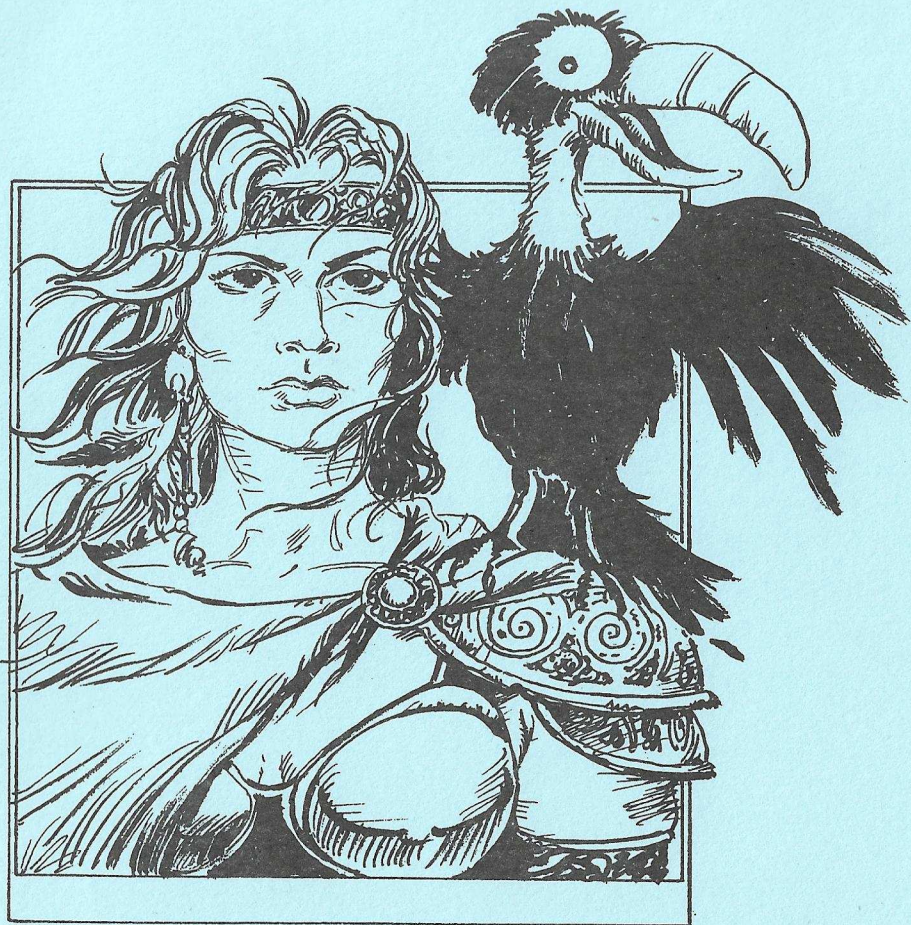


2 KON Progress Report 2

Eastercon: the British National SF Convention



Fangorn.

The Chair's Bit

Well, I expect most of you to be reading this on the way home from or after getting home from Reconvene. As with Programme books, no-one ever really reads anything they pick up at conventions, do they? Not unless they get stuck on gopher duty in some out-of-the-way spot, anyway. So, Reconvene is over and we're the next Eastercon. Time is creeping up on us. We've sorted out most of our deal with the hotel. We have confirmation of our guests, including Dr John Salthouse who will be trying to blow up the hotel (they're used to it and he hasn't actually managed it yet). We're beginning to put our staff structure in place, and our ideas for programme are laid out in KIM Campbell's article elsewhere in this issue. What is there for me to say about our progress? We're on course and where we want to be. Expect a higher profile from us now that we're the next Eastercon.

So, now that's over, I get to pontificate. Lovely word, that. Mind if I say it again? "Pontificate." Aaah.

There's been a lot of discussion on usenet recently about whether fandom is more or less welcoming than it used to be, about whether it's more cliquy, getting older and all sorts of interesting discussions about what fandom actually *is*. Well, I've only been in fandom for a decade, and haven't looked that heavily into fannish history, but from what I know of fandom from the 40s to the 80s the only thing I think I can say is that it's changed quite a lot. Changed a

