breaker. So, I thank you so much for joining us. And first of all, let me ask you, you've had a long history in publishing and

a very, very shining example of what one can accomplish in this business. How did you get into publishing and writing and all that good stuff?

Tom Doherty:

Actually, I always loved science fiction. I majored in college in chemical engineering. I won a Bausch & Lomb Science Award in high school, for a chemistry project, and I thought, "Oh, this is a good practical, great future." The more I studied it, I could do it okay, but got kind of boring. Did I really want to spend my life on this kind of detail? By the time I got out of college, the Korean War was just winding down, but I still got drafted.

Yep, I didn't go to Korea, because they were bringing people back, but I spent two years in the Army. About the only entertainment I had there was reading. They paid you a big \$68 a month. I started out getting basic training in Colorado and cold weather training. Then, they moved me to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, and I became a computer. Would you believe that was my official classification? I did it on a slide rule. I was computing trajectories for the 155 Howitzer.

But can you think how much progress we've made? Can you imagine being classified as a computer with a slide rule?

Anyway, they sent me from there, they sent me down to Fort Polk, Louisiana, and I got to compute trajectories for the firing of the 155 Howitzer to basically to indoctrinate trainees. After being trained for the cold, I spent the rest of my two years in the swamp in Louisiana.

I get at 68 bucks a month you didn't have the resources to go into someplace... Well, it was about 100 miles away, but someplace interesting, like New Orleans. So, my entertainment was reading, and the more I read, I began to think, "Hey, I like this. This is what I ought to spend my life doing. I ought to get into publishing."

When I get out of the Army, I told my folks and they said, "Are you sure? You got these good marks in chemical engineering, it's very practical." I said, "No." And my dad said, "Well, as luck would have it, I just fixed a big problem for a vice president of Pocket Books." It was Maury Solomon. He said, "How about I call him and see if he's got an opening?" So, he called Maury and Maury said, "Well, send him in. Let me talk to him." So, I went in and talked to Maury and Maury said, "Tom, we don't have a job here in Simon & Schuster at Pocket Books, but I just signed a contract with Select Magazines to distribute our books to magazine wholesalers throughout North America and they're hiring. They need people to take up the business that we're bringing them. Let me send you over there and see if you can come to an agreement."

So, I went to Select Magazines and they hired me, and I became salesman Boston and North. I had just a little piece of Northern Massachusetts on the coast, like Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont. And I went up there and I worked about six months at it, and they kept telling me I was doing fine, and my wife told me she was pregnant with what would be my oldest daughter, my first child, of course, and they took me out for a nice dinner and laid me off.

Well, actually, they said, "You did do a great job, Tom. We're really sorry about all this, but we put you on because we picked up Pocket Books, which was a lot of extra business, but we just lost a major magazine client and we've got to cut back to what we were before. We can't have two people in New England. Bill Brooks has been with us for 22 years; you've been with us six months. You did a good job, kid. We're sorry, but..."

So anyway, I called Maury back and I said, "Maury, did you like anything I did representing you through Select Magazines?" He said, "Yeah, Tom, but we don't have anything comparable, but if you want to move yourself to Philadelphia, there's a job open as assistant local salesman."

Well, what it was is in those days, magazine wholesalers and distributed books and magazines, and they displayed them by publisher, not by category. And a big part of my job was to go down there to sell to the magazine wholesaler, the Philadelphia wholesaler, but also to try and get that 25% of the space. And what that required sometimes is they would let you have more space if you did the work, so merchandising for them.

But more than anything that happened there is I met Ian Ballantine in the warehouse, and we got talking and he invited me to lunch. I was just kind of amazed. I knew this guy had already started with his wife Betty, he'd started American Penguin and then Bantam, and then Ballantine, and he was taking this green kid to lunch, but he did. He took me to lunch. We had a great lunch. He told me stories about the founding of Mass Market Paperbacks in North America, about his part in starting Armed Forces Editions, which gave away millions of books to service people, men and women in World War II. And I think he really did more to change the reading habits of the American people than anybody I can think of, starting those three paperback companies, being one of the founding starters of Armed Forces editions, Armed Services editions. Anyway, I didn't see much more of him. I actually never saw them again for six years, but by that time I was working at Pocket Books. I worked my way up to regional manager, and Ballantine was an independent company that was being distributed by Pocket Books. So, I got to work with Ian and Betty on the launch of the first fantasy line and the launch of the first mega bestseller in fantasy, Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*. So, I was involved in that, and it was very cool. Actually, a little before I had worked up my way up to a sales manager and was his sales manager for that. I had another kind of really interesting experience in science fiction. When I was still the regional, just out of the Northeast, but working out of Pittsburgh, going as far west as Minneapolis, the Northeast, I didn't have New York and New England, but I had just below that and then West, anyway-

