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MAHAFFEY & HUBBARD

AT LONDON CONVENTION

1953 FANTASY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

London, England, 29 May, (CNS) - Six visiting Americans signed in at the yearly London Convention, held at The Bannington Hotel, May 23-24, which averaged 152 attendees both days. They were Bea Mahaffey, editor of Other Worlds, L. Ron Hubbard, Rita Krohne of Milwaukee, Bill Harding of Buffalo, NY, Jesse Floyd of Savannah, Ga., and Mr. Sollibaake and his family (NFFF), of Seattle.

Mahaffey and Hubbard appeared on a guest program together with Nino Oesterbaan, editor of Holland's new s-f magazine, Planeet, Georges Gallet, Parisian editor, and Peter Hamilton Jr., editor of Britain's newest s-f magazine, Nezula, in a question and answer session MC'd by John (Ted) Carnell of New Worlds.

In answer to a question regarding Ray Palmer's recent "fighting" editorial in Other Worlds, Mahaffey stated that their magazine was raising the payment rate to 3¢ a word. Hubbard stated that he was returning to the s-f writing field and that he was over halfway thru a booklength novel which he hoped to finish very shortly. Hubbard humorous talk was channelled strict-

ly into the s-f field by MC Carnell, and the word "dianetics" was never mentioned.

In an earlier session Leslie Flood Secretary of the International Fantasy Award Fund announced that Clifford Simak had won this year's fiction award with "City" (Gnome Press). Runner up was Cyril Kornbluth's "Takeoff" (Doubleday), and third place taken by Kurt Vonnegut's "Player Piano" (Scribner's NY and Macmillan, London). The non-fiction award went to Ley and de Camp for "Lands Beyond".

While many serious sessions were developed in the two-day Convention (outstanding of which was a floor and author-panel debate on SEX AND SADISM IN S-F), the Convention Committee, headed by editor H. J. Campbell of Authentic Science Fiction had concentrated on humor, and a number of brilliant and original sketches were staged in the Derby Room, largest of the two Convention Halls. Outstanding in this respect was the "mad scientist" act of editor Campbell and author Brian Berry, the "serious" attempt of editors Carnell and Campbell to prove that only s-f editors were sane; an end-of-the-world radio playlet written by Walt Willis concerning a beard which over-ran Eng-
(concluded on page 4, column 1)

6TH WESTERCON REPORT

by Arthur Jean Cox

SOME HI-LITES OF THE 6th ANNUAL WEST
COAST S-F CONFERENCE, LA,
MAY 30th AND 31st

Los Angeles, Calif., 2nd June, (CNS) - The outstanding event of the Westercon was the electrifying speech given by Gerald Heard. The burden of his remarks was that mankind shall soon imitate the bees and the white ants - "a spiritual revolution", he feels, for the better. One may doubt the validity of his ideas or the desirability of what he proposes but no one who was there can mistake the fact that he left his audience numbed with awe. It was eloquence at its finest, an inspired lecture. Everything that followed that evening seemed an anti-climax. Mr. Heard - who writes under the name of H. F. Heard - is a sixtyish but still dark-bearded man with distinct English mannerisms and accent. He leaned forward from the podium and, using no notes, spoke brilliantly in a clear, loud voice at some length. At its conclusion, even the always bouyant Forrest J. Ackerman seemed solemn and impressed. He called it "one of the finest speeches ever given at any science-fiction conference" - an understatement in my estimation.

Another interesting talk was given perviously that day by Eddie Clinton. What everyone expected to be a more or less routine review of the year's past movies - he was speaking as a member of a panel discussing the stfnl events of the last twelve months - turned out to be a highly original and arresting essay on what science-fiction movies should be like. Eph Koenigsberg reviewed the science-fiction and fantasy books of the past year and Arthur Cox, relying heavily on his files of Fantasy Times, discussed the magazines. They were followed by another three man panel - Chad Oliver, Dave Fox and Sam Sacrett debating the question, "Science

Fiction: Fun or Function?" As I recall, no clear-cut and definite answer to the question was finally arrived at.