number of times, too. Early fandom seems to have focused on the lettercols of the pulp magazines. From that it graduated to its own internal fanzines and early conventions were simply gatherings of those involved in writing/reading these fanzines and lettercols. Later, conventions themselves became more and more common and accessible, Star Trek fandom arrived and went its (mostly) separate way: somewhat influenced by existing fandom but essentially its own. Not having experience fandom before 1989 I can't really say whether it was welcoming and accessible before that, but I can say that I found it so when I came in. Much is made of the "greying of fandom", and I must admit there seem to be fewer under 30s now than when I joined in. Part of this, indeed I think much of this, is economic. Conventions are an expensive hobby and most people seem to come into fandom through conventions these days. Fanzines are not dead, indeed they have seen a resurgence in the UK in the last few years. But more people seem to go into fanzine fandom from conventions than come the other way, even relatively. In particular the student population who, in 1989-93 made up a large proportion of the young people in fandom, now have very little spare cash and conventions have got very expensive by comparison with little things like eating and paying the rent. Are we less welcoming than we used to be? I don't know. I found fandom very welcoming, but then I'm not particularly shy. I try to be welcoming

to new people when they find fandom, particularly if I can mug them into helping out (the more the merrier, generally) and while I do see cliques and stand-offishness, I don't see any more than I used to. Some young people may find the prevalence of mostly older fans daunting, but there's not much we can do about this. On the whole if we are honest in our advertising of conventions, and

organisations like the BSFA exist to spread the word of fannish activity generally, I think those who really need fandom will usually find us sooner or later, and they'll be welcomed when they find us. But, do your bit and talk to new people at every convention. You were new at this once, too, you know.

A³

Child Members Policy

(Please don't blame us - we didn't write the legislation!)

We regret having to publicise a policy such as this, but recent changes in the law (particularly as regards Scotland) mean that we must be extremely careful in our dealings with regards to child members of 2Kon.

Infant memberships are free to under-eights and Junior memberships are available for fifteen pounds for those aged eight to fifteen (at the time of the convention). Since we are charging membership fees for the eight to fifteen age range, they will receive publications and in addition we intend to try and make sure that at least two hours of programming per day will be accessible to Junior members.

However, we are unable to provide any organised childcare during the convention, nor can any rooms hired from the Central Hotel by 2Kon be used for this purpose. If we were to do either of these things every single gopher would have to be vetted for childcare purposes. This is obviously

unreasonable. We will be requesting a list of registered childminders from Glasgow City Council approximately six months before 2Kon. Please contact us if you wish to receive this information.

In addition, we would point out that the convention in general cannot be treated as childminding. Infant and Junior members are expected to be accompanied by at least one adult who is expected to supervise the child on-site at the convention. If the child is on-site the appropriate adult(s) should also expect to be there. We are running the convention for the adult members. We realise that some members are only able to attend if they can bring their children with them, and that most parents and children cause no problems. At some conventions, however, children may be unruly and/or left unsupervised. The 2Kon committee reserves the right to revoke the membership of such children *and their parents* should this become necessary (we hope it won't).

The 2Kon Committee.

Ken MacIntyre & Doc Weir Awards

The committee has noted the lack of candidates for this award in the past but have decided we will be attempting to present the Ken MacIntyre Award this year. This award is for fan art as shown in the year's fanzines.

Lack of entries has prevented the awarding in previous years. Artists wishing their work to be considered need to submit both the original artwork and a copy of the fanzine it appeared in to be shown in the Art Show.

Submissions by mail for consideration, for the award only, will be accepted as long as it is no greater than A4 size. Otherwise, bring it in person or arrange

with the Art Show Director, Robbie Bourget.

We will also be awarding the Doc Weir, the award for the unsung heroes of UK fandom. This is the award specifically for those who do not usually get the public acknowledgement for service given to the community. This is voted on by ballot of attending members of the Eastercon. There is no nomination process, so you can put anyone forward, as long as they have not held the award before. We will be printing a list of previous winners in the program book.

KIM



Son et Lumiere -

a Demonstration Lecture given by Dr. John A. Salthouse

Fire, explosions, combustions, detonations - Great Balls of Fire! Witness spectacular demonstrations performed safely - don't try them at home, you could demolish your house! Gas explosions sometimes do! Observe Blue Devils, understand chain reactions and rapid oxidations. Note the use of solid oxidising agents. See colour changes and cold light emission (chemi-luminescence).

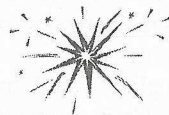
The show can be described thus: "*An entertaining and edifying extravaganza exemplifying esoteric effervescent and*

even extemporaneous explosions. Exegesis expedited ergonomically to evince extraordinary emphasis on exothermal exhibits".

In other words - it's here folks - the:

Flash-Bang Show!

