

Cracow
'91

EUROCON·91

Cracow, Poland, 9-12 May, 1991

GUESTS OF HONOUR:

Poul Anderson
Gianfranco Viviani

FAN GUESTS OF HONOUR:

Roelof Goudriaan
Boris Zavgorodny



Dear Friends!

It is the second time that Eurocon members meet in Poland. The first time, however, in 1976, the organizers of the Poznań Eurocon invited mostly the SF professionals: authors, critics, journalists, even academics. A very small group of fans who managed to become the Eurocon-76 members, felt out of place; there was no room for dilettantes among serious activists.

But science fiction is hardly a serious matter. It's true that there are more and more scientific papers, articles, even theses on subjects coming from SF - and yet, meeting at conventions, the same, one might think, distinguished scholars laugh their minds off, listening to another "Serious Scientific Talk" by Bob Shaw, or shout and scream in favour of the best costumes during the Masquerade. For convention is not a scientific congress; it's a time of relax, a haven, a chance to forget about what's going to happen on the concluding Sunday: a hangover, a life not worth living, or the end of the world.

The problem is, it's harder and harder to forget about such things. And in spite of the fact that our Wawel Dragon is not exactly a horrible entity, there is a much more horrible dragon, threatening us all, whose name is - ecological disaster. It will burn us with cosmic rays and UV when we shan't have the ozone protective layer any more; it will suffocate us with CO₂ as a result of the hothouse effect; it will steal from us pure water, green lands and fresh air.

Those subjects are familiar to all, up-to-date, even the most important. And therefore let us convene in 1991 in Cracow, one of the oldest towns in Poland, which suffered most from the idiotic decisions of political leaders, who decided to build a big steel mill almost at the doors of Wawel, a Medieval castle included in the UNESCO list of marvels of architecture, and let us talk on what we could do to make our children live in a world not worse than ours - and maybe better...

But besides this "serious" part Eurocon-91 will have everything that pleases all fans: the Masquerade, the Banquet, a film programme, exhibitions of books and artwork, book sale and many other highlights. Here are some details:

REGISTRATION:

A few years ago the European Science Fiction Society agreed that members of Eurocon arriving from Eastern Europe do not have to pay the membership fee in view of the problems with getting funds in Western currency and transferring them to the West. In order to return the favour we offer everybody the membership of Eurocon-91 free.

This does not mean that we have found a gold mine and can give everybody free accomodation and board. But this means that everybody who registers as a member of Eurocon-91 before 31 December, 1990, will receive from us the Programme Souvenir Book, all advertising materials and the Member's Badge - a ticket to all events of Eurocon. At the same time anybody who wish, can book through us rooms at a Cracow hotel and meals at a canteen adjacent to one of the hotels. But this is not obligatory. If you have friends in Cracow who can put you up for those nights and give you food, then you do not have to pay anything. Just send us the registration form to get the Member-ship Kit.

Even those, who will register after 31 December, 1990, can receive the Member's Badge, but without the Programme Souvenir Book and without the right to book hotels through us. Therefore we suggest that you register early.

The last page of this Newsletter is the registration form. We would like to ask those who receive it, to distribute it among anybody who might be willing to come and whose addresses might be unknown to us. Since the form contains a number of questions essential for you to find good passage and have a good time, we would like to ask you to fill them most carefully. Then mail them to the address at the bottom of Page 4.

INVITATIONS AND VISAS

Invitations are needed mostly by East European fans. We can offer you so-called "official invitations" on our stationery. We are aware that in some countries to get a passport one needs a personal invitation from a person guaranteeing accomodation and board. This we cannot offer. Perhaps some of you may get in touch with Polish fans who could send you such invitations and take care of you. But we have no possibility to help you with that.

Members from the West might be interested to know that as of 1 January, 1990 Polish visas will be granted without the so-called "obligatory money exchange" existing in many countries of Eastern Europe. You just have to contact the nearest Polish Consulate and you will get the required visa, having paid just the usual fee.

HOTELS

We offer bookings at six types of hotels, starting with the best "Grand" hotel, and ending with a Youth Hostel. Because of inflation in Poland (small but still existing) we give the prices in American dollars which can be exchanged at banks and numerous bureaus of exchange (but avoid street exchangers who are mostly swindlers).

1. Grand Hotel: single rooms US \$ 70, double rooms US \$ 80
2. Class B hotels: singles US \$ 40, doubles US \$ 60
3. Class C hotels: singles US \$ 25, doubles US \$ 35
4. Class D hotels: singles US \$ 15, doubles US \$ 20
5. Tourist Hostel: bed from 5 to 15 dollars, depending per size of the room (from eight to two beds)
6. Youth Hostel: bed US \$ 2 (less if you have a YHA Member Card).

In categories 4 to 6 conveniences may be "down the corridor".

Please, let us have your orders before 31 December, 1990. Later orders may be accepted only in emergency situations.

HOW TO GET TO CRACOW

Cracow lies in the south of Poland and has direct railway links with many European capitals, including Sofia and Bucharest; many other capitals, such as Vienna, Praha and Budapest have links with nearby Katowice. Some of you may, however, arrive first in Warsaw; to those we offer a chance of purchasing tickets for the Warsaw-Cracow express trains leaving at about 5 PM on Wednesday, 8 May, and at about 6 AM on Thursday, 9 May. Orders for those tickets can be accepted even until 28 February, 1991. We regret, however, that we cannot help you with booking seats on international trains and flights.

EVENTS

All members are invited to take part in the Masquerade /a contest of SF costumes/ and in the folk-song festival /for those, who are unfamiliar with the term let me inform you that folk-songs are a variation of folk-songs, but written on SF topics; with such heroes as the Stainless Steel Rat, Signy Mallory, etc./ . There will be a book exhibition and another one - of artwork. Everybody willing to participate are requested to state so in the registration form.

THE BANQUET

The Eurocon Awards ceremony shall take place during the Banquet on Saturday evening. The tickets will be sold during Eurocon; it is possible to order them in advance by mail.

Well, so much for this first issue of the Eurocon 1991 Newsletter. We are aware that we haven't mentioned all things that may be of interest to you. Those will be dealt with in further Newsletters and if the questions are too specific - in private mail. We wish you a lot of fun during Eurocon 1991!

WIKTOR BUKATO

EUROCON 1991 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Surname /in block letters/:

First name:

Address:

Postal address /if different from the above/:

Telephone /with city code/: home..... office.....

My requests: /mark one with an "x"/

Hotel: class 1... class 2... class 3... class 4... class 5 ... class 6...
I don't need accomodation.....

Food coupons for the canteen - yes..... no.....

Railway ticket from Warsaw to Cracow - yes..... no.....

I wish to take part in: /mark the respective events with an "x"/

Art exhibition.....

Book exhibition.....

Book sale.....

Masquerade.....

Banquet.....

Folk-song festival.....

Any other requests:

Please, return this form not later than 31 December, 1991 /allowing for Christmas peak/ to:

WIKTOR BUKATO

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00-950 WARSAW

POLAND