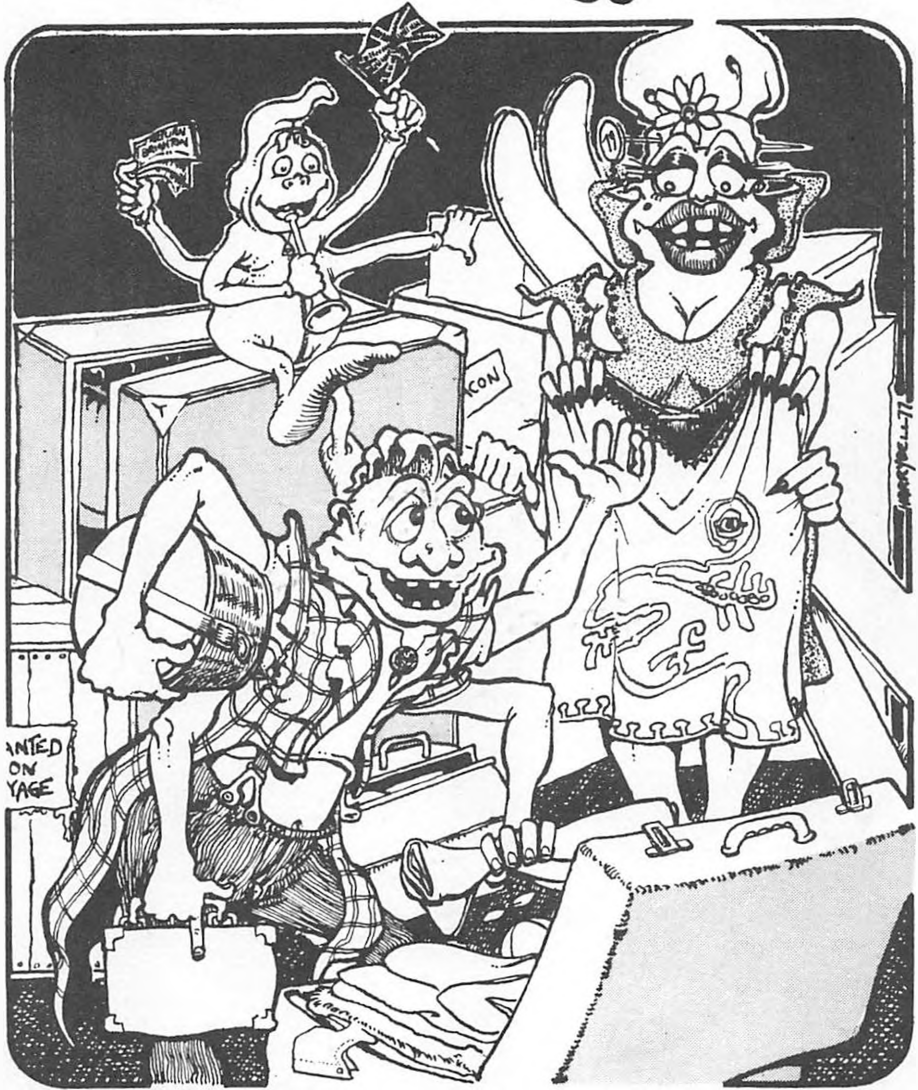


Progress Report 1



SEA'CON '79



Gollancz



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SEACON '79

37th World Science Fiction Convention

METROPOLE HOTEL, BRIGHTON, U.K.

AUGUST 23rd - 27th 1979

Permanent address: SEACON '79

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Peter Weston, Chairman
Eve Harvey, Secretary
John Steward, Treasurer
Graham Charnock
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Robert Jackson
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Roger Peyton
Peter Roberts

PROGRESS REPORT 1

WINTER 77-78

recd
2/25/78

SEACON '79 SENSATION... CHAIRMAN PETER WESTON GOES OVERBOARD...

I could see it in their eyes.

That shifty, conniving look which con-comm members take on as they begin to visualise their empires.

