Additional Selected Resources


This is a first-hand account of Comic-Con’s origin story. When he was twelve years old, Alfonso introduced Shel Dorf and Richard Alf to each other; this set in motion the events that led to the creation of Comic-Con. This article was written just before the 2009 Comic-Con at which the founding members were honored. It was the first time Alfonso had attended in more than 30 years.


This obituary of Richard Alf from Inc. includes some interesting facts about both Alf and the convention he helped found.


This is the transcript of a 2010 KPBS interview from the These Days in San Diego radio program featuring Comic-Con co-founders Richard Alf and Mike Towry. Together, they tell the story of Comic-Con’s early days. An audio recording of the broadcast is also available at the site.


This is the most thorough book-length work yet published about the history of San Diego Comic-Con International. Covering the first four decades of Comic-Con’s existence, this lavishly illustrated book covers the convention’s birth and early development, as well as charting the big changes that have transformed it into the well-known event that exists today.

SDSU Library Call Number: PN 6725 .C646 2009 Reference

This unsigned early example of national press for Comic-Con (in *Newsweek*’s “Life and Leisure” section) treats it as something of a quirky novelty. The convention is identified by the name under which it went in 1972, the West Coast Comic Book Convention in San Diego.

SDSU Library Call Number: AP 2 .N6772 (5th Floor Periodicals)


In one of the first pieces ever published about Comic-Con, this article (which was published on the front page of the newspaper’s “B” section) discusses the first event ever held by the organization, San Diego’s Golden State Comic-Minicon. This one-day event was staged to raise money for the first full con that was held in August of 1970. This article includes a photograph and quotes from Shel Dorf.

SDSU Library Microfilm Number: F-173


Published during the week after the January 2012 death of Richard Alf, this article provides one comic fan’s view of the influence of Alf and the other co-founders of Comic-Con. Includes a few photographs.


Local newspaper coverage of the second Comic-Con, held at the University of California at San Diego’s Muir College.

SDSU Microfilm Number: F-173


This article was written during the first full Comic-Con held at the U. S. Grant Hotel in 1970. It provides a contemporary first-hand account of the convention’s first day.

SDSU Microfilm Number: F-173.

This book-length study provides an interesting overview of the development of fan culture and the people who create it. Even though attendance at Comic-Con has tripled in the years since this book’s publication, the author nonetheless states that “the San Diego Comic-Con International is especially important to the industry for making deals and is clearly the most well attended by professionals.” (p. 159)

SDSU Library Call Number: PN 6725 .P87 1999 (4th Floor Books)


In 2009, Comic-Con International’s 40th anniversary celebration included paying tribute to the people who co-founded the organization. This article tells Comic-Con’s origin story and gives some details about the tribute celebration.


The San Diego Union Tribune’s obituary of Comic-Con co-founder Ken Kreuger details such things as the early convention planning at Kreuger’s Alert Books store in Ocean Beach.

Link: http://web.utsandiego.com/news/2009/nov/26/ocean-beach-bookstore-was-launching-pad-comic-con/


The San Diego Union Tribune’s obituary of Comic-Con co-founder Shel Dorf provides some details of Dorf’s life, especially his involvement in comics and fandom.


The San Diego Union Tribune’s obituary of Comic-Con co-founder Richard Alf provides information on Alf’s life and involvement with Comic-Con, as well as his work with San Diego State University to document Comic-Con’s history.


This book is a treasure trove of mostly pre-Comic-Con fan activities. It discusses the development of amateur comics, early conventions, and fanzines. Although Comic-Con is mentioned, there are few details of its founding provided; rather, it is considered within the context of fandom on a larger scale. Nonetheless, San Diego Comic-Con International is called “the premiere comic book convention in the world.”

SDSU Library Call Number: PN 6725 .S37 2003 (4th Floor Books)


A companion to the Spurlock documentary film of the same name, this book features not so much of the early fans who founded Comic-Con as it does the fans that now crowd into Comic-Con every July. Dozens of color photographs by Alba Tull capture cosplay artists as well as a variety of other Comic-Con participants. This is an excellent snapshot of many of the fans who now attend.

SDSU Library Call Number: PN 6725 .C6464 2011 fo (4th Floor Oversize)


Complied by San Diego Comic-Con co-founder Mike Towry, Comic-Convention Memories is a website where people can share their memories of comic conventions generally, although the San Diego Comic-Con is emphasized. The entries are divided into categories (by name, by year, etc.), and the site includes links to related sites such as Shel Dorf Tribute (http://www.sheldorftribute.com/) and Ken Kruger Tribute (http://www.kenkruegertribute.com/). This is an excellent source for first-hand accounts of Comic-Con.

Link: http://www.comicconmemories.com/

In this fascinating remembrance of co-founder Richard Alf, co-founder Mike Towry tells the story of Comic-Con’s beginnings in his own words. This is a detailed article with a lot of information not found in some of the other sources listed here.

Link: http://www.comic-con.org/frontpage/richard-alf


This profile of Comic-Con co-founder Shel Dorf discusses the origin and early days of the convention and gives Dorf’s views of the tremendous growth of the convention’s popularity.

SDSU Library Microfilm Number F-173

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May 2013