John Salthouse



Hotel Information

The Central Hotel is the main con site and whilst all the activities will be taking place there, not all members can be accommodated there! The Carrick and Charing Cross Tower Hotels will be used for overflow accommodation and both are no more than 15 minutes' walking distance from the main hotel. All our hotels are located in the city centre and do not have private car parks, so fans travelling by motor vehicle may experience some inconvenience in securing their vehicles for the duration of the convention. Our Site Liason is currently compiling a detailed list of parking sites, which will be made available nearer to the event.

At the Central Hotel, room priority will be given to fans with sever mobility restrictions, dealers and women travelling alone and so, as you can appreciate, booking early is imperative. Every effort will be made to fulfil your booking request but neither the committee nor the convention hotels can make firm guarantees.

Highly competitive rates have been negotiated for the convention weekend, which will be honoured by both of our overflow sites. The rate is £30 per person per night, fully inclusive of VAT and breakfast. There will be no charge for children aged 12 years or under (at the time of the convention) but their parent(s) or guardian must pay for their breakfast. The Central also has a number of large family rooms that would be suitable as triple or quad

rooms, but these must be booked well in advance.

The Central Hotel is built alongside the station, which is the main terminus for trains coming from the South. All bedrooms have en suite bathrooms and the standard extras such as satellite TV and tea/coffee making facilities. There is a small health club in the basement, which has a gym, steam room, sauna, small pool, virtual golf simulator and jacuzzi, which can be used by all hotel residents. The convention will have three bars, including one for people who prefer not to smoke, and there will be a full restaurant service as well as snack meals available on the day.

The Carrick Hotel is approximately 10 minutes' walk from Central Station. All bedrooms have en suite bathrooms and the standard extras such as satellite TV and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a large bar and lounge, small games room and full restaurant service.

The Charing Cross Tower Hotel is approximately 15 minutes walk from Central Station and is predominantly a residential hotel only. Only twin or double rooms will be available at the Charing Cross Tower Hotel and a surcharge may be made for single occupancy (to be confirmed).

Paying your bill

The convention does not accept responsibility for non-payment of hotel expenses incurred by attendees. If a registered member fails to pay their

bill, the convention will assist the appropriate authorities in recovering the debt.

Fans intending to pay their hotel bill by cash **MUST** pay at least one half on arrival. All major credit cards will be accepted at the convention hotels. Payments by personal cheque *must* be supported by a valid bank card.

Things Worth Knowing

Only registered members of the convention can submit a hotel booking request. If you are planning to share a room, your sharer must also be a registered member of the convention.

Booking forms must be completed in legible writing, otherwise there may be a delay in processing your details, and the form returned promptly to:

2KON/HOTEL BOOKINGS,
Flat 1/2,
10 Atlas Road,
Glasgow G21 4TE

for processing.

There will be a compulsory deposit of £10 per room booking (non-refundable). If it is not included with the form, the booking will NOT be processed.

Include a contact telephone number or email address.

Additional comforts

If you have any special requirements that we should know about, please tell us! We would like you to enjoy your visit to Glasgow and don't want you to worry about the little things such as the firm mattress because you have a bad back! We need time to make arrangements on your behalf and we will be co-ordinating with Electrical Eggs UK as well. Fortunately, Site and Access duties are being carried out by the same person, which makes life less stressful for the rest of the committee!

We have a limited number of rooms in the Central hotel and will be giving priority to staff, single females and disabled fans. The rest will be allotted by ballot. To be entered in the ballot, you must return the Hotel Booking form *before October 1st 1999*.

If you have any queries about hotel accommodation, facilities or access, please contact Cuddles (Michelle Drayton-Harrold) at the following address:

Flat 1/2,
10 Atlas Road,
Glasgow G21 4TE

email: cuddles@batcave.ndirect.co.uk

Envelopes or subject headings should be marked as 2KON/HOTEL.

Cuddles



2Kon Programming

Speculative Fiction is the reading matter of choice for most people coming to this convention. Naturally our programme is going to centre on things that will enhance our appreciation and understanding of the genre. This year, we will focus on the art of storytelling and will use the Bard as a main motif. The work of our Guests of Honour Guy Gavriel Kay, Katherine Kurtz and Debbie Harris will help to illustrate this wonderfully, giving us many different interpretations of the role of the bard. The Bard is the Historian and Keeper of Law of a clan. The Bard is the Historian and Keeper of Law of a clan. The Bard is the Champions' advisor and companion. The Bard is a wielder of magic, and protector of the Heroes' history and reputation.