Graham plotting to do a programme book even bigger and heavier than MAC's; Malcolm clearly wondering if maybe the Queen just might after all be persuaded to open the convention if he put on his best velvet jacket and asked nicely at the Palace; Leroy dreaming of a world-première showing of the Star Wars sequel for his film programme.

There we sat at our first meeting since the return in triumph from Miami, nine people with nothing better to do over the next two years than to try and organise the best, the finest WorldCon we can possibly imagine.

Ah, the dreams, the ideas...

"How about a room-party on the cross-channel ferry?" Rob suggested.

"A hum-and-sway down Brighton pier?" from Roger.

"Fannish traditions," said Peter. "James White with his water-pistol, Ted Tubb leading a conga over the rooftops, snog and drink blog in the fog..."

Our feeling is that we want to run SEACON '79 almost like a Three-Ring circus, an exciting, entertaining four-day event from which people will emerge staggering with their minds blown, while those who stayed at home in Lytham St Anne's will never quite stop kicking themselves.

Of course, they all say that. Every new committee starts off with the very best intentions in the world, only to find themselves slowly but inexorably bogging down in reality. But if we can't do a good job, with all our past experience on Worcestercon in 1971, Tynecon in 1974, the first Seacon (at Coventry) in 1975, and Leicestercon (also at Coventry) in 1977, then who can? With at least three Novacons, beside, to his credit, Rog Peyton has been on more con-committees than anyone else in British fandom, the sucker!

But those eyes keep bothering me.

As chairman I'm supposed to keep up with eight scheming little minds, if not actually one step ahead. Yet how can I cope with someone as efficient as Eve Harvey, who wants to take the membership records away from the computer because she can handle them more quickly? With John Steward, who can not only tell me how much money is in the bank, down to the last new penny, but is capable of drawing up and understanding balance sheets?

Seriously, everything looks good for 1979. We have a good, friendly town in Brighton with plenty of room at the Metropole, four fine people as Guests-of-honour and Toastmaster, and a hard-working committee. Most of all, we have the confidence of you, our members.

That in the end is the important thing. I hope our overseas friends will find their trip worthwhile as they queue up at the door for programme items, drink their warm British beer and sit on the beach in their raincoats.

Oh, this is going to be a great convention. I can't wait!

PETER R. WESTON

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WESTERCON



Congratulates Seacon '79

Hosts of the 1979 World SF Convention...Westercon 31 Committee people Ed Finkelstein, Mike Glycer, Marti Lands, Craig Miller, Linda Miller, Laurie Reinecke, Les Robley, Allan Rothstein, Larry Rothstein, Chandra Sargent, Bill Warren, Beverly Warren and Bill Welden look forward to the gathering of the world's sf fans in Brighton. Meantime we invite one and all to the Los Angeles Marriott Hotel for Westercon XXXI over July Fourth weekend in 1978, parties and programs with Pro GoH POUL ANDERSON, Fan GoH DON C. THOMPSON and Toastmaster JERRY POURNELLE. Until June 1, memberships are \$7: thereafter, \$10. Make checks payable to:

Westercon 31
P.O.Box 5785
Mission Hills CA 91345

Brighton's Fine in '79!

Needless to say we've been thinking hard for a long time now about a suitable venue for the '79 Worldcon. There was no immediately obvious choice — the super self-contained hotel/conference site with sufficient stretch to accommodate a Worldcon unfortunately just doesn't exist in Britain as yet. So we started looking for somewhere that could offer top-class conference facilities, plus an abundance of quality hotel accommodation, all within a relatively small area. We soon ruled out London itself as too expensive and straggling, but fortunately we didn't have to look too much further: Brighton is only 60 miles away, with fast regular rail and road services and an international airport, Gatwick, virtually on the doorstep. It's a renowned conference centre and its charm and character as a resort have not diminished since it was first popularized in the nineteenth century by Queen Victoria and the Prince Regent.

