

# ASIMOV ROBOTS, INC.

INTERNAL MAINTENANCE DEPT J-DA1



CONVERSATION number two July 10, 1960

## CONVERSATION # 2

Published every now and then by Lynn A. Hickman at 224 Dement Ave.,  
Dixon, Illinois.

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Had a pleasant surprise in May when Dean and Jean Grennell stopped for a visit on their way back from New Orleans where Dean had been attending a heating and air conditioning convention. It was great seeing them again and I was mighty glad that I happened to be working the dealers in Dixon that day.

Memorial Day weekend Carole and I went to Fran Light's party in Chicago. Good time. Some of the attendees were Phyllis Economou, the Coulsons, the Deweeses, the Kemps, Lee Carrol, Dean McLaughlin, Jim O'Meara, Dale Brandon, the Hickeys, and quite a number more whose names escape me at this late date. The next day Carole and the two youngest children left for Napoleon, Ohio where Carole's younger sister was graduating from High School. Dean McLaughlin was nice enough to go out of his way and drive them there on his return trip to Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Went back to Chicago the following weekend to pick up Carole, the children, and my mother who returned from Napoleon on the train. Earl and Nancy Kemp (our hosts the preceding weekend) had picked them up at the station so I went directly to their house. After a nice dinner and fannish talk with Earl, we drove back to Dixon.

A week after that, Carole, the children and my mother drove back to Napoleon. Carole and the children will vacation at my mothers and her mothers until the Midwestcon.

I drove to the Midwestcon with the Kemps and Jim O'Meara and met Carole there. I won't go into the convention here, as Earl Kemp will be doing a report on it and his trip to the Westercon for JD-A. However, it was one of the most enjoyable cons I've ever attended.





That about brings you up to date on the doings of the clan Hickman. This is the 4th of July weekend and I'm using it for fanning.

Carole's sister, Ellenor, came back with us after the Midwestcon and will be staying until next weekend. We'll then take her to Chicago to catch the train home and then stop at the Kemps to hear about their western trip.

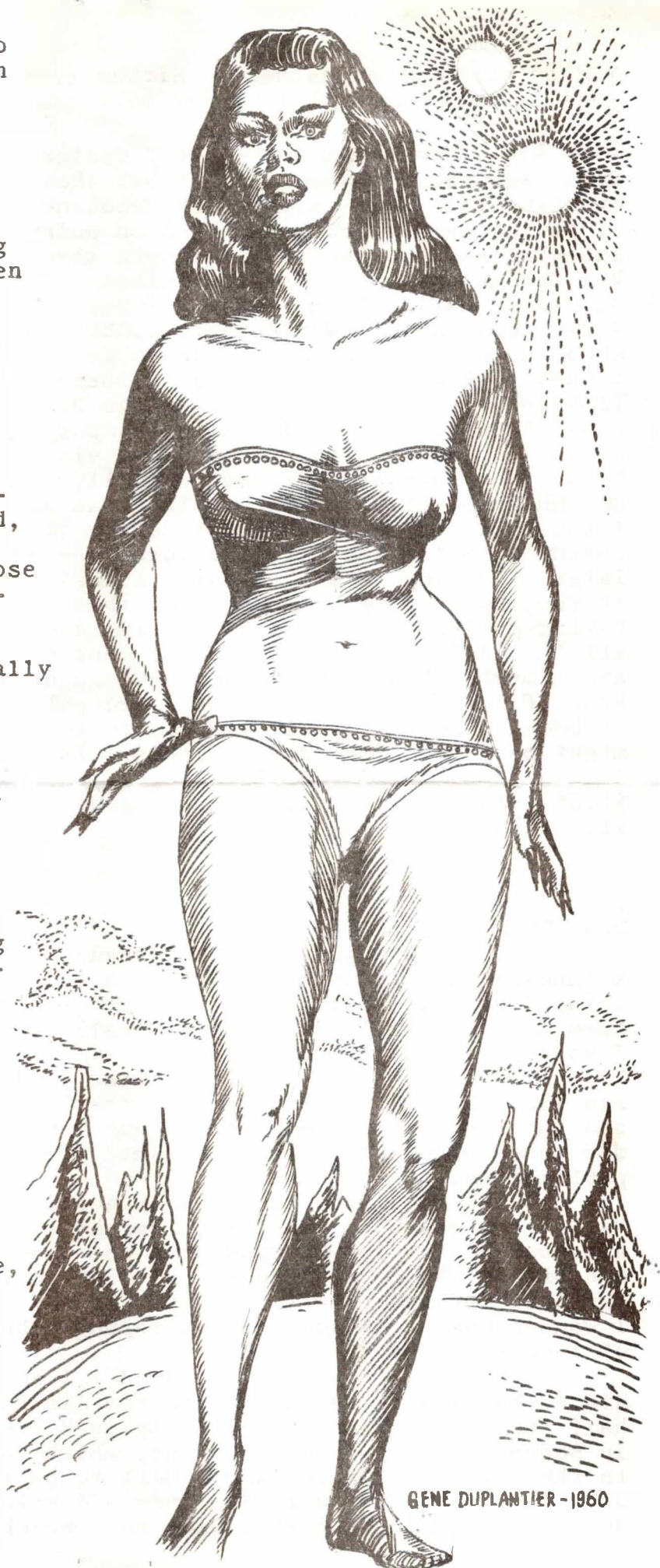
Was quite pleased that my generalzine, JD-A, was nominated for a Hugo again this year. While I hold no pretensions of winning such an award, it is a nice ego-boost to be nominated. Many thanks to those of you that put it on the nominating ballot.