Well, anyway, in Pittsburgh, Sky Miller lived and Sky Miller, remember, who was the main reviewer for *Astounding*, and well... By this time, it was *Analog*, and he was the major reviewer and the biggest book department in town was actually the department store, and the department store manager and buyer was a friend of Sky's, and he introduced me to Sky. Sky

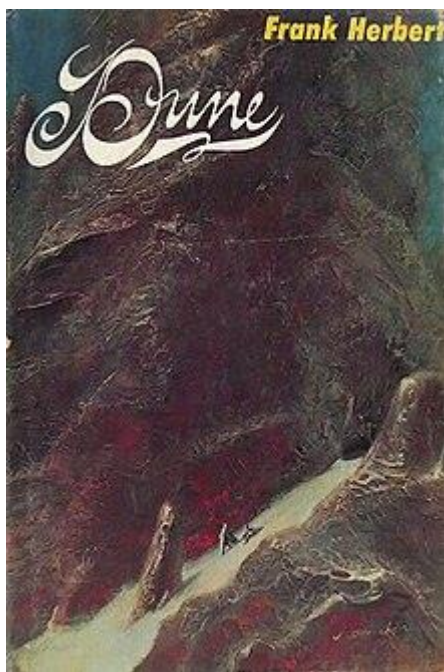
and I would have lunch reasonably often. We just enjoyed talking about science fiction and talking publishing. One day he hands me this big fat manuscript, and he says, "This is a great book. It's been all over New York and nobody wants it."

He said, "You really got to talk Simon & Schuster into doing this. This is special." I said, "Well, hey, I'll take it home. I'll read it tonight. If I feel the same way you do, I'll really push it." And I did, I took it home, I read it. I absolutely agreed with him, I loved it. I sent it in and I waited a couple of weeks. I sent it in with a telephone call and a strong letter saying, "Hey, we've really got to do this," and nothing happened, and I called back and I talked to a senior editor, and I said, "Hey, this is a great book. We got to do this." He said, "Oh, okay I'll read it."

It was *Dune*.

I waited another couple of weeks and called again, and I was told no, this big fat manuscript by an unknown author, "No, we don't do much science. We can't do that." I don't think they ever read it. I said, "Well, send me back the manuscript, will you? I think this is big mistake, you should do it," but it turned out to be great for me in the long run, because it ended up being published by Wiley who basically was only known for things like auto manuals.

They just didn't do this kind of thing. Well, I heard from Frank Herbert later that the president of Wiley at the time, his son loves science fiction, and the editor who got it at Wiley read a piece of it and said, "Hey, this is pretty good," and gave it to the president for his son. He said, "I know we probably won't do this," but he did give it to the president for his son. His son was so enthusiastic, they published it.



And I got to publish it later when I got to be publisher of Ace. It never would've happened if Simon & Schuster had bought it. Pocket would have bought it. So anyway, I thought that was kind of a neat story for you.

And even better for me now, when I started Tor, Frank had passed away, but I had become a friend, I'd gone up to Port Townsend and I visited him a couple of times and we'd become very friendly, and I got to know his son, Brian, and he did a couple of books with Brian as a co-author. When he died, Brian wanted to do prequels with Kevin J. Anderson, so I bought three prequels, and we've now done, I think, 17. Because they sell quite well, but the really neat thing, back in the days when I was at Ace, and even before that, when Wiley had first published it, books were still on tape, the audiobook, and they cost so much, and they were so clumsy to handle that people just weren't doing very many, and *Dune* never got done. So, when I bought the prequels, I bought the audio rights. So, I had the audio rights to the original *Dune*, which is so neat. We've had huge sale on it for the last couple of years, because it always sells well.

