

HUGO BALLOT

The announcement and presentation of "Hugo" awards has always been a major feature of the World Science Fiction Conventions. These awards, named in honor of Hugo Gernsback, the founder of "Amazing Stories", are given for achievements in and contributions to the Science Fiction field and represent considerable honor to the awardee.

The problem of selecting the award winners is not a simple one. The Detention committee have discussed previous policies and procedures and have decided to revise these in hopes of making the awards more meaningful and more representative of fandom's and the general reader's opinion.

The basic problem is that, in most of the award categories, a great many persons & their works are eligible, so many that a simple blank ballot of the convention membership before or at the convention could result in an award being given on the basis of three or four votes for a specific item. Obviously nominations must be made before an actual vote can be taken and some form of elimination is essential.

We do not believe that any group smaller than the whole of fandom can produce a truly representative list of nominations and of course this same group must be allowed upon the nominations. Nothing less could be fair to the persons and publications involved.

In the hope of making the "Hugo" awards more representative of the best judgement of ALL of fandom we urge everyone, convention members and non-members alike, to send us their nominations. Up to three in each category will be accepted from each person.

In most cases five to ten nominations, depending upon the response & subject, will be listed on the ballot. The nominees will of course be those most frequently named.

The HUGO AWARD categories will be :

BEST NOVEL:

Any Science Fiction or Fantasy novel, appearing for the first time as a hard cover book, a paper bound book (original or reprint) appearing as a full length magazine novel, appearing as a full length serial in a magazine. Books must have been published in 1958, magazines must bear an issue date of 1958 and in the case of serials one or more parts must bear a 1958 date.

BEST NOVELETTE :

Any Science Fiction or Fantasy story of medium length ("novelette", "novella" or "short novel") published in a magazine bearing a 1958 date, or published for the first time in a hard cover or paperbound collection or anthology bearing a 1958 copyright.

BEST SHORT STORY :

Any Science Fiction or Fantasy story too short to include in the "novelette" category, which appeared for the first time in a magazine, hard cover, or paper bound book bearing a 1958 date.

BEST PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINE :

Any magazine, primarily Science Fiction or Fantasy, that published one or more issues bearing a 1958 date.

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST :

Any artist whose work has appeared during 1958 as magazine illustrations in the Science Fiction-Fantasy field, or who has been published in or on a hard cover or paper bound book bearing a 1958 copyright date.

MOST PROMISING NEW AUTHOR :

Any writer who first gained prominence during the 1958 calendar year.

(Note: If response in this category is poor no award will be given.)

BEST SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY MOVIE ;

Any movie, new or re-run, American or Foreign, that saw general release during 1958.
(Note: If response in this category is poor no award will be made.)

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It will be noted that use of the 1958 calendar year (or issue dating in the case of magazines) as the period to be covered by these awards is a departure from the previous custom. This is perhaps the most radical change we are making, and we make it with some reluctance - not only because it is a break with tradition - but because this period overlaps with the period covered by last year's awards given at the convention in Los Angeles. We feel this change is necessary however, to allow time for both nominations and a vote before the convention convenes in September. We also feel that by referring to a full calendar, (or issue date) year the indefinite position of bound books can be clarified by reference to publishing or copyright data included in almost all such books.

We feel an award should not be given twice for the same accomplishment. The stories which won in the categories of "Best Novel," "Best Novelette" and "Best Short Story" at last year's Solacon will not be eligible. However, the same writers are eligible on the basis of another story published in the year of 1958. We feel that the categories of "Best Professional Magazine," "Best Amateur Publication", and "Best Artist" could conceivably receive the award in consecutive years since it is given for continued excellence rather than for a specific achievement.

Please fill in the following nomination ballott and mail it to:
"DETENTION" 12011 Kilbourne Street, Detroit 13 Michigan U.S.A.

----- BEST NOVEL 	----- BEST NOVELETTE 	----- BEST SHORT STORY
..... BEST PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINE 	 BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST 	 BEST STF OR FANTASY MOVIE
..... MOST PROMISING NEW AUTHOR 	 BEST AMATEUR MAGAZINE 	 ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NOT LATER THAN MAY 15th, 1959

You are NOT required to join the convention to nominate and vote for your choice, all nominations and votes will be given an honest count without regard to whether the person writing has sent in his membership fee! We would, however, like to point out that this convention is being run by a non-profit organization, whose major source of income is the \$2.00 fee charged all persons joining. From this we must provide all convention entertainment, frequent Progress Reports, a souvenir program booklet, and the various other benefits. Persons who do not attend the convention itself will still receive all souvenirs, and usual benefits, as well as the satisfaction of having personally helped to promote the convention. The procedure is simple - just enclose two dollars with your ballott - The Convention Committee will see that you get full value for your money.