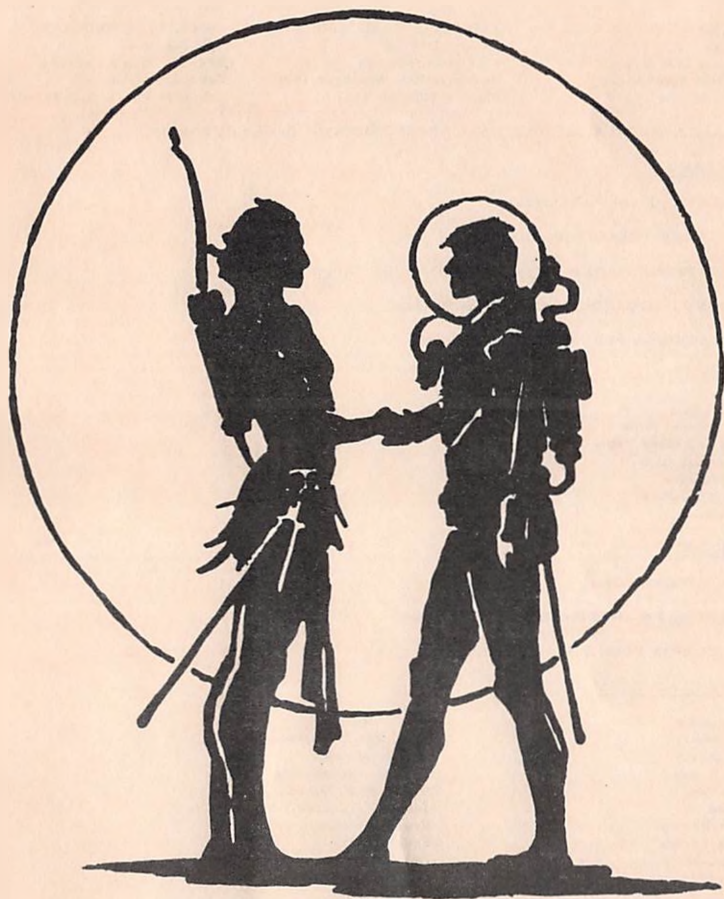


24th WORLD SCIENCE-FICTION CONVENTION



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 1

CLEVELAND, OHIO Sept. 2,3,4&5, 1966

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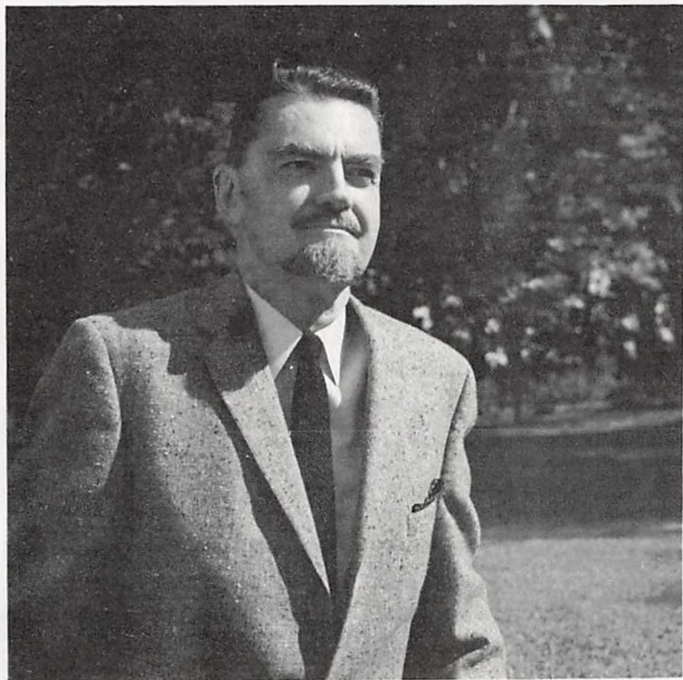
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GUEST OF HONOR - L. SPRAGUE DE CAMP

THE SEARCH FOR THE HISTORICAL L. SPRAGUE DE CAMP
OR,
THE COMPLEAT DRAGON-CATCHER

BY

ROGER ZELAZNY

Let me tell you about L. Sprague de Camp. This is the sixth time I've tried.

(It's not that you weren't paying attention. The first five trials, wisely, are paper snowballs which my cat at least is enjoying. By and large, though, her tastes differ from yours and mine. Good thing, too.)

