

WORLDBUILDERS NEWSLETTER

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EPONA AT INTERSECTION

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The Epona presentation was about two hours long. Considering it was in a somewhat noisy environment — an open cubicle in the middle of the main hall — we did quite well. Martyn Fogg spoke for the first hour and 15 minutes, then Roger Zuidema described the Uther world-view and early religious beliefs. David Angus talked about geological and topographical features of Epona, followed by my report on the reproductive cycle. Greg Barr added his thoughts when he thought it was appropriate. The panel then answered questions from the audience for about 20 minutes.

On the whole, our presentation was well received. However, as one man said afterward, there wasn't enough time to go into the detail that it truly deserved. There also wasn't enough time to answer all the questions. We needed at least four hours: two for an introduction and two for detailed analyses of topics like biology. If we're planning to expand our presence at the next WorldCon, we will need even more time to cover subjects like ecology and sociology.

I noticed most of the people in the audience had already stopped by to see our exhibit booth, and some had spent quite a while talking with us about Epona. One guy engaged Roger and I in a discussion about religion and at times it got quite heated!

Our booth was in a superb location, but it hadn't started out that way. While we were setting up, we learned the WorldCon contractors had mistakenly constructed a wall that protruded into the fire lane. Fate was on our side, and we ended up in a "primo" spot on the main thoroughfare through the con, which meant that we always had lots of people wandering by. We were doubly lucky because when some exhibitors didn't show up, we were able to make use of the glass exhibit cases that were available — just perfect for our artifacts display.

We used a large table in front, chairs and exhibit cases on both sides, and a four-panel partition as a backdrop for displaying our sign, artwork and our spear. David Angus' globe of Epona was placed on the table along with four binders and some flyers. We put Anthony Crawley's artifacts, the plush Uther toy, and other artwork in the exhibit cases.

Our video got a lot of attention and helped bring passers-by into the booth. Anthony Hobbs and I programmed the video, and content was prepared by Wolf Read, Roger and Martyn, with an introduction by Larry Niven. Our next attempt will have to be even better — it will

be shown in L.A., where special effects are commonplace.

We managed to get a few business cards and about 70 names on our mailing list. We spoke with representatives from Grolier Publishing, a Romanian TV station and a reporter from Amiga magazine, and gave out two copies of our video and hundreds of flyers. We got a lot of good press and advertised our "wares" (what little we have, anyway!)

During the con, Greg Barr, Roger and Nancy Zuidema, Martyn Fogg, Del Cotter, David Angus, John Bray, Gert van Dijk, Aleta Jackson and myself had a chance to socialize. We talked mostly about Worldbuilders and Epona, and what will happen next. As I understand it, Worldbuilders may put out a series of "white papers," and perhaps a newsletter sent to all the names on our new mailing list. Several people are interested in writing short stories for an Eponan Anthology, which could probably be the next major project of Worldbuilders. Gerald Nordley already has a story written (which is being submitted for publication independently); Martyn is working on one of his own., and Wolf and David have theirs in the planning stages. In addition, Nancy Zuidema and Julie Carlin are already at work planning the design of a booth for WorldCon '96. All in all, it was a great con!