This has been an exceptionally busy spring. In all my years of selling farm equipment I have never seen such a lousy one. Rain and more rain. Everything late in getting in. Sales late too, which meant more time spent in trying to sell and less time left for fanning, pubbing, and correspondence. I'm over a month late with everything including my Anniversary issue, but during the rest of the summer I hope to get caught up with everything. Bear with me. Its not a lack of interest but a lack of time that has caused this fannish lapse.

#### LETTERS . . . .

I won't have the time nor the room to print all the letters in from the last issue, but will do as many as I have time for and still get this finished and mailed this week.

You may notice that I took this typer in for an adjustment and had the Caps put up where they belong. It needed



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\$22.50 worth of adjustment. Either everything was off somewhat, or they just like to stick it to a guy that has an electric.

Dear Lynn, Conversation arrived yesterday morning and is a neat idea, well executed. I should point out that I was wholly responsible for choosing 15th June as the TAFF deadline. I'm getting extremely tired of having people criticise TAFF on points they just don't understand and whereas I normally just ignore them, I do think that someone who has had an awful lot of nice things to say in supporting the Fund deserves an explanation, hence: I realize that we miss a trick re the Midwestcon and the Westercon.....the trouble is the red tape involved when someone over here intends to get into the states. Apart from the ticket booking and the passport, there is the visa difficulty, and TIME is needed to obtain one of the drat things. Even the booking can be difficult. I already had a passport (good for all countries in the world -- some aren't) but needed a visa. My booking was done through Norman Shorrock and this was actually completed on THE LAST POSSIBLE DAY WHICH COULD BE ALLOWED. This was also with a June 15th deadline. I couldn't see any reason for making the date any earlier but I just couldn't, under the circumstances, see how it could be possibly made any later. Reading back over that, I realize that I sound pretty grotchy at you, but hasten to assure you that this isn't the case. ((Never having gotten a passport or a visa, I didn't know about these things, all that I thought was, that the cons brought in good money for TAFF, and a member had never missed because of a time difficulty. As you know, First Fandom (and myself) are publishing Don Ford's TAFFreport in booklet form with all profits to go to the TAFFfund. I think this might be a good idea for all future TAFFreports. We will have it on sale at the PITTCON for \$1.00 or anyone can get it via the mails at \$1.25. This price will insure a good profit and I'm sure TAFF can use it. 1h))

Ron Bennett  
Harrogate, Yorks.  
England

Dear Lynn,

I just got that Conversation #1, and thanks. Sure, it is a fanzine that is something - for a fan with many letters; the only thing I wonder about now, is, - are JD-A going to go on as it has been done, or will it go down to hell and dark and forgetfulness... I wonder. I wonder hard.

