

RUNE

92

"Furry" TOON types: a Field Guide (#1)



Reetkhee Eritwa, "FINETOOTH"
Pirrt (Fur-elf) Warchief



Fantasy Bigfoot



"Good-furry"



"2-foot3" Digitigrade



"6-foot3" Furry centaur



"3-foot3" Alien furry



Modem date

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Genetic engineer

Do-it-yourself color cover
by Ken Fletcher



Companion

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RUNE, whole number 92, is volume 15, #6, for those of you keeping track. This is the Sercon Issue. It is (c) 2022 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, all rights revert to original creators. This issue was produced by guest editor Linda Lounsbury. Collation help from Phil Martin.

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letters of comment by various (see pp. 9-12)

Biographical details gleaned from on-line obituaries, Wikipedia.org, and Fancyclopedia.org

Fan portraits from fanpa.mnstf.org. Used by permission.

Upcoming Minn-stf Events

For regular meetings, and related events, check the calendar at mnstf.org

Minicon 56 is now scheduled for April 7-9, 2023; but See mnstf.org/minicon56 for updates.

Minneapolis in 2073, in 2073. Details to follow. We are holding online meetings during the pandemic, mostly on Discord, but none are scheduled at the time of this writing. Check the website or the Einblatt.

Rune 93

Maybe it will happen! Maybe we will do that t-shirt article we anticipated for this issue! You should get it if you (1) are a Minn-stf voting member or (2) if you send us The Usual: a letter of comment, fanzine in trade, or any amount of money. Write to rune93@mnstf.org or RENE, P.O. Box 8297, Minneapolis MN 55408.

Except for the board minutes, nothing here constitutes official statements by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society.

FANDOM IN THE TIME OF COVID

Linda Lounsbury

Many science fiction stories deal with disasters of some kind. Maybe it's an alien invasion, nuclear war, climate change, or a mysterious "Wind from Nowhere". Sometimes it's a plague. The protagonists are, of course, those special people who somehow survive the disaster and maybe even save the day for the rest of humanity. Fans, being slans, should be among those survivors. Right?

I thought I was prepared. Dr. Olsterholm and other experts had predicted that a pandemic similar to the "Spanish flu" in 1918-19 was inevitable, but the timing was unpredictable. From my historical research I was aware of the horrors of that pandemic. What would I do in that case? I could maintain a six week supply of food at home in case our family needed to quarantine, but would I risk losing my job if I refused to go to work for six weeks?

Why six weeks? The word quarantine (Italian *quarantino* meaning 40) came into use in the 14th century when ships in the harbor of Venice were denied docking for 40 days to prevent the spread of bubonic plague. Forty days is just short of six weeks.

When talk of a novel coronavirus began to show up on the television news in December, I followed its spread. Was this the predicted pandemic? Would it spread to Minneapolis? In the 14th century, the Black Death took years to travel from Asia to western Europe and never reached the western hemisphere. In an age of jet planes and cruise ships, it only took months to circle the globe.

On March 3, 2020, we went to pick up our new cats from Ruff Start Rescue. On March 10, a case of Covid-19 was reported in Anoka county. That's when our household went into lockdown. I was already retired, so losing my income wasn't an issue. For the past decade we had been consistently stocking six weeks of supplies in the house, so we didn't have to race out to buy toilet paper.

Unfortunately, the virus was still circulating after 40 days. Fortunately, the miracles of the internet and Instacart made on-line ordering and curbside pick-up possible. As in the 14th century, there was confusion about the primary transmission vector. After picking up my first curbside grocery order, I carefully followed YouTube instructions to wipe down cans, boxes, and produce that might have been contaminated. After aerosol transmission was confirmed as the primary vector, we just had to worry about breathing.

Fans like to think of themselves as – mostly – intelligent, tech-savvy, and science literate. Fans also tend to be more introverted than average. Watching Netflix and reading books at home was almost like a vacation. Technology in the form of e-mail and Zoom *et.al.* allowed us to keep in virtual contact and work from home. Conventions and meetings had to be cancelled, but we found ways to hold outdoor meetings or virtual conventions. We learned to shop on-line and wear masks. Science invented vaccines that prevented the worst effects of the virus. Most of us got vaccinated when that became available. Relatively few fans died.

History may not repeat, but sometimes it rhymes. After the death toll in the 14th century, the shortage of workers meant that landlords offered higher wages to attract workers from other employers, which resulted in an inflationary spiral– in spite of laws setting wage and price controls. Chroniclers reported an increase in banditry and social unrest. Déjà vu all over again.

My own family was luckier than many and we remain covid-free. We still remain cautious, wearing masks indoors when not home alone. We seem to have adapted to a "new normal". Will we ever return to the old normal?



The gray female is Lilac. Smudge is the black & white male. We didn't choose the names.

Rebel Horticulture

Terry Garey

coral bells never ring
obedient plant spreads like the plague
creeping charlie has runners

roses pass black spot from one to the other
like pirates
snapdragons have mouths soft as babies'
balloon flowers never float
pincushion flower never punctures

a garden fails to tell the truth
it lies
fallow or harrowed
in shade or in sun
encouraging the spinach and lettuce to bolt
the strawberries to run
elderly radishes to go to seed

weeds romp rampant
as urban guerillas
fertile ground gives them the same nourishment
as anything else
causing cucumbers
pregnant with seed
to hide behind the tomatoes and pole beans
as the compost smokes sullenly
and the bees practice their pollen pimping
in their furry coats



Zinnia & bee photo by Linda Lounsbury

humans just think they're in charge
slaves to the hoe and watering can
food for mosquitoes
playgrounds to allergens
ending ultimately as fertilizer
their graves covered with flowers

REMEMBERING...

Bruce Albrecht (September 27, 1957 - September 8, 2019)

Survived by wife, Ann, siblings, nieces, and nephews. He attended Minicon, Marscon, and various fallcons. He was a gamer.

Dan Goodman (February 20, 1943 - March 25, 2020)

Dan Goodman was for most of his life a Minneapolis-area fan who discovered fandom in New York City 1962 and later lived in LA. He was a member of Minn-stf, and edited some issues of its newsletter, *Einblatt*. He was also a member of LASFS, and of FiSTFA. He was a member of Minneapa (with the apazine *Lost Angel*) and a past member of LASFAPA, RAPS, FAPA, The Cult, ValAPA, The Lens, Melvin, and TAPS.

--*Fancylopedia.org*

Jan (Jeff) Appelbaum – (December 31, 1952 -- Oct 31, 2020)

Jeffrey N. Appelbaum, AKA Jan Appelbaum, was a Minneapolis fan who was one of the original purchasers of Toad Hall and produced the fanzine *Jibara* and apazine *Poke* for Minneapa.



photo by David Dyer-Bennet

Katherine Levin (December 20, 1952 – December 1, 2020)

Died of complications of COVID-19 with her husband at her bedside.

Jim Rittenhouse (February 19, 1957 – May 16, 2021)

He was a fan and apahack from Findlay, Ohio, lived in the Chicago area for many years. He was Apa Manager of TAPS. He founded and was OE of Point of Divergence, the Alternate History Amateur Press Association, a bimonthly APA. He was a judge of the Sidewise Award. He founded Congenial in 1989. He worked on the Cincinnati in '88 and Chicago in 2000 Worldcon bid. As an alternate history fan, Jim took great pleasure in the fact that the timeline controlling villainous organization in the 2016 television series *Timeless* was named "Rittenhouse". He published the *Catclave I Program Book*, a mock program book with various articles for and against cats in 1983.



photo by DavE Romm

Lynn Anderson (? – May 2021)

Regular Minicon attendee and Minn-stf member

Marty Helgesen (November 11, 1938 -- May 23, 2021)

A Long Island fan who published *Radio Free Thulcandra*, was a member of FLAP and ran Christian Fandom. He was active in MINNEAPA and APA-L for many years. He was a regular at Minicon and other conventions and invariably wore a short-sleeved white dress shirt with dark pants.



photo by David Dyer-Bennet

Ed Nims (? – August 14, 2021)
Regular attendee at Fourth Street Fantasy Con.

Ethel Grodzins Romm (March 3, 1925 – November 9, 2021)
Born in Massachusetts to Jewish immigrants, she was trained as an engineering draftsman as a teen. During WWII, she worked for the U.S. Air Force, becoming head of drafting. She said: "They couldn't teach drafting to monkeys, so they had to hire women." From 1946 to 1954, she headed crews that designed power transformers for General Electric. She married newspaper editor Al Romm, and the couple had three sons. She became an interior and construction designer, and educator. She had articles published in Editor & Publisher, the ABA Journal, Esquire, New York Magazine, and Huffington Post, among others. She wrote about '60s counterculture and the underground press, writing and editing style, education, and the intersection of engineering and gender equality. She was a project and construction manager for Hartz Mountain Industries from 1984 to 1988 and from 1988 to 2005 was CEO of Niton Corporation, co-founded by her brother Lee, which designed and sold environmental science equipment. She was known as a lively raconteur and entertainer, and she found an appreciative audience at several Minicons.



Photo by David Dyer-Bennet



photo by DavE Romm

Wayne McCloud (? – November 24, 2021)
Age 76, of Maplewood. Survived by sons Robert and Jeffrey (Tiffany); grandchildren Marie Krinke, Robert McCloud, Johnny McCloud, Elisa McCloud and Damon McCloud; also survived by other loving relatives and friends. Minicon Huckster Room regular.



Ruth Odren (December 11, 1932 - February 28, 2022)

I met Ruth Odren some years ago. She liked being around science fiction and fantasy fans. The more I learned about her, the more I realized what an incredible role model she was. Ruth had seven grandchildren and five greats and many friends and family. Her careers included raising two daughters herself after a divorce, teaching deaf students in Faribault, Minnesota, copywriting for Land O' Lakes, and doing clerical work for Minneapolis Public Schools.



photo by John Stanley

Ruth joined Minneapolis fandom sometime in the 1970s. Ruth liked reading, watching mysteries, shopping, working on jigsaw puzzles, singing and playing the piano, and volunteering at the Eagles Auxiliary. She used to coordinate FamilyApa for her family.

When that ended, she segued easily into creating zines for Stipple-Apa and fearlessly recruiting members for it. She attended the Minnesota State Fair and Minicon. She loved to share stories about her past exploits and her two- and four-legged family. Her cat Marco Polo kept her entertained, especially when he'd run out into the apartment hallway. She enjoyed chatting, cracking jokes, and being kind. She loved, her friends at Trinity Apartments in Minneapolis, her friends in Stipple-Apa, and hosting jigsaw parties.

Last fall Ruth moved west to live with her daughter and son-in-law in Vancouver, Washington. It took Marco awhile to learn to live with Mercy, the resident dog. Ruth battled serious health problems for years and needed more and more help. She left us at age 89 in February of this year, just in time to attend Mardi Gras in spirit. Here's how she ended her obit: "Farewell to all who sail with amateur press publications and SF fandom."

