I have seen the video about the making of the tartan Hugo you will know that the idea came from a Peter Weston article that was written for Noreasoncon 4. I sent out a call for content for a Journey Planet about Hugo's and Deb Geisler mentioned the article and asked Geri Sullivan to send it to me. That was April of 2022. Little did they know that the tartan had been finalized and was open for orders February 13, 2022. It felt like the perfect timing.

In September of that year we had a committee meeting in London. I brought it up as an idea “Wouldn’t it be great if we could...” and Meg MacDonald saw that the Hugo announcement and Eastercon was March 29 - 31... the next day was April Fools Day. Esther said yes to the idea I immediately started sketching and emailed Vincent Villafranca. It couldn’t just be a rocket... it had to be a whole Hugo.

I got an email back from Vincent almost immediately and the sketching and giggling continued for quite some time.

If you look at the artwork there are a number of things that I added to the design and some things that didn’t make it to the final. I wanted it to be simple but also have nods to both Glasgow and the other base Vincent and I did for San Jose. The armadillos are of course a nod to the SEC in Glasgow affectionately known as the armadillo. The traffic cone was in reference to the statue of the Duke of Wellington in Glasgow which sports a traffic cone a lot of the time. There is of course an amazing flying haggis on the side sculpted by Vincent and a sleeping kitty which I sculpted originally for the San Jose base. I think the coolest addition to the base was Vince adding “1/1 - there can be only one!” to the bottom.

I went home and started sculpting. The original armadillo was in polymer clay and sat on my desk until World Fantasy in October of 2023. This is where the first handoff happened. Also Vincent happened to have a sculpting class at WFC and I sculpted a armadillo there. Then I left the bronze work to Vincent and went off to figure out how to get a Hugo rocket water dipped with the tartan fabric design....

Vincent Docherty was able to get a rocket to me at Smoccon in Providence. At first I was thinking I would hydrodip the rocket myself... but realized I only got one chance to do it right and the videos I watched seemed a bit technical. So I found a place here in Texas who did hydro-dipping and was referred to another place who could make the tartan film so I was in business.

At this point is when I knew I was not going to be able to make it to the UK for April 1st and Eastercon. So in pure fandom transport methods James Bacon was coming to Capricorn so then he passed it on to Tammy Coxen who then passed it on to Vincent Docherty in Boston who finally got it into Esther’s hands at the meeting in February. How I know why people say not to carry a Hugo in your hand luggage...