

## Robert A. Heinlein (1907-1988) (A UU of Sorts?)

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Biography: (See William H. Patterson, Jr., *Robert A. Heinlein: In Dialogue with His Century*, vol.1 (2010), vol. 2 (2014).)

Born and grew up in Butler and Kansas City, Missouri.

BS, Naval Engineering, US Naval Academy, 1929.

Officer, USN, 1929-1934. Served under Capt. Earnest J. King, later FADM and CNO in WW II. Medical retirement, tuberculosis.

Active in politics, Democratic, socialist.

(Campaigning for Upton Sinclair, for governor of California (1934). Ran for state legislature (1938).)

Sexual freedom, nudism.

Published first short story, "Life-Line," 1939, *Astounding Science Fiction*.

During World War II, aeronautical engineering, Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

Marriages: Elinor Curry, 1929. Leslyn MacDonald, 1932-47. Virginia Gerstenfeld, 1948- 88.

Highly successful writer of science fiction 1939-1988.

Conservative (?) politics, 1958 on. Strongly anti-communist, pro-military; but anti -racist, -sexist, -slavery.

### Fiction and Philosophy

Juvenile novels (primarily) – 1950-59 (many serialized in *Boys' Life*).

Adult novels of society, war, and sexuality – 1960-73.

*Starship Troopers*, 1959. War, individual, the state.

*Stranger in a Strange Land*, 1961. Culture, biology, sexuality, religion.

*The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress*, 1966. Imperialism, revolution, anarchy.

Novels of metaphysics, consciousness, alternate universes – 1973-1988.

*Time Enough for Love*, 1973. Sexuality and bonding, social disintegration.

*Friday*, 1982. Individuality, feminism, violence, decay of society.

*Job: A Comedy of Justice*, 1984. Religion and myth, alternate realities.

Themes:

- Individualism; distrust of government, civilization, majority rule.
- Reverence for practical competence and integrity.
- Elitist, not populist.
- Anticlericalism with mysticism.
- Feminism?
- Use of fiction to spark philosophical debate.