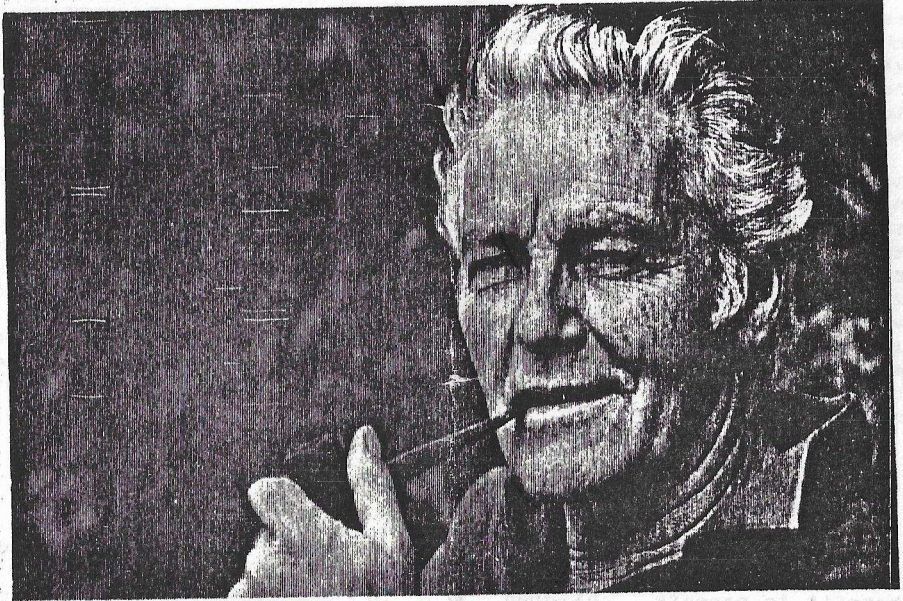


BECCON PR 2



RICHARD
COWPER

THE STORY SO FAR

Once upon a time there was a little Convention called BECCON, and the word went out that they were taking registrations. So the people sent their money from far and wide, until the Committee were overwhelmed and took to hiding in corners.....

In fact, we have had a real problem with the number of registrations recieved, which has exceeded all possible anticipations. Unfortunately the hotel in Basildon has only a certain number of rooms, and there is no other accomodation within several miles so we are unable to arrange for an overflow. Now it is our belief that everyone who has signed up for a Convention has a right, should they wish, to a bed. Consequently we have had to stop taking Memberships now that the number of members equals the number of beds in the Hotel, unless on the understanding that a bed is not guaranteed. Naturally we are aware that there will be various people who, although they already have a membership, will not, for one reason or another, require a bed. We have also opened a waiting list for those people who have not yet joined, and will only wish to do so if they can get a bed.

So what we will do is this:- Progress Report 3 will be issued in the New Year (late Jan/early Feb) and will contain the Hotel Booking Form. The Booking Form will have a deadline of a month or six weeks, to give those, up to number 210, who have a guaranteed chance of a room, the first option. After that we will deal with the members after number 209, and those on the waiting list. When that is all sorted out, we will re-open for memberships at Easter, if there is still any room left. In other words we will take all possible steps to deal with room allocations in the fairest manner we can devise - but it will have to be up to you to return your Booking Form promptly, as we cannot hold rooms vacant indefinitely.

KIDDIECON

In common with other Conventions, such as Novacon, we have found that there are several people with young children who have signed up for BECCON, and so we are planning to run a creche, as we reckon this is of benefit to parents, children, and to the rest of the Convention. Obviously this is still in the early planning stage, so we can not say what the facilities will be or whether we might have to make a small charge for them. For when the creche is not operating, the hotel can provide a listening service. It would help if we knew who was planning to bring children - how many, and what age. Also is anyone willing to help out for a while, or know of anyone (perhaps a non-fan) who would be willing to supervise a creche for a small remuneration?

(And I always thought that a creche was a car accident in Chelsea! Ed.)

DATA PROTECTION BILL

In common with most Conventions, I imagine, BECCON keeps membership records on a computer and we have been concerned that this legislation may present problems. We have, however, now studied the relevant sections of the Act and concluded that we are O.K. - provided everybody has been informed. You have, of course, now been so informed.

ADDRESS

All correspondence for BECCON 85 should be sent to:

199 The Heights, Northolt, Middlesex, UB5 4BY

where Kathy Westhead will deal with it (or maybe Mike).

HOTEL

Just to remind you, the hotel for BECCON 87 is the Crest Hotel, Basildon, but room bookings will be handled by the Committee and the hotel should not be contacted directly. Room rates for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday will not be more than;

Single	£19.00
Twin/Double	£32.00

Prices include V.A.T. and English Breakfast. Should anyone wish to travel down earlier for some reason (there will be nothing happening) then we can also obtain these rates on Thursday night for a few people.