John and I kept one of the last voice mails from Ruth on our answering machine. Seeing the blinking light helps us feel like she is with us.

--Jeanne Mealy

My cat Penelope died at nearly the same time as Ruth, and Ruth knew her through the apa. We would trade comments about our cats, or even have comments from Penelope or her cat, Marco Polo. It was lots of fun, and a very poignant memory. I always meant to include Ruth in a cat fan-fiction story, but never got around to it...

Ruth thought she had closed her eyes, but she blinked, and now there was a dark cobalt sky arching above her. Stars and planets shone all around, some with rings and others marked with stripes of bright color. She was standing on a rainbow bridge, which managed to be both solid and porous, like colored mist. Something caught her eye, and she turned around. There was a cat following, not too far behind. A beautiful cat, with lovely gold and ebony fur; it did not seem afraid, but came right up to her.

"Oh, I know your essence," the cat purred, "from that apa we received. I always enjoyed laying on it."

Ruth shivered a little after she heard the cat talking and realized what this meant, and the whole rainbow bridge shook, like a bowlful of jello. She wasn't sure she could trust it.

"Don't be afraid. I'm sure it's safe," said the cat. "And I don't think we can stand and wait here for Marco Polo and Uncle Cy, even though time doesn't exist in this place." Then the cat pricked up her ears. "Besides, can you hear that wonderful sound --?"

Music, and a rich, deep voice, penetrating yet unpretentious, drifted down to them. "Only the lonely, know how I feel..."

"It's Roy Orbison!" shouted Ruth, "Come on, let's hurry..." And they went over the rainbow bridge together.

-- Cy Chauvin

David Charles Cummer (May 18th 1956-March 8th 2022)

David was always interested in both science fiction as well as actual space science and space exploration. David could be serious. He could be silly. He was in Minn-Stf for years. He was also in Stipple-Apa and wrote wonderful zines with great mailing comments and great natter. Collations at his place in Linden Hills involved lugging folding chairs and card tables up three floors because he didn't have much furniture. He went on to write for local publications like *Lavender*.



photo by David Cummer

David supported many causes from the LGBT community to the Deaf community to overcoming the injustices he saw. He raised money for AIDS research with his (stuffed toy) Hug-a-thon. He worked on the Shockwave programs and was a member of a belly dancing troupe with other local fans.



Ben Lessinger (? – April 2022)

Ben grew up in fandom, attending Minn-stf meetings as a child in his mother's home. He was a regular attendee at Minicons and volunteered at several. He was a cast member in the Minicon production of *The Mimeo Man*.

photo by DavE Romm

Page Ringstrom Appelbaum (February 11, 1953 – July 24, 2022)

She was born in Tucson, Arizona. She attended Metro State University in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she received her bachelor's degree. She later earned a nursing degree from The Methodist School of Nursing in Peoria, IL. Page spent many years as a Registered Nurse. Page was an avid camper, and enjoyed participating in historical reenactments playing the role of Madame Tea Lady. In the late 1970s, she moved to a religious retreat on the east coast and returned to the Twin Cities a few years later. She married Jeffrey Appelbaum on Aug. 10, 1984, and they lived in St. Louis Park. In 2007, the couple moved to Iowa City, where Jeff died in 2020. She was active at the Iowa City Zen Center, where she served as the head priest and guiding teacher. To make ends meet, she worked part time at the Hy-Vee in Iowa City. After several health problems in 2020 and early 2021, she moved to the Bloomington, MN in 2022 to be closer to her boys and Twin Cities friends in her final days. She is survived by her two sons, and one granddaughter.

--John Stanley



Letters of Comment

From the Before Times

Larry Tisch

Tacoma, WA 98405

September 2019

Rune!!!

Hectography?! Had to look that word up! A form of printing. Got it. Rachel Kronick's report on Taiwan was interesting.

I'm still here, still alive. Sending some cartoons I did. You may keep them and use them. I used to draw on plain typing paper, but it is not sold in stores anymore and changed to tracing paper. I work out my cartoons on 4x6" envelopes and then trace my own work and finish them. I don't have access to a photocopier and just send out my originals.

I'm not on the internet, so you won't see my work online.

This year I retired. For 23 years I worked at the local big newspaper. I worked in "Packaging". I'm diabetic. My job now is taking care of myself. I have health insurance.

David Shea

Ellicott City, MD 21042

September 2019

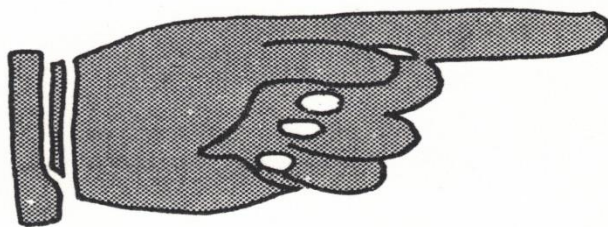
Thank you for RUNE 91. If you are not acquainted with my name and I'm a leftover from an old mailing list, permit me to enlighten you. I did a fanzine called TWINK from 1996 to 2003, with a regular column reviewing every, or nearly every, fanzine I received. Unless my notes are seriously disturbed, during that period I received one issue of RUNE, number 86, somewhere around July or August 2002. I commented there was a photo of a couple at the Grand Canyon on the cover but I did not know who they were.

Perhaps I may be forgiven for not having much sense of what fanzine RUNE is expected to be. Then of course there's the problem of your having apparently done five issues in seventeen years. Unless there is an error in my math...

Rachel Kronick's travelogue to Taiwan was mildly interesting but I did not relate to it much. The only extended period I spent outside the U.S. was in Vietnam, and there was a war on at the time. The (dirt) road to our basecamp had to be swept for explosive traps every morning, and at night you never knew when the Viet Cong would have a notion to fire rockets or mortars at you. It was not exactly a vacation spot. We did rescue a kitten once. He seemed quite confused by the idea of being given food without needing to scrounge, fight, or hunt for it.

"Red House": Alas, where is Jimi Hendrix when we need him?

As for the bit about hekto printing, it seems to be one of those exercises in pointless nostalgia that fandom is so fond of. My interest in fandom was always about written SF. I know that viewpoint became obsolete years ago. Call me old-fashioned if you wish.



Lloyd Penney
Etobicoke, ON
M9C 2B2 Canada

November 2019

Great to see there's still someone experimenting with hectography. Myself, I wanted to find out more about pre-xerography duplication methods, but when I was a kid, such technology was kept in the teachers' lounge, and I never got my sticky mitts on anything like this. Necessity is definitely the mother of invention, and I can see how early fans got really good with their hecto pads. Good for you for giving it a shot.

I really can't make any comments on Rachel Kronick's essay on her return to Taiwan. It is so outside my own experience. It does sound like everyday life, though; I certainly enjoy trips to stationery shops myself. I am hoping that Taiwan will not see the same kind of rebellion Hong Kong has had to deal with for some months now. I know that China constantly threatens Taiwan as a breakaway province that must come back to the fold.

Decongestant 4/Arcana. I would like to see a con report on this. Here in Toronto, fannish conventions are rare, and what little there is, is not cheap. Good for you on still being able to run such an event.

John Hertz
Los Angeles, CA 90057

November 2019

Hurrah for Rune 91! With a page done by hecto, even!
I'd not call hecto obsolete (though the ghost of Harry Warner may be saddened by my saying this). I'm big on Right tool for right task. When Mae Strelkov sent me some of her hecto work, it had gorgeous color gradation I couldn't manage to reproduce with the highest-tech equipment I could find.

I showed that and the original in a "Current Fanzine Art" display I did at Millennium Philcon (59th Worldcon) with Mike Glycer and Nicki & Richard Lynch, as you may have noticed in File 770 141 (pp. 30-33; she's on p. 33, monochrome only) or may see electronically now <<http://efanzines.com/File770/File770-141.pdf>>.

Three other points about hecto. You mentioned one: it works even if the power is off. Another: the equipment itself is cheap ("capital investment"). When you figured comparative costs, you included the ameliorated cost of the printer, but I don't see you included the computer hardware and software. You needn't include a typewriter for hecto, it can be done by hand. A third: hecto allows more intimate artist involvement.

I loved Rachel Kronick's 2016 Taiwan report. She may have underestimated the power of her being fluent in Mandarin. Also I'm not so mystified by the magnificence of a Taiwanese stationery store. Awed, yes. Chinese has been calligraphy-friendly and indeed handwriting-friendly for millennia. I'm so sorry I didn't get to this LoC a month ago, so as to date it on Double Ten Day. The electronic may see some Sinophilic notes of mine at <File770.com>, e.g. <http://file770.com/national-palindrome-week/> <http://file770.com/confucius-and-a-home-cookedmeal/> or <http://file770.com/women-hold-up-half-the-sky/> (I think it's a good line even if Mao said it; there's a brief reference to Li Ch'ing-chao) <http://file770.com/two-doors/>

She mentions visiting Ctein in the San Francisco Bay Area, commenting "I'm still not entirely convinced that he actually lives there". Of course not. He lives on another plane. I'm a fan of what he does here, see e.g. <http://file770.com/another-one/>

Since I've been mentioning <File770.com>, how about sending a Decongestant IV report? It can go to <mikeglyer@cs.com>.

I don't know what I was expecting from Rune 91, but hectography wasn't on the list (not, alas, that I saw the actual hectographing; my request for a copy arrived after the very short print run had been sent out). It was a great idea; fewer each day are fans who have seen, let alone handled, anything produced on a hectograph.

It must have been a challenge. Did you develop "hektographer's hands" (or, as Jack Speer vividly described them, "mimeoer's hands in technicolor"?) I tried hectography only once, but I did something massively wrong, and the results were-- I was going to say, unimpressive, but in fact they were all too impressive, just in the wrong way; too easily discouraged, I never tried again. But such methods, which reveal so clearly the effort which went into the production of the page, are appealing precisely because the reader can almost share the labor of the creator (sometimes, where the result is mostly illegible, perhaps the readers does even more work).

I enjoyed reading the technical details, especially since they seem to vary so widely from hectographer to hectographer. Donn Brazier, in "The Purple Monster" (Yesterday and Today, N3F, 1974), claimed that "in 1939-1940 I made up a mixture whose base was orange Jello." (He didn't say whether discarded copies were eaten). He also mentioned that "Mae Strelkov outdid that by actually boiling old bones to make the gelatin!" I'd quite like to see one her hectozines, which Brazier described as "remarkable for their flowing, subtle artwork."

I suspect you're right about Rune never having been hectographed. In Rune 80 (which by a happy coincidence and a generous editor came into my possession along with Rune 91), co-editor Dave

Romm replies to a LoC by admitting that "Someday, I hope to have a hecto cover on a Rune. I figure it'll take 12-15 separate hecto masters..." You mention later the possibility of more hectography; you'd better start boiling the bones now.