There will be plenty of chance for you to show bardic talents and tell your own stories, in words at the late-night round-robins or in music at the Filk session.

What sets Science Fiction apart from other genres is the element of speculation on where technology and society might be in the future, based on what is known today. In order to speculate we need to have an information base. To this end we are having a full programme of Hard Science, kicking off on the Friday night with the first of two performances of Dr

John Salthouse's famous (in Glasgow fandom) Son et Lumier show. Over the weekend, we plan a mixture of three levels of scientific knowledge: from that which would interest a curious 12-year-old, with some hands-on workshops to demonstrate basic principles, through to the up-to-the-minute story of where a particular science is today for people who work in the field.

We are fans, and the Easter convention is when we all get together to swap stories, catch up on the year gone by, and take the chance to show off to each other. This means we will have the usual measure of silly games and quizzes, with the Masquerade and the Ceilidh for which we have become famous. In addition, of course, the Bid session for the right to hold the 2002 convention, an entertainment in itself. Costumers may be interested to hear that we intend to have a post-Masquerade session with the technical crew on Sunday morning to decide how to do things better next time.

The programme is still flexible, so if you have any ideas for things that would fit, feel free to write to us at the committee address, or to speak to me or Ben Yalow, my assistant, at Reconvene.

KIM



Sailing to Sarantium by Guy Gavriel Kay

This is Guy Kay's seventh book, the first part of a two book sequence called *The Sarantine Mosaic*. As with his previous three novels it is based upon European history, with leanings towards the Middle East in this case: as suggested by the title the Byzantine Empire is the main inspiration. Some of his earlier works have been described as Byzantine, so it does seem fitting.

As with his previous books, the geography and history behind the story is thinly disguised. His previous books rewrote some terrible historical events (reversing the outcome of the Albigensian Crusades in *A Song For Arbonne* for example). Each previous book has moved further from fantasy and towards pseudo-history. In this book, the magic has come back. While I liked his previous two novels (*A Song for Arbonne* and *The Lions of Al-Rassan*) I found them to pale in comparison with *Tigana*. *Sailing to Sarantium* has re-captured some of the spirit of *Tigana*. To find out whether it will equal or surpass his earlier work, one must wait for the second instalment, hopefully to be launched at 2Kon by Earthlight Books.

The main character is a mosaicist from Rhodias (Rome) whose elder partner is summoned to Sarantium (Byzantium) by the Emperor to work on a religious monument. His elder partner being unwilling to make the journey, Caius Crispus is persuaded by various events that travelling to Sarantium in his partner's place is necessary. *Sailing to Sarantium* shows Crispus' inner

journey from grief, over the death of his wife and daughters of plague, back to life, through the journey and his love of art. Behind all this is a background of magic (represented by the alchemist Zoticus in Rhodias and the pagan ceremonies Crispin becomes involved in during his journey) and politics (starting with a secret visit to the precariously placed ruler of Rhodias and culminating in his involvement with the labyrinthine plots in Sarantium).

The religious background in *Sailing to Sarantium* appears to be shared with that in *The Lions of Al-Rassan*. In *Lions* the Asharite (Muslim) and Kindath (Jewish) religions are more prominent in the story. In *Sailing to Sarantium*, the recent supremacy of the monotheistic Jaddite (Christian) religion over older pagan beliefs is somewhat explored. Early Christian controversies (such as the divinity of Christ) are mirrored in the arguments over the status of Heladikos, a Promethean figure who sacrificed his own life in bringing fire from Jad (the Sun) to mankind. While Crispin is a (relatively) devout Jaddite he is forced to re-evaluate his belief in the supremacy and solo existence of Jad by his experiences while 'Sailing to Sarantium' (actually he walks, but we are constantly reminded of the allegorical meaning of that statement). Crispin's experiences with 'magic' beginning with Zoticus and continuing throughout his journey and on into Sarantium itself.

Kay has written the first half of a work which has the potential to be his best yet. The complexity of the political intrigue is worthy of the Byzantine background, and his extensive research into the real history gives a depth to his imagined version that many fantasies

lack. Provided that he can pay off all the mysteries and intrigues of *Sailing to Sarantium* in the second book, *The Sarantine Mosaic* could become a modern classic.

