

Helmuth, Speaking for



Saturday 19 February 2017 Volume 54, Number 4

Say Goodbye to Boskone 54

Prepare for Boskone 55

AWARDS CEREMONY

Short Story Contest

Winner: Leo Byrne Jenicek—"An Odd Missive"

1st Runner-up:

Scott Coon—"Enduring Winter"

Jack Gaughan Award for Best Emerging

Artist presented by Greg Manchess to Kirbi Fagan

E. E. Smith Memorial Award (Skylark)

presented by Patrick & Teresa Nielsen

Hayden (with customary cautionary tale by Jane Yolen) to Jo Walton

Fellows of NESFA announced by NESFA

President Tim Szczesuil—Erin Underwood and Robert Luoma

BOSKONE 54 ART SHOW AWARDS

Popular Choice Best in Show: Michael

Whelan—The Long Road

Judges Choice Best in Show: Omar

Rayyan—Run Rabbit Run

Chairman's Choice: Dave Seeley—

Afterlife: Fist of the Dragon

Art Show Director's Choice: Bob

Eggleton—Wake of the Dutchman

Watchmans' Awards:

Dave Seeley—Hardboiled: For Private Eyes Only

Carly Janine Mazur—Jon & Arya

Judges' Choice Awards

Rick Berry—Patience

Armand Cabrera—Battle Council

Vincent Di Fate—Question & Answer

Bob Eggleton—Ring Runners

Tom Kidd—Draugr

Marianne Plumridge—View From Titan

Ruth Sanderson—Wings

ART SHOW BIDDING CLOSES AT NOON SUNDAY

QUICK SALE PICKUP AND SALES AT 1PM SUNDAY

NAME THAT CREATURE!

Winner—Mike "McDuck" Ciaraldi

The Doppler bird of Mizar 5 is known for the distinctive warbling sound of its call. It was first described, not by an exornithologist as you might expect, but by a metallurgist, Daniel "Steely Dan" Outré. He observed the helical flight pattern of the bird; caused by the fact that one wing was always larger than the other. No matter which overall direction the bird is moving

with respect to the listener, its relative velocity is not constant, but is always increasing and decreasing in a regular sinusoidal pattern. The well-known Doppler effect causes the observed pitch of its call to change in synchronization with this change of velocity. Dr. Outré theorized that the bird's asymmetrical wing pattern was caused by the fact that Mizar is a binary star. Other scientists take a more "old school" approach—they believe that this evolved as a means of increasing the bird's chance of survival; its constantly-changing trajectory makes it harder for predators to catch. This is especially important since the bird tends to fly low over the swampy ground of Mizar 5. The only predator which is able to successfully analyze the Doppler bird's flight pattern is the dreaded Fourier lizard.

Escalator Doppler Bird Warning

Safety warning: people wearing long dresses, robes, capes, etc. please take care to keep them clear of the ~~escalator~~ Doppler bird steps. We have already had one dress get caught and it needed to be ripped to get it loose.

NESFA PRESS

Our latest—the seventh—Poul Anderson collection, *Question and Answer*, is now here at the NESFA Sales table in the Dealer's Room. This was made possible by the heroic efforts of Rick Kovalcik. Three (and more) cheers for him.

There have been two other NESFA Press books printed since Boskone 53—*The Halcyon Fairy Book* by Ursula Vernon who was Guest of Honor at Arisia 2017 and *Making Conversation* by Teresa Nielsen Hayden for MidAmeriCon II where she was one of the Guests of Honor. These are available at the NESFA Press table in the Dealer's Room.

PARTIES

For Sunday parties, check the gridwall in the elevator lobby on the 4th floor.

SMOFCON 35--BOSTON

December 1-3, 2017

Join other con runners for a weekend of workshops, panels, stories and...dare we say...smoffing at the Hilton Back Bay in downtown Boston. Memberships are \$50 until February 28; higher thereafter. Buy memberships down at the MCFI fan table by the escalator on the Galleria level or through the Website at smofcon35.org.

BOSKONE 55

Memberships in Boskone 55 can be purchased at the NESFA Sales table in the Dealer's Room. Confirmed guests now are Mary Robinette Kowal (Guest of Honor) and Craig Miller (Special Guest). Boskone 55 will be held 16-18 February 2018 at the Westin Waterfront in Boston.

REGISTRATION

As of 10.06 am Sunday

Warm bodies 1246

No shows 296

Members 1543

Preregistered 1119

At-the-door 423

We hope to see all of you (and more) next year. Have a safe trip home—Tony Lewis, editor. Special thanks to Sharon Sbarsky to getting *Helmuth* printed, and to Dave Cantor in Registration for his timely updates. And to everyone else who contributed.