It is a hard, hard thing to write about someone you admire hell out of, without sounding like an ad man pushing a new brand of filter-tips or next year's model Fordrolet. This is not my intention, but if it seems to seep in around the edges -- well, you know ... If you've read de Camp, that is, you know.

I've never met Mister de Camp, so I can't give you a word portrait or even a line-drawing as to lineament and design, favorite frowns and smirks, taste in cravats, etc. All I know is what I've read in the books with the rocket ships on the covers and the ones without the rocketships, too. So let me tell you about the L. Sprague de Camp I know.

He went and wrote whole big stacks of things. The first one I read was called LEST DARKNESS FALL. Which is why I read more.

Quickly then, I read ROGUE QUEEN.

I was a young reader of anything fantastical in those days, and I possessed the discrimination of a sponge; but I knew there was something different about a de Camp story, different from those tales of relentless, tight-lipped space cops whose blaster beams always sizzled and seared, and of those aliens who never bled, but always oozed ichor (or a pale liquor) when sizzled and seared.

A little later, thinking about it, I realized two reasons for this difference: de Camp knowledge and de Camp wit. (No, when the world was young I didn't know what craftsmanship meant, so I couldn't appreciate that part.)

I was impressed though, by the man's knowledge -- of so many different things -- and by the way he transferred this knowledge to the peculiar species of literature in which he chose to operate. Also, he was a very funny man; and a sense of humor was a thing strangely lacking in so many writers in the area.

His use of carefully chosen details and authentic information in the midst of the Big Fib with which a writer (especially an sf writer) always begins, made his stories come alive into that version of reality which is one of the ideal aims of a good piece of fiction.

Let me here make the fake:real distinction which was involved. The difference between the great quantities of junk I was reading and the occasional good items, such as LEST or ENCHANTER, was that sort of "stage-vision" as opposed to a "world-vision" effect.

By this, I mean to say that a stage-vision story is one which directs your attention to whatever is set immediately before you. If you look to the right or the left you see the edge of a curtain, darkness, or perhaps glimpse a scurrying prop-man.

Of course, you're not supposed to look to the right or the left. The world ends there. In the case of a world-vision story though, there is a sense of depth, distance and texture. In this sort of story you know that if the hero were to turn the corner and head left instead of (as he does) right, he would wind up elsewhere in that world, rather than somewhere off in the wings.

World-vision opens outward, suggesting possibilities which are not explored in the story itself, touching upon potentials unrealized but not unrealizable. This is because the writer of this sort of story sees more than he could possibly tell, rather than just what he needs to see in order to tell. In effect, he creates a true parallel world.

It was either THE HAND OF ZEI or THE TOWER OF ZANID which I read next, confirming me in my conversion to de Campism. He had done it again. More true worlds.

When my world got older, I learned the word "tone", as applied to writing. "Tone," one of my old teachers had said, "is the author's attitude toward his subject." When I think of tone and L. Sprague de Camp, I suddenly see shamrocks. Whatever his antecedents, it is at least spiritually an Irish sense of humor that lurks behind his pen (not to mention the Irish spirits in his glass -- on the rocks, with soda, in coffee, etc., I daresay). This (Irish behind the pen) can be a deadly weapon when combined with world-vision. With de Camp, though, it is always witty, occasionally sentimental, sometimes grim, occasionally tough, sometimes broad, rarely gross, not vicious, never cruel.

Mister de Camp is a humorist of the same ilk as John Collier (i.e., wacky wit), only he prefers to prolong the sport rather than to move in for a quick kill. If you should visit one of his worlds and there happens to be a rug around, whatever you do, don't stand on it. I know what will happen, because I've tried it. If you expect it to be pulled out from under you, it will fly away with you instead. This is to be expected.

He says his principal hobbies are gardening, reading, study, travel and classical recordings, but everyone knows he hunts dragons in his spare time, creates new languages for fun, and that he is the man who taught Conan the Cimmerian how to fence Italian style.

His literary output is phenomenal. In that world you've all heard of, where books are burned, writing is illegal and all writers criminals, Mister de Camp has been known to walk into a write-easy, pound on the nearest desk and offer to write every man in the house under it, and then make good his boast. Fiction, history, legend, linguistics, science and technology, mixed or straight, no matter. It would take a book to list all his books. His picture would be in every post office in that particular world, if they had any post offices.

He has been a lumberjack, surveyor, uranium prospector, teacher, lecturer, engineer, patent consultant, technical writer, Naval Reserve officer. Between 1948 and 1956 he found time to write 76 radio scripts for the Voice of America; he holds membership in sufficient clubs, conferences and learned societies to provide him with meetings for about 400 days out of every year; and his works have even been translated into languages which he did not himself invent.