Among those present were Ray Bradbury, A. E. van Vogt, James H. Schmitz, F. L. Wallace, Richard Matheson, E. Mayne Hull, Mel Hunter and Ted Yosano. The latter, who came all the way from Japan to attend the Westercon, was guest of honor. He gave a short speech at the banquet on the evening of the first day, in which he wished for a greater science fictional brotherhood between Japan and the United States. He hopes to go to Philadelphia and, due to the generosity of some of the local fans, there's a good chance he'll be able to do so.

Ray Bradbury spoke in an impromptu fashion on a couple of occasions. He says that the picture, "It Came From Outer Space", stuck fairly close to his original screen treatment. "It's 80% my story", he said, and added: "It's a good picture. Not an outstanding one, not one which will be remembered - but a good picture." On the last evening he read an original, unpublished story by himself. I wasn't there but I understand that it was received very well. It was not a fantasy but a short, satirical piece of writing. A recording of his much-heard radio program, "Mrs Is Heaven", was played (which is the reason I wasn't there).

The only real set-back the Westercon suffered was the inability to obtain the expected print of the newly-made "Donovan's Brain", which was supposed to have been premiered at the Westercon. Tom Gries, the producer, was on hand to explain that last minute revisions in the film were responsible for its not being available. Gries said that he tried to make a sincere movie which s-f enthusiasts would like and that he hopes to make others like it in the future.

The auction was not outstanding. The items bringing the highest prices were small originals by the new artist, Mel Hunter: one went for \$9, another

(concluded on page 4, column 1)



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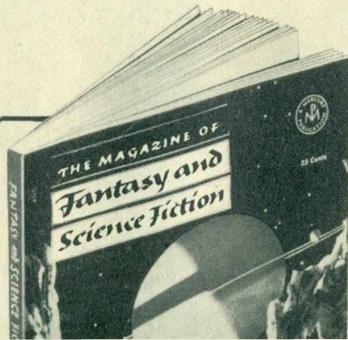
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WALTER WRIGLEY, *Associate Director*
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The courses mentioned in this quotation were originally set up by Dr. C. S. Draper. Since Dr. Draper assumed the responsibility of Chairman of the Department of Aeronautical Engineering, Prof. Wrigley has taken over the teaching of these courses.

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SYDCON II REPORT

BY Rex Meyer

Perth, Australia, 27 May, (CNS) - The Second Australia Science Fiction Convention (Sydcon II) was held in Sydney on 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, 1953, with over eighty fans attending. Delegates came from all states of the Commonwealth and from many outlying country districts.

On Friday night over 30 fans attended a cocktail party at a city cabaret. This gave Sydney fans an opportunity to welcome interstate and country people and to discuss ways and means of encouraging the growing interstate fan cooperation.

Saturday morning was given over to a preliminary rally with informal discussion groups and fan chatter generally. Carefully arranged displays of amateur and professional science-fiction publications were particularly appreciated by newcomers to the fan world.

The afternoon session was on a more formal basis. Souvenir program booklets and copies of fan mags were issued to all delegates. Graham Stone and Doug Nicholson gave informal talks explaining various exhibits arranged in the hall.

The convention was formally opened by the chairman, Vol Molesworth, and messages of congratulations read from Tom Cockcroft (N. Z.) and Aussie fans Eric Russell and Frank Bryning. Vol Molesworth addressed the Convention on the subject of "Science Fiction as a Development In Modern Literature" discussing the need for speculation based on logical continuity of known data. Doug Nicholson spoke on the "Historical Development of Science-Fiction" and illustrated his discussion with a well selected series of slides showing early art work and especially the development of cover-styles.

"Bluey" Glik and Rex Meyer discussed the question of "The Place of Science In Science Fiction." Each took a diametrically opposite view and their talks stimulated general discussion

from the audience. Graham Stone gave a stimulating survey of the "Development of Science-Fiction Fandom" emphasising Australian fan history and suggesting a program of future growth and expansion.

After the dinner recess Don Lawson introduced a film program of interest to s-f fans. The Check fantasy "Krakattit" was the feature film with a series of short scientific films balancing out the program.

Sunday morning featured an auction of magazines and books. It was a great success with over 200 items being sold.

During the Sunday afternoon a formal business session was held and Chairman Vol Molesworth received reports from fan groups and fan editors.

Graham Stone, reporting on the "Australian Science - Fiction Society" mentioned an enrollment of 155, most in Sydney, but with many interstate and country names.