Oh, yes-- the zine's content. This, too, was different than expected. Almost 70% of the issue was Rachel Kronick's tremendous tale of two times in Taiwan. I enjoy this sort of article, especially if it's about some place I'd never want to go ("the wall of humidity" would do me in on minute one of day one). There were plenty of striking elements here, cultural and personal alike; I was especially touched by the trip back to "the same little shrine I'd lived above for years" and the idea of its tutelary deity, not "prosperous or especially powerful," still retaining a few "stalwart supporters." I suppose the deity is akin to an author whose limited fame came during years gone by but who still sells just enough copies of their recent work to stay in print, however obscurely to the rest of us. A fascinating piece.

Then a brief Con Report and some Minn-stf business and a preview of Rune 92. I look forward to it; I'll be sure to get my request for a true hecto copy in well in advance!



Brad Foster

PO Box 165246
Irving, TX 75016

April 6, 2020

Looks like I got issue #91 way back at the end of September. Always such a blast to see a new RUNE show up, one of the first sf zines I sent cartoons to way back when. I even had time to read it, as I see I have some penciled notes on it issue. I'd circled where you were planning a history of fannish t-shirts in general, thought I might be able to photograph a few of the ones I'd done over the years, send them your way if you were interested. Plenty of time to get to it, though. Probably had it sitting on the drawing board back then, no rush, would get that email reply out in a few days....

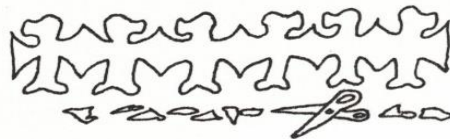
...and then things happened. Or, one big thing anyway, we got wacked by the tornado that blazed through Dallas in October.

As of now, I'm still so far behind on everything since then, don't know if I will ever catch up. Maybe just hope for a clean start?

Not even sure who does and does not know about all that... bottom line, my full time job for last half a year has been dealing with the tornado damage, with insurance, with repairs, with more insurance, with *not getting* repairs, with deciding we needed to move, with house hunting, with trying to sell a semi-destroyed house, with trying to get a mortgage, and with doing all of that now while in middle of this coronavirus shutdown, etc., etc., etc. Fun times.

We *should* be in a new place by May, so right now my newest job is figuring out how to cram 30 years' worth of accumulation that has built up in this place over into a much smaller home.

I am hoping that maybe, maybe, maybe.... I can get to be a full time artist again this summer. Fingers crossed.



Fanzines in Trade

We got:

- *Far Journeys*: "A sercon fanzine", #1 from Justin E.A. Busch.
- *Dreams Renewed*: "Essays on rediscovering neglected pleasures of fantastic fiction", #0-6 from Justin E.A. Busch
- *Instant Message*, from NESFA
- *Nice Distinctions* from Arthur Hlavaty
- *Askew* by John A. Purcell

The RadiShTree

Thorin N. Tatge

(To "The Brandy Tree" by Gordon Bok)

I go down to the RadiShTree
And take five thousand fans with me
All for a weekend of fantasy
Before we come back to earth

Through the Hucksters Room, deep and wide
T-shirts and dragons to each side
There, let a sense of wonder build
To last you a week or more

Con come follow my happy way
Don't break the elevators!
Panel's at two, come go with me?
It's off in the Northern Tower.

I remember Mr. C's
Five great rooms of mysteries
Fill up a cup with jellybeans
And climb through the window ledge.

There's folks who'll tell you what to read
As they chatter on the stage
They've been reading for a thousand years
Since the SF Golden Age

When the sun goes down on the program track
The Garden Court picks up the slack
I flock through two dozen party rooms
With just four hours' sleep

Someday down in the RadiShTree
The management will lose sympathy
Force us to leave our happy ways
And the tall hotel we know

Con on the hill, come go with me
We'll relish the memory
They're moving to a new hotel
And that's the way we'll go
That's the way for me



photo by Linda Lounsbury

TWO CON REPORTS

JEANNE MEALY

Minicon 55 (April 15-17, 2022)



photo by DavE Romm

Minicon was my first SF convention some years ago during college. It was quite a rush to find so many other fans who liked to chat about the books, movies, and TV shows that I liked, too. I didn't have to explain much or endure Those Looks for liking Those Topics. And the con suite had pop and juice on ice in the bathtub. Cool.

Minicon is put on by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, or Minn-Stf. All ages are welcome and good behavior is expected. There's a Code of Conduct and roving hosts to assist when needed. It's entirely staffed by volunteers and always Easter weekend in the Twin Cities area. It's been held in St. Louis Park for a few years, west of Minneapolis, from Friday through Sunday. This con supports silliness and wit.

The con suite was handy for snacks and drinks. A Cub grocery store was about a block away, so we made good use of the mini frig in the room. The weekend started off well when the Doubletree desk clerk offered a rich, warm chocolate chip cookie with walnuts at check in. (If you don't like that kind of thing, I'll take yours.) Since Easter is on different dates every year, the weather varies -- and this IS Minnesota. A friend brought up cases of pop that I thought could be left in the car trunk until going home, but nooooo, it was cold that weekend. A hotel luggage cart came in handy. Better living with wheels.

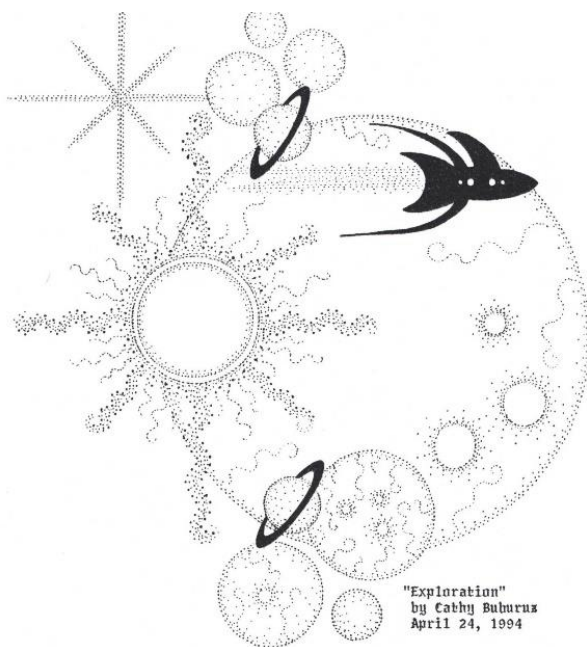
Minicon 55 attendees were disappointed when the Artist Guest of Honor Elise Matthesen wasn't well enough to attend. Author Jo Walton stepped up to the plate. We had to show proof of vaccination and wear masks (darned COVID) except in one area of the consuite. Even so, we were *happy* to be going to panels, visiting the art show and dealers room, enjoying costuming, a teen lounge, kids' programming, the science room, live music, readings, a sewing circle, a quiet room *and* a quiet activity rea, the bar, and gaming. I think there were jigsaw puzzles to work on. The free-will donation tables and the charity auction offered appealing gems and oddities. Some smart folks participated in a medallion hunt by answering Cluemeister Jason Spitzer's riddles to find hidden pennies at the hotel in order to win prizes. Not me. I don't understand the clues even when they're explained later.

The program book was well done with beautiful covers and great information inside about the con and Minicon's history. A pocket program was also available to carry around and mark up. Thorin Tatge and random support folks put out three witty newsletters in various colors with con updates. I was on three panels: "SF Pets and Companions," "Recent SF Television," and "Dealing with It All: Stress in the Modern Era." As is common at a good convention, I shared information and learned a few things, too. (I'm an ambivert?!) People were chatting here and there about all sorts of topics. Sometimes we'd miss a panel because

we would rather chat. There were parties at night where we could check out a book pre-launch and eat beef stew and bread, try virtual reality headsets, and choose Death or Cake. I was amused to see the Confectionary Guest of Honor visiting the parties.

This year we had TWO midnight pub trivia contests, the Trivia Menace and The Quizzening. It's surprisingly hard to come up with answers on short notice. I was part of the team that reached second place one night! The Easter bunny stashed plastic eggs with little prizes inside late Saturday night. Some of the tiny rubber rabbits appeared in random places like the elevators, I've heard. Minicon has a tradition where the club president's term ends at Easter. This year, Sharon Kahn successfully foiled an "assassination" plot and continues as President-for-Life. There's also a dead dog party after the con is packed up. No real canines were harmed.

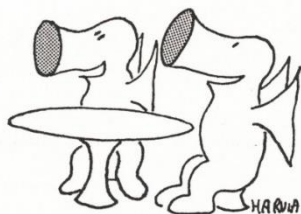
The total registration was 484 with a warm body count (people at the con) of 362. A higher attendance is expected next year in early April at Minicon 56 – you will be there, right? If you want to help, there are lots of fun ways to do that. What would you like to see or do? Check out the website: <https://mnstf.org/minicon56/> and pre-register for the best rate. Come even if you're shy and don't know many people. That will likely change by Sunday!



CONvergence (August 11-14, 2022)

This year the con was in downtown Minneapolis. I compare it to the state fair. It's crowded. People of all ages were glad to be there, so the energy was high. Some wore costumes and posed for photos. There's a lot going on and you can't do everything – this con runs nearly 24 hours a day. Do your best to make choices and leave enough time to get where you're going. A Code of Conduct and roving hosts supported a safe con. It is volunteer staffed with rewards for hours of service. COVID required proof of vaccination and the wearing of masks nearly everywhere and cut back on some of the usual features that we hope are back next year. There was a take-out con suite with a seating section nearby. There were some restaurants in the area, though no fast food.

There's a lot going on and you can't do everything – this con runs nearly 24 hours a day. There was a pocket schedule grid full of basic information, including locations and hours. You have to make choices and leave enough time to get where you're going. The con offered panel discussions, movie rooms (anime and Other), a space lounge, music, gaming and jigsaw puzzles, an art show, a dealers' room and Artists' Alley, a teen room, a sensory break room, the Holodeck for events that didn't fit in typical spaces, a charity auction, Connie's Quantum Sandbox for hands-on art and science experiences, and Wordslingers Way for readings and hard-to-define performances. The souvenir book has interviews with guests of honor and details about the whole con. The Mainstage hosted a variety of events from the masquerade to Powerpoint Karaoke and my favorite, Harisen Daiko, a Japanese drum group that does traditional and SF/F themed presentations for audiences that go wild. There was also a blood drive in the Red Cross van outside. And parties with entertaining decorations, music, and things to do, eat, and drink. Badge ribbons have become fun to hand out and collect. The captions and colors vary. Some folks get YARDS of them. What a sight.



wing nuts (wɪŋ nʌts) n. [Sw *vinge* + OHG *nuz*]: featherless bipeds from another world who have a superior sense of fun.

This year's con offered two chances to swap extras with other fans. There was a book swap area (bring some, take some) and a freebies table has a mixture of items you might (or might not) want. The walls of the hotel were covered with posters about clubs, parties, and other attractions of the con. I like the ones where someone sticks googly eyes on them.