The Metropole Hotel itself is one of the largest in Brighton and offers a superb self-contained conference complex that easily measures up to our requirements. Hotel accommodation in any popular resort is never limitless, of course, but as well as reserving space in the largest hotels we will be working hand in hand with Brighton's own accommodation booking services and are confident we will be able to fit in all our visitors, providing of course they help us by making early reservations when the time comes.

So that's it — a sunny seaside convention site for a Worldcon we hope will really go with a splash: SEACON '79!



Memberships and enquiries

Write to Seacon '79, 14 Henrietta St., London WC2E 8QJ,
or, in the countries listed below, to your National Agent:

USA (East Coast)

Tony Lewis
PO Box 429
Natick
MA 01760

USA (West Coast)

Fred Patten
11863 W. Jefferson Blvd. #1
Culver City
CA 90230

USA (Central)

Jan Howard Finder
PO Box 2038
Fort Riley
KS 66442

Canada

John Millard
86 Broadway Ave. Apt. 18
Toronto
Ontario M4P 1T4

Australia

Robin Johnson
GPO Box 4039
Melbourne
Victoria 3001

Germany

Waldemar Kumming
8 München 2
Herzogspitalstrasse 5

France

Eric Batard
Rue Kleber
37500 Chinon

Sweden

Per Osterman
Astrakangatan 113
162 32 Vällingby

Holland

Leo Kindt
Mispelstraat 29
Den Haag 2025

Italy

Gian Paolo Cossato
Cassella Postale 423
30100 Venezia

Switzerland

Herbert Pabst
Höhenweg 8
CH-5443 Niederrohrdorf

Membership rates to the end of 1978

Supporting Attending

Sep 1 1977 — Mar 31 1978 \$5.00 (£3.00) \$7.50 (£4.50)
Apr 1 1978 — Dec 31 1978 \$7.50 (£4.50) \$15.00 (£9.00)

Britain in '79 presupporting members receive a \$1 (50p)
discount from these rates when they join Seacon '79 itself.

Special Seacon T-Shirt Offer!

SEACON '79 T-SHIRTS WITH ORIGINAL HARRY BELL SEACON LOGO (BLACK ON WHITE ONLY) ARE AVAILABLE FROM SEACON '79, 14 HENRIETTA STREET, LONDON WC2. SEND CASH WITH ORDER — ONLY £2.00 (/\$4.00) PER SHIRT, INCLUDING POSTAGE. PLEASE STATE SIZE REQUIRED — SMALL, MEDIUM OR LARGE.

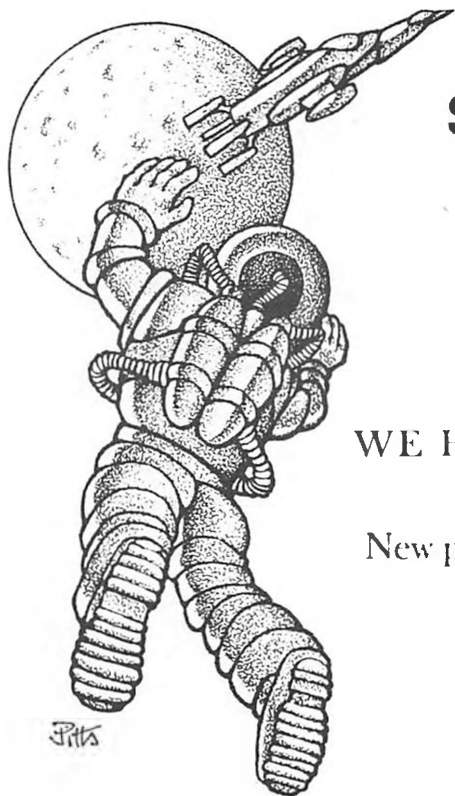
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Wanted