I got those JD-A's only a couple of days ago too. Heh, I might tell you, that the JD-A's was mailed Mars 28, and the Conversation was mailed one month later - April 26, and they did come to me about the same time! Funny thing, this mail. Damned postmasters.

Yes, Sture Sedolin is a close friend to me - he lives in Vallingby, which is exactly as Hagersten a part of Stockholm. He was a member of the COSMOS CLUB here one time, that is the club I am chairman of, but he is no longer. I think personally he is not the perfect guy to cooperate in with a club. No sir. But he is a fun fella. Heh. I wonder how he manages to get through the army now. I gives my best of luck to - The Army.

Funny indeed - I am about one year older than Sture, but I will not come into the Air Force before one year and a half from now. We can call it my luck - Sture did come to the infantry in Boden in the far cold Lapland, which is about as far as you can come to the north in Sweden, and a hell to be in, while I with my luck did come to the Air Force in Tullinge - 4 miles from my home, so I can come home every night if I want to. Which Sture of course can not.

Poor guy. A hell waits him. Hm, when I come to think about it, he may already be in the middle of it.

Sam Lundwall  
Stockholm, Sweden

Dear Lynn,

Conversation #1 is a good start and I expect future issues will be both bigger, better, and more interesting. Sam Lundwall's comments about American fans always moving strikes me as a bit awry; it's not that everyone in fandom is eternally on the go -- just a few people moving all over the place with the vast majority of fans staying relatively put. And you Lynn Hickman are a prime example. This Dement Ave. address will make your fourth I believe since October. Tch!

Bob Lichtman  
L.A., Calif.

Dear Lynn,

I was on the verge of joining the perennial cry that science fiction is going to the dogs, until, last month, I went on the annual visit to my parents' home in Texas, and while there read through the yellowing files of stf and fantasy that I once called my Collector's Dream. It amazed me to rediscover that science fiction has always been on the verge of getting started against terrific odds, maintaining a "secure" place on the newstands against terrific odds and entering a new decade against terrific odds. It's a matter of perspective, I suppose; in 1946, when I first happened across a copy of AMAZING STORIES, I became afire with an avowed never-to-end love of the genre; and I knew, personally, that sf would never die out, when even then the doom-mongers were heaping tears for the "by-gone days" and prophesying the near death of science fiction; it's going stronger today than it has for five or six years. Some very good material is being written too. My personal exuberance toward stf, however, has dimmed; this almost invariably occurs with familiarity, and after 13 years of reading stf and fantasy, I herewith deem myself familiar with the field. This is not to say that my interest still does not center on science fiction as a primary "hobby"; reading stf and enjoying same is a habit that I don't suppose I'll ever break or want to break. Relatively speaking, it's we "old-timers" who contribute much to the continued success of science fiction. We buy it right along, through the so-called "good years" and the "bad" as well. I relinquish the soapbox to other of my esteemed peers..... (As a 25 year reader of sf, I don't think we especially lose our exuberance toward stf, rather our tastes develop and we can no longer enjoy the poor writings that we did as children. When a really fine story comes along, I'm as exuberant as ever. lh)~

Bob Warner  
Orlando, Fla.

Dear Lynn,

The appearance of Conversation rather surprised me, since I thought it'd be some time before you got settled down to any extent... at least to the extent of publishing a fanzine, even a small circulation chatterzine.

Say, you're sure to be well ahead of Madle re moving now...first to 523, then to 224...2 changes of address in one issue. Won't be long before you run out of Illinois addresses, and then you'll have to start all over again. (But I suppose the idea of moving back south appeals...)

