

BÄRCON



Information for english-speaking sf fans

Everybody is talking about Berlin, the city where something so unbelievable happened that even science fiction writers would not have dared to foresee it. But there is still something slightly more exciting going to happen in 1991. From September 6th to 8th science fiction fans will meet at the "BÄRCON '91" held by the Berlin Group of the "Science Fiction Club Deutschland" (SFGD). Set in the last week of the "Internationale Funkausstellung", it is a chance for you to get not only an insight into future media but also into German science fiction fandom.

This is not the first sf con in Berlin. There have been an "Insekcon" in 1967 and two "BÄRCONs" in 1980 and 1985. The "BÄRCON '91" is also the "ANDROCON 1" that means it is the official annual con of the SFGD.

German sf fandom has always had international contacts, Julian Parr, for example, was co-founder of the SFGD and Forry Ackerman was among its very first members. So don't be afraid to come to the "BÄRCON" (pronounce: "bare-con") if you don't speak fluent German, or if you don't speak it at all! Though we cannot afford simultaneous translation there will be lots of fans on the con who will take this as an occasion to speak some English.

So what can you expect beside a warm welcome at the "BÄRCON '91"? The motto of the program is "makers, readers, fans and collectors", that means there will be something for everybody. The scheduled topics are:

Publishing houses in West Berlin

Before World War II Berlin was the most important publishing city in Germany. After the war most publishing houses were moved to West Germany. Today there is no sf publisher left in West Berlin. It will be discussed whether the coming unification of the two Germanies and the Common European Market will be able to change this situation.

Anniversaries

1991 is the year of the great science fiction anniversaries. We are going to appreciate some of them, like 30 years "Perry Rhodan", the most successful German sf series, and 25 years "Star Trek", which has lots of fans in Germany, too.

Film

We want to settle the question: Is the rubbish often presented as "sf films" to be taken seriously or is it just a hidden parody?

Collectors

Book collectors always have a hard time: Not only the everyday disasters like fire, flooding, burglary or bookworms constantly threaten their collection. Also the fear of built-in decay by acidic paper constantly shatter their nerves. Book experts will clear up the question whether our science fiction books will ever last to see the future they describe.

Fans

The SFGD will hold its official annual meeting on the "BÄRCON '91". That means, important decisions might be made and the literary prize of the SFGD (the "German Hugo") will be awarded.

How to get to the "BÄRCON '91"? *see above.*

The "BÄRCON '91" is going to take place at the "Lindl-Festsäle" in Neukölln, Hermannstr. 217-219; D-1000 Berlin 44. It can be easily reached by underground (station "Boddinstraße" on line 8) or by bus (lines 4 and 91). See also map on page 3 of this booklet. As Berlin will be quite crowded during the "Funkausstellung" you should book your accommodation as early as possible. So fill out the hotel reservation form on page 6 (or the enclosed English form) and send it to: Verkehrsamt Berlin, Europa Center, D-1000 Berlin 30.

BÄRCON '91 - reservation form

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ City _____

Country _____

Telephone _____

Attending membership (includes free admission to all events and receipt of publications)
Fees: DM 25,- till Dec. '90
DM 30,- till June '91
DM 35,- from July '91

Supporting membership (includes only receipt of publications)
Fees: DM 10,- till Dec. '90
DM 16,- from Jan. '91

I have paid by transfer to the bank account of "Science Fiction Club Berlin",
No. 6233-104, PGiroA Berlin, BLZ (bank code number) 10010010.

I have enclosed a cheque made payable to "Science Fiction Club Berlin".

I have paid in cash.

Please send me information about stands for publishers or dealers.

I would like an exhibition stand for my fanzine (free of charge).

Fanzine: _____

Questions, suggestions, remarks etc.:

Date _____

Signature _____

Please send form to:

Bernhard Kempen

Kärntener Str. 29

D-1000 Berlin 62

WEST GERMANY

Telephone: 030/7819624