For everything I did, I missed other things I was interested in. Some of the panels that stand out in memory: Geeks and

Cats, the Lower Decks fan panel, The Year in Movies, Disney Sci-Fi, I Haven't a Clue – very silly game show, and a “Lucifer” retrospective. I also attended special events like Chair Rikering (people competed to get on a chair the way Commander Riker did), Reverend Matt's Monster Science talks, and Trailer Park (movies). I had a great time on three panels: “... And Then I Found Fandom” (our first experiences), “What We Do in the Shadows/Wellington, Paranormal,” and “Space Traffic” (mostly about tourism). A highlight was a number of people in excellent costumes who appeared at the Shadows/Wellington panel.

I added to my convention experience by volunteering at the art show coat check (you'd be surprised what people couldn't take inside), volunteer rewards room, and the book swap room. Volunteers are especially appreciated and rewarded, so consider contributing your time and energy. A thank-you party is held sometime after the con.

This year's total registrations were 3,437 and the warm body count was 2,735. I expect attendance to increase next year. As always, pre-register for the best rate:

<https://www.convergence-con.org/get-involved/register/>. Your presence will be appreciated.

Chicon VIII Convention Report

September 1-5, 2022

Laura Krentz

My first Worldcon was Chicon IV in 1982 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. A friend in Columbus (where I was living at the time) arranged for a group of us to attend. We stayed at a friend of a friend's house and commuted to the con, since we were poor. I also attended Chicon V in 1991, Chicon 2000 in 2000, and Chicon 7 in 2012, all at the same hotel, with my husband, Dean.

One of the fun things to do on at a con is to eat at some new restaurants. But on this trip, we didn't eat out at all because of possible Covid exposure. We brought our own small refrigerator and microwave, and there was a mini fridge in the room. We brought two coolers of ice and food, and we stopped in Janesville to stock up on more groceries. We ate breakfast in the room. I packed a lunch in an insulated bag and carried it in the seat compartment of my rollator. I was using a rollator because I was supposed to have a left knee replacement surgery soon. * We ate outside at a patio east of the east tower of the hotel or in front of the entrance to the west tower where the smokers hung out. We had supper in the room, either microwaved soup and sandwiches or maybe a salad. We bought slices of pie at the Norske Nook in Osseo on the way there, so we had pie for dessert. We missed out on the socializing we would usually do when we went out to dinner with other people.

My experiences this time were a little different because I attended as a handicapped person. On the first day, September 1st, we went down to registration. We were in line about fifteen minutes. I went to the Access registration line for handicapped people and checked in and got a badge and lanyard and picked up the big program book from a pile on a counter around a pillar. Then I went to the handicapped Access table and got a sticker for my badge and we got a companion one for Dean so we could get aisle seating at events and park my rollator next to me. There was no printed pocket program unless you printed out your own before the convention, which we did. There were a few update sheets, but mostly they expected people to use an app on their devices for program information. If you didn't have Wi-Fi access or a device, you were out of luck. We saw a lot of people we knew at registration, including Matthew Tepper and his wife, Debra Levin. Just about everyone was wearing masks, but Matthew said he still recognized us, even from our backs.

**Successfully done October 5. —ed.*



We did go to some of the parties at night and saw and talked with some friends there. The Minicon/Minneapolis in 2073 party was our local group's party. At the Glasgow in 2024 party, Dean and I took pictures of each other holding a Hugo rocket. People at the convention were good about wearing masks most of the time, but not at the bar or sushi area at Stetson's or the American Craft Kitchen restaurant space, which you had to walk by on the way to and from the elevators to the rooms. Generally, fans wore masks except when eating and drinking, but the general public and staff were not as good at masking

There was an interactive map screen on the wall where you could see where you were and get directions to where you wanted to go. The whole convention is held in the Hyatt Regency Chicago but it has two towers and they are only connected on a couple of floors. Each floor has a color code like purple, gold, bronze, green, blue, and silver, and the rooms within each floor have names but there are several ballrooms like Grand, Regency, and Crystal plus groups of named meeting rooms. It could be very confusing. The paper map they gave us helped some, but eventually I found it easiest to go outside and cross the street to the other tower. There was only one elevator to get to different levels in the east tower for those with mobility issues, and at times there was a long wait for space on it.



After big events like the Masquerade and Hugo Awards, hotel staff would direct handicapped people through staff areas to some staff elevators to get us back up to the main levels, but usually not all the way to our room floors. In the west tower you could use the hotel elevators to get to the different levels. At the big events, I could usually get an end seat by a handicapped space where I could park the rollator. Sometimes they wanted to take it away, but I didn't let them. There were big screens at each side of the stage and the right hand one had captioning which was sometime funny when they spelled things phonetically or misunderstood. We had to arrive early for big events and there was a handicapped waiting area, and then they would let us in first but reserved some central seats for special guests, Hugo nominees, etc. I would say that handicapped access was fairly good and the people running it were nice and tried to accommodate our needs.

Cons nowadays are celebrating diversity in a field that used to be dominated by white males. At the art show, I bought some art prints for myself and for my cat sitters. I was very pleased to discover that my Tristan Strong art print by Eric Wilkerson was numbered print #1. A new trend at cons has been to do a land acknowledgment of the Native American land the con is being held on. A group of Chicago Nations Youth did a land acknowledgment ceremony at Opening Ceremonies and again at the Hugo Awards. A lot of programming also explored diversity topics and gender issues.

Dean was wondering why they changed the name of Kaffeeklatches to Table Talks and then he realized that because of masking, they were not serving drinks this year at the tables. There weren't as many parties as at some worldcons, and attendance was 3574, which is about half of what some of the largest worldcons in the US have been, but including virtual attendance they said 6500 people participated. Chicon emailed members about reported Covid cases during and after the con, and I think the grand total was around sixty that could have been contracted at the con, which is just under 2 percent.

Because of Covid, a lot of conventions were held online over the last couple of years. We learned to use Zoom, Discord, and other programs. I used the con's Airmeet program to watch "Libraries in SFF" on the first day. Sometimes the speakers froze but generally I could hear and see them. Later I tried to watch another Airmeet program on "Decaying Space Debris" but the background sounds were too noisy, and you couldn't hear what the panelists were saying. Many people said they watched Airmeet successfully during the con, but I never had much luck with it when I tried. I'm not sure why they chose a less familiar program like Airmeet for the online programming. In 2020, at the start of Covid, ConZealand was virtual. DisCon III in 2021 was hybrid, and we were able to watch much of the programming at home, even when two things were scheduled at the same time, though we couldn't interact with them. If the pandemic becomes endemic, hybrid cons may be the way to go. It requires a lot of people working on it but it also gives access to many who couldn't otherwise participate.

Chicon 8 had the usual Dealers' Room, art show, Consuite, exhibits, site selection voting, fan tables, parties, autographing, badge ribbons, major events, live music, and so many tracks of programming that you always had to make difficult choices and sometimes just take some time off to decompress and unwind.



TAFF-on-a-Stick 2022

Michael Lee

When Fia Karlsson won the TAFF race for 2022 I was very pleased, as we worked together on Worldcon 75 in Helsinki, Finland in 2017. And as she was working out her plans from Malmö, Sweden one of her potential stops was Minneapolis, and as I wasn't planning on attending the Chicago Worldcon, I was thrilled to take off the time she was in and help host her. Obviously at some point Fia will have her own TAFF report to write, and will undoubtedly cover these days as well and with her own photos. But I've got my own part of the story, and this seems a place to document it.

Day 1

She arrived from Detroit, Michigan on Sunday, August 28th at MSP Airport. I was planning on joking that if she was departing from MSP there'd be a good chance she'd run into Joel Philips at the airport checking luggage – but I didn't even need to get that far, as he was taking a lunch break and met her and led her to where her luggage was. After picking her up at the airport we swung by the site where my new house is being constructed in St Louis Park, but we then moved on to our temporary apartment not far away where my wife Alicia LaMunion and I could host her.

Our first visit was to the American Swedish Institute (ASI) in Minneapolis. She'd been away from Sweden long enough that getting lunch at the Fika Café wasn't an unreasonable choice, and this part of the visit was seeing the American Swedish heritage through the eyes of someone from Sweden. The ASI was a tourist spot in my home town that I hadn't been to before. So it was a great chance to wander around. One of the exhibits was "The Morning Dip", collecting photos of Swedes in their bathrobes, and as an interactive bit they had our own opportunity to re-enact that.

The museum overall was totally a worthwhile visit. We managed all of the old mansion, and the various themes and exhibits throughout the place. The gift shop was also appreciated, filled both with items that would make sense in Sweden and the Nordic countries, but also items that are more reflective after immigration. We then made a quick run to Lodestone Coffee and Games where we played a game of Azul. We were hoping to meet up with a few more people, but the ongoing pandemic made it just the three of us. And then we got some bubble tea and explored Target. One of the things we all agreed on is that even the most basic of shopping experiences is something to explore when traveling internationally.

Our dinner was a nice outing for Sushi and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. The weather was perfect – something we were happy about as the next day was the Minnesota State Fair.



Alicia, Michael, and Fia on the "beach" at ASI, photo by ASI

Day 2

We got a relatively early start to the Minnesota State Fair. We jumped around a little bit to find an open Park-and-Ride, as our first location was closed, but quickly got on the shuttle. Once we arrived we discovered that the Sky Ride line was especially short, so we took advantage of get a sky-high view of the grounds.

We next moved on the Giant Slide, where we met up with Dean Gahlon and Laura Krentz. Fia and I rode the slide – and then we went over to get cake-on-a-stick, which Fia personalized so she could have actual TAFF-on-a-Stick. (She has the photo of that!)



Dean Gahlon, Michael Lee, Laura Krentz, Fia Karlsson at the Fair
photo by Alicia LaMunion

The Agriculture-Horticulture building was next, where we quickly got turned around amidst all the crop art and giant pumpkins. We did the Space Tower to get a good view of the entire metro area – we didn't get much into either downtowns, so this provided a view of where Minneapolis and St. Paul are to each other, as well as a good view of the fair itself.

After the Space Tower we ran into some additional friends I know from CONvergence and my parents, and Fia was fully introduced to the glory of cheese curds (she has become a fan), and the Dairy building with the infamous butter sculptures of Princess Kay of the Milky Way. We didn't get any of the ice cream there, because we were told of a new Gray Duck Sundae at Bridgeman's with Black Licorice and marshmallows, which sounded especially exciting (and it was). We also did a tour of all the animal barns and the Minnesota DNR building, and watched a bit of one of the horse shows. The deep fried ice cream was unfortunately disappointing. For the first time in many years I went all the way around the Midway. I wasn't quite up to the rides, but both Alicia and Fia were more than happy to try a couple out while I held the bags, and I figure it means we actually got a TAFF on a stick at some point as well.

After the midway we did a quick tour of the Grandstand where we ran into Joel Philips and family, and then slowly strolled our way through Creative Activities and the art museum. By this point our legs were definitely wearing out, so we headed back home. We swung by the Source on the way home and explored the various games and books there for a while.