"The Futurian Society of Sydney", reporting to the Convention through the Chairman, stated that FSS had been active since 1939 and now has a membership of 19 active fans. Mike Bos, the active leader of the new "North Shore Futurian Society", a group of mainly younger fans, reported on his group and library activities.

Interstate delegates gave surveys of fan activities in their several states. Ian Crozier of Melbourne mentioned that 60 Victorian fans were known and that an average of 15 attended regular weekly meetings.

Only about 8 fans attended regular weekly meetings in Brisbane, reported Bill Vancy, but over 20 Queensland fans were known. Similarly Ian Moyes of Adelaide said that about 10 fans attended meetings there. Delegates from Western Australia and Tasmania said that fandom in these states was insufficiently organized to support regular meetings.

The chairman then accepted motions from the floor. A resolution "That Australian Fandom Shall Contribute A Collection of Australian Science-Fiction And Fantasy To The Next American Con-

vention" was carried. Many other resolutions were carried and it was decided that Sydney be the site of the Third Australian Convention in 1954.

Vol Holesworth in his concluding address stressed that the fundamental aim of the convention was to bring Australian fans together. "In this respect" he said, "The Convention has been an unqualified success and promised well for successful meeting in 1954".

MAHAFFEY & HUBBARD AT LONDON CONVENTION (concluded from page 1, column 2)

land; and a ballet-satire played by some of the London group — plus a very fine spaceship play written by Canadian Bill Horse and Londoner Terry Wright.

Unlike previous Conventions in London, most conventioners stayed over at the Brompton Hotel, and for the first time the whole atmosphere took on the resemblance of an American Convention. Both Mahaffey and Rita Krohne were always surrounded by a wall of admiring fans, but managed to survive the incessant rounds of parties thrown in their honor. Champion crying jag was had by all when Mahaffey left London on Thursday for Paris — after a farewell party at London's WHITE HORSE TAVERN, she was escorted by car with motor cycle outriders through garlanded and flag-bedecked city streets to the railway depot, where fans packed the platform to bid her bon voyage. It was touch and go whether Mahaffey turned back — and stayed for good.

THE 6th WESTERCON REPORT

(concluded from page 2, column 2)

for \$12.

The 6th Annual Westercon was largely the product of E. Everett Evans and his wife, Thelma ("T. D. Hamm"); and of Wendy Ackerman, who was program chairman; and of Walt Daugherty and Mel Hunter. Forrest J Ackerman was Master of Ceremonies and Walt Daugherty was Auctioneer.

"Scienti-Books", "Cosmic Reporter" and many other famous "FANTASY-TIPS" columns will be found in the next issue.

FANTASY FORECASTS

Coming Next In The Pro Mags

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION

The August 1953 issue of The Magazine of Fantasy And Science Fiction will contain: "Gratitude Guaranteed" by R. Bretnor & Kris Neville; "Rustle of Wings" by Fredric Brown; "Mr. Kinkaid's Pasts" by J.J. Coupling; "One Other" by Manly Wade Wellman; "MS Found in a Vacuum" by P. M. Hubbard; "Captive Audience" by Ann Warren Griffith; "Measure of a Man" by Ward Moore; "Told Under Oath" by Lord Dunsany; "Open Ears" by Ralph Robin; "Randall" by Lavinia R. Davis; "The Cerebrative Psittacoid" by H. Neering, Jr.; "At The Door" by Ben Ray Redman; and "A Warning to the Furious" by Bando Binder; plus the department "Recommended Reading" by the editors. The cover is by Jack Coggins showing "Erecting a communications tower on Triton; Uranns in background" (see cover proof facing page 2 of this issue).

FANTASY FICTION

The August issue of Fantasy Fiction presents another unusual cover by Hannes Bok, Harry Harrison, editor of Fantasy Fiction's sister magazine Rock-et Stories, remarks about these covers: "You know the story behind these Fantasy covers is interesting. All of the Bok covers so far are from paintings Hannes did for his own pleasure — easel paintings. If you've been to his place you've seen them on the walls. The publisher, who is an artist himself, likes Bok's work very much (as who doesn't) and has been adapting the paintings as magazine covers! A reproduction of the August cover is on page 5 of this issue

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