



**ELEVENTH  
WORLD SCIENCE  
FICTION  
CONVENTION**

Eleventh  
WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

Philadelphia 1953

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## WELCOME!

Well, here we go again. Same old thing—convention after convention. Life was once so simple. Back in 1936 a bunch from New York met with a bunch from Philadelphia in the living room of one of the fans, and they decided to call it a convention. Then in 1947 there were three hundred assorted characters enconced at the Penn Sheraton Hotel for the Fifth World Science Fiction Convention. What a time they had! But life goes on and the world gets more full of people all the time. And conventions get more full of people all the time. So, dear people, we of Philadelphia welcome you. We welcome the authors, the editors, the publishers, the artists, and all others engaged in the production of our favorite form of literature. We welcome the readers—the old and jaded fans, the enthusiastic newcomers, and the casual readers who just happened to wander into the hotel for a drink. This is a convention designed for the pleasure of you who are here. Have fun.

Your chairman,

Milt Rothman.

## SOMETHING DIFFERENT

You hold the 1953 Program Booklet in your hands—examine it closely, because there's something different here. Each past convention has had an official booklet, with its program and ads, which became in time a nostalgic souvenir, crammed with autographs and memories. But that was all, and, indeed, that was enough. Times change, though, and with the change come new needs and new ways to fill those needs. That's where the "something different" fits in—a new function of the booklet. Inside these pages will be found some brief articles and notes, all of interest to those who are convention members now—as well as those who will be in the future. Never before has an attempt been made to set down in some official way the records or customs of the conventions of the past. Once everyone knew them. But as we say, times change, and today many of us attending conventions know nothing of the heritage we have nor realize that we are actually shaping events for the future. Your program editor has tried to set down a few of the things which should be made a permanent part of our "conventions" with the hope that future convention booklets will expand those notes into regular departments. So look closely. Inside this book you'll find "Traditions of Past Conventions" and the important "National Sponsoring Body" resolution of last year. We have begun to prepare the records and we hope you'll find them interesting.



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## WILLY LEY, GUEST-OF-HONOR

This year's guest of honor is Willy Ley, who is that distinctive combination of scientist and science fictionist. He was born in Berlin about 1906 and is now an American citizen. His early studies were in zoology and paleontology and later became active in rocketry. He helped organize the German Rocket Society, leaving Germany in 1934 for America. He is an author of considerable works and considered an expert in several sciences. As a lecturer he is in great demand and this convention is fortunate to have him as a principal speaker.

## NOW YOU CAN KNOW, TOO

Last year we stayed awake most of the day and night moving in the thick of things and yet we were frustrated. It was impossible to keep up with all the news, events, rumors and just plain gossip. As a matter of fact, we still don't know all the interesting tidbits about Chicago's affair. Once upon a time we used to know everything worth knowing about the convention we attended, and a lot more not worth knowing, too. So this year we have a solution. For the first time the convention committee is going to issue a daily newspaper containing all the latest about everything—if we can learn about it and find it newsworthy. It won't be an elaborate paper—just a mimeographed sheet—but even then we'll have our difficulties getting it published without interfering with anyone's fun. If it does appear, and we trust somehow it will, then we hope you'll find it fills a real need.

## OTHER DAYS, OTHER PLACES

Conventions in science fiction have been going on for a long time, now that we look back through our old program booklets. In those days, we were all of us "far-minded" youngsters with no guiding elders to help us steer our course through adventures among the "pros." And our par-

ents, neighbors and friends considered us eccentric, to say the least. We have been rapidly becoming, in the past decade, "respectable." For those of you who never knew—if you did, you could never never forget—we list the conventions of by-gone times:

- 1939—New York—"Nycon"
- 1940—Chicago—"Chicon"
- 1941—Denver—"Denvention"
- 1946—Los Angeles—"Pacificon"
- 1947—Philadelphia—"Philcon"
- 1948—Toronto—"Torcon"
- 1949—Cincinnati—"Cinvention"
- 1950—Portland, Ore.—"Norwescon"
- 1951—New Orleans—"Nolacon"
- 1952—Chicago

The Chicago affair last year was officially "The Tenth Anniversary World Science Fiction Convention" and had no nickname, although many, of course, called it "Chicon 2." Likewise this convention here in Philly has no official nickname, but if you'll look hard you'll find "Philcon 2" creeping into one or two of the ads. This could possibly be listed as a "Tradition of Past Conventions" (an article to be found elsewhere in this booklet) but it's been tattered if not broken so we've skipped mentioning it. Who knows, perhaps it will reappear next year?

## ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

An idea which was talked about for many years is this year coming into reality: the Achievement Awards in science fiction. A large range of categories has been chosen to receive recognition and convention members have cast their ballots. As the first year for such an event we all ought to find the results exciting and, we hope, pleasing. The awards themselves have been prepared at considerable expense. If they had been ready before publication of this booklet we most certainly would have tried to print a photograph of one of them. When you see them we think you will agree. It is our hope, of course, that this year's event will be successful enough to merit its becoming an annual affair.



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**There's the speed of light  
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**IN SCIENCE FICTION —**

**There's**

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SCIENCE FICTION**

Edited by

**JOHN W. CAMPBELL, JR.**

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- 637. Evelyn Anderson
- 638. Andrew Harris
- 639. Lester Mayer, Jr.

This is the membership list as of August 1st with an additional 200 as of Aug. 26

The idea of having a convention this year in Philadelphia began with James A. Williams. As president of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society in 1952, he was elected chairman of the convention committee. To be a good convention chairman was his final great ambition. He threw himself recklessly into the work of organizing the convention, with the full knowledge that his heart was likely to give way at any moment. And so it did, in March of this year.

Yet we should not feel dismayed that this passionate interest in science fiction was the cause of Jim Williams' death. For as Jim said many times, he felt that for him life really did begin at forty. This was when he discovered the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, and he felt that the last several years of his life were greatly brightened by the group of friends who surrounded him because of his activities in the club.

#### TRADITIONS OF PAST CONVENTIONS

The site of the conventions has traveled around the country in a more or less orderly pattern, so that no single region of the country has had the convention two years in a row, and so that the east and west coasts each have gotten a convention once every four years.

Conventions have been operated on a non-profit basis. The income has gone toward the payment of convention expenses, and any amount in excess has been donated to the next convention and/or divided among various fan organizations. Members of the convention committees have worked without personal remuneration.

One of the high points of each convention since 1940 has been a costume party based on science fictional ideas. By an interesting coincidence, the chairman of the present convention was master of ceremonies of the first such costume party in Chicago 1940; the editor of this program booklet won the first prize at that party; the costume designer is also present at this year's affair.

The auction has been traditional since the earliest conventions. This has two purposes: it gives the fans an opportunity to acquire original magazine illustrations and manuscripts, and it makes up a large part of the convention's cash income.

#### INTERPLANETARY STAMP ISSUE

An unusual souvenir of this convention is the Interplanetary Stamp Issue—two different sheets of stamps in contrasting colors—put out by the convention committee to help defray costs. The greatly praised designs are the work of Russell Swanson of the Art Committee. The stamps are still available for sale at the original price. Unfortunately neither of the two different denominations—one for "Lunar postage" and the other for "Mars postage"—can be used because of technological difficulties which science fiction is attempting to solve.

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Saturday, Sunday, Monday

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Saturday, September 5, 1953

*Morning—10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Main Ballroom Foyer*

REGISTRATION

*Afternoon — 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. — Main Ballroom*

CALL TO ORDER Irvin C. Heyne  
*Chairman, Arrangements Committee*

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL TO CHAIRMAN

ADDRESS OF WELCOME Milton A. Rothman  
*Convention Chairman*

REPORT OF RULES COMMITTEE L. Sprague de Camp  
*Chairman, Rules Committee*

ADOPTION OF RULES  
INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Robert A. Madle  
*Convention Treasurer*

RECESS

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST-OF-HONOR Irvin C. Heyne

ADDRESS:

Willy Ley

*Guest-of-Honor*

RECESS UNTIL 8:00 P.M.

