

Corflu 36

Progress Report 1

May 2018



Hotel Booking Link! Revised Membership Rates!

Membership Rates

Attending: \$100 through 9/30/18
\$125 10/1/18-1/31/19
\$150 beginning 2/1/19

Prodigal Fan: \$25 discount if you haven't been to a Corflu for at least 3 years

Supporting: Pay whatever you want to. (No, we're not kidding.)

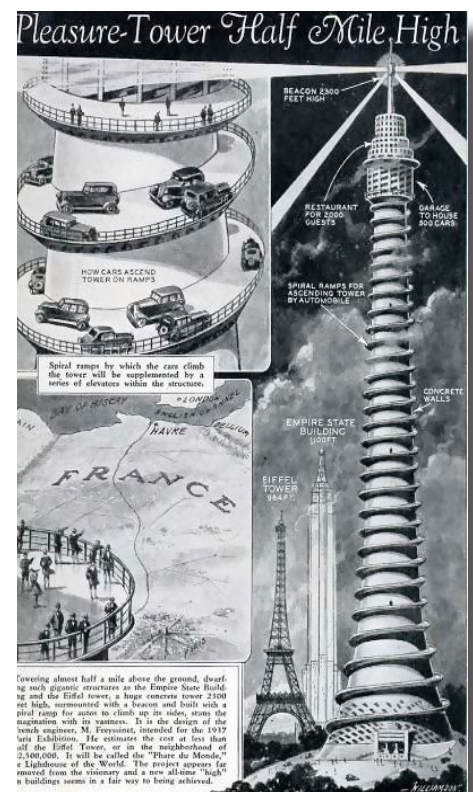
Premium: Pay \$50 or more over the attending rate (or at least \$50 for a supporting membership).

Hotel Booking Link!

<http://tinyurl.com/Corflu2019>
<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/DH10Z3>

Cambria Hotel
Rockville, Maryland
All rooms \$109/night
(301) 294-2200

(Actual hotel. Illustration not to scale)



Editorial

There seems to be some confusion (okay, I got confused) on the numbering of my Corflu pubs. They should be:

- 1) Corflu Pre-Bid Package (December 2017)
- 2) Corflu Bid Package (aka *Random Jottings* 13, at Corflu 35)
- 3) Corflu Progress Report 1 (this, May 2018)

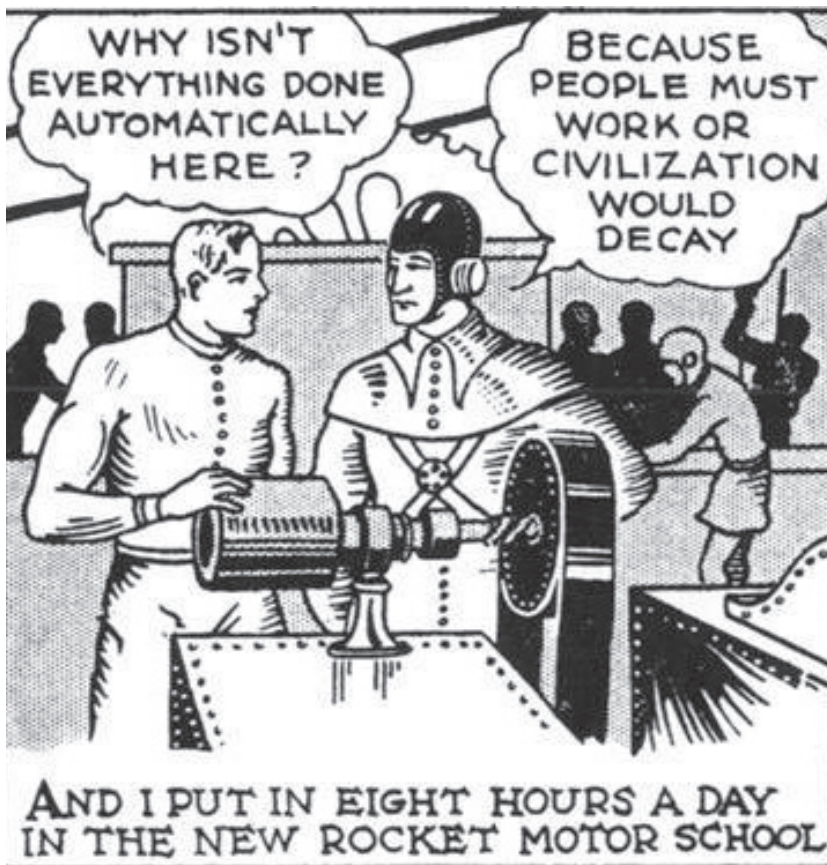
I figure this is the first progress report because it's the first publication following the official award. Granted, I was the only bidder, making it somewhat of a foregone conclusion, but still. From now on, the convention reports will follow in order: 2, *e*, 3, π , 4, etc.

Although this is being released less than a month following the Toronto Corflu, don't take that as a precedent. I'll do a PR any time there's real news to share, but the next scheduled PR will appear late September/early October.

The big news is on the front page. In the remaining pages, I'll go through the membership rate issue and overall finance for the convention and provide a quick update on other areas.