IF YOU WERE AT SUNCON AND HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BRITISH ROOM PARTIES, WE'D LIKE TO BORROW SUITABLE PRINTS, NEGATIVES OR SLIDES FOR REPRODUCTION IN OUR FUTURE PROGRESS REPORTS. WE'RE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE HUM-AND-SWAY AND KNURDLING TOURNAMENT. ALL MATERIAL SUBMITTED WILL BE RETURNED AND SHOULD BE SENT TO OUR PUBLICATIONS OFFICER, GRAHAM CHARNOCK, c/o SEACON '79, 14 HENRIETTA STREET, LONDON WC2

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FROM SUNCON TO SEACON

Rob Jackson Reports on Miami, 1977, and declares all set fair for Brighton in 1979

I have quite a lot of friends who aren't science fiction fans. Some of them are astounded when I tell them I travelled nine thousand miles to Miami and back for the 1977 World Science Fiction Convention.

They want to know why I bother. All that way, and five hundred quid or more down the drain, just to talk about flying saucers and robots! They just don't understand me.

But I find it easy to make them understand.

I simply tell them the truth.

I don't for a moment regret spending all that money. I expected my fortnight in the States to be one of the most eventful and memorable of my life and my expectations were amply fulfilled!

So why was it worthwhile? What do I tell my non-fan friends? Did I really want to babble nonstop about monsters and rayguns for a fortnight?

Well, not exactly.

Everybody reading this Progress Report knows, I hope, that there's more to talk about in sf than spaceships and blasters. But you all know as well how difficult it is to explain

this to the uninitiated; you'll be familiar with the glazed film that descends over their eyes and the tube that instantly connects their ears to let the words that go in one end out again at the other. (It's when you try to tell them that it's more complicated and challenging than Star Trek (or Wars)) even, that you really lose them.)

Was the programme of science-fictional events — the discussions and films — the real reason I went to Suncon? If it had been the only one, I might have come away unsatisfied, for although the film programme was excellent, the spoken items showed a lack of detailed preplanning and arrangement with the slated panellists — it all seemed too last-minute for the panellists to have been fully notified in advance — and there seemed to be too few, overworked, programme staff to get the panellists together before each event. (We've got plans to do a great deal of detailed arranging of Seacon's programme, and the personnel to carry it out — but more of that in future Progress Reports.)

Did I go to Suncon to meet the heroes whose works I've immersed myself in and admired (or sometimes ground to a bored halt in), and whom

I'd kinda like to be one of? (No, Mr. Glickson, I'm not talking about fanzine editors just now — I mean authors.)

Yes, to a certain extent. I did hope to meet authors; but I hope I have a realistic attitude to these things, and try not to foist myself too hard on people who, like me, have a whole convention's-worth of feverish activity to get through. I found out that, even though America has plenty of writers of high repute who attend conventions, twenty or thirty professionals of the calibre of Joe Haldeman or Gordon Dickson or Gene Wolfe can't all spread themselves around all the room parties in a hotel teeming with two thousand people. No, I couldn't hope to meet all those two thousand or more fans in five or six days; nor can even the most tireless writer. Anyway, most people like to spend time with those they already know, their friends and colleagues, at big conventions; and writers are no exception, sometimes preferring friends to a roomful of adoring — or even insulting — strangers. Harlan Ellison's typically forceful and vivid description of a tactless fan in the July 1977 F&SF is a case in point; this fan seemed so nervous of Harlan's reputation that he totally forgot normal politeness. Well, there's no need to be scared of writers and reputations if you behave yourself!

My experiences in the States confirmed the clichéd impression that British people are shyer, more reserved but politer than Americans, which means in general fewer bad vibrations when Fan meets Pro in Britain; but Americans have the tremendous compensating virtue of great instant warmth and openness. Everywhere I went in the States, people were marvellously welcoming and helpful. I could feel gratitude coming out of the ears at times. Whether I was with someone I knew really well by reputation or correspondence — Bill Bowers, Jerry Kaufman, Joyce Scrivner, Terry Hughes — or someone I had hardly had any previous dealings with — Lou Tabakow, Brad Balfour, Brian Burley — the hospitality I received was overwhelming. The other British fans who were at Suncon felt the same, I know. All of us were made to feel really special: this is what the friendship of fandom can do for

you. Even though there will be far more Americans and others coming to Britain for Seacon, I very much hope we can offer all our overseas visitors the same hospitality — if we can, then you'll have a memorable stay in Britain.