Day 3

After the day at the State Fair, we had one last full day before Fia went on to Chicago. I've got a fairly standard set of places that I bring most friends when they visit here, and we followed that plan for the day. After a leisurely breakfast, we went to the Mall of America. It's a natural tourist trap, and after the long pandemic I think Alicia enjoyed bringing Fia to some of her favorite clothing stores that aren't available in Sweden. The Lego store was appreciated, especially as the birth place of Lego isn't all that far from where Fia lives.

We then went to Uncle Hugo's bookstore. It was one of the last places I visited before the pandemic, and they had moved since the fire in 2020. I was thrilled that they had reopened in time for us to visit. I have taken a number of visiting friends there over the years. We followed that up with Dreamhaven – so we could get in all our books and shopping. The two stores being relatively close together make it an ideal little shopping trip for anyone visiting, and something I feel is a must-visit stop for any science fiction fan visiting Minnesota.



Fia and Ecko, the guardian of Uncle Hugo's bookstore
photo by Michael Lee

After our wallets had been drained, we went to Minnehaha Falls and is a wonderful bit of nature. I tend to like to combine all of the shopping at the Mall of America and the Science Fiction bookstores with a stop here, to get away from the commerce and get one of the most beautiful parks and sights in the metro area. Then Fia and I went to see Scott Keever play at a local club. We met and had good conversations with some of the locals at the bar, and it was a good way to wind down. I thought it would be good to get some of our local music represented in Fia's trip when I saw that Scott was performing, and it was definitely a good idea. To wind up Fia's trip, we played a game of Settlers of Catan – a favorite game of both Alicia and Fia. We also completed the dill chip challenge. Fia is infamous for her love of Swedish dill chips, and I purchased a couple of dill pickle (which isn't quite the same thing) for comparison. While Alicia won settlers, we all won on the chip challenge with each kind appealing to each of us.

And right away the next morning Fia went off with Joel Philips to drive down to Chicago, and I was back to work. I wish we could have met up with a few more local fans during her stay – August is a difficult time for many here, and the pandemic also means people aren't making as many social plans. But getting to show Fia around and get a quick taste of the area was great. I haven't been traveling for anything in fandom since the pandemic, and that's definitely something I've missed. And that's especially true with fandom in Sweden and Finland as I feel very at home with their fandoms, and it's a great experience to share my local area with friends from fandom from elsewhere – something that doesn't happens as often as I'd like.

Reading the *Runes*: Fandom's Reaction to Minn-stf in Print

Justin E.A. Busch

Clubzines were in at the birth of fandom. *The Comet*, the very first science fiction fanzine, was published by and for the Science Correspondence Club. The Sciencecers offered theirs, *The Planet*, a few months later. And so it began.

Few clubzines lasted very long, because few of the clubs which sponsored them lasted very long. Few clubzines were widely read, because most of them catered to the interests of small and localized groups, especially in the early days of fandom, when actifans nationwide numbered in the dozens rather than the hundreds. Those which succeeded in becoming well known, such as Forrest J Ackerman's *Voice of the Imagi-Nation* or Juanita Coulson's *YANDRO*, often did so by separating from the club which had birthed them (VoM, as it became known, was created out of the letter section of *Imagination!*, the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society's clubzine; Yandro grew out of *EISFA*, published originally by the Eastern Indiana Science Fiction Association, co-founded by Juanita Coulson).

As fandom expanded after World War Two and into the Sixties so did the possibilities for clubzines with ambitious editors. Some of the contemporary clubzines became, for a time at least, quite highly regarded. One of these, it may surprise many Minn-stf members to learn, was *Rune*, which began life as the *Minnesota Science Fiction Society Newsletter*, a very small clubzine.

The earliest issues of MSFSN seem no longer to exist, but they were probably not very different in size and scope from the current clubzine *Einblatt*. The first issue appeared in January of 1968; the name changed in June with issue 7. Only a few months later *Rune* 13 received what may be the first out-of-state recognition (from England, no less), in Ethel Lindsay's renowned review of fanzines, *Haverings* (#37, December, 1968/January, 1969): "I was really astounded by this one as it announced a contribution by Red Boggs [Lindsay's US agent]. However – it turned out to be a re-print from *DISCORD*. Still reads good, though, Redd's account of a reawakening of Minn. fandom. This zine heralds another awakening and it looks very promising." That Lindsay was enthusing over an as yet very small zine became clear with a brief comment in her next issue (February/March, 1969) regarding *Rune* 14: "4 pp and a mainly news-zine. although it includes the beginning of a fanzine-field coverage."



Already opinions differed about *Rune*. Lindsay found the main article in *Rune* 16 potentially valuable: "Apart from efficient news reporting; this has a history of fandom in Minneapolis starting in the mid30's. Very useful for would-be fan historians if more groups did this." (*Haverings* #40, July/Aug, 1969). Robert Coulson, in *YANDRO* 206 (May, 1971), was much less interested; reviewing *Rune* issues 20-22 collectively, he complained about the wasted space. "Unfortunately, the major material here is a continued series on old Minneapolis fandom by Redd Boggs, and as far as I'm concerned old fan club history is even

less palatable than con reports." Not that he was wholly dissatisfied; he saw some hope for the future: "Well, it's a neat appearing zine and I'm sure that sooner or later they'll print something (aside from the filk song in #20 and the nude in #22) that I like."

The two reviewers disagreed again regarding *Rune* 23. Coulson took a personal tone in his dismissal: "Almost entirely devoted to a con report by Mark Riley. Since I don't read con reports... (I do scan them for my name, and thank you, Mark, for the compliment on Juanita's singing. But I still won't read your report." Lindsay, on the other hand, did read the report, and found it praiseworthy: "the main item is a PECON 11 report from Mark Riley...he has made a good attempt to tell about the fans he met rather than give a string of names."

Rune's reputation continued to expand, particularly under the editorship of Fred Haskell; the 1976 volume was nominated for a *Locus* Award (*Locus* won, as it often did). His announced departure drew regrets from regular reviewers Hank and Leslie Luttrell, in *Janus* #6 (Dec., 1976): "What can we say? This is Fred Haskell's last issue as editor of this Minn-stf sponsored fanzine, and it should be stated that during his tenure *Rune* was interesting, witty, beautiful, stimulating, constantly experimenting, and altogether one of the finest fanzines of the 70s." A similar plaint was voiced retrospectively regarding *Rune* 50 by Brian Earl Brown, in *Scientifriction* 10 (October, 1978): "*Rune* was once like *Janus*: big issues, regular publication, vitality, etc., then its editor decided to go on the road. [... New editor David Emerson] hasn't the time to devote to *Rune* or the interest in devoting ALL of his time to *Rune*. So *Rune* returns to what it once was – not the big-time genzine Fred Haskell turned it into, but a modest-sized clubzine, with the emphasis on the club. Still #50 is not a bad issue."



Brown's attitude in his own reviewzine, the *Whole Fanzine Catalog*, remained positive through the next few years, though his admiration of Fred Haskell never faded. Of #52 he opined (WFC #1, July/August, 1978) that "*Rune* seems to be on the road back to – if not greatness – at least decentness since the leaving of Fred Haskell as editor a couple of years ago. [...] There's not enough hand-cut illos from Fletcher and Reed Waller, but one's second issue can't be perfect. This is a better than average fanzine." In WFC #2 (September, 1978) he was likewise impressed by #53, writing that, "With their second [sic] issue as editors, [Lee] Pelton and [Carol] Kennedy have brought *Rune* back on the road to its former

greatness. Oddly, what stands out is the serconish material." He singled out "an incredible cover by David Egge" for admiration. His praise reached a climax in reading *Rune* 54. It was, he said (WFC #4, November, 1978), "A clubzine that looks more like a genzine. In fact, it is one of the better genzines, which says something about the state of genzines today."

Something in Brown's reaction hardened over the next couple of years, and his joint review *Rune* 61 and 62 (*Whole Fanzine Catalog* #21, November, 1981) resurrected Fred Haskell in order to make a rather harsher assessment. "When I got into fandom Fred Haskell was editor of *Rune*," he noted. Haskell "produced big, quarterly issue [sic] full of the sort of weird humor known as Minneapolis bozness. [...] This was a really great *Rune*, people pointed to it as what a Clubzine should be like." Despite his earlier stances on subsequent issues of *Rune*, Brown now flipped aside the editors who had followed Haskell. "[Pelton and

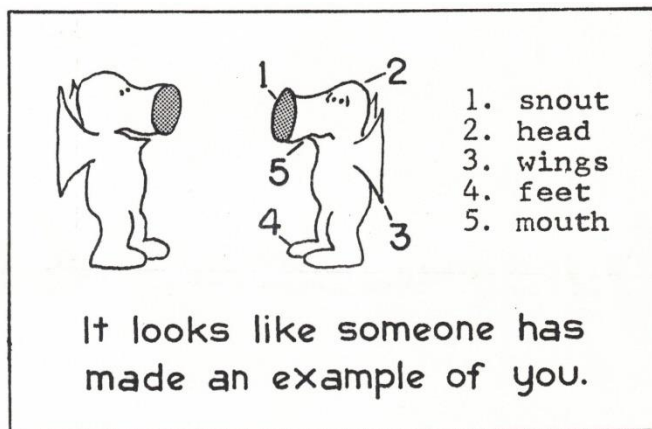
Kennedy's editorship] produced large, frequent *Runes* that looked like pale imitations of Fred Haskell's *Rune*. [...] Their *Rune* was a good but undistinguished fanzine." The new editors "are really out to do something different, just because *Rune* has been so predictable before. The trouble is that their contributions are no more distinguished than under the Pelton-Kennedy era and they haven't really mastered the many lay-out gimmacks [sic] they've tried out in these two issues". His verdict seems surprisingly harsh: "Currently I'd say *Rune* wasn't a very good zine but in time the editors might get in control of their material and produce an interesting zine." His conclusion, though, softens the blow; "At the worst, it's a glorious failure. Recommended."

Oddly enough, Robert Coulson, in *YANDRO* 253254, September, 1981, is much more gentle in considering the same two issues (and Issue 61). "Contents [...] are the usual variety. Humor about fandom, seriousness about science fiction, vice versa, and a few items that don't quite make it either way. *Rune* has generally been a lively fanzine; these issues seem livlier [sic] than usual."

By this time *Rune* was appearing far less frequently, and fanzine reviews in general were diminishing in quantity, or going online where their disappearance often left no archival trace. 2002's *Rune* 86, a memorial issue for Scott Imes, gave Andy Hooper, in *Littlecreek* #1 (August, 2002), a sense of hope. The new editor, Jeff Schalles, Hooper pointed out, "suggests that this might be the first issue of a renewed *Rune*, after several years of inactivity. If so, this is an excellent first step; if not, it's a fine piece of work on its own and a great collection of stories about a remarkable and much-loved fan."

Alas, *Rune* 87 did not appear until 2012. In the interim, John Purcell (who had been involved in Minnesota fandom in the early 70s while he was at Concordia), in *In a Prior Lifetime* (Jan, 2006), was inspired by issues 85 and 86 to write a tribute to past glories. "I am not sure," he began, "if *Rune* is even being published anymore." He considered the possibility of its demise regrettable. "If *Rune* is indeed dead, that would be a crying shame and a great loss in the fannish continuum. At one point in the Seventies, it was the epitome of the sfnal clubzine, with great writing, artwork, and regularly published." He concluded feelingly: "I really miss it!"