As always, a successful Corflu depends on the unpaid toil of its members, and I can use the help. Remember, ask not what your Corflu can do for you, but what you can do for Corflu. If you're already doing it, let me know.

- Michael



The Committee (So Far)

- Michael Dobson, Chair
- Curt Phillips, Hospitality
- Ted White, Programming
- Nic Farey and Curt Phillips, Awards
- Andy Hooper, Auction
- Bill Burns, Webmaster
- Rob Jackson, British Agent
- Rob Jackson, Online Corflu

...and a yet-to-be-determined cast of thousands! Maybe even *you*!

The big news for this PR is, of course, a rather dramatic change in membership rates and cutoff dates. To put things in context, let me explain my original thinking and why it's changed.

As I've mentioned several times, I haven't run a real convention before, so I don't have a lot of personal experience to draw on. That's why I'm using things like a work breakdown structure (Pre-Bid Package) and lots of communication: identify the work, identify who's going to do it, and make sure people are more or less on the same page.

Another basic project management tool is drawn directly from Watergate: Follow the money. I started with a very basic budget breakdown. Drawing from Aileen Forman's hospitality suite piece in the Bid Package and from the Cambria catering menu, I figure that it will cost about \$70 per attendee for food, beverage, and a few incidentals, like name tags. With a \$100 attending membership, that leaves \$30 per attendee for all fixed costs. In rough terms, that means 50 people (and 107 room nights) will make the convention roughly break even. If we get significantly fewer than 50, we'll have some additional costs because we won't have met our hotel guarantees. Over 60 members, and we're comfortable.

I came up with the "premium" membership idea in hopes of paying for actual award trophies for the FAAn Awards—off the shelf if we must, custom if we can. I'd also like to do something special for the Guest of Honor, who deserves it. I have a few other ideas on my wishlist as well.

I ended up making the supporting rate the same as the premium charge, but that, in retrospect, is clearly too high. So here's what I'm doing instead.

The attending membership rates remain the same, but I've extended the deadline before rates go up. The "premium" level is \$50 or more as an additional contribution.

For supporting, I looked at the actual cost to the convention, and I estimate that it's somewhere around \$10. Anything more than \$10 is extra money for the convention. With that in mind, the new supporting membership is "pay whatever you want." If you choose to pay \$50 or more, you'll get whatever the "premium" benefits turn out to be. Any amount, though, is welcome.

I've also got some extra details on paying via PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay, etc.

PayPal: editor@timespinnerpress.com (friends or family)

Venmo: Michael-Dobson-2

ApplePay: (301) 404-7439

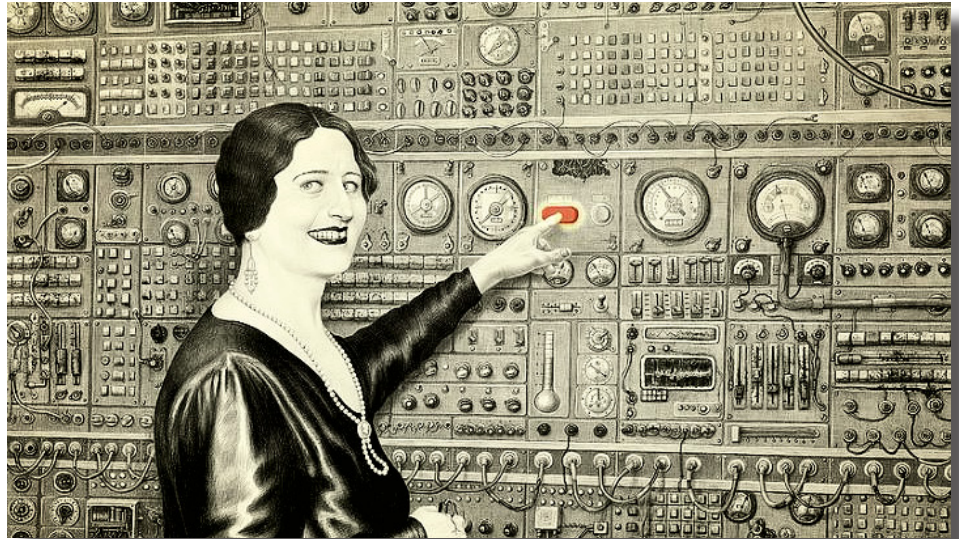
On site, I'll be able to accept credit cards. I also accept cash, but only with proper identification.

If you want to pay in Bitcoin, contact me.

Weighing Financial Matters

You Can't Spell "Award" Without "War"

The 2019 FAAn Awards are co-chaired by Nic Farey (who did the honors this year) and Curt Phillips. Because award categories, nominees, and winners are always noncontroversial and universally praised, I anticipate little in the way of problems. However, Nic has put together a steering committee of Prominent Fans, and they are having a highly productive discussion on what to do this year with spreadsheets and everything. Once the dust is settled, we'll bring you the news As It Happens.



The FAAn Award IT department prepares to tabulate ballots.