Even if you don't know a lot of other sf fans in person, there's no need to be chary of embarking on the trip to Britain. As those who went to Aussiecon can tell you, a group trip to a Worldcon is a marvellous way of getting to know other fans. And when you get here, you'll find another great difference between American and British hotels — the price of drinks in the bars, and hence the amount of time fans spend in them. A full British pint (20 fl. oz) of beer is 30-40p (roughly 60-75c) in British hotel bars. This attracts British fans to the bar, for obvious reasons, and makes the bar the most important social focus of the whole convention. At Suncon, with 10-12 oz. of beer costing £1.50 or so in the bar, the place was deserted. I really noticed this; Suncon seemed to lack the central meeting points bars provide. The foyer area was not really an adequate substitute. All you American fans who don't know what a convention with real bars is: you can find out in '79!

That's another of the reasons I went to Suncon, naturally — to help push through the bid for Seacon. We feel a British Worldcon has a lot to offer, not just to British fans who can't afford the trip to an American Worldcon, but also because the chance to play host to the world sf community — writers, fans, everybody — is a magnificent privilege and an opportunity to return the hospitality Americans have through the years given visiting British fans. And Seacon gives us the chance to give all the friends I have in British fandom the opportunity to meet, as I've been lucky enough to do at Suncon, the friends I've found in America...

Sharing an interest in science fiction is important, and of course it's the raison d'etre of Worldcons.

But friendship is universal. For me, that's the deepest reason for going to Suncon: friendship. I can tell my non-fan friends that — and they understand.

ROB JACKSON

Michael Moorcock's
**WIZARDRY
 & WILD ROMANCE**

1978 Calendar interpreted by Rodney Matthews



The collaboration between Rodney Matthews and Michael Moorcock began in 1976 with illustrations for book jackets - 'The End of All Songs', 'Legends from the End of Time', 'The Transformation of Miss Mavis Ming'. At the same time, a series of twelve pictures was devised, drawn from earlier Moorcock work.

The first six pictures were published as posters and cards last autumn and received their deserved acclaim.

Rodney then decided that his series could naturally be encompassed in a calendar using the typeface he had already designed for his Moorcock work.

Wizardry & Wild Romance 1978 is printed in full colour on fine artboard at a size of 420 x 428mm. It has a stiff backing board and is spiralbound and shrinkwrapped. An added bonus for Moorcock fans is the current bibliography printed at the back.



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NEW

The most influential and best-selling science-fiction of this decade is unquestionably the Dune trilogy of Frank Herbert. Mr. Herbert has created a planet which may lack moisture, but is certainly not lacking in the milk of human kindness. His people are real, his scenery is vivid and his reading is alive and vibrant. The excerpt Mr. Herbert has chosen to read is his vivid description of the Ducal Hall and delineation of many of the principal members of the cast.

FRANK HERBERT

Dune

Frank Herbert

LP: TC1555

Cassette: CDL51555

NEW

Ursula K. Le Guin is one of America's foremost writers. Although best-known as a science fiction author — she has received outstanding reviews for her fiction in other modes. Here are two stories so disparate as to be very contrasting. *Gwilan's Harp* may be termed pure fantasy, while *Intracom* is pure slap-stick science-fiction, with no apologies to Star-Trek. Miss Le Guin takes all five voices in the latter story, including that of the alien.