As the fact that you are reading this issue of *Rune* demonstrates, the zine is not dead – but its future life depends very much on the quality – and quantity – of material submitted. On this all of the editors and reviewers over the decades would quite agree.



Teddy Harvia



WHAT DOES THE ARCHIVIST DO?

Matthew Strait

January 2020:

Took stock of how much space the archives use now. They are about 2.5 feet smaller now than two years ago, despite having continued to add old and new material.

Feb 2020:

At the Minn-stf pool party, cataloged materials we have from other cons, 1974-1992.

De-duped program books from Linda against the archives and filed away an issue of Rune. Made list of fallcons on the web less confusing by not claiming that the Radisson South is in Minneapolis half the time and Bloomington the other half (Bloomington is correct).

April 2020:

Posted a scan of Rune 82 gotten from William Earl Haskell online. Backed up all of Fred's Rune scans on the mnstf.org web server. Transcribed old board meeting PDFs.

Completed conversion of all board minutes (and attachments) to plain text. This is mainly for easier searching. To some extent is also future-proofing against the day that there are no PDF readers anymore (experience so far suggests this will be surprisingly soon, but maybe experience isn't a good guide).

June 2020:

Put Einblatts from 1968, 1969, 1975 (one each), and all from Nov 1989 to June 1995 online, the latter run being courtesy of DD-B's scanning work in 2016. Now we have a complete run starting with Nov 1989 online.

Finished sorting and filing all of the materials I got from Linda in September. This includes APAs, fanzines, materials from Minicon, fallcons, non-Minn-stf cons, filk songbooks, and some miscellany. Found a sheaf of Plergbcon stuff (the 1982 fallcon) showing that we've been listing the hotel and GoH wrong on the web. Corrected that.

July 2020:

Sorted through donation of a box of Minicon materials from Jogn Fortier, stuff from Minicons 20-50. Found several publications for Minicons 34-50 we only had one copy of and could use one backup copy. Filtered through board minutes from 1988-1989, some of which aren't on the web in full.

August 2020:

Sorted Minicon 20-33 materials from Jogn into the archives, the give-away box, and the recycling bin, as appropriate. Updated catalog of Bozo Bus Tribunes. We now know that we have two full sets from each year Minicon 28 through 36.

Filed away the flyers for the two cons we have canceled this year (Minicon 55 and Decongestant 5). Later people will be confused why we advertised each as both in 2020 and 2021 [and 2022].

September 2020:

Cataloged the 2" of "misc. from Dave Romm estate", which completes the cataloging of that file cabinet drawer. Possibly the most interesting item in there is a transcript of Samuel Delaney's GoH speech at Anonycon II. There's also some lovely hecto art, and a lot of other art.

January 2021:

Cataloged more stuff from the top drawer of the first filing cabinet, which is a mish-mash. It includes bank statements (boring!), as well as a packet of publications from the Bozo Bus Building (interesting!).

March 2021:

Received seven boxes of papers (and buttons) that were Rob Ihinger's from Peg. First pass through Rob's archives. Sorted out easily sortable things like Minicon program books and Runes. Most of these are extras, but there was a copy of Rune 62, which at one point we had in the archives, and then went missing somehow, so now we have one again. There's about 2'3" of Minneapas, starting with #1, which is exciting. Huge number of Minicon buttons. I sorted them, packaged a pair of each for the archives.

Rearranged filing cabinet drawers to fit Minneapas in there. Cataloged Minicons 4-9.

April 2021:

Filed some papers recently received from Karen Cooper: Minicon 25's "Remember When" fanzine, a letter from Minicon 26's GoH, Gordy Dickson's memorial service program.

Started repotting Minneapas into archival-grade (acid-free, buffered) folders.

June 2021:

Discarded some very boring financial papers. The remaining financial stuff is not exactly a laugh-a-minute, and I probably kept more than will ever be interesting to anyone, to set the scale of how boring the discarded portion was.

Sorted through Minicon 12, 13 and 15 archives, deduping, and removing plastic covers from things that I put on before, meaning well (but it turns out that professional archivists say they do more harm than good). Cataloged Minicons 12 and 13.

October, 2021:

Put scans of sheets of Minicon 25 and 27 badges and some Minicon 28, 29, 30 and 32 volunteer badges on the web. (I scanned these 8 years ago and never posted them!)

Filed two NESFA instant messages and a thank-you note for our 2021 book donations. Cataloged Minicon 14 materials. Entertainingly and confusingly, found a short section of materials about Minicon 15 before it was (clearly) relabeled Minicon 14, which I will refile.

Cataloged Minicon 18 materials. Weeded as usual. Only a few sheets of blank paper this time. Also another guide to taking notes when receiving a bomb threat by phone

November 2021:

Cataloging Minicon 22 archives. Worked out better figures for registration totals from the registration cash-in forms and put them online. Then found the postmortem which directly gives the figures that I added up (only 4 off from what I got). Removed a bunch of very rusty paperclips. Used the organized Minn-stf directories to answer a question from DD-B about names of fannish houses.

December 2021:

Fixed some transcription errors in the Minicon 1 program book text version.

Filed latest Minicon 55 progress report. Printed and filed previous e-mail progress reports for M55. Printed and filed concom minutes for Minicons 52 and 53. Searched through archives for mentions of proposals to officially not have an official abbreviation of "Minnesota Science Fiction Society", but came up empty.

Started cataloging Minicon 25. Further cut down the number of program book covers and progress reports. Sorted minutes, and removed many duplicate copies.

Tried to read a 3.5" floppy disk found in the Minicon 25 archives. It was near program book stuff and is labeled "AD-X Tom", or maybe "AO-X Tom". Both my 386 and 486 report "General failure. Abort, retry, fail?" Maybe it is Mac formatted. It doesn't say one way or the other. Or maybe it is toast after sitting in the archives for 30 years.

Put Rune 20 and 21 PDFs up on the web. These are over 50 years old and probably can't embarrass anyone at this point.

Finished cataloging the Minicon 26 archives.

January 2022:

Started cataloging the Minicon 27 archives. I think that after discarding one Minicon 27 pocket program, there are now really and truly only two copies of it in the archives. There must have been dozens to begin with, scattered all over and variously hidden.

Updated the Long List of Fallcons with information from DD-B that Not-Anokon 2 was definitely at the Holiday Inn Capitol, as per its contact sheet. Asked him for a scan of that sheet.

Finished cataloging the Minicon 27 archives. Filed two cassette tapes from Linda Lounsbury. Attempted a transcription of a business meeting recording from 1971, but the sound quality is so bad that I didn't get more than snatches here and there.

Sorted Rob's papers, not yet filed, into piles for each Minicon, non-Minicon Minn-stf stuff, and non-Minn-stf stuff. Immediately filed a few Reinconation papers. Puzzled over what to do with a binder that has a mix of Minicon 21 through 25 materials, and made no decision.

February 2022:

Got two different copies of the script for Midwestside Story from DD-B at the Minn-stf fire pit meeting. Also got 3 new NESFA Instant Messages from Linda.

April 2022:

Put a photo of a Minicon 32 t-shirt, encountered at Minicon 55, up on the web.

May 2022:

Scanned and posted Einblatts from 1980-1984, plus two Einblatt postcards from 2001. All Einblatts in the archives are now online. Added editors' names to pre-1983 Einblatts.

September 2022:

Tried to figure out which Minicon a partial ops log from Rob Ihinger is from; did not have much success. Filed away materials from Minicon 55 and Diversicon, mailings from NESFA, and recent financial statements. Started working through big binder of Robs with Minicon 20-25 (or so) materials.

Found that the Convivial 4 folder, with Dave Romm's badge (and nothing else), had fallen down and become wedged behind the bottom drawer. I put the badge in its right place, cataloged it, and put a photo up on the Convivial 4 page.

I was looking at Minicon 20 materials and decided we've been listing the musician group GoH incorrectly. We've listed them as "Bob Berlien and the White Women", but the program book, PR1, PR2, and at least one flyer list them just as "The White Women". Switched over to this. Also noted that they added a guitarist, Joe Jones, at the last minute, and he should probably also be considered a former GoH.

Official Business

How to vote (in Minn-stf)

Since we've mostly had virtual meetings since March 2020, the board has amended the bylaws to make it clear that attending a virtual meeting counts towards voting membership status. This applies both during the pandemic and afterwards for meetings "intended to be primarily attended remotely".

We amended the bylaws to make it clear that virtual meetings count as meetings for the purpose of notifying the club that we've amended the bylaws.

As a reminder, attendance at five meetings is required for voting membership. Up to three of these can be concom meetings; at least two of them have to be regular Minn-stf meetings. (We reduced these numbers, from seven and five, in 2019.)

Officers

Welcome to new officers Dean Gahlon (1st Vice President), Isaac Schneider (Quartermaster), Osce Erikson (Einblatt editor) Carol Kennedy (Cheer Secretary). Thanks for taking charge!

And thanks also to continuing officers Sharon Kahn (president for life), Nico Johnson (2nd VP in charge of seconding), Irene Raun and Carol Kennedy (treasurers), Hershey Harris & Linda Lounsbury (co--correspondence secretary), Matt Strait (recording secretary and archivist), and Clay Harris (webmaster).

New website design

Nicholas Nelson contributed a new style for our web site, which is now live. Hey thanks! Like our old style, it's a fast, clean design (loads in 0.8 seconds for Matt), but it's snazzier now.

Minutes of Board Meetings are posted on mnstf.org. These are the minutes for the most recent board meeting.

Minn-stf board meeting, on Jitsi, Sept 13, 2022, 6pm.

Attending board members: Matt Strait (recording), Aaron Vander Giessen, Scott Raun, Linda Lounsbury, Isaac Schneider (starting about 20 minutes in).

== Approve previous meeting's minutes ==

Approved!

== Review TODO list ==

* (2022-08) Scott will make sure Carol knows we'd like confirmation each month that our bank statement has been reconciled. Scott should remind her of this. He's not sure if he's said it to her or not.

* (2021-06) Scott will correspond with ASCAP to tell them we had no events in the last two years. Still has to happen.

* (2021-08) Scott will have Irene call US Bank and tell them that Matt and Isaac should be able to use the online banking. This happened. But Matt still doesn't have access. So he should call US Bank. Not sure about Isaac.

* (2022-08) Aaron will do the new org form for Vanguard and get the appropriate people to sign it. He has it printed and ready to go, but he has to make the rounds, which will probably happen in October, given Aaron's travel schedule. There's no deadline to file, but we can't take money out or move money between our funds until we've done it. We can deposit without having done it yet.

==Done==

* (2022-05) Scott will update Emily and Kevin about how Irene is going to be an owner of the US Bank account. And tell Irene and Emily that we want to open a third checking account. This item turned out not to make any sense after we talked to the bank.