Deprogrammers Are Standing By

We're in the very early stages of programming for Corflu 36, but we have made some initial progress. Fortunately, the basic structure of Corflu has existed for some time.

The week prior to the convention, we'll have tours and other activities for early arrivers or people who want to make their Corflu trip into a vacation. ***If you want to stay at the Cambria more than the four nights of the convention, let me know prior to booking!*** While we can't do the \$109 rate throughout, we can help get at least some discount for you.

While the official program begins on Friday, we are planning to have the hospitality suite open on Thursday, so you'll have someplace to go and someone to drink with.

Friday, we'll have the Opening Ceremonies and our annual human sacrifice (GoH selection). After dinner, the consuite will open. The annual beer tasting will probably take place, and I'd like to have some of us talk about great fans of yesteryear, maybe 3 or 4 people talking for around 15 minutes each. (I'll have a projector if you



Just one of the exciting program items planned for Corflu 36!

want to bring photos.)

Saturday is the traditional day for most Corflu programming. Personally, I liked the mimeo display and the Susan Wood installation in Toronto. I plan to visit both WSFS and BSFS in the upcoming months to promote Corflu, and I thought I'd see if local fans wanted to put together an exhibit on DC/Baltimore fan history.

Other than that, we'll follow tradition: three panels, followed by the auction. (Andy needs more items to auction, and tells me that mentioning this in the progress report will accomplish nothing,) There will also be a dunk tank.

After dinner comes the Lighter Side of Corflu (where is Dave Berg when you need him?). Pat Virzi and Jeanne Bowman are developing an idea, Andy Hooper is writing a play, and maybe something else will happen as well.

The banquet will happen according to tradition, featuring crottled greeps and other delicacies well suited for the trufan's palette. As the sick and wounded fade slowly into the darkness, the ghost of Corflus past will gnaw on old bones around the campfire and the dead dogs will howl.

Gee Whiz, Sparky! I Just Can't Wait for Corflu 36!

I'm sure I've forgotten any number of important details that belong in this progress report, but if I have, that just means I'll need to put out additional progress reports. Fortunately, my supply of odd images is large enough that I should be able to cope.

For the latest exciting Corflu news, you have several options. If you're a member, I'll send around an email broadcast from time to time. If you're on Facebook, join the Corflu 36 group. Check Corflu.org from time to time while you're at it; the current membership list should be reasonably up to date. You can email me at editor@timespinnerpress.com with Corflu matters (michael@dobsonbooks.com for non-Corflu) matters. Mailing address is 8042 Park Overlook Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817-2724 USA.

Membership as of May 2018 (all attending)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ted White | 9. Rob Jackson |
| 2. Michael Dobson | 10. Geri Sullivan |
| 3. Colin Hinz | 11. Murray Moore |
| 4. Catherine Crockett | 12. Mark Olson |
| 5. Nigel Rowe | 13. Deborah Dobson |
| 6. Tom Becker | 14. Edie Stern |
| 7. Spike | 15. Joe Siclari |
| 8. Sandra Bond | 16. Ken Forman |



Letters

Terry Kemp

I'll have to start saving all my hard-earned pesos for the journey as I'd truly love to see Gettysburg. A couple of Kemp ancestors (yes, CSA, what can I say) died there facing the 20th Maine and as a military history buff I've always wanted to see where they died.

Jerry Kaufman

I eagerly await your membership cost update. For now, I'll say that your many proposed and implied outings are enticing. I am tempted, but will probably not succumb anyway. But I certainly hope the burning zeppelin on your cover is not an omen.

You mention on page 10 the Disclave that shared the hotel with SPEBSQUSA (even the acronym is remarkably long) and imply this was a bad thing. But I saw it as a plus - several members of Disclave had memberships with both groups, and were able to get a real quartet for our performance of The Mimeo Man. If I remember correctly, one of the four was Doll Gilliland.

I have not seen an offer of doodling space for Ed Cox in at least four decades. How kind of you!

[Actually, I didn't see it as a negative myself, but overall rather amusing. I have to say, though, that my appetite for barber shop is, well, limited.]

I accept your gratitude on behalf of Ed Cox.]

Nic Farey

You'll no doubt receive the "results issue" of TIR on Sunday, and I direct you to the postscript/editorial in which I propose dropping the "Best Website" and "Best Cover" categories for 2019, the former more stridently than the latter. I don't intend to make those decisions pre-emptively, and I hope there'll be some useful discussion on those topics; you and/or Curt are encouraged to weigh in, and there may be a further "interim" TIR this Fall to publish opinions (and the decision).

It's still my contention that the awards administrator serves at the pleasure of the incumbent Corflu chair (M Dobson, heir presumptive) who therefore dictates policy which the administrator should then follow (or quit). Or, of course, the chair can simply delegate to the admin.

I plan to continue outreach to those who have shunned the awards in past years, including dialogue with faneds to ensure that the listing is as thorough as we can make it. This is a more proactive approach than that taken by previous admins, but I consider it very worthwhile.

[I am, of course, humbled to be your God-Emperor in all award matters. That being said, as long as everyone gets heard, I'm good. As long as I can afford actual awards.]