

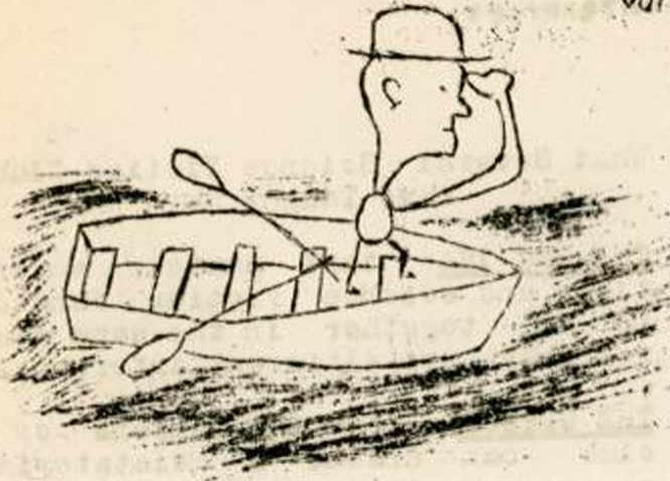
LOOKING

AHEAD

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PRE - CONVENTION DISCUSSION

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

It is a very peculiar fact, but most fans have never been able to say anything about how science fiction conventions ought to be run. One reason is that Convention notices usually appear within one month before the actual affair, and one month is too short a time for fans from different parts of the country to state just what they want or expect from an event of this sort. It is rather fortunate that the coming Convention is being thoroughly advertised long before the actual occurrence. The time, the place, and the names of the sponsors are now matters of stiff history. What has not yet been settled is the business, the issues to be discussed. This gives every fan a chance to inform the Committee in charge of the Convention just what he expects to see or talk about when he gets to Chicago in Sept. 1940. No fan should miss taking advantage of this opportunity to chart the course of the next Convention.

THE TEST OF A GOOD CONVENTION

1. Does it offer a good program of Science Fiction entertainment?
2. Does it offer and permit free discussion of subjects of interest to the gathering?
3. Does it allow each person present to meet everybody else, and does it promote the formation of little groups at the end of the Convention to discuss the decisions of the Convention?
4. Do the ones who preside over the Convention respect the desires of fandom as a whole, (particularly of the people at the Convention,) as to how the Convention is to be run?

A good Convention can be graded "A" on all four points.

-----Courtesy of Lowndes

What is the next step?



THE SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

Wollheim: It should be functionally like the FAPA, with the duties of the officers specifically outlined. It should be as large as or larger than the old SFL but unattached to any professional organ or magazine. (---at the Futurian Society of New York meeting, July 4, 1939.)

Lorono: It should be incorporated as a "Limited Corporation." (--- at the same meeting.)

Gillaspie: The club should be a "Federated Corporation." (---at the same meeting.)

Rothman: It should have a Central Circulation or Mailing Bureau like "Voice of Imagination." (---at the same meeting.)

Anonymous: To form this club it is necessary to either reorganize an existing organization or to build up an entirely new club. (---at the same meeting.)

Ayle: It should be a "National Federation of fan clubs" with a National Congress at its head, made up of delegates elected from and by each member club; the National Congress should be democratically organized, should represent all fans both organized and unorganized, should have legislative and executive authority, and should also have the power to settle all disputes in fandom. (---at the Philadelphia Conference, Oct. 29, 1939.)

What Several Science Fiction Clubs have Taught us:

THE 2nd ISA: that amateur scientists and science fiction fans do not mix together in the same club for they have different interests.

THE GUYSEFL: that the members of a club can unseat a dictatorial chairman by their united action.

THE FAPA: that a club run along democratic lines can get almost everyone of its members to participate in the affairs of the club. Also, that, if the duties of the officers of the club are specifically outlined, then none of the officers can legally gain dictatorial control of the club.

NEW FANDOM: that if a club seeks to put into effect an idea that the general fan movement desires should be put into effect, fans will support this club no matter who runs it.

MISCELLANEOUS

Published now and then, god knows why, by Jack Robins, who resides at 51 Humboldt Street, Brooklyn, New York. Address all epithets to the above specified RFD. Advertisement rates: 25¢ a line, 10¢ a by-word, and whoever pays 75¢ can do the next issue himself.----- Enclosed as a second class matter by the mere fact that this is mimeographed, so help me ghughu.