URSULA LE GUIN

Gwilan's Harp and Intracom

Ursula Le Guin

LP: TC1556

Cassette: CDL51556

NEW

The first volume of Foundation was the subject of immense praise and, indeed, has been nominated for a Grammy. With Dr. Isaac Asimov himself in the cockpit, here now is the story of the first of the great mayors — Salvor Hardin and his adventures with the planet Anacreon. This selection was excerpted by Dr. Asimov, who has also written new material especially for the album from the Encyclopedia Galactica.

ISAAC ASIMOV

The Mayors from Foundation

Isaac Asimov

LP: TC1527

Cassette: CDL51527

OUR BRITISH GUEST OF HONOUR



BRIAN W.
ALDISS

Life Lines:

- Born Norfolk 1925.
 - His literary life began as an assistant in an Oxford bookshop.
 - He wrote a collection of stories about life in the bookshop, which became his first novel, non-sf, "The Brightfount Diaries".
 - Became Literary Editor of the Oxford Mail from '57 onwards.
 - Published his first shorts in US mags in mid-fifties.
 - First sf book - "Non-Stop".
 - Hugos: Most Promising New Author, 1959; Hothouse series of short stories, 1962.
 - Nebula: The Saliva Tree, 1965
- Other books of note: "Report on Probability A", "Barefoot in the Head", "Frankenstein Unbound", "The Malacia Tapestry".
- Critical career: Column in Oxford Mail '54-'67 on sf possibly the longest-running regular newspaper sf review column to date.
 - Major critical oeuvre to date, "Billion Year Spree" — landmark in the history of sf criticism, comprehensive and insightful.
 - Both a writer of restless innovation, seeking not just to do the conventional things but to break new ground — especially in recent years — and a brilliant, chameleonic critic capable of seeing many points of view.
 - Previously GoH at the 1965 Worldcon, but deserving of further honour because of Billion Year Spree's far-reaching influence and because of his consistent refusal to take the easy way out in his fiction which is often at the expense of mass-appeal.

37th WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
 Brighton, England, 23rd-27th August 1979

Welcome to Progress Report 1.

If you are receiving this it means you were either a pre-supporting member of Seacon, or have converted to Supporting or Attending membership. This is the last PR that you will receive if you are a pre-supporting member, so now that we've whetted your appetite how about sending us some more money and converting. Your pre-supporting membership money will be deducted from the cost of joining Seacon, so see the rates in the Progress Report.

Attending & Supporting Members

You should find a membership card in the envelope (that's right, hunt through the rubbish bin to find the envelope you've just screwed up and thrown away!). Please check that the details on the card are correct - if not please let me know as soon as possible.

TO EVERYONE

Please check that the envelope has been addressed correctly, if not please use the form at the bottom of this sheet to let me know the alterations. If at any time you should change your name, address etc, please remember to let me know, once again using the form provided.

Thanks

To: Eve Harvey, 55 Blanchland Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5NE, England.

NAME: _____ Membership No: _____
 (if known)

Old Name _____
 (if changed)

ADDRESS: _____

SEACON '79

What's Your Status?

Well, Britain has won itself a World Science Fiction Convention in 1979, and we are grateful for your support. But now comes the difficult bit — we are trying to sort out the mass of paperwork left behind in the wake of SUNCON to determine exactly who is a member of SEACON '79 and your particular status of membership.

The amounts of money involved are quite small now but they'll get more important later. And of course we want to make sure that our publications are sent to all those entitled to receive them.

It's complicated, so let's go through the position together.

First — did you pay \$5.00 to vote in the site-selection ballot this year? If you did, fine, we have you registered as a SUPPORTING member for SEACON '79. Many of these memberships were converted to full ATTENDING status in the last few days of the Miami convention and if you did that, congratulations, you have saved a lot of trouble for all concerned!

If you did not convert, you need to pay the additional amount indicated below in order to change your status. If you did not vote in the site-selection ballot then you are starting from scratch and need to pay us the full amount, either \$5.00 for SUPPORTING or \$7.50 for ATTENDING membership.

And finally, one further complication — In our enthusiasm we signed up some 1,020 pre-supporting individuals at \$1.00 per head. If you fall into that category you are entitled to a discount as shown below.

