1971-75 - Noreascon and the Proceedings

Boston finally got its first Worldcon in 1971 - Noreascon, chaired by Tony Lewis. Pre-con I helped Fred Isaacs produce the restaurant guide. (Now that was an arduous task - being forced to eat a lovely meal at a different restaurant every week!) At the con, I was pretty much just a gofer. I remember helping with the Masquerade and also collecting payments at the auction.

I made my major contribution to Noreascon a few years later, when I edited the *Noreascon Proceedings*. Because Worldcons were still single-track in those days, it was entirely possible to record and publish the full text of the program. A few previous conventions had done it, and we wanted to do the same, but it took a few years before I finally volunteered for the job.

The production was a lot more difficult that it would be in this day and age. We first paid a commercial transcriber to make a first pass typescript of the text. Then I had to go over it, listening to the whole thing again and marking up corrections. (My favorite: there was a "science fiction phantom" that was referred to in many places in the text. This was actually supposed to be "science fiction fandom!")

Then we paid another professional typist to type the whole thing on a variable-space typewriter in column width. The titles were produced via a product called "Letraset", by which I would laboriously transfer the letters one by one from a plastic sheet. Then everything was pasted up onto layout sheets, the lovely photos from Jay Kay Klein were laid in, the covers were designed with artwork from Don Simpson, and the whole thing went to the printers. It was my first book, and it was a labor of love.

Bostor in 71

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