A³

Membership Rates: an announcement

In keeping with our 'keep the convention affordable' policy, the **Attending** membership rate will be increased to £30 (\$55) on the **1st of October, 1999**. The other rates will remain the same. The membership rates are:

	Rate (to 30 th November)	Rate (from 1 st October)
Attending:	£ 25 (\$ 45)	£ 30 (\$ 55)
(Unwaged)		£ 20 (\$ 35)
Supporting:		£ 15 (\$ 25)
Infant (0-7):		Free
Junior (8-15):		£ 15 (\$ 25)



Debby & Katherine - together

As well as their solo works, Katherine Kurtz and Deborah Turner-Harris have teamed up on a series of present-day fantasy adventures, *The Adept*. These follow the actions of Sir Adam Sinclair, baronet, surgeon, patron of the arts and member of a small cadre of psychic warriors whose job it is to prevent the powers of darkness from taking over the world.

The background to this series is very much like one of Katherine's earlier books, *Lammas Night*. In the modern

series the powers of darkness are not working through Hitler, but rather a group of individuals who owe allegiance to the dark in return for temporal power. These villains are beautifully characterised (as are all of Debby's characters, good guys or bad guys) and, as a result, at times you find yourself rooting for them.

Scottish history contains a number of strange and mystical items, from the Faerie Flag of Clan McLeod to the Loch Ness Monster and the Holy Grail

(reputed to be kept in the crypt of Rosslin Chapel). The authors pick up these oddities and weave around them episodes in the ongoing battle of good versus evil.

They don't confine themselves to Scottish history though. *Dagger Magic* harkens back to *Lammas Night* in that the dagger in question was part of Hitler's vast trove of religious artefacts. This book also shows Debby's penchant for getting technical details right. I turned up for dinner one evening to be asked 'How do you jump-start a U-boat?' (I won't tell you how or why, read the book!)

For anyone with a roleplaying bent,

these books provide a marvellous campaign setting. They combine modern day technology with lost magic and the ultimate powers of light and darkness. I would thoroughly recommend these for anyone with a long train journey looming, as once you pick them up you don't want to put them down.

The Adept Series:

The Adept
The Lodge of the Lynx
The Templar Treasure
Dagger Magic
Death of an Adept

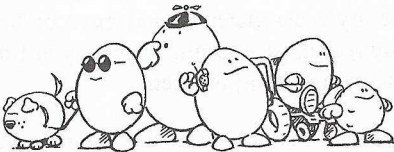
Also Available:

The Temple and the Stone



Protected Species

It goes without saying that there will be a lot of fans flocking to Glasgow in 2000. However, hidden in that flock there will be a number of fans who will need a little bit more help than most. To make their visit more enjoyable and stress free, 2Kon will be using the Electrical Eggs UK Access & Alert Service.



Electrical Eggs UK was established in 1995 to inform and advise fan-run SF event organisers to provide assistance

to fans with special needs. As well as producing guidelines for service provision, Electrical Eggs UK administrates a Medical Alert Register, which ensures the correct first aid or paramedic care is given in the event of an emergency.

2Kon is fortunate to have a hotel which has a successful track record in assisting disabled visitors. There are also 4 adapted rooms for fans with severe mobility impairment, which have various aids built-in. With three elevators connecting the bedrooms to all floors, including the health club in the basement, there will be no problems for wheelchair users to get around the hotel. 2Kon also has the advantage that

Wooden shoes and Cotton t-shirts

Some fans really believe that Holland is the place for the 1990 worldcon. They had so much faith in us that they gave us money before we had anything save our name to give back.

Don't Panic ... Get Your Button!

That's now changed. Annemarie has already mentioned in an earlier article that we have goodies like buttons with our brave mouse sailing in front of our slogan 'Don't panic - Holland in 1990!' on a field of red, white and blue. Or little wooden shoes to hang beneath the button. Or even t-shirts, for which we do have to ask for money, pity.

We'll be giving out the buttons and wooden shoes to presupporting members of Holland in 1990 at the conventions where the Dutch committee members themselves can be present, either at parties or at booths set up near the registration desk. Be sure to look for us if you don't have your button or your wooden shoes yet.

We'll meet you at...

We know a fact that at least one committee member will be attending the following conven-

tions: Confederation, in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 28 August - September 1986; Perry Rhodan Weltcon, Saarbrücken, Germany, 6-7 September 1986; Boskone, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, 13-15 February 1987; and of course Conspiracy '87, Brighton, England, 27 August - 1 September 1987. Currently on our 'possible' list is - Coloniacon, Cologne, Germany, 14-15 June 1986; Ballcon, Zagreb, Yugoslavia, 10-13 July 1986; Science Fiction Club Deutschland Jahrescon 1986, Saarbrücken, Germany, 25-27 July 1986. Still others can be added, and there are always the conventions covered by our agents, where you can convince a friend to take a supporting membership.

