

THE LEADING FANTASY WEEKLY FANTASY-TIMES

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THE PHILLY CONFERENCE

-Reported by James V. Taurasi-

EN years ago, a few fans from the International Scientific Association of New York, decided to visit the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and thus the first Philly Conference was born. It was called a "convention" in those days. From this small beginning, scientific fiction fandom has built up the tradition of a Philly Conference every year. Except for the war years, there has been a conference in Philly, every year. They are always very interesting and mighty, mighty important to scientific fiction and stf fandom.

Wollheim and Michel's Michel-ist movement of years ago, started at a Philly Conference, the motion for fandom to approve the movement was defeated.

New Fandom and the First World Science Fiction Convention received fandom's approval at a Philly Conference.

The 1940 Second World Science Fiction Convention was approved at the 1939 Philly Conference when Bob Tucker presented its plan.

LAST week, over 70 fans, authors and artists crowded into the conference room at 1626 Arch Street, Philadelphia for the first Post-War Philly Conference; a conference that was to be one of the most successful ever held.

Earlier that day, at the Penn. Station in New York, the Queens Science Fiction League met and boarded the 10 A. M. train for Philly. At Newark, the Eastern Science Fiction Association met the same train and the two groups merged into a joint QSF-L-ESFA Del

egation and with fantasy talk filling the air they arrived in Philly and after eats, made their way to the conference hall.

Until smiling Rothman banged the table for attention and order the hall was filled with renewed friendship and gettogethers. Some of the fans hadn't seen each other in six years. A great number of fans had spent the war years in uniform and stf overseas was eagerly discussed.

Milton A. Rothman gave an excellent welcome speech and then turned the floor over to George O Smith, who went to great amusing length to explain how he started to write science fiction. Smith is a good speechmaker and tho his talk wasn't exactly scientific, it was very interesting and most humorous.

Chairman Rothman called on representatives of all the fan organizations to report on their clubs. Sam Moskowitz gave a short talk on the ESFA and handed over to the Philcon Society \$30.00 and a list of 30 members who had joined the Philcon Society in the name of the ESFA. What Sam didn't mention was that a number of those membership fees came from the ESFA Treasury; to be paid up later; an example of support rare

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-the promotion of Sam Moskowitz-
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ly seen. Rothman accepted the money and membership list in the name of the Society and announced that its membership was now 62. Will Sykora gave his report on the Queens SFJ, its aims and friendship with the PSEFS. He pledged full support of the QSFJ to the coming Philcon of 1947. James (Rusty) Hovelin was called upon to give reports on the Science Fiction Foundation, activated by Ackerman at the recent Pacificon; the LAJFS, telling a little on how the club is organized and run. He also announced that he is now editing Stefnews, a small news-weekly, for the Foundation. He was also called upon to give a report on the National Fantasy Fan Federation. He announced that this was a crisis year for the NFFF, and that if it didn't accomplish anything, it would probably die. Rothman reported on the PSEFS and the Fantasy Amateur Press Association.

Sam Loveman gave the talk of the day, when he read to the eagerly listening fans, an article he had written on Lovecraft. He stated that he had written it, in the style Lovecraft usually SPOKE AND GAVE MANY INTERESTING insights on the great author. It should be published in Weird Tales so that Lovecraft fans c a n

enjoy it.

Lloyd Arthur Eshbach gave a talk on his recently formed book company and its aims, then was swamped by fans ordering his 1st book, Spacehound Of The IPC by E. E. Smith.

Will Sykora took the floor, cleared his throat, and gave a talk on the "Shaver Cave Mystery" ending up with a motion for the conference to take definite action against the Shaver "Mysteries". The action proposed by Sykora was that the conference go on record as opposed to the publication of the Shaver stories as fact rather than fiction, that an investigating committee be elected to check on possible illegal aspects of such publication, their findings to be submitted to the Post Office for possible appropriate action, and that a petition in support of this resolution, with a goal of 1,000 signatures, be circulated among fandom. The conference, however, failed to take action by a vote of 25 to 27 and the resolution was defeated altho every delegate who spoke in the debate said something against the Shaver stories.

After a short recess, Sam Moskowitz took the auction over and in his fog-horn-like voice conducted a most successful auction. The 1st Cartier cover for Unknown selling for the all-time high of \$29.00, cold, cold cash. -jvt

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ON THE NEWS STAND reviewing FFM & Weird Tales, crowded out of this issue, will appear in the next.

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