Joy Ward:

How did you get to be working with Heinlein?

Tom Doherty:

Well, what happened, actually, Eleanor Wood, his agent was also an old friend, and I got to give her full credit for anything I did, because I didn't have a... I met Heinlein, but I didn't really know him, but Eleanor believed in what we did, what we could do, and she was the one that brought him to me.

Exactly, that's the really important part, huh? So, she was a friend with Heinlein. I can believe that. Eleanor is a lovely woman, totally lovely.

Joy Ward:

Absolutely, but for Heinlein, so what book did she first bring to you?

Tom Doherty:

Oh gosh, I think it was *Reunion* where it hadn't been published yet. It had been published in magazines as a serial and as short stories. So, we had one, I think it was a 68,000-word novel, short novel, and we had a bunch of short stories. And then other books reverted, and she brought us those, *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, books like that, yep. It was so neat to have published this author that I had read as a kid.

My favorite of his that I worked on, actually it's a little hard to say. I think probably *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*. No, I was just saying it was great to be able to publish them at all. We certainly weren't his major publisher, and most of the books we did were books that had reverted from other publishers. We only had that one that was new, and it wasn't one of his big books, but it was a book I did like.

Joy Ward:

Well, Tom, you were part of Heinlein's history actually. You're one of the people that actually helped make Heinlein famous by publishing. And what's exciting about that for you, or what stands out about that for you?

Tom Doherty:

Well, what's exciting about that for me is he was truly a great science fiction author, one of the greatest that ever, ever wrote in our field. And to be a publisher of his work is something that you got to be proud of. And especially at that late date to get anything that hadn't been in book form before was kind of neat.

Joy Ward:

Well, you were literally there at the beginning of the whole science fiction explosion and helped make it happen.

Tom Doherty:

Well, I would give credit for that to Ian and Betty Ballantine. I was selling their stuff when the explosion came. Wow, you can't imagine the enthusiasm for *The Lord of the Rings*.

Joy Ward:

That's marvelous. What book of Heinlein's do you wish you had published that you didn't get the chance to?

Tom Doherty:

Stranger in a Strange Land, certainly. That would've been great to publish.

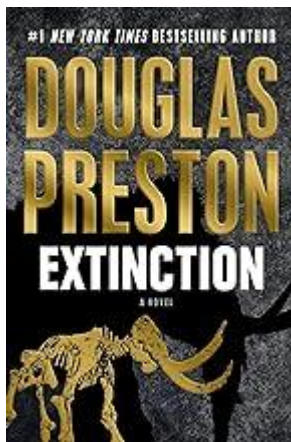
Joy Ward:

That was a total culture changer. That broke through. What do you think that people should know about Heinlein that they don't?

Tom Doherty:

Well, mainly I think they should read him. If you read Robert Heinlein, you're going to love what you're reading and you're going to be excited about it, and you're going to tell friends. I knew some authors who felt they were friends of Heinlein, like Jerry Pournelle. Bob Gleason brought them and I published Pournelle and Larry Niven. They were very enthusiastic, and they were friends of mine and friends of his. I think Jerry first and then

Larry. I think my understanding anyway was that Robert Heinlein really was impressed by *The Mote in God's Eye*, the first book that the two of them did together, and he felt that he had already been friendly with Jerry, but he felt that Larry brought things to that and that they were great together, and I think great apart, published both their own books, and together books. Gleason brought us Douglas Preston, whose new novel, *Extinction*, is being published by Forge. The publisher of Forge is my daughter, Linda Quinton.



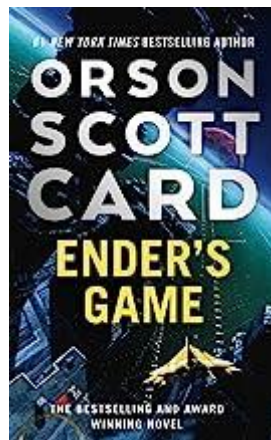
Joy Ward:

Are there any writers out there now that you're excited about that you just got to read the book?