So study the rates below and think carefully about your current status. We are busy processing receipts and ballot slips and will be putting out membership cards with our first Progress Report, due in the fall.

IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT CONVENTION — JOIN EARLY!

To: SEACON '79, 14 Henrietta Street, London W.C.2, U.K.

	Full fee	Less discount for Pre-supporting members
SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP	\$5.00 (£3.00)	\$4.00 (£2.50)
FULL ATTENDING MEMBERSHIP	\$7.50 (£4.50)	\$6.50 (£4.00)
CONVERSION FROM SUPPORTING to ATTENDING	\$2.50 (£1.50)	NIL TO PAY*

*If you were a Pre-supporting member and paid \$5.00 to vote in the site selection ballot you are automatically enrolled as a FULL ATTENDING MEMBER.

Circle the amount you are remitting. Send the slip and money to us or our agents:

Tony Lewis	Jan Howard Finder	Fred Patten
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off Wheeler Lane	Fort Riley	Culver City
Natick, MA 01760	KS 66442	CA 90230

Cheques payable to: "37th World Science Fiction Convention"

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

BRITAIN IS FINE IN '79!

FRITZ LEIBER/ Life Lines:

- Born Chicago 1910 and attended Chicago University.
- Acted in his father's Shakespearean repertory company and in films during the '30s (screen credits include Garbo's 'Camille').
- Associate editor of Science Digest for 12 years.
- A brilliant chess player, he was champion of Santa Monica in 1958 and held a USCF rating of Expert for several years.
- His first published story was in 1939, since when he has won 6 Hugos and 3 Nebulas; more Hugos for written sf than any other person and more Hugos and Nebulas put together than any other author. The Hugos: THE BIG TIME (58); THE WANDERER (65); GONNA ROLL THE BONES (68); SHIP OF SHADOWS (70); ILL MET IN LANKHMAR (71); CATCH THAT ZEPPELIN (76). The Nebulas: GONNA ROLL THE BONES; ILL MET IN LANKHMAR: CATCH THAT ZEPPELIN.
- Also writer of supernatural-horror (CONJURE WIFE) and fantasy (the popular Fafhrd and Gray Mouser stories).
- A gifted story- and poetry-reader and award-winning artist.
- Presented with Grand Master of Fantasy Award at 1975 Worldcon — a specially designed 'Gandalf' statuette.
- Chief interests besides writing: science, metaphysics, history, chess, field astronomy, cats, strolling in San Francisco where he lives, and fencing.
- A writer of enduring popularity and of amazing versatility, he was previously GoH at 1951 Worldcon but deserves further honour for his work in the intervening years, which have seen his popularity continue to grow and his output of superlative writing continue undiminished.



PHOTO BY JAY KAY KLEIN

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A big thanks to HARRY BELL for working under pressure and against a tight deadline to produce a splendid front cover for this first Progress Report. This is the first in a series of covers Harry will be doing for us (if we give him enough beer). Ensure you collect the whole set by registering now, eh?

We couldn't ply JIM BARKER with beer (he's on a diet) but we offered him fame and glory and he came up with some fine interior illustrations, for which many thanks Jim.

Thanks to BRIAN ALDISS and FRITZ LEIBER for supplying photographs, etc., and to ROB JACKSON for researching all our guests and putting their life-lines together.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING NOT ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT...

While you're waiting for SEACON, why not check out SKYCON, the 29th British Easter Science Fiction Convention. It's happening at the Heathrow Airport Hotel, 24th to 27th March 1978. Bob Sheckley is the GOH and memberships are £2.00 (£4.00) supporting and £4.50 (£9.00) attending. Write to Skycon, 5 Aston Close, Pangbourne, Berks, RG8 7LG, U.K. or to their U.S. Agent: Mary Burns, 48 Lou Avenue, Kings Park, New York, NY 11754, USA. (Was that all right, fellas?).

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