I'm trying very hard to think of something nice to say about him now, since he is the Guest of Honor and all, but I can't bring myself to compliment a writer who is so much better than I am and catches dragons, too. Wait, here's a page the cat dragged in . . .

It says, "You've have been warned about L. Sprague de--" but the cat ate the rest and is grinning.

WESTERCON

The 1966 West Coast Science Fantasy Conference will be held in San Diego, California. Membership is \$1.00 and should be sent to Treasurer, John Hull, 1210 Hemlock, Imperial Beach, California, and that includes Progress Reports and a Program Booklet. Date: the July 4th weekend. Membership fees will be raised to \$1.50 at the Registration Desk, so don't wait!

SYRACUSE IN '67

SYRACUSE CONGRATULATES TRICON on a hard-won victory over Syracuse in '66, and welcomes three new bidders for the '67 contest. We feel duty-bound, though, to warn 'em: worldcon bidding is in the same class with elephant bluffing, lion challenging, rhinoceros kicking, python wrestling, cobra biting, gazelle chasing, and wife taming. You may enter a worldcon contest with nothing more serious than elephant footprints on your head and wifebites on your rump, but you'll come out with deep fanzine gashes on your fanac.

THE SYRACON COMMITTEE is composed of fans in the central New York area. Official Posts are assigned to non-committeemen actively helping with the con. The total years of our fan and professional activity stagger the imagination - some of us have been staggering around conventions for over 25 years!

Co-Chairmen Jay K. Klein & David A. Kyle
 Secretary Ruth E. Kyle
 Treasurer George R. Heap
 Publications James & Ann Ashe, Jack Smith

Syracon Official Posts (Non-Committee)

Press Relations ... Richard Wilson
 Art Director Bjo Trimble

SYRACUSE IS CENTRALLY LOCATED in New York State at the cross-roads of the two superhighways that bisect New York. Syracuse is the home of the annual New York State Exposition - held right at worldcon time!

HOTEL SYRACUSE IS A FIRST CLASS HOTEL, with perfect convention facilities. Guaranteed low convention rates. Fully and centrally air conditioned. Free parking. Automatic elevators. Six blocks from a new superhighway exit, 20 minutes from a new jet airport, 3 blocks from a new bus terminal, 25 minutes from a new railroad terminal. The Syracon has the entire top-of-the-hotel block-long convention floor. That includes a huge auditorium and literally suites of meeting rooms.

GET ON THE SYRACON BANDWAGON. Send 50¢ for a Syracon Bandwagon membership card and Syracuse button. Write:

Jay K. Klein, 219 Sabine St., Syracuse, N.Y.
 David A. Kyle, Station WFDK, Potsdam, N.Y.
 George R. Heap, P.O. Box 1487, Rochester, N.Y.

Support the most competingest bidder in SF history.
 Support the bidder with the most to offer fandom.
 Support Syracuse for '67.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 1ST, THURSDAY

- 6:00 PM MEZZANINE FLOOR - Registration begins for early arrivals.
 8:00 PM CONVENTION SUITE - Warm-up Party for early arrivals and for helpers of Project Art Show.

SEPTEMBER 2ND, FRIDAY

- 10:00 AM MEZZANINE FLOOR - Registration
 WHITEHALL ROOM - Project Art Show
 WHITEHALL ROOM - Book and Magazine Displays
 CIRCUS BAR ROOM - Book and Magazine Displays
 DIRECTOR'S ROOM - N3F Hospitality Room
- 11:00 AM GOLD ROOM - Meeting of Monster Fandom
- 1:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Brief Welcome Speech by Chairman. Ben Jason
 Introduction of Guest of Honor, L. Sprague de Camp
 " " TAFF Guest
- 2:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Collector's Panel
- 3:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Introduction of Notables by Howard DeVere and Dean McLaughlin
- 4:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Comic Art Panel. Panelists: Bill Thailing, Don and Maggie Thompson, Dick Lupoff, etc.
- 5:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Auction
- 8:00 PM GOLD ROOM - "The Hugo Report" and "A History of the Hugos". The latter will be a presentation with actual models and/or slides and will depict some of the problems surrounding this award.
- 11:00 PM BEER PARTY - Bidder's Party sponsored by the Boston and Syracuse for 1967 groups.

