

The Science Fiction



Oral History Association

Recording Science Fiction History as it Happens

June 2002

SFOHA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 1 (New Series)
NUMBER 2

SFOHA LOGO RESCUED

Thanks to our hi-tech consultant, Mike Gardiner, who salvaged it from an old copy of the SFOHA Newsletter, SFOHA's famous logo of the space dog taking oral history notes once again ornaments our newsletter. Long may it wave!

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RECORDINGS AT CONFUSION

SFOHA resumed its policy of making recordings at SF conventions with the recent convention ConFusion. Two recordings of Pete Abrams were made, one of Brother Guy, and one of a Harry Potter panel. This, after all, was SFOHA's original reason for existing, and it had literally been years since a systematic program of recordings had been attempted. Now that the practice has been resumed, we plan to continue it with local conventions.

URGENTLY NEEDED:

Volunteers who can make recordings for us at conventions remote from the Southeast Michigan area. These appeals for help that you will read from time to time in a NewsLetter are meant seriously. SFOHA was never intended to be concentrated in one small area of the country. In the past, however, our attempts to expand into other areas have not been successful. It necessarily requires someone who can "self start" and carry on without receiving instructions. If you are the type who enjoys running things by yourself, this may be the job for you. Write to your president.

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NEW OFFICERS

Anne and Bill Murphy have joined the SFOHA Directors. Anne will serve as Secretary, filling a position vacant since last summer. Bill will serve as Director-at-Large. This gives us our full slate of officers. Welcome aboard!

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ARCHIVE CATALOG

Work has resumed on another long-standing SFOHA project, the catalog of our archive--complete with index, the latter being the excellent addition of editor Martin Helgesen. It will enhance the value of the catalog ten fold. Work on the catalog, much interrupted, has been underway for a decade.

URGENTLY NEEDED: Another appeal that needs to be taken seriously. We need expert helpers skilled in publications who can advise us as to the best ways and means of dealing with a hundred and twenty-five page (both sides) publication. Also, someone willing to take over the editorship of the NewsLetter. SFOHA is replete with opportunities, and those now holding several jobs are eager to share them!

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THE LOOM OF ORAL HISTORY--PROGRESS REPORT

The booklet has been printed, thanks to our energetic vice-president, David Gardner. Distribution has started and will continue with copies being sent along with this copy of the NewsLetter--a considerable amount of work, since each has to be signed and numbered.

--Lloyd Biggle, Jr.

ANOTHER PLEA FOR HELP

I had three classes with Alan Cheuse, a novelist, professor, and NPR radio program host, and Alan began all of his classes, and

particularly his writing classes, in the same way. He'd start, for instance, by explaining exactly how much reading we'd have to do. A few students, apparently convinced that the reading load was onerous, would leave. After the noise of their clearing the premises had died down, he'd go on to explain exactly how much writing we'd do. Then a few more would leave, somehow mystified that they'd have to actually write for a writing class. Finally, Alan would say "This is about the class size I like to have."

I'm going to take the same tack to invite you to help with SFOHA.

First, the bad news. You'll have to work. You'll have to lug around a tape recorder, and study convention programs for interesting material to capture, and get permission to record. You'll have to initiate and maintain contact with the con committees of the cons at which you plan to record. You'll have to plan, and then carry out your plans.

Now for the good news. First, you'll have help. SFOHA can provide you with letters of introduction to con committees. We can give you advice on what material to record. In some instances, we may be able to provide recording equipment.

Best of all, you may ultimately be able to meet some of your favorite authors and artists and occasionally you'll get to interview them personally.

If this sounds interesting, and if you're willing to dedicate the time and effort necessary, contact us at 45745 Lakeview Court #12308, Novi MI 48377, or at RdWaryer@aol.com.

--David Gardner