* (2022-05) Scott will make sure that the US Bank "owners" get changed and the new checking account gets opened -- it turns out that the part about "owners" doesn't make sense and was dropped, but we did get a new account opened.

* (2022-08) Linda, could you get to the PO Box and see if a new box of checks is there? Isaac already has the checks. They came to Scott's house. Also, Scott got a statement for just the new account. Apparently they have it in a different box than the other two checking accounts, which have a statement that goes to the PO Box. This probably means we're getting two charges for paper statements, which is annoying. Let's eventually fix this, but after we get online access working.

* (2022-08) Matt will announce the next meeting to officers and chairs.

* (2022-08) Aaron will ask Ken to send Matt what Ken's requirements are in a hosting service. Matt did this, so it's probably moot that Aaron do it. See also below.

* (2022-08) Matt will see if we can get a virtual server at Dreamhost in a practical way: see below.

== Review recurring task list ==

Nothing this month.

== Book donations ==

Linda contacted Don (Uncle Hugo's) again. He doesn't have the books yet. He's been very busy opening his new store. Do we have a special deal with him, or are we just paying regular prices? Regular prices. Linda might try just walking into the store and buying some books. [Spoiler alert: Don had the books ready on Sept. 14, and Linda delivered 39 volumes to Washington Technology Magnet School in St. Paul on Sept. 20. Previous donation of 36 volumes delivered June 13 to Central High School in St. Paul.]

== Web hosting ==

Currently we pay nothing under Dreamhost's non-profit plan. For this, we get unlimited storage space, but not all the capabilities of running persistent CPU-using jobs that Ken wants for the Minicon site. Matt's opinion is that the Minicon site only needs to have a dozen pages with text and a few photos and it seems like our current plan is more than enough to handle it. Dreamhost wants you to use WordPress to get the capabilities that we want (i.e. easier for non-geeks to edit, comes with pretty templates) with the plan we have. Ken's opinion is that WordPress is horrible and insecure.

Ken wants to move us to a different host. Matt really wants to stick with Dreamhost, because we have really a lot set up there and moving will break it all. To get a Dreamhost VPS (which can do the things Ken wants) with enough space for us would cost \$660/year. We've also discussed hosting only the current Minicon site elsewhere with a redirect.

Practical options:

1) Keep doing what we're doing and accept that the website is boring looking and can only be edited by a few computer geeks.

2) Host the current Minicon site on whatever Ken wants, but keep the rest on Dreamhost.

3) Have another volunteer set up WordPress on Dreamhost and use that.

As Isaac recalls, Ken said he'd pay the cost for option #2. Matt will revive the e-mail discussion and see what Ken is thinking. None of that was obviously board business, so let's review what parts of it really are. Questions for the board:

* Would the board consider moving all of everything Minn-stf's to another provider? We don't really want to, no.

* Is the board ok with having the current Minicon website hosted elsewhere? Yes, as long as it's documented (in the wiki?) what we're doing and we feel like we can keep track of things. And also as long as each place we're hosting stuff has at least two people who can access the data and payments.

== Conventions ==

* Minicon 55

Matt sent his final report to the board. It's attached to these minutes [see details on-line].

And now we're done with Minicon 55.

* Minicon 56

We're filling in the holes in the department head list. Now we only need one more person for the programming committee (to meet Katie's minimum request). Apparently begging helped. We need a teen room head, and we have a tentative one, and they will probably be able to tell us by January. We have a lead on kids programming that we haven't followed up on very well yet. New idea: we should have an accessibility head. Emily has served this role in the past (without being credited for it).

We still have our GoH and our hotel, and everything's fine. We have a concom meeting Oct 18, 7pm, on Discord.

(Not specifically Minicon 56 business) We'd like Aaron to ask GPS to properly credit us on their website. We're only being credited in one of three places we should be.

* Minicon 57

No news. Still have our one GoH, still have not looked into hotels.

* Decongestant 5

We have a Vampire GoH now. Also Fastner and Larson will be there. A few people are registering; the deadline is Sept 21, so we won't know how many people are coming for a week yet. All department heads are full except that it would be nice if someone could make a nice programming booklet.

* Minneapolis in 2073

We threw a party two nights, got 58 new members (with upgrades, a net of 52 more paying members), and took in a total of \$813.85 and 10 Turkish Lira. We spent \$428.30.

Now have plenty of material for a Progress Report 11, and have already registered to throw a party at Windycon. Also preliminarily planning on a big party at Pemmi-con, the 2023 NASFiC in Winnipeg (but they don't have any information yet on how to do that).

Currently sitting on \$689.37 plus various and sundry physical non-fungibles. This is greater than the \$500 we agreed would be the maximum without opening a bank account for the bid. But that was in 2011, and inflation-adjusted is like \$650 now. Request increasing the limit and inflation-buffering it for another 5 years or so. How about \$750?

Scott would like, instead, to say that it's triggers if it's been over \$500 for 6 continuous months. All approve. Matt is, in fact, probably about to spend around \$300 on ribbons.

== Rune 92 ==

Linda asks for a budget. Matt quick looked through old minutes and saw that we budgeted \$250 for a Rune in 2012, so he proposes \$300. All approve. Of course Linda can come back later and complain that it isn't enough if it isn't.

== Next meeting ==

Linda's, 4125 Dupont Ave S, 1pm on Saturday Oct 29.

== New TODO list ==

* (2022-08) Scott will make sure Carol knows we'd like confirmation each month that our bank statement has been reconciled.

* (2021-06) Scott will correspond with ASCAP to tell them we had no events in the last two years.

* (2022-09) Matt will call US Bank to get access to the online banking.

* (2022-09) Isaac will try to access to the online banking.

* (2022-08) Aaron will do the new org form for Vanguard and get the appropriate people to sign it.

* (2022-09) Let's see if we can get the same mailing address on all our checking accounts.

* (2022-09) Matt will announce the next meeting to officers and chairs.

* (2022-09) Matt will attach the final Minicon 55 financial report to these minutes.

* (2022-09) Aaron will to ask GPS to credit us properly on their website. Isaac will send him the details.

Minicon 55

Mostly-financial Report

Submitted 13 Aug 2022, revised in a non-meaningful way 13 Sept 2022

Matthew Strait, Minicon 55 treasurer, reporting for himself to Phoenix (Don) Stremski and Vic (Sharla) Stremski, Minicon 55 chairs, the Minn-Stf board, and the Minn-Stf treasurer.

Memberships

Obviously this year was totally bizarre, what with Covid causing us to delay the con twice. Preregistrations were taken over a three-year period starting at Minicon 54 in April 2019. At Minicon 54, we took 173 pre-registrations. As usual, there was a lull with almost no registration activity; only 28 more people joined through the end of November 2019. From Dec 1, 2019 through when we postponed the con the first time, 146 more people pre-registered, peaking in February.

Only 4 people registered between the first and second postponements. Then 84 people registered in the lead up to when we actually had the con, with a large majority, 58, in the final three weeks before the deadline (i.e. in March 2022). Finally, we had 52 at the door. The final pre-reg number of 432 is up slightly from Minicon 54, which had 424, but who knows what that means? The no-show rate was higher than ever seen before, with 112, or 26% of preregistered members not attending. Presumably most of the people who registered in the final lead-up to the con in 2022 did attend (I guess maybe Clay could see if that's true, if we cared). Given that the typical no-show rate is more like 2% to 6%, that means probably something a bit over 30% of the people who pre-reg'd before Covid was a thing didn't come.

What does it mean that the at-the-door total was way low? Maybe it just means that since people had three years (and two extra deadlines) to pre-reg, more people who meant to pre-reg managed to do it. Or

maybe it just tracks the warm body count. The fraction of warm bodies from at-the-door registrations has been about the same for the last four Minicons at about 15%.

Anyway, I think it is reasonable to assume that a large chunk of the 112 no-shows will not be attending Minicon 56, either because of ongoing Covid concerns, or because they have moved away, died, lost interest in cons, etc. So I'd hazard a very rough guess at the Minicon 56 membership total at this point of around 425. Of course, that's not a foregone conclusion, and we have a lot of time to try to boost that through outreach.

Income

We got \$19,546 from memberships, 83% of the total income of \$23,607. Although many of these were via PayPal, we mostly pass the transaction fee along to the buyer. We ended up paying a net \$34 because PayPal raised their fees in the middle of the year, and because some transactions have higher fees. In both cases, we only passed along the standard old fee.

We got \$2621 of donations. This includes a single donation of \$2000 from an anonymous donor soon after Minicon 54. (Without this donation, 90% of income would have been from memberships.) Of the remaining, \$509 was from people adding \$10 to their membership fees, or buying memberships even though they knew they didn't have to (i.e. former GoH). The "free will" table generated \$95. Finally, \$17 was taken at the 2020 pool party.

We made \$382, net, from t-shirt/sweatshirt sales. This includes sales of new M55 shirts, and old shirts at a discount. If you add up the numbers prior to this, you get 435. I think the difference is because we refunded a few memberships, including for at least one person who had died.

The art show made \$232 from hanging fees and commissions. As usual, I do not count the other 90% of the art show sales gross towards either our income or expenses, since it is the artists' money and we are merely facilitating the sales. (This is the correct thing to do for IRS purposes.) Of this, \$46 was eaten by credit card processing. Finally, we got \$825 from dealers' room tables.

None of these numbers are big changes from Minicon 54, except for the one big donation.

Expenses

We paid the hotel \$10,094 for everything apart from GoH rooms. This was way over my budget of \$7200, which was based on Minicon 54's actual of \$6522, Minicon 53's actual of \$7128, and Emily's tally of \$8675 pre-M53 for what it should have cost as per the contract. I do not understand why it was so much, and I need to talk to Aaron about that.

We also paid \$411 for GoH rooms, which was nicely under budget because we only ended up having one GoH. GoH travel cost us \$929, cheap! This was known ahead of time since Elise is local. The GoH food stipend was \$240, also a large savings because we only had one to feed.

We paid \$649 for badges and Minicon 56 pre-reg forms. We made 104 at-the-door badges, of which only about half were used. They cost 95¢ each this year (the price fluctuates with the cost of materials), so that's a bit annoying, but not really a huge expense. At-the-door numbers are hard to predict.

I budgeted \$4000 for the consuite, \$8/member for an estimated 500 members. Actual spent was only \$2666, or \$7.10 per warm body. The bar was given a budget of \$1000, \$2/member, and actually spent \$938 (\$2.50 per warm body). Neither the consuite nor bar budgets include the cost of the rooms; that's part of the hotel budget.

Publication spending was totally wonky because we sent out extra mailings updating people on Covid stuff. Total spent was \$3051, which is about a grand more than Minicon 54, but probably would have been about the same if not for the extra mailings.

We had room parties at Marscon and then Marscon again for a total cost of \$500 even.

Music spent nothing on a budget of \$300, but they do plan to buy equipment ahead of M56.

