



Museum Textile Services

Classification: World Science Fiction Society banner
Materials: Cotton hoist, rayon ground, cotton letters
Dimensions: 94 ¼ x 139 ½ inches

This mid 20th-century banner belongs to the World Science Fiction Society, which has hosted WorldCon since 1939. Because the banner is made of cotton and rayon, and bears a resemblance to WWII-era rayon flags, it may be the Society's original banner. It is suspended from two grommets on the hoist binding each year at WorldCon, after which it is folded up and stored.

The banner is in good condition overall. It is structurally intact with few or no losses to the hoist, lettering, or body. The main concern is evidence of water damage to the banner, seen most clearly in the white appliquéd lettering. The cotton or rayon from which the lettering is made also exhibits foxing, or scattered iron staining, which is rarely reversible.

The banner was surface cleaned by Museum Textile Services with a HEPA vacuum to remove particulate matter. It was then wetcleaned with deionized water, which reduced deterioration products and improved the overall appearance. Deposits of paint were removed with solvent.

The banner was padded with tissue, folded, and packed in a small archival storage box so that it can be easily transported to each convention. The banner is now in a better state for long-term preservation.