SEPTEMBER 3RD, SATURDAY

- 10:00 AM MEZZANINE FLOOR - Registration
 WHITEHALL ROOM - Project Art Show
 WHITEHALL ROOM - Book and Magazine Displays
 CIRCUS BAR ROOM - Book and Magazine Displays
 DIRECTOR'S ROOM - N3F Hospitality Room
- 11:00 AM GOLD ROOM - "How NOT to Write Science Fiction" - Panel, Moderated by Roger Zelazny.
- 1:00 PM Burroughs Bibliophile Luncheon. Guest of Honor: HULBERT BURROUGHS, son of Edgar Rice Burroughs. Instead of a talk, Mr. Burroughs will have a slide show showing some unusual ERB items. Room to be announced.
- 3:00 PM Science Fiction Play by Frank Andrasovsky with members of First Fandom acting out the play. GOLD ROOM.
- 4:00 PM GOLD ROOM - "Costume Balls From 1952 to the Present". A slide show with select slides showing various costume ball winners plus interesting runners-up. Projection by Ben Jason with slides from various collections.
- 5:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Auction
- 7:30 PM GOLD ROOM - Science Fiction Quiz Panel. Panelists: Moskowitz, Madle, Ackerman, Ed Wood, Charlie & Marsha Brown, etc.
- 9:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Costume Ball.
- 11:00 PM BEER PARTY - Bidder's Party sponsored by the New York for 1967 group.

SEPTEMBER 4TH, SUNDAY

- 10:00 AM MEZZANINE FLOOR - Registration
 WHITEHALL ROOM - Project Art Show
 WHITEHALL ROOM - Book and Magazine Displays
 CIRCUS BAR ROOM - Book and Magazine Displays
 DIRECTOR'S ROOM - N3F Hospitality Room
- 11:00 AM GOLD ROOM - Meeting of the Hyborean Legion.
- 1:00 PM GOLD ROOM - "Religion in Science Fiction", Panel Moderated by Daniel Plachta.


TENTATIVE PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 4TH, SUNDAY (Continued)

- 2:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Fun and Joke Session, spearheaded by Isaac Asimov and (hopefully) aided and abetted by Harlan Ellison, Bob Bloch, Bob Tucker, etc.
- 3:00 PM GOLD ROOM - "A Galaxy of Fashion" - participants to be announced. Fashion Show Director: Luise Petti. Fashion Show Consultant: Bjo Trimble.
- 5:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Auction.
- 6:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Annual Hugo Awards Banquet. Guest of Honor: L. Sprague de Camp. Master of Ceremonies: Isaac Asimov.
- 10:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Judging of "Miss Science Fiction of 1966" Contest. Details to be announced in Progress Report No. 2. Cash prize of \$100 to go to the winner.
- 11:00 PM BEER PARTY - Bidder's Party - sponsored this evening by the Baltimore for 1967 group.

SEPTEMBER 5TH, MONDAY

- 10:00 AM MEZZANINE FLOOR - Registration
 WHITEHALL ROOM - Project Art Show
 WHITEHALL ROOM - Book and Magazine Displays
 CIRCUS BAR ROOM - Book and Magazine Displays
 DIRECTOR'S ROOM - N3F Hospitality Room
- 11:00 AM FIRST FANDOM MEETING.
- 1:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Business Session and voting for the 1967 Convention Site.
- 4:00 PM GOLD ROOM - "Critics and Criticism of Science Fiction - Have They Done the Field More Harm Than Good?" - Panel moderated by Larry Shaw of Lancer Books.
- 5:00 PM GOLD ROOM - Auction.
- 7:30 PM GOLD ROOM - "Potboilers of SF That I Remember". Panelists: Ackerman, Moskowitz, Bloch, Tucker, Asimov, Charlie & Marsha Brown.
- 9:00 PM FAREWELL PARTY - TRICON CONVENTION SUITE. For the die-hards and late hangers-on.



FOCAL POINT

THE FANZINE OF NEWS,
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 THREE FOR A QUARTER!

Edited by
rich brown & Mike McInerney

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**NEW YORK IN
 1967!**

ROSS C.