Tom Doherty:

Well, I still love some of what I consider our classics, like *The Wheel of Time*. I like to tell people about that. The show is pretty darn good. It's not as good as the books. That's my prejudice. Scott Card's *Ender's Game* I love. We've actually sold over 10 million of that. For a single novel, that's pretty darn good.

But, I don't think I can say there's only one favorite. I think what the exciting thing for me was building Tor, which would publish so many people, and to me putting Tor together, because I didn't have much capital. And to start a company which had to compete with companies owned by this time Ballantine, part of Random House, and with the huge capital they had, when I was going to start Tor, some good friends were saying, "Hey, Tom, you just won't be able to compete with those guys."

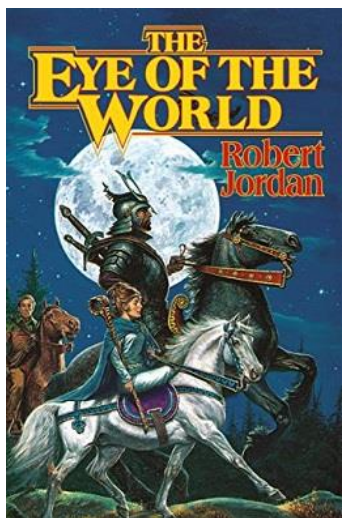


But to me, it always seemed that publishing company was basically the sum of the talents of its people. And you had to recruit the right people, but you had to do that by win-win situations. In other words, money wasn't the only thing. It was an important thing, sure, but it wasn't the only thing. Harriet McDougal, for example, she got Robert Jordan, to whom she was married, which is now the biggest single thing that we've published, the whole *Wheel of Time* and when Public Broadcasting in '18 did the 100 Great American Reads, the whole 14 books of *Wheel of Time* were part of the 100 Great American Reads. And the New York Times said about it, "Robert Jordan has come to dominate the world Tolkien began to reveal."

It is high praise, but anyway, I thought that a company could be put together. Two things, I had grown up in sales. I had worked my way up to sales manager at Simon & Schuster, and one morning I certainly wasn't looking for a job, I was enjoying what I did, I liked working with the Ballantines, distributing their stuff. I wasn't looking for a job, but one morning, Harold Roth called me. Harold had been executive vice president of Simon & Schuster, and he'd gone over to Grosset & Dunlap to be

president, and he called me up one morning and he said, "Hey, Tom." I said, "Yeah, Harold?" He said, "How'd you like to be a publisher?" I said, "Oh, if that's the name of the game, I'm with you." And I went over to Grosset & Dunlap to be publisher of paperbacks, and we had a YA line called Tempo, and I hired a really brilliant young editor, Harriet McDougal, to be the editor-in-chief of Tempo.

And we began publishing science fiction, people like Andre Norton for example. We began publishing science fiction and we were doing really very well with it. And Ace had come on hard times and Harold convinced Filmways, the parent company of Grosset, to buy Ace for us to play with. Harriet became editor-in-chief of Ace Tempo, and I was president and publisher, and we began publishing an awful lot of science fiction.



We did really great, but Harriet got divorced and she had a five-year-old. Shortly after she got divorced, she inherited her family home in Charleston, South Carolina. It's a wonderful home. It's on historic tours of Charleston. It's been in the family for a couple hundred years I think. I don't know, but almost since the Revolution. The backyard was a 500-foot-deep walled garden. Somehow, can't imagine why, she thought that would be a nicer place to bring up her five-year-old than a walk up in Brooklyn. So, she moved south, but I thought I had grown up in sales. I was remote out. I thought, "Authors are all remote. Why on earth does an editor have to be in New York?" And I said, "Harriet, how about you stay working for me and I'll get you a computer and a modem?" That's how we started it-

I told her, "I'll get you a modem. We got an 800 number; we'll talk a lot. When you think you need to come in, you'll come in. Otherwise, you'll live in Charleston and work from there." She met Robert Jordan in the bookstore, his real name was Jim Rigney. We never would've had him otherwise, I don't think. She began shopping at this bookstore that she had shopped growing up. She knew the bookstore owner who had been a

friend to hers when she was young. She was the daughter of the owner who had been running the bookstore then.

