

The Cross Plainsman

A Journal of Robert E Howard Studies by Frank Coffman
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Two Proposals: REHSA and The Cleo Awards

The Robert E. Howard
Studies Association
and
The Cleo Awards

two proposals presented
by Frank Coffman
9 June 2001
to a group of Howardians
assembled at
The Howard Days Celebration
Cross Plains, Texas

and formally proposed herein as a call for
Founding Members from the ranks of
Fellow Rehupans

I. NAME AND CONSTITUTION:

This proposal is that a loose association of enthusiasts for and scholars of the life and literature of Robert Ervin Howard be formed for the purposes of general and informal communication and the advancement of appreciation, understanding, and discussion of that life and literary legacy. It is further proposed that this association be called "The Robert E. Howard Studies Association" or "REHSA" in acronym. And it is further proposed that at least one formal and official function of this association be the balloting (each ballot to be called a "nomination") for the annual CLEO AWARDS,

presented to individuals in recognition of various achievements relevant to Robert E. Howard Studies.

II. MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in REHSA shall be open to:

- 1) any active or former member of one of the REH amateur press associations (REHupa and REHeapa, currently -- and others that may be formed, but only upon a two-thirds majority vote of the current membership at the time of the formation of other such APAs);
- 2) anyone who has formally published an article on the life and/or literature of Robert E. Howard in:
 - a) any established print journal that has or had a run of at least four issues, or
 - b) any published anthology or book on the subject of Robert E. Howard with a press run of more than 300 copies, or
 - c) *The Dark Man: The Journal of Robert E. Howard Studies*, or
 - d) any person who has both published at least four articles on the life and/or literature of Robert E. Howard on an internet web site, and has maintained said internet web site for at least a year and maintains the same at the time of their membership.
- 3) any person whom a majority of the current membership decide to invite into membership by a simple majority vote by a balloting of the current membership
4. Membership is EXCLUDED to: any individuals whom a two-thirds majority of mem-

bers of REHSA might decide by ballot either not to invite for membership OR to remove from membership.

5. Multiple eligibilities on the part of a Member do NOT afford the privilege of multiple votes.

III. THE CLEO AWARDS/"THE CLEOS":

The "Cleo Awards" (so named because of the chalk art deco bust of Cleopatra that seems to have been REH's favorite "objet d'art") shall be presented once and no more than once in any given calendar year (customarily at the Howard Day's event at Cross Plains, Texas in early June, or at some other significant event with reference to Robert E. Howard [for example: The 100th Anniversary of REH's Birth Celebration / Conference "in the works" for January 2006].

- Lifetime Achievement
- Biography
- Fiction Studies
- Poetry Studies
- Professional Artist/Illustrator
- APA/"Zine" Artist/Illustrator
- Publishing
- The Rising Star

IMPORTANT NOTE: These awards are not intended to and do not represent a "winner" or "best of" in or for any given year. They are simply recognitions by REHSA honoring "significant and excellent" accomplishments in REH studies and other areas relevant to the furtherance of the appreciation and understanding of the Life and Literature of Robert E. Howard and do not imply that others are not also or equally deserving of such honors in any given year. Others nominated for each award will be listed and honored each year by their simple presence on the list of nominees.

IV. RULES GOVERNING THE AWARDS:

1. The Lifetime Achievement Award, being the Association's highest honor, and being also representative (as the name implies) of a life of significant and excellent work in Robert E. Howard studies and related areas, may only be received once.

2. The Rising Star Award can only be received once -- again for obvious reasons.

3. The Professional Artist/Illustrator Award may only be presented once to any given individual.

4. All of the other awards may be received multiple times, but an individual may NOT receive the same award again until the third year after last receiving it.

5. The same individual may NOT receive more than one award in any given year. In case balloting determines that a person earns a plurality of nominations in more than one category, the individual shall receive that year's award according to the following formula in descending order of importance:

a. In that area not previously awarded to the individual, unless there are two or more of these areas, in which case --

b. In that area not previously won by the individual in which the greatest plurality of ballots for the individual obtains.

c. In that area previously awarded but less/least recently awarded to the individual.

6. ALL persons nominated by ballot in EVERY category (each ballot shall be called a "nomination") will be mentioned as "also nominated and therefore honored" at the time of the awards.

7. The exact totals of ballots/nominations will be known only to a small committee, entrusted with the collection and counting.

8. This "Cleo Awards Committee" shall consist of 5 persons to be selected from among the current membership and shall be elected every third year according to the following formula:

a. One member will be selected by and from the membership of *REHupa*.

b. One member will be selected by and from the membership of *REHeapa*.

c. One member will be selected by and from the Board of Consultants and Reviewers for *The Dark Man: The Journal of Robert E. Howard Studies*.

d. One member will be selected by and from the membership of Robert E. Howard internet discussion groups (cur-

rently *rehinnercircle* and *rehfans*), with the proviso that this member is also an active member in REHSA according to the guidelines above.

e. One member will be selected at large from among the total membership of REHSA At Large.