CONVENTION INFORMATION AND PROGRAM COMMENTS

By Ben Jason

The Tricon Committee has selected the Sheraton-Cleveland as the official convention hotel - the most conveniently located hotel in all of Cleveland. Those of you who intend to arrive by train will find the Sheraton-Cleveland is almost in the same building as the train depot. A walk up the ramp to the street level brings you right to the door of the hotel. Plane travellers will arrive at the hotel via the Airport Limousine (\$1.35 one way) which makes its first stop at the Sheraton coming in and the last one going out. Coming by bus? The bus depot is a very short taxi ride. And, if you come by auto, you will find this means most economical and convenient since the hotel has FREE 24-hour parking for all its guests with unlimited in-and-out privileges at no extra charge. For those on a very low budget and not staying at the convention hotel, one can park in the Municipal Parking Lot (a guarded lot) for the price of a 25¢ exit fee.

Room rates at the Sheraton-Cleveland are very economical and the lowest priced in several years. Example: \$7.85 for a single, \$13.85 for a double, and \$16.00 for a twin bedroom. All 1,000 rooms of the hotel are air-conditioned with private bath, radio, and television.

There are five (5) up-to-date specialty restaurants in the hotel: (1) The Minute Chef, open 24 hours a day, for fast counter and table service; (2) The Town Room, a coffee shop serving breakfast, luncheon and dinner; (3) The Bunch of Grapes, an early American Tavern serving buffet style luncheon, cocktails & snacks in the evening hours; (4) The Falstaff Room, featuring steaks, prime ribs and chops for luncheon and dinner and (5) the exotic Kon-Tiki Restaurant, serving Polynesian style food and beverages. Going one step further on this business of eating, since the hotel is so centrally located in the Downtown district, the area abounds with low-priced hamburger restaurants of the Royal Castle type open 24 hours a day and naturally some very good gourmet-type restaurants. The latter will be covered in considerable detail in a separate publication or one of the Progress Reports.

DISPLAY TABLES: In a flyer which the Tricon is currently circulating to prospective members, we committed ourselves with the statement that no charge would be levied for the FIRST table, but that there would be a nominal charge of \$5.00 for each additional table. We stated that these tables, approximately 3 feet wide and 6 feet long, would be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. BEFORE this Progress Report even went to press, the entire section of the Whitehall Room which will serve as the Huckster's Room, had all nineteen (19) of its tables reserved. It became necessary for the Tricon Committee to approach the hotel management for additional space. In addition to the Huckster's Room in the Whitehall Room, we now have the Circus Bar Room. Anyone desiring to reserve tables in the latter room, can contact Bill Thailing, the Secretary-Treasurer. This is an excellent opportunity to sell those rare collector's items and to advertise those new hard-cover books and fanzines. We think that the members will enjoy browsing through these two rooms in view of the large number of display tables taken by sellers of various fanzines, comic books, new hard-cover books, professional magazines, old and new magazines, indexes, collections, etc. In addition, since there is real competition for the 1967 consite, the four contenders are reserving table space from which to hawk their propaganda.

PARTIES: If you are the party-going type, it won't be the Tricon's fault if you don't enjoy yourself. There will be no less than five (5) parties where you can renew old friendships, make new ones, meet your favorite pro or fan, or just plain drink yourself silly. On Thursday evening, at 8 PM, the Tricon is holding a WARM-UP PARTY for the early arrivals and for those willing to lend a hand in setting up ProjectArt Show and the Huckster's Room. Many fans have already intimated that they will arrive early and stay late. On Friday evening, Syracuse and Boston, both contenders for the 1967 consite, will hold a joint BEER PARTY. This will be followed on Saturday evening with a BEER PARTY by the New York group for 1967 and another on Sunday evening, this time by the Baltimore group for 1967. Finally, a fifth, a FAREWELL PARTY, will be held by the Tricon Committee for those die-hards who just refuse to go home and for those poor, lost souls who don't have a place to go. It should be mentioned that the Tricon is providing FREE BEER AND A ROOM TO SERVE IT IN for the recognized bidders, who already have made application to the Committee. The Tricon also regrets to announce that it cannot accommodate anymore bidder's parties, so last minute bidders please take notice.

PROGRAM: On pages 6 and 7 you will find listed the TENTATIVE program of the Tricon. Even as we go to press, changes are taking place and a number of items on the present set-up will be replaced. A large number of helpful people have written in suggesting various items for the program - all of which makes a convention chairman's job a lot easier. We have a letter from John Brunner of England, who indicates that he may be lucky enough to attend the Tricon and expressed a desire to be on the program. Those of you who attended the London convention were privileged to see Mr. Brunner match wits and words with the formidable John W. Campbell, Jr. Many, who heard this panel, felt that Mr. Campbell had finally met a worthy opponent.