And the owner said to her one day, "Hey, Harriet, my very best customer has written a novel. I know that's what you'd call slush, but would you do me a favor and read it?" Actually, he wrote this book under... He had different pen names for different categories. He wrote this book under the pen named Reagan O'Neal. He was a dyed in the wool Southerner. He grew up in Charleston, he went to the Citadel, and we were celebrating... This was '76, we were celebrating the Bicentennial. He was writing a novel about the American Revolution in the South. He thought everybody knew about Bunker Hill, Concord and Lexington and they didn't know enough about the South. So anyway, she had wanted to start her own little company, and the deal I made with her when she went south, she would start Popham Press, that was her maiden name. She would start Popham Press and we would distribute, and she would edit science fiction for us separately, and she would work part-time for us and part-time on Popham Press.

And so, she published this at Popham Press, and we did it as actually... It ended up being a joint venture with us because we put a lot of money into promoting it, because when I read it... He was a fine author, when I read it, I loved it, and things on the American Revolution were very hot then at the Bicentennial, and I thought, "This can be a hit," and it was. We sold half a million copies of it at Ace through the distribution. Then, a problem was happening at Ace in that they had let Harold go, and they brought in a new guy who was not very pleasant to work with, and I thought, "Time for a change. I'm going to start a company. I'm going to start over." So, like I was saying, the way to start a company, we're not like a steel mill or a car manufacturer. We don't have huge investment in plant and equipment. We're all about people, the staff, the authors. This is what makes a publishing company. You can get people of real talent if you try hard to work out win-win situations. Money's a factor, but it isn't the only factor. I had kept Harriet by letting her live in Charleston.

Yes. Jim Baen, who I had had brought in from Galaxy, I had brought into Ace to do stuff when Harriet was cutting back, he had always wanted

his name on a book. So, I offered him through Tor, he could do his own imprint that said Baen Books on it. He was willing to come.

Well, what happened with Jim, that's just kind of a separate story. He worked for Tor for about three years, and Ron Bush had left Ballantine to become president of Pocket, and he had done really well with science fiction at Ballantine, and he wanted to start a line. So, he tried to hire Jim and Jim liked what he was doing, but he really loved the idea of having his own company. And I suggested to Jim and he agreed that what we would do is he wouldn't join Pocket Books working for them as an employee, but we would offer Ron the chance to distribute a line we would create for him. And I allowed Jim... What made it appealing, see, is I would allow Jim to take with him any author who wanted to go with him.

The first year, he could start right away with a strong list. He had a lot of strong authors. We went to Ron Bush and we suggested that, "Hey, he won't work for you, but we'll create this list which you can distribute. We'll take the risk and you'll make the distributor's profit and look what you're going to start with." Ron was quite impressed with what he was going to start with, and we created Baen Books. Dick Gallin, who had put up some money to help me finance things went in with us as a partner, and there were three partners, Jim, Dick Gallin for capital, and me, and we had Baen Books. I think that's kind of a nice side story on something. But the first couple of years he was bringing good stuff into Tor, then Dave Hartwell... See, I think this is interesting because most people wouldn't recruit this way, but Dave Hartwell had done Timescape at Simon & Schuster, which had been phased out before a couple of years before I got there. Dave Hartwell, he won six Hugos as best editor. He had always thought that he would love to also handle his own sub rights, because he felt he knew the international science fiction field. He knew science fiction around the world, and he didn't feel that the generalists that were selling sub rights knew enough about it to effectively sell it, that there were a lot of things that weren't getting sold that should have been. So, I made a deal with him where I said he would work from home, too. I said, "Okay, Dave, what we'll do, you buy books for us and you buy the sub rights and we'll pay you so much to buy the book and to edit it, and then we'll give you a bonus depending on how it sells."

"We'll also send you to places like London Book Forum Fair and Frankfurt Book Fair. You will have the right to sell sub rights on all of your books, and you'll get a commission on that." And this was so appealing to him that he said, "Sure."

He brought us some wonderful authors like your current guest of honor, Lee Modesitt. He brought us Lee and he brought us Gene Wolfe.

Dave did a wonderful job for us, and some of those Hugos I mentioned before were at Tor where he won for best editor.