T-shirts coming up...

T-shirts are available in various sizes. They can be picked up at conventions where you can get your buttons and wooden shoes, or you can order them directly from us for \$10.00 US, £6.00, or f25.00, return postage included. The t-shirts are 100% cotton, so no matter how hot it gets, you'll be comfortable declaring your support for Holland in 1990.

High Tide

Stichting Worldcon 1990
Postbus 95370 - 2509 CJ
Den Haag - Nederland

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

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IN THE
NETHERLANDS

Steve Davies
78 Bay Road
Bullbrook
BRACKNELL BERKS RG12 2NG
UNITED KINGDOM



Greetings from Holland in 1990 to:

P 244

not only will the entire hotel be occupied by the convention but the person in charge of site is also the Director of Electrical Eggs UK!

We will endeavour to place disabled fans, especially those that are dependent on a wheelchair or other form of walking aid, in the Central Hotel. Early notification is therefore vital and if you wish to request an adapted room, contact Cuddles as soon as possible.

Service provision at 2Kon will include:

- Priority seating for fans with hearing & sight impairment.
- 1st room entry & Queue Jumping for all Access fans, especially those with mobility impairment.
- A comprehensive list of emergency & local service numbers.
- Priority lift during busy periods, especially for fans with mobility impairment.

Current EGG members will already have their requirements on file, so it is

important for anyone with special needs who is not known to Electrical Eggs to contact Cuddles straight away. All requests for assistance will be considered, including the provision of powered scooters and large print publications! Note: early notification for these services is essential! At this time, neither 2Kon nor Electrical Eggs UK can offer Talking or Braille Publications.

Now it can happen, and we don't wish to bring bad luck on anyone, but if you have an injury, operation or illness shortly before the convention that impairs your normal exuberance, Electrical Eggs UK will be more than happy to help you cope! So you see, it is never too late to register as an EGG member!

For more information, or to register with Electrical Eggs UK, please contact Cuddles (Michelle Drayton-Harrod) directly at the following address:

Flat 1/2, 10 Atlas Road, Glasgow G21 4TE
email: cuddles@batcave.ndirect.co.uk



New Members since PRI

Alipuss	(A)	Dr Bob	(A)	Liam Proven	(S)
Margaret Austin	(A)	Dr Tones	(A)	John Salthouse	(G)
Caroline Bott	(A)	Flis	(A)	Bob Shaw	(S)
Simon Bradshaw	(A)	Gwylim Hunter	(A)	Sally Sinclair	(A)
Ben Brown	(A)	Bob Harris	(G)	Ian Sorensen	(A)
Tanya Brown	(S)	John Jarrold	(A)	Chris Susłowicz	(A)
Bug	(A)	Morag Kerr	(A)	Alan Webb	(J)
Al Darragh	(A)	Pat McMurray	(C)	Gerry Webb	(A)
Elsie Donald	(A)	Mali Perera	(A)		

This could be your advert here!

If you're interested in advertising something in any of the 2Kon publications – be it a fanzine, a book, or a whole bookshop even – we would like to hear from you!

Ad rates for full-page ads in PRs 3 and 4 are £25 for fan ads, £50 for professional. Smaller ads will be priced proportionately. Naturally 2Kon subscribes to the 'legal, decent and truthful' philosophy, and reserve the right to refuse to publish anything that doesn't meet these criteria, but hey, you're all reasonable people. Aren't you?

If you wish to advertise in the programme book itself then the rate goes up to £150 for full page (£75 for half-page, £40 for quarter-page). Inside covers and back page will cost more (by negotiation, depending upon who and what). Requests for specific locations will also be by negotiation.

All enquiries should be sent to:

Nik Whitehead (2Kon)
68 Main Street
Crossgates
Fife KY4 8DA

and clearly marked 'Advertising' on the front of the envelope or emailed to:

2kon@barrayar.demon.co.uk

with '2kon advertising' in the subject line.

Nik



2Kon – Eastercon 2000

Central Hotel, Glasgow

21st – 24th April 2000

UK: 2Kon, 30 Woodburn Terrace, St Andrews, KY16 8BA
US: 2Kon, c/o Ben Yalow, 3242 Tibbett Avenue, Bronx, NY10463
email: 2kon@dcs.st-and.ac.uk
Web: <http://www-theory.dcs.st-and.ac.uk:80/2Kon>