The members of the Cleo Awards Committee, once constituted, shall select their own Chair by simple majority vote

This committee shall oversee all aspects of the Cleo Awards: planning, announcements, collection of ballots/nominations, tabulating results, and preparing for the actual awards event. This would include the procurement and/or preparation and transportation/shipping of the CLEO awards and the printing of announcements and certificates.

NOTE: Serving on this committee will obviously be more of a JOB than an "honor" or "position of power" in any sense.

V. OTHER POSSIBLE FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ROBERT E. HOWARD STUDIES ASSOCIATION (REHSA):

1. The possible development of an informational web page and presence -- perhaps serving as a clearing house of information -- Maintaining comprehensive and up-to-date LINKS pages

with connections to all significant (as deemed so by the membership) REH-related URLs.

2. Assisting Project Pride, Wandering Star, or any other REH-related endeavor deemed to be in keeping with the interests of the Association.

3. Promoting and helping to maintain avenues of communication and dissemination of information relevant to the advancement of REH studies and related activities and/or events.

4. Helping in any way possible with the achievement of a successful REH Centennial in 2006.

5. Working in a determined effort prior to the 2006 Centennial to discover whatever possible heretofore undiscovered photographic and other historical and "living history" artifacts or data — specifically in Cross Plains and Brownwood, Texas — that might add to the understanding and appreciation and available information on the life, times, and literature of Robert Ervin Howard [To this end, see the following article in this number of THE CROSS PLAINSMAN for a separate proposal.].

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE TO THE ELIGIBLE
SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME
and FOUNGING MEMBERS of REHSA are
hereby WELCOMED from among the ranks
of my FELLOW REHUPANS

Proposal for a Cross Plains/Brownwood Discovery Project With Special Emphasis on the Life and Times of Robert Ervin Howard

I am also proposing an initiative for the discovery and preservation of historical, cultural, and possibly even biographical data on the Life and Times of Robert Ervin Howard.

This discovery initiative would need some up-front funding to bring to fruition, but the results might be both surprising and rewarding regarding their significance to Robert E. Howard studies. It

would also be less costly and potentially more fruitful than the travel and expenses of individual investigators.

What I propose is the announcement of a search for photographic, textual, and other artifacts from the 1920s-30s era in Cross Plains, Brownwood, and environs in the CP, Brownwood, and other local newspapers, including the high school papers in CP

and Brownwood and that of Howard Paine. This would, of course, mean the cost of placing such advertisements or otherwise announcing this campaign. Perhaps PROJECT PRIDE might also get involved in this initiative.

What would specifically be announced in these advertisements would be:

1. The call for either the loan of actual — or preferably digital quality scans of — photographic images with as much information as to content, identification of individuals and/or places pictured, and some evidence or proof of provenance. [I believe that a likely multitude of historically significant photographs exists in the scrapbooks of local residents and that some “living history” still exists in those persons yet alive who date back to that era.] The copyright for these photographs would be kept by the owners or rights to reproduction could be negotiated depending on the significance of the photos. The possibility that some photos yet undiscovered exist of REH himself is also most intriguing. These, or photos of members of REH’s “circle” would be most significant, of course, but the cultural and historical setting of REH’s world and surroundings would be significant as well.
2. The call for any letters, news clippings, journal entries, etc. that might add further textual background for the life and times of REH.
3. The call for voice recordings of any and all survivors of that era who might be willing to do so for the preservation of a “living history” record of remembrances and reflections in the human voice of REH, his surroundings, and his

era in the Cross Plains and Brownwood vicinity.
4. The call for digital (or analog) videos of the same as #3 above from those willing to leave this sort of record.

NOTE: The prompting questions that might lead the responses in these voice and video recordings might either be mailed to persons willing to contribute and/or sessions could be set up during either the Howard Days or other visits by Howardian interviewers — or handled by Project Pride. The hope, of course, would also be to have free ad lib “ramblings” and reflections from such interviewees, the rich content to be edited later for especially relevant quips and quotes.

In addition to these advertisements, I believe a rich store of material may still be available in further inquiry into the formal education of REH at CP and Brownwood (regardless of the value he himself placed upon it). While a few still survive who might assist in the recreation of what REH’s formal school experiences might have been: curricula, specific texts used in classes, grades earned, journals extant? of instructors in those days hidden away in attics? etc.

This could be undertaken by the members of REHupa [or more generally of REHSA as described above] as our project for the coming year(s) and on a par with (likely near or perhaps even beyond the cost of) the purchase of the rare REH library item for last year’s presentation to Project Pride and CP.

Your thoughts on this proposal are most welcome.

Frank Coffman

My apologies for missing the last number of the Official Mailing (and for the submission of this BOM [Barely Over MINAC] issue).

This semester at my college has been (as they say) HELL! I’m on too many committees including Grievance, Contract Review, Faculty Council, etc., and my dissertation director wanted something from me in the form of chapters — fancy that. “*READ MAILS*” (my MCS) will try to catch up next issue. — F.C.