PROGRAMME

At this stage the Programme is only in outline, with a list of ideas to fill that framework. Many of those ideas still have to be developed, and some will fall by the wayside, but I think we can safely say that we will be having;

FILMS: a varied selection, and they will run all through Saturday night.

FIREWORKS: we will again experience the illuminating presence of those urbane gorillas from Oxford.

AUCTION: so save your surplus books and cash.

(UN)USUAL Quizzes and panels.

GUEST OF HONOUR

As you may have guessed from our cover, we are very pleased to be able to announce that Richard Cowper has accepted our invitation to be Guest of Honour at BECCON. Author of at least a dozen Science Fiction volumes he is perhaps best known for the White Bird of Kinship trilogy. Roger Robinson will be producing a Bibliography for the Convention.

THE BECQUIZ

We warned you in P.R.1 that there would again be a BECCON quiz, and we have been racking our brains ever since to come up with something new, imaginative, and suitably fiendish.

In this P.R., on the next two pages, is set out the first part, the Beccroastic.

Part 2 will be completely different, and will be called the Becconundrum.

Part 3 will bear no resemblance to the others, and you are going to get no advance hints.

Parts 1 & 2 will be reprinted in PR4, in case you have lost them by then! So, have a bash, and even if this part is not your scene, perhaps part 2 or 3 will be! After all, the crucial bit of this one is to extract the acrostic, and you don't need to answer all the clues for that.

THE CLUES.

- 1 This monkey drew. This monkey lied.
Horribly drawn, it's owner died.
- 2 A son of David thought that these
Lived on Earth in all the seas.
- 3 Of vegetable life there is no dearth
During the long afternoon of earth.
- 4 You seek a Smith with eyes of grey.
In this direction lies the way.
- 5 After such knowledge this doctor sought.
The church said heresy was what he taught!
- 6 Plains of ice fostered this invention.
To sail on home was the intention.
- 7 This station's also known as Pell.
It won a ruddy Hugo, as well!
- 8 The autumnal city wounded lies.
A tricky work to summarize.
(We strain in doggerel to devize
A clue to massive weight and size!)
- 9 A long ago and far off place
Where Thongor ran a savage race.
- 10 What this concept means to me
Is thoughts of cooling cups of tea.
- 11 The land-worker reaps, without a fault
A woman a day, or a temporal halt.
- 12 You may find magic, myth, and mirth
With eyes above the dying earth.
- 13 Most will agree, there's no forgetting
The consequence of six suns' setting.
- 14 A pallid hero ruling here
Has walling sword that all men fear.
- 15 A Hobbit lives beneath a mound.
And so his alias may be found.
- 16 The rest of the robots have numerous flaws.
This robot - at random - runs rings round their laws.
- 17 When madness winks a doorknob's eye
Fairy chessmen far off spy....
- 18 This is the only place I know
You'll find a Desrick on

1	J	I	Z	Z	L	E			
2	O	Y	S	T	E	R	S		
3	H	O	T	H	O	U	S	E	
4	N	O	R	T	H	W	E	S	T
5	M	I	R	A	B	I	L	I	S
6	I	C	E	R	I	G	G	E	R
7	D	O	W	N	B	E	L	O	W
8	D	H	A	L	G	R	E	N	
9	L	E	M	U	R	I	A		
10	E					P			
11	T	I	M	E	S	T	O	P	
12	O	U	E	R	W	O	R	L	D
13	N					F			
14	M	E	L	N	I	B	O	N	E
15	U	N	D	E	R	H	I	L	L
16	R	O	D	E	R	I	C	K	
17	R					T			
18	Y					O			

'TEC - NO FEAR.

I suppose Earl Norbert Phetilfoon's ace detective career began when he was a simple cocoa salesman on the planet Incomnia. A simple mining community on an always dark surface, due to a dull primary and extensive cloud cover, the people had great trouble sleeping and worked extra-long shifts in order to bring on exhaustion. However Earl's cocoa put a stop to all that as one cup produced a psychosomatic reaction making the drinkers feel tired even if they weren't. Unfortunately the mine owners were none too happy with this, as productivity went down, and so stole and hid the supplies of cocoa. Luckily Earl, out for a stroll, having contracted the strange sleeplessness from the natives, fell into a hole where the cache of cocoa had been hidden. Simple fingerprint analysis pointed out the culprits and Earl was hailed as a hero in the planet's newspaper, which bore the banner headline CAD BURIES CHOCOLATE.