Programming spent nothing on a budget of \$100. Volunteers bought a big pile of volunteer swag t-shirts for \$771. I think that most of these are as-yet not used, and we don't expect to repeat that purchase anything like annually. \$100 was budgeted for costume contest prizes, but I'm 99% sure there was no costume contest, and no one asked to be reimbursed for any such thing. Although we had a Rumpus Room/kids room, there wasn't a head, and no one asked for any money. We spent \$86 on stuff for parties at Minicon 55. The truck cost \$165. We didn't spend anything on meetings or work parties, which is less than the usual \$100 to Carol for food at the Wednesday Night Work Party. \$83 of petty cash was spent at con. We didn't buy insurance.

We paid a net \$77 in banking and credit card fees (mostly mentioned above, less a tiny amount of interest as we sat on pre-reg money for three years).

The total of all expenses was \$20,645.

Bottom Line

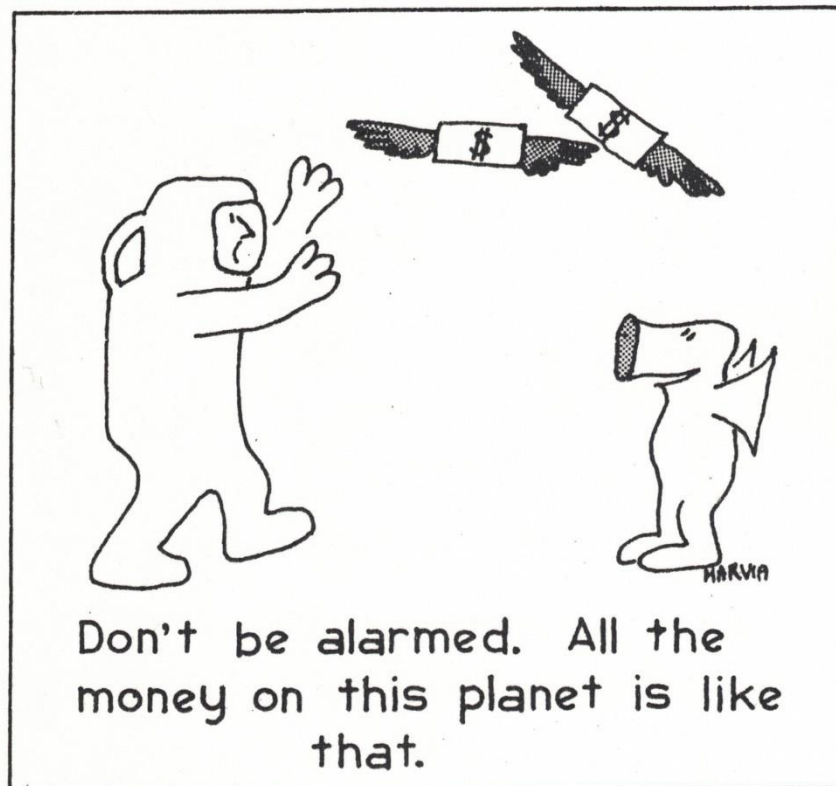
We returned a profit of \$2961 to the main Minn-stf account on July 28, 2022 in a single bank transfer. This managed to be on time as per the bylaws, which give us 6 months after the con.

The final hang-ups were getting people to cash their reimbursement checks, although while I was waiting for that, a few unexpected transactions occurred, like Bill realizing he had overbilled us for badges and giving us some of the money back.

Anyway, I'd consider a faster new-fangled method of reimbursing people if it is not more expensive than using checks (63¢ per check at the exorbitant cost of US Bank checks, but should be more like 30¢; plus 58¢ for a stamp and like 2¢/envelope if mailed – so preferably under 30¢ per transaction and definitely under \$1.25) and it allows for making a memo that says what the transfer is for. (US Bank's online banking system is a good anti-model for this; it doesn't even allow memos for internal transfers.) I'd much prefer it worked from our bank account and didn't require parking money somewhere else, like PayPal (which sometimes charges nothing if they don't consider it a purchase, and sometimes around 3%, which is too much).

The amount of our profit is nearly the profit target set by the board of \$3200. But don't draw any conclusions from that. If we hadn't had that \$2000 donation, we'd be far short. But without Covid, we'd have spent \$1000 less on publications. But without Covid, lots of other things would have been different too. Minicon 56 will still sort of have Covid, but in a different way that we can't even predict yet.

For a long term view, Minicons 51-55 made a total of \$4411 over their combined targets (\$882 per year on average). So we're doing ok and probably don't need to change our overall financial strategy. But since the board has increased the club's expenses by about \$1000 during Covid (\$1300 in annual book donations, less somewhat cheaper total meeting cost), we do have to consider how easy it is for Minicon to raise an additional \$2-3 per member



Recommendations for Minicons 56 and 57

- Remember that artists might incur ~\$1k of shipping costs, although that doesn't happen every year, even when we have an artist.
- Our M56 hotel expenses are (mostly? somewhat?) locked-in from a contract written pre-Covid, so we don't expect them to rise. For M57, all bets are off and we may well expect them to go up, given four years of inflation, perhaps around 15%.
- We can expect food prices to be higher by maybe 10% for M56.
- We've already raised the at-the-door rate to \$75 for M56, which still leaves it cheaper than any time since Minicon 25 (1990), inflation-adjusted. It's probably time to raise the pre-reg rate to \$50 for M57. Inflation-adjusted, this would probably still leave it lower than any time since the early 90's. We can revisit the data and our budget in early 2023.

2022 HUGO AWARDS

Best Novel

A Desolation Called Peace, by Arkady Martine (Tor)

Best Novella

A Psalm for the Wild-Built, by Becky Chambers (Tordotcom)

Best Novelette

“Bots of the Lost Ark”, by Suzanne Palmer (*Clarkesworld*, Jun 2021)

Best Short Story

“Where Oaken Hearts Do Gather”, by Sarah Pinsker (*Uncanny Magazine*, Mar/Apr 2021)

Best Series

Wayward Children, by Seanan McGuire (Tordotcom)

Best Graphic Story or Comic

Far Sector, written by N.K. Jemisin, art by Jamal Campbell (DC)

Best Related Work

Never Say You Can't Survive, by Charlie Jane Anders (Tordotcom)

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form

Dune, screenplay by Jon Spaihts, Denis Villeneuve, and Eric Roth; directed by Denis Villeneuve; based on the novel *Dune* by Frank Herbert (Warner Bros / Legendary Entertainment)

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form

The Expanse: Nemesis Games, written by Daniel Abraham, Ty Franck, and Naren Shankar; directed by Breck Eisner (Amazon Studios)

Best Editor, Short Form

Neil Clarke

Best Editor, Long Form

Ruoxi Chen

Best Professional Artist

Rovina Cai

Best Semiprozine

Uncanny Magazine, publishers and editors-in-chief Lynne M. Thomas and Michael Damian Thomas; managing/poetry editor Chimedum Ohaegbu; nonfiction editor Elsa Sjunneson; podcast producers Erika Ensign & Steven Schapansky

Best Fanzine

Small Gods, Lee Moyer (Icon) and Seanan McGuire (Story)

Best Fancast

Our Opinions Are Correct, presented by Annalee Newitz and Charlie Jane Anders, produced by Veronica Simonetti

Best Fan Writer

Cora Buhlert

Best Fan Artist

Lee Moyer

Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book

(presented by the World Science Fiction Society)

The Last Graduate, by Naomi Novik (Del Rey Books)

Astounding Award for Best New Writer (presented by Dell Magazines)

Shelley Parker-Chan (1st year of eligibility)

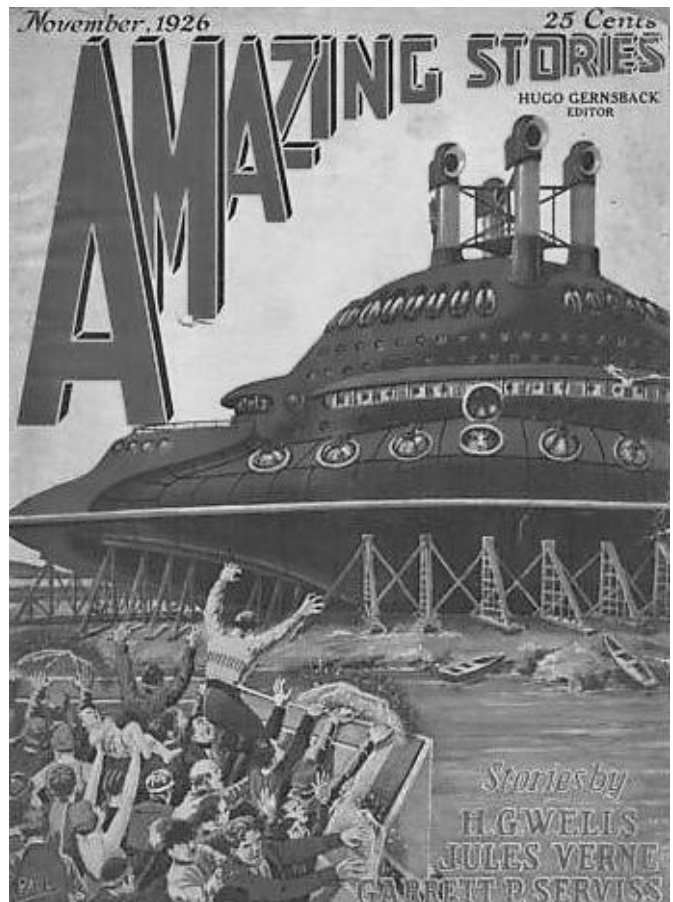
Calling All Fans!

April 2026 marks the centennial of *Amazing Stories* — and thus the birth of the science fiction genre. Let's persuade the USPS to produce a set of colorful commemorative stamps!

Subject matter suggestions should be submitted in a simple letter three or more years in advance of the proposed stamp. Your letter should detail justification for the request.

One suggestion is a five-cover set (20 Forever stamps): *Amazing Stories*, *Wonder Stories*, *Astounding Stories*, *Startling Stories*, and *Planet Stories*.

Contact the postal service sometime this year or early next year. You can start at <https://about.usps.com/who/csac/>, the main site of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC). Here you will find the answers to the central questions. The selection process itself is explained at <https://about.usps.com/who/csac/#process>; the section on criteria is at <https://about.usps.com/who/csac/#criteria>.



The Postal Service welcomes suggestions for stamp subjects that celebrate the American experience.

“The Postal Service will honor extraordinary and enduring contributions to American society, history, culture or environment.”

Any proposal that meets the established criteria will be considered. If you are interested in submitting an idea, please follow these four steps:

- Submit your proposal in writing by U.S. mail.
- No in-person appeals, phone calls, or e-mails are accepted.
- Include pertinent historical information and important
- dates associated with the subject in your proposal.

Mail your suggestion (one topic per letter) to the address below:

Stamp Development
Attn: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Please note that due to the time required for research and approval, ideas for stamp subjects should be received at least three or more years prior to the proposed issuance year.



send in the clowns

Do-it-yourself color cover
by Laramie Sasseville