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*The members of the*  
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*congratulate the convention committee.*

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**Saturday, September 5, 1953**

**Evening — 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. — Burgundy Room**

**SCIENCE FICTION AUCTION** Sam Moskowitz

*Auctioneer, Auction Committee*

*Science fiction artwork, manuscripts, books*

**Evening — 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. — Burgundy Room**

**MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION**

*Bill Venable, presiding*

**Evening—9:00 p.m. till closing—Rose Garden, 18th Flr.**

**INFORMAL GATHERING OF ALL CONVENTION MEMBERS**

*There will be a bar open to serve you.*

***Midnight till Dawn***

*This space in the booklet is offered to you for your convenience to jot down notes on various activities which you might like to attend but which are not a part of the official program.*

Greetings

# NEW YORK SCIENCE FICTION

## CIRCLE

### SPACE-O-GRAM

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Sunday, September 6, 1953

**Morning — 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon — Main Ballroom**

**SCIENCE FICTION ABROAD** \_\_\_\_\_ A Discussion

*Introduction by Jesse Floyd*

**ENGLAND** \_\_\_\_\_ Bert Campbell

*Editor, Authentic Science Fiction*

*Introduction by Forrest J. Ackerman*

**JAPAN** \_\_\_\_\_ Tetsu Yanu

*Science fiction translator*

**THE FUTURE OF LOVE** \_\_\_\_\_ Irvin C. Heyne

*"A non-scientific fiction"*

**SF AND THE KINSEY REPORT** \_\_\_\_\_ Philip Jose Farmer

*Author of "The Lovers"*

**RECESS UNTIL 1:00 P.M.**

**Afternoon — 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. — Main Ballroom**

Robert Bloch, *Master of Ceremonies*

**THE SEVEN STAGES OF THE SF WRITER**

George O. Smith

**"THE GAME FROM OUTER SPACE"**

*A Play*

*Written and Directed by Harold Lynch*

*Presented by members of*

*The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society*

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**SCIENCE FICTION AS A CAREER**

*A Symposium*

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*and presenting*

**FANS WHO HAVE BECOME PROS**

Bob (Wilson) Tucker, *Moderator*

**WOMEN IN SCIENCE FICTION**

*A Panel Discussion*

Theodore Sturgeon, *Moderator*

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Evelyn Gold \_\_\_\_\_ Evelyn Harrison

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Sunday, September 6, 1953

Evening — 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. — Main Ballroom

BANQUET

Isaac Asimov, Toastmaster

WILLY LEY

Guest-of-Honor

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Category	Winner
Novel	_____
Novella or Short Story	_____
Fan Personality	_____
Professional Magazine	_____
Cover Artist	_____
Interior Illustrator	_____
Fan Magazine	_____
New SF Author or Artist	_____

MUSIC AND SONGS

Theodore Sturgeon and his guitar

Bill Venable and the Pittsburgh SF Quartet

Julian May Dikty: Four Songs from "Son of the Thing"

RECESS UNTIL 10:55 P.M.

Evening — 10:55 p.m. to 12 Midnight — Main Ballroom

COSTUME PARTY

New York Science Fiction Circle, Host

Jean Carroll, Party Chairman

Frank Kelly Freas and Ric Binkley will head a panel of artists to judge the best costumes present. A color photograph will be taken of the winners for consideration as the cover of a professional sf magazine. The winners will have their choice of a gift subscription from one of the following donors: *Amazing Stories*, *Beyond*, *Dynamic SF*, *Fantastic*, *Fantasy Fiction*, *Future SF*, *Galaxy Novels*, *Galaxy SF*, *If*, *Imagination*, *Magazine of Fantasy & SF*, *Rocket Stories*, *SF Adventures*, *SF Plus*, *SF Quarterly*.