Your attention is invited to a number of items on the program. Of prime importance is the Fashion Show, which has been entitled: "A Galaxy of Fashion", and, we are most happy to report, is being sponsored by GALAXY PUBLICATIONS, publishers of GALAXY MAGAZINE, WORLDS OF IF, and WORLDS OF TOMORROW - 3 excellent science fiction magazines. The Tricon Committee extends its heartfelt thanks to Mr. Fred Pohl for obtaining the necessary money from his publisher to finance this heart. It takes a sizeable amount of money to stage such a show, and, now with Galaxy Publications generous contribution, we can go ahead and offer a somewhat more lavish spectacle than if we had had to dredge up the necessary amount over a long period of time. We must also point out that this is a long distance project. Miss Luise Petti of California has offered her services and comes highly recommended by Bjo Trimble, who, incidently, will also offer assistance to Miss Petti whenever required. Bjo, of course, has had considerable experience in staging fashion shows on the West Coast. Due to the fact that the fashion show is a long distance project, the West Coast group may encounter some difficulties which did not crop up while the shows were confined to the West Coast. It would be appreciated if the members would take all this into consideration should any delays or difficulties occur.

The second item to which your attention is invited is "The Miss Science Fiction of 1966" contest. The Tricon Committee has some reservations about this particular item and would appreciate hearing from the members as to their feelings on this part of the program. If, it is felt by the majority, that this item is too prosaic for their tastes, then we will drop it and replace it with something else. This can be done very easily since this contest follows the banquet and also because we have a large backlog of items that we can replace it with. The thought behind this contest is this: We, of the Tricon Committee, feel that there are a large number of attractive, charming female fans who deserve to be recognized as such - not only by the convention members but also by the mundane world. This event will be covered by several of the local newspapers and quite possibly one of the local television stations. We also feel that there are probably a large number of attractive female fans who prefer to hide their charms - the type who SHOULD come to our conventions, but never do! Therefore, we would like to bring these gals "out of the woodwork" (so to speak) and give them the publicity and recognition that they deserve. To encourage them to do so, we feel that a cash prize of \$100 should go a long way to bring them out of hiding, besides paying the expenses of coming. We further felt that it was high time that the mundane world should get a chance to see that our gals not only have brains but charm and beauty too!! If staged, the contest would be held in such a manner which would prove to be the least embarrassing to the contestants. Since it follows the banquet, the contestants would already have been dressed in their finest dresses or gowns for the banquet. They would, therefore, be ready for the judging. Each contestant would merely give her name, walk across a stage or runway, possibly turn around once or twice for the judges, and exit - as simply as that. Address your feelings on this matter to the Chairman, Ben Jason.

The third item we bring attention to is the Burroughs Bibliophile luncheon which has as its Guest of Honor, HULBERT BURROUGHS, the son of Edgar Rice Burroughs. Mr. Burroughs has elected to put on a slide show featuring many unusual ERB items instead of the usual dinner speech. Who else but a son of Edgar Rice Burroughs would be best fitted to put on such a slideshow? The Tricon Committee wishes to thank its fellow committee member, Stanleigh Vinson, for obtaining the services of Mr. Hulbert Burroughs as the Burroughs Bibliophiles' Guest of Honor.

Some of the members, who desired to place ads in the Progress Reports and Program Book, wrote in saying that they felt the prepared copy size was awkward. In checking, we find that they are correct. That is, the members are correct in saying that the sizes are awkward.....we substitute the following:

AD RATES FOR PROGRESS REPORTS AND THE PROGRAM BOOK:

COPY DEADLINE for Progress Report No. 2: March 1st, 1966			
"	"	"	No. 3: June 1st, 1966
"	"	"	Program Book: July 15th, 1966
		No Reduction	Double Size For Reduction
Full Page	(PREPARED COPY SIZE:	5" wide x 8" high	10" wide by 16" high
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Quarter Page	"	5" " x 2" "	10" " " 4" "
Filler Copy	"	5" " x 4 lines high	None accepted
			\$8.00
			\$5.00
			\$2.50
			\$1.00

We trust that you will find the above sizes more acceptable and more suitable, particularly since we have made provisions for doubling the size of your prepared copy. This should make things a lot easier for those using artwork in their ads.

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Helmuth, speaking for Boskone,

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IN '67!



FOR 1967

SAY

BALTIMORE

BALTICON COMMITTEE:

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SECRETARY: Ronald W. Bounds. 649 N. Paca Street. Zone 21201

TREASURER: Mark Owings, 3731 Elkader Road. Zone 21218

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