Ben Bova had been so successful as editor of *Analog* and *Omni*, but then wanted time to write for himself, and I made an agreement with him where he would come and we would publish his books, but he would also bring us authors and we would publish his authors, and he thought that was a great idea. We would pay the same kind of thing that we were paying Dave. We would pay him so much a book for acquiring the book and a bonus on how well it sold.

Joy Ward:

That's brilliant. Well, I'm going to have to let you go here soon, unfortunately. It's going to break my heart. I'm going to have to do it, but before we leave, I would like to ask you, we've talked about a lot of authors, but I'd like to ask you, what is it that you've gotten from the life in science fiction? What has that done for you?

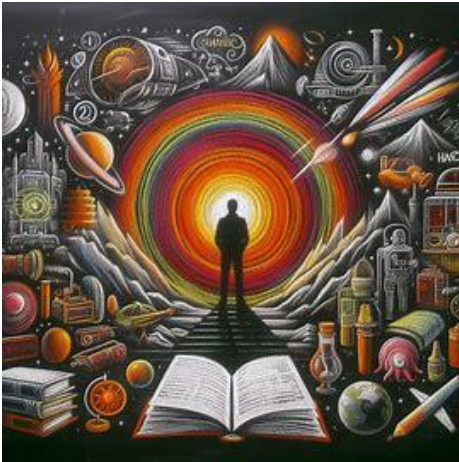
Tom Doherty:

I got paid pretty well to do what I would've done for play. What's that old song? Here were the music makers, here were the makers of dreams, world builders, and world creators, dreamers, and makers of dreams. That's what I got.

Education Digital Download

Are you a Coward?

ARE YOU A COWARD? We desperately need a brave person. Someone who is unfazed by teachers, librarians, self-described Mama Bears, small children. . . and even teenagers.



Your job will be to promote The Heinlein Society's FREE "Education Digital Download" to teachers, librarians, and parents who are home-schooling, by whatever means you can discover (though we think probably online schooling forums will be your best bet). The download includes "lesson plans" for all of the Heinlein Young Adult novels, the complete text (by permission of the Heinlein Prize Trust) of three classic

Heinlein short stories appropriate for young adults, and a plethora of other general science resources (like flash cards) for K-12 students.

If you're interested in helping us out in this worthy endeavor, and "Paying Forward" Robert's legacy in educating young adults and promoting a human future in space, please contact us at:

<mailto:Education@heinleinsociety.org>

Geo Rule – THS Treasurer

Member News

New Life Member

First, we welcome Sean Carroll to the roll of Heinlein Society Life Members! Sean opted to join this honored group of members in May. Thank you Sean!

Other Recent New Full Members

Welcome to the Society and thanks for your support!

Phillip Massey
Suzie Grossman
Cynthia Astle
Henry Kaiser
Joshua Kahler
Mike Johnnie

Current Members

When your renewal comes up, [please renew](#)! The Heinlein Society does a lot of great work, and we need your support. Your annual membership supports blood drives and scholarships! Plus get **The Heinlein Journal** and a drawing for a free [Virginia Edition](#)!

Herb Gilliland stumbles upon former student!



While at the USNA Observatory observing the eclipse, the chap behind me was heard in conversation with a friend, expressing much interest and enthusiasm for FOR US THE LIVING. I had to inquire of course. Turned out to be a former student of mine in Plebe English decades ago. Now Prof. Charles Nelson, Prof. of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Seems to be a SF fan who has read most if not all of RAH. – *Herb Gilliland*

THS Life Member Austin Mardon

Austin Mardon received the NASA DEIA Medal in DC this spring. Congratulations, Austin!

