

Steampunk?!

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One of the few new ideas in science fiction I've heard in a while was expressed at Anglicon: What if the Second and Third Industrial Revolutions occurred a century earlier, say in the Victorian era? *The Difference Engine* is far from the only SF story based on this premise, and Anglicon featured a panel, styled "Steamcon", exploring the subject.

Here are just some of the novels and stories the panelists mentioned: *Infernal Devices* (Signet Fantasy, 1987) by K.W. Jeter, *The Other Log of Phileas Fogg*. New York: DAW, 1973) by Philip José Farmer, Moorcock's "Oswald Bastable" novels (*The Warlord of the Air*, *The Land Leviathan*, and *The Steel Tsar*), and Wellman and Wellman's *Sherlock Holmes' War of the Worlds*.

If they ever held a "Steamcon", the panelists suggested program items such as the following: "Star Trek vs. Steampunk"; "Steampunk in Comics"; "Your Favourite SF by Gaslight".

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