Speaking of down South, a batch of old fanzines recently received contained to my surprise, an old TLMA...#2 to be exact. It struck me as particularly funny that Lovable' Ol' Lynn Hickman was once a neo-editor, too. To refresh your memory, this mimeod issue was done with a pink cover, and contained such delicacies as an ad for PFM (pro-type), artwork by someone named LACH (this looks sneakingly like Lynn Hickman's work), a letter from Malcolm Willits, in which he says; "...sending you a copy of my fanzine DESTINY; hope you like it as well as I enjoyed yours.", Battell Loomis, a correspondence page, "science shorts", material by Basil Wells and Wilkie Conner, all sorts of pre-views of the next 9 TLMA's, and a letter from Harry Moore. This copy was originally sent Janie Lamb, and the path it took to reach me is only slightly traceable. (Yes, I remember that issue well. Actually only the first few pages were mimeod. I got sick of the mimeo at that time, and since commissions were good, went down to the Multilith place in Charlotte and purchased one. Most of the artwork in the first few issues was done by myself or in collaboration with Don Fruchey. Wilkie Conner helped mightily on all aspects of them including typing and helping me master the multilith. 1h)>

I can't see you sending out only 65 copies. I mean with a mailing list which fluctuates over 250 consistently, where do you draw the line? (I am sending this only to those that I think will be interested in it. Actually C's mailing list is going to fluctuate quite a lot. For example, this issue is not going to a number of people that received the first one, and will probably show up as a surprise to someone else that isn't expecting it. It will take an interest shown in the zine to stay on the mailing list, or in some few cases, a friendship that has spanned the years. For example, people like Wilkie Conner, Jim Harmon, Don Ford and a few others will keep getting it whether I would hear from them or not. 1h)>

A Turkish fan...like interesting.

Well, in general, there weren't enough letters but they were quite varied and rather interesting. Rotsler artwork appreciated also.

Vic Ryan  
Springfield, Illinois

(The following is excerpted from a 10 page letter from Joy Clarke in which she dwells at length on the Church-going Christian (this part of the letter will appear in JD-A) and in which she also describes the London Con. I am printing the portions here dealing with the convention. If the sequence isn't proper, blame me, not Joy. I am indebted to Joy for writing me so soon after the Con to let me know about it. I hope this whets your appetite enough to order Don Ford's Convention Report. It will sell at the Pittcon for \$1.00, or by mail for \$1.25. As previously stated, all profits go to the TAPF fund. 1h)>

Dear Lynn,

Don - well we knew he was tall, but not that damn tall (as the original shaggy dog story started). However, a surprise Britfan turned up on Saturday whom no one had ever heard of, and we matched him and he TOPPED DON BY ABOUT THREE INCHES!!! All around surprise.

You may have heard by now that the con hotel cancelled two days before Good Friday...Ella nearly did her nut and spent all Tuesday searching for a hotel. With the aid of the Paddington Chamber of Commerce she managed to get a hotel nearer to the center of town, which though more expensive, did have more advantages...a bar, a decent hall, a night porter, things like that. Don, of course was staying with Ted



Carnell prior to the Con - he attended Ella's party for the younger fen on the Wednesday which I understand was a great success. Ella wanted him to be available to meet them without having us older fen around to crowd them out and an excellent idea I consider that to have been. Candidly, without Don and his slides, the first day would have been one goddallmighty flop. The only thing that looked like having a good show was Ted's speech on Whither SF? but as it was developing into a good discussion, time was called and we had to break it up. Don's slides in the evening though were a miracle - he stands out head and shoulders (and not only physically) above the majority of British professional photographers. I would back him to win any British competition with his slides. The technique, composition, and quality of the slides, together with their remarkable colour values and brilliance add up to what I would term "Arizona-Hiways calibre". Nearly everybody wished that he had brought more of his travel shots. His night shots were superb. Unfortunately there were not sufficient shots for our taste. He could have kept on all...and we haven't got enough words to describe them.