It was after this article went into galaxy-wide syndication that Earl was contracted to go to Earth by Sotherby's, and I accompanied him. Being somewhat paranoid about his own belongings he insisted on buying one of the most secure houses available, made by Sure Lock Homes, before we went to Sotherby's. Once there we found that they were auctioning tombstones of old sit-com stars; someone was defacing these and had to be caught. So far only one had been attacked, just behind the podium on which were a mike, hammer and auction list. This particular stone belonged to Captain Mainwaring's alter-ego and looked as if it had been attacked with a piece of cutlery - which would have required considerable strength. To find out who would mar Lowe we examined the cuts and found traces of fish eggs and peas. Earl immediately checked the guest list, and let out an "Ah ha!" "Does that mean that you have found the perpetrator?" asked I. "Confidentially, yes," replied Earl. "Oh. A private eye!" quoth I to the displeasure of those about me. A trap was prepared in Sotheby's cafeteria and we sprang upon the next muscular individual to order fish eggs and peas. "You," said Earl, "are Mr Hercules Pois-roe and you are under arrest for defacing tombstones." As the unlucky soul was dragged away I asked, "What will become of him?" "I suspect he will be incarcerated on the herb planet Spoth." "What a horrible place to do time." "Yes. Half the criminals harvest the spoth-herb and the other half prepare it by soaking it in hot water. A self sufficient prison planet." "How does the stuff taste?" "Horrible. Apparently too many crooks boil the spoth." It was at this point that I ceased to be Earl's assistant.

MEMBERSHIP LIST UPDATE.

A = Attending

S = Supporting

001A Richard Cowper	079A Ashley Watkins
070S Douglas Macdonald	080S Ozzie
071A Tim Illingworth	081S Aandi Inston
072A Liz Burak	082A Debby Moir
073A Simon Beresford	083A Mike Moir
074A D.G. Thomas	084A Sue Harrison
075S Mike Don	085S Moira Shearman
076A Kevin Reader	086A Helen McNabb
077A Marina Holroyd	087A Mike McNabb
078A Joe Gibbons	088S Mike Gould

089A Chris Cooper
090S Mike Molloy
091S Henry Balen
092A Mike Damesick
093A Larry Van Der Putte
094A Steve Bull
095A Peter Mabey
096S Graham Koch
097S Martin Tudor
098S John Styles
099A Susan Francis
100A Richard Van Der Voort
101A Marion Van Der Voort
102S Chris Seller
103S Gil Harris
104A Rory Kenny
105A Eileen Kenny
106A Malcolm Davies
107A Kate Davies
108A Helen West
109A Chris Suslowicz
110A Tom Taylor
111A Stephen Davies
112A Pat Gardner
113A Martin Hoare
114A Katie Hoare
115A Fabian
116A Charlotte Bulmer
117A Tony Chester
118S Barbara Rochford
119S Vincent Docherty
120A James Steel
121A Jackie Smith
122A Nick Mills
123S Iain Dickson
124A Saul Bura
125A Wendy Glover
126A Ken Brown
127A Graham Head
128A Denise Atkinson
129A Roger Campbell
130A Andie Oppenheimer
131A Phil Willis
132A David Plant
133S Duncan Booth
134A Morag Kerr
135S Lawrence Dean
136A Stuart Andrews
137A Lisanne Norman
138A Mr Rod the Druid
139S Karyl Weber
140A Paul Oldroyd
141A Chris Donaldson
142A Mary Carmichael
143A J.C. Reynolds
144A Stephen Rothman
145A Matthew Shackle
146A Ken Lake
147S Undepoldus
148S Delicia of Grod
149A Rick Fox
150A Robert Meades
151A Andy Robertson
152A Krystyna Oborn
154A Martin Howell
155A Richard Vine
156A Keith Knight
157A Peter Knight
158A Angela Insole
159A John Paul Smith
160A Pete Grove
161A Kim Campbell
162S Judy Smith
163S Julian Headlong
164A John Jarrold
165A Ros Calverly
166A Pam Wells
167A John Clute
168S Bruce Saville
169A Clute 2
170A Geoff Ryman
171S Kevin Rattan
172A Annette Kilworth
173A Garry Kilworth
174A Chris Walton
175A G N G Tingey
176A Helen McCarthy
177A Barbara Kitson
178A Shelley Ingram
179A Miles Harris
180A Steven Lawson
181A Laura Wheatley
182A Nigel Pearson
183S Jonathon Green
184A Dermot Dobson
185A P Dobson
186A D Williams
187A Charles Thornton
188S K.R. Armstrong-Bridges
189A Paul Brazier
190A Jenny Steele
191S Jessica Brennan
193A Joan Fine
194A Hugh Mascetti
195A Marsha Jones
196S Frances-Jane Nelson
197S Anne Wilson
198A Anne Page
199S Nick Lowe
200S Margaret Wellbank
201S Jim Barker
204S T.J. Furniss
205S Lilian Edwards
206A Fiona Anderson
207S Nick Rowsell
208A Chuck Partington
209A Harry Nadler
210A Tim Broadribb
LSTA Sylvia Starshine
501A Barbara Conway
503A Neil Taylor
504A Stephen Linton
505A Stuart Aston
506S Pete Gilligan
507A Tony Rogers
508A Peter Colley