A feature of the party will be the presence of members and equipment of the sf TV program: "ATOM SQUAD" arranged by WPTZ of the NBC TV network. Actor Bob Courtleigh, who plays the leading role, expects to attend in costume—but not to compete.

THE  
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WELCOMES

THE ELEVENTH WORLD  
SCIENCE FICTION  
CONVENTION



**Monday, September 7, 1953**

**Morning — 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon — Main Ballroom**

**CONVENTION FORUM**

*David A. Kyle, Chairman*

**PERMANENT CONVENTION ORGANIZATION — David A. Kyle**  
*Chairman, National Sponsoring Body Committee*

**CONVENTION SITE ROTATION — Donald E. Ford**

**PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND  
GENERAL DISCUSSION**

*RECESS UNTIL 1:00 P.M.*

**Afternoon — 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. — Main Ballroom**

**ROBOTS AND COMPUTING MACHINES — Fletcher Pratt**

**IS SCIENCE CATCHING UP WITH SCIENCE FICTION? A Panel**

*A discussion by our own scientists*

*Thomas S. Gardner, Ph.D., Moderator*

*RECESS*

*In order to attend the following session, all convention  
members must wear their official registration badge.*

**SELECTION OF THE 1954 CONVENTION SITE**

*RECESS UNTIL 8:00 P.M.*

**Evening — 8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. — Main Ballroom**

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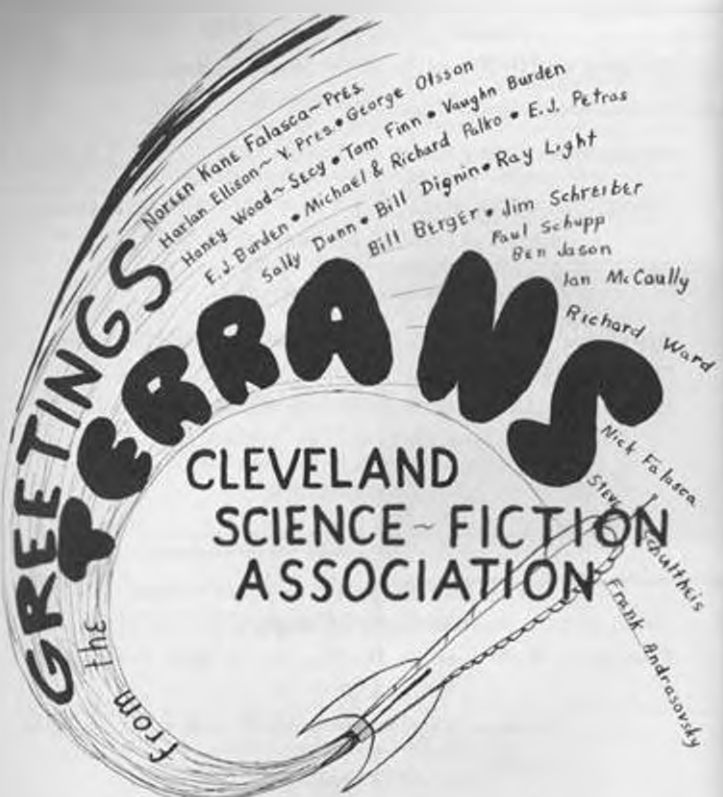
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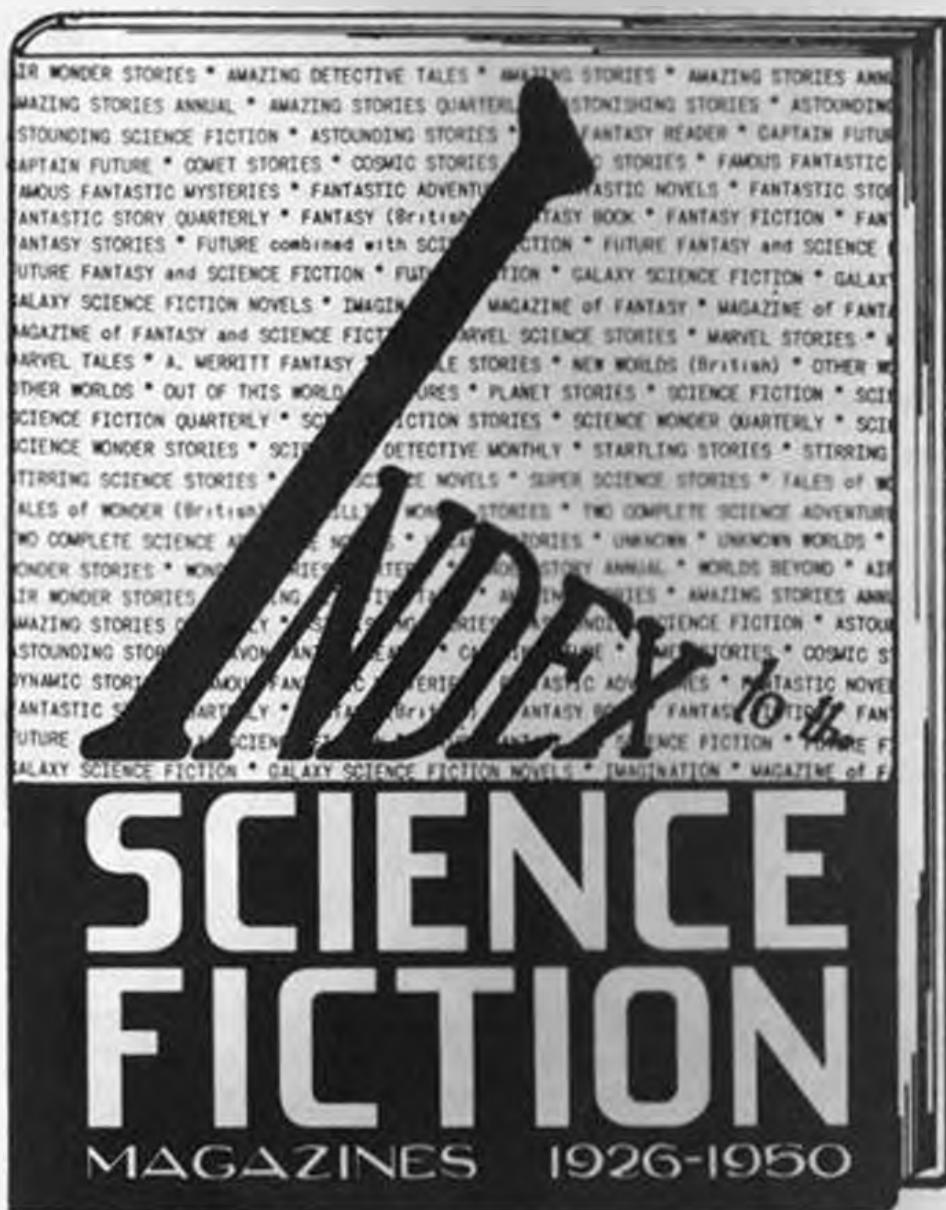
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Resolution passed at the business meeting of the Tenth World Science Fiction Convention in Chicago on September 1, 1952.

WHEREAS: science fiction conventions have grown in scope beyond the capacity of any local group to manage without excessive financial risk and administrative strain, and

WHEREAS: the experience of the Tenth Anniversary World Science Fiction Convention points to the advantages of an all-inclusive national sponsoring body with respect to public relations, records, and administration.

THEREFORE: Be It Resolved: that this convention hereby create a national sponsoring organization to become effective with the Eleventh

World Science Fiction Convention in the following manner:

ONE: that the local science fiction group receiving the responsibility for said convention shall be recognized as the all-inclusive national sponsoring body, *pro tem*;

TWO: and further, that there shall be a continuing process of organization toward the realization of a permanent national science fiction organization through the vehicle of each successive science fiction convention; and.

THREE: Be It Further Resolved: that the Tenth Anniversary World Science Fiction Convention Committee shall bear no obligation nor responsibility toward the formation of such a national *pro tem* body.

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# FUTURE

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