Good items at the con were - "This Is Your Fan Life" with victim, Norman Shorrock, secure in the knowledge that the victim was to be Terry Jeeves, showing the most delightful cringe behind his camera when the mc (Eric Bentcliffe) named him. Eric was excellent as mc.

Another good item, which I had to miss after the start because of changing Nicki was Doc Weir's talk on Karel Capek. This was followed by the TAFP auction which picked up about \$45, the most expensive item being a NW cover illo by Brian Lewis which went for \$10.

Late Saturday evening the fancy-dress party went wept on - there were about 8 people in costume, Ethel Lindsay and Ina Shorrock winning it as the witches of Karres. Ethel had made her own costume and the cloak had on it the slogan (satirising the current milk ads over here) "DRINKA PINTA BLOODA DAY".

Sunday was the business meeting of the BSFA. Officers elected, Archie remaining treasurer, were Ella Parker - Secretary, Jim Groves - Editor of the OO Vector, Ina Shorrock - Chairman, and a President was elected for life, Brian Aldiss.

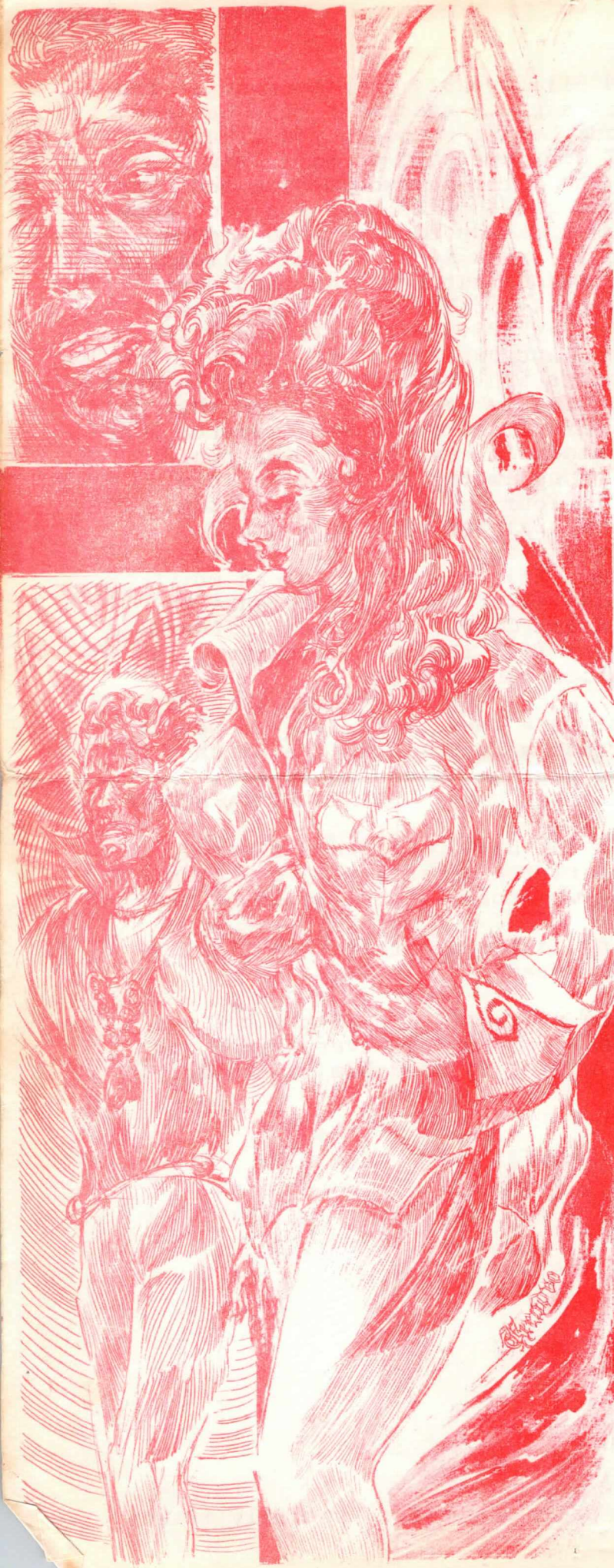
Following is the program as it finally emerged and you can see which part comes when.