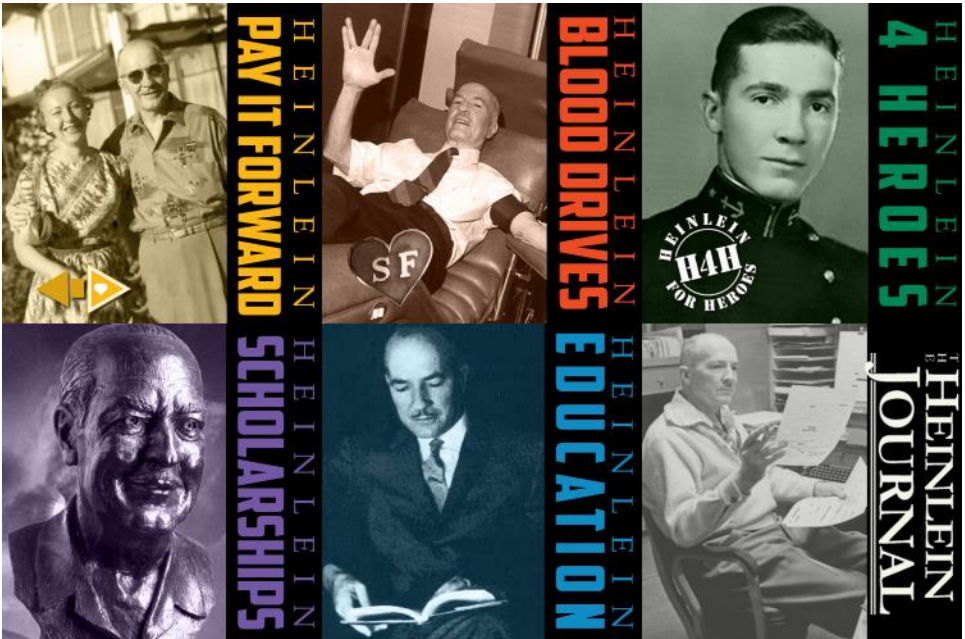
Austin emailed to say:

Thank you for allowing me to be a member. It in and of itself is an honor.



What the Heinlein Society Does

Click the image to Join or Renew!!



Heinlein Society Blood Drives

If you know anyone who might be interested in coordinating a blood drive, have them contact BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org.

We will do all the work with the Blood Center to make it happen.

Baycon event

Carlin Black will host a booth at [Baycon](#). If you'd like to assist Carlin there, contact using the email address linked above. Thanks in advance for Paying it Forward!

And we have a [Donor Wall](#) page online.

We need local blood drive coordinators for the South Bay, San Francisco and Oakland, and Marin County. Also New England Coordinators are a critical need. Coordinators in other areas are great. And Library Blood drives may soon become a Heinlein Society program so that there will be plenty for a coordinator to do. Cons may not be the only option.



Coordinating a blood drive is relatively easy. The blood center does most of the work before the drive. Except for the days of the drive, it is not time-consuming. The rewards are huge. Each Unit of blood coordinated saves *three*

lives at local hospitals. Best of all, you do not need to be eligible to donate to coordinate a drive. Even those with a fear of needles can Pay it Forward by coordinating a drive.

The Society will host major blood drives at [Gen Con](#) and [Dragon Con](#), so if you're attending either Con, make sure to help out. Each unit of blood donated saves three lives!

The Heinlein Journal

THE HEINLEIN JOURNAL

The Heinlein Journal is seeking authors.

Do you have a neat Heinlein-related idea you thought you might write up in an academic manner some day? As a wise person once advised, put the seat of your pants in the chair in front of your keyboard and start!

And if you have some ideas for the types of articles you'd like to see in the Journal, let us know! We'll try to fulfill some wish lists!

Reach out to:

Herb Gilliland
Editor, The Heinlein Journal
editor@heinleinsociety.org



From the Archives - 2002



From the Fall 2002 newsletter, in an article written by Geo Rule, a past President of the Society and currently serving on the Board as Treasurer.

Pictured from left to right: Bill Patterson, Deb Houdek Rule, Geo Rule, Peter Scott. Seated in the foreground: David Silver.

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.

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 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.

The serious work began when the archives staff brought out the manuscripts and notes we had requested in advance.

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

Upcoming Cons



[This site](#) keeps track of most upcoming cons, and there are always more being held that your editor would ever have guessed.

Of course, the big ones the summer are [Gen Con](#), in Indianapolis August 1-4, and [Dragon Con](#), in Atlanta August 29-Sept. 2. We included the Dragon Con logo because we always get a great response to our blood drive there.

[Worldcon](#) is in Glasgow, Scotland, August 8-12.

June sees smaller cons in Hartford CT, Rapid City SD, and South Portland ME.

In **July**, you can drop in on cons in Rosemont IL, Tampa FL, DC, Winston-Salem NC, Louisville KY, Spokane WA, or Pittsburgh PA.