- Saturday: Introductions - at which Don presented Ted with a belly-button brush since he is the man who "has everything" and they (Cincinnati, I think) wanted to send him something.  
Arrival of Dave Kyle.  
Ted Carnell's speech on sf.  
Auction.
- Evening: Taff Candidate's panel  
Don and his slides.  
Fancy Dress.
- Sunday: am BSFA business meeting.  
afternoon: This is your fan life.  
Doc Weir - re Karel Capek.  
TAFP auction
- evening: Day The World Stood Still.  
Kyle Films.  
unofficial OMPA meeting.

No official closedown.

I feel on the whole that it dragged programme-wise: socially it was





fair to middling but nowhere as good as previous kittycons have been. Don's room party was a raving success: I also enjoyed a very quiet room party in Ken Slater's room with a mere half-dozen of us. The best part of the con, as usual, was meeting those whom you seldom see from year's end to year's end, though you correspond with them. Monday I stayed home and looked after Nicki while Vinç and Sandy took Don to Trafalgar Square to see-the-Ban-the-bomb March. He wanted to get some crowd scenes in and I should imagine he was successful. He apparently stood on the railings at the National Gallery and when the police came along to move them off, Don obediently steps down: the British phlegmatically stay there and tell the police they won't move unless the Director of the Gallery tells them to do so. Eventually the police drifted away. Poor Don meanwhile has lost his place but the crowd shove off the one who'd taken it and insist he gets back up. When he does, he then gets told how the US should run themselves politically by some guy who starts talking to them. I imagine Don will have a terrific time writing all this up. It sounds so crazy but it's typically British.

I think summing up the con period and Don's visit I would say the greater success was Don's, the con's success relied almost entirely on Don's photos and the social aspects.

←(Joy wrote much more on the con that was quite interesting, but, order Don's report and see what you missed. lh)→

Many thanks to all the others who wrote in, I'll probably print more letters next time. Anyone have any comments to make on the political scene? How many are Republicans? How many are ~~liberals~~ Democrats?

Yo's,

*Lynn*



Conversation #2.

Lynn A. Hickman  
224 Dement Ave.  
Dixon, Illinois

Cover by Rotsler  
Illustrations by Gene Duplantier and Gregg Trend

+++++  
Coming from Ace in August are the following books.

The Best From Fantasy & Science Fiction (4th series) (D-455; 35¢)  
The Games of Neith by Margaret St. Clair and The Earth Gods Are Coming  
by Kenneth Bulmer (D-453; 35¢)

And last, but certainly not least, is Joe Hensley's first novel "The  
Color of Hate" (D-452; 35¢) This is a detective novel that I will  
review in JD-A. Joe also sent a letter that came in too late to include  
in this issue, describing the Milford Convention. It will be in the  
next Conversation that should be sent out before the Pittcon.

+++++  
IMPORTANT!!!! From the Pittcon Committee.....

We have this information in the upcoming Pittcon Progress Report #3, but  
since this will only reach those people who have already joined, it  
won't do much good. The Sheraton Hotel insists that, to get the special  
convention rate for rooms, people checking in the hotel must identify  
themselves as registered members of the Pittcon. The easiest way to do  
this is to show a Pittcon membership ship card, or hotel confirmation,  
or a committee member can be tracked down and a receipt obtained for  
the membership fee.

SO WARN YOUR FRIENDS (and others) who intend to check into the hotel  
before registering with PITTCO, that they will have to park their  
luggage in the lobby then dash up to the 17th floor and stand in line  
IF they cannot identify themselves as convention members. The hotel  
has decided it will involve too much bookkeeping if people check in,  
then register at the convention, then go down to the hotel desk again  
and have the room rate changed.

Other than this, we are probably getting the best hotel cooperation  
any convention ever had!

Dirce Archer





GENE DUPLANTIER - 1960

CONVERSATION # 2

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