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14th - 17th August, 1975

Melbourne Australia

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Fan Guests-of-Honour:
Mike and Susan Glicksohn

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Pro Guest-of-Honour

URSULA K. LE GUIN

That Ursula K. Le Guin needs little introduction to science fiction readers makes the writing of these few words only doubly difficult. But perhaps one could say that as Guest-of-Honour of the 1975 World Science Fiction Convention she will signal a victory for Women's Lit., for although the talent of lady writers has been recognised by readers, critics, and of course, the Nebula and Hugo Awards, Ms. Le Guin will be the first to receive the honour in her own right. Two previous ladies, E. Mayne Hull in 1946 and Leigh Brackett in 1964, have been honoured as co-GoH with their respective husbands and writing partners, A.E. van Vogt and Edmond Hamilton.

She is also the first GoH in many years whose reputation was built on full-length work. At the last World Convention outside North America, HEICON in Heidelberg, Germany in 1970, she won the Hugo for the best novel *THE LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS*, which also won the Nebula Award given by the Science Fiction Writers of America. *THE LATHE OF HEAVEN* and her Earthsea trilogy, *A WIZARD OF EARTHSEA*, *THE TOMBS OF ATUAN*, and *THE FARTHEST SHORE*, have all been recognised by readers and critics as of the highest quality, the latter by the receipt of the National Book Award for Children's Literature. This year, her novella *THE WORD FOR WORLD IS FOREST* was Hugo winner in its category; perhaps we are to see more work of shorter length in the future.

In the last decade she has become known as one of the really great ladies of science fiction. She is not eager to be categorised, so let's agree to drop the last three words. Her wit and charm, and her helpfulness to the less experienced at writers' workshops, have endeared her widely, not least in this country, where she has consistently supported Australian fans and fanzines. She has also spoken out for the field at such forums as the presentation of the National

Book Awards. She is not a frequent visitor to conventions, and we hope her presence at AUSSIECON in 1975 will be an incentive for many of her fans.

Fan Guests-of-Honour

MIKE & SUSAN GLICKSOHN

Back in 1970 Mike & Susan Glicksohn settled into a house with an enchanted duplicator, a pet boa constrictor and a timid cat and proceeded to put out fifteen issues of the most beautiful fanzine in the world. ENERGUMEN was nominated three times for the fanzine HUGO award and, at the Toronto World SF Convention in 1973, took off the award.

Mike Glicksohn is a mathematics teacher whose talent in one direction lies in persuading the enchanted duplicator to produce the most beautiful graphics presentations at his command. Known as "The Hat" because of his penchant for wearing what was imagined to be an authentic Australian digger hat (until a party of Aussies descended on Toronto to prove otherwise), Mike is to be seen at most of the large North American SF Conventions.

Susan Glicksohn is a fanzine writer without peer. It would be true to say that those who voted ENERGUMEN the best fanzine in the world in 1973 regarded it as a fitting shrine for her writing. She is also pre-eminent in the study of Canadian literature, and has recently been appointed a lecturer in the subject at the University of Saskatchewan. Her office there in Regina, somewhere in the wilds of central Canada, is to be found in the Humanities and Administration building, also known as "Dante's Inferno", which is incredible until you discover that that institute of higher learning accepts fees in wheat.

Australians who have not met the Glicksohns find it hard to believe that two such fabulous people exist. However, more than a dozen Australians at two successive World Conventions can vouch that they do.

Meet Susan and Mike Glicksohn at AUSSIECON in 1975.

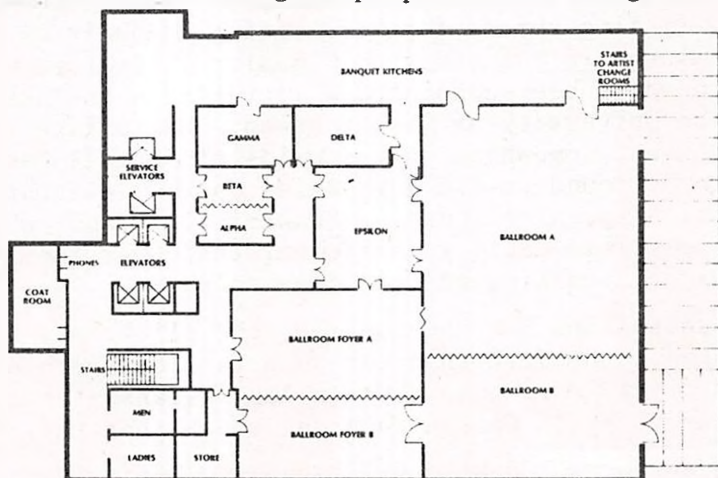
The Site

Melbourne's SOUTHERN CROSS Hotel has been chosen as the site of AUSSIECON. From Thursday August 14th to Sunday 17th in 1975 the centre of the science fiction world will be in the heart of Melbourne's restaurant and theatre district, in Exhibition Street opposite Charley Brown's.

In Australia hotels are often considered mainly as sources of liquid refreshment, and this area is particularly well covered. A hotel-operated bottle shop adjoins the main entrance, selling beer, wines and spirits at regular prices until 10pm, while every guest room boasts a refrigerator in addition to the coin-operated soft-drink dispensers on each floor. The Lobby and Plaza (lower) levels of the building accommodate 70 shops, including an ice-cream parlour which also provides sandwiches and other quick meal items. Five bars around the hotel include one with fast-service hot meals at around \$1. Three other restaurants and the hotel coffee-shop serve the inner fan on the premises.

An entire convention floor includes a main ballroom large enough for a thousand, while eight other areas are available for special purposes on the same floor. In addition, many suites of various sizes may be reserved as guest rooms, and fuller details of these will be made available for the asking.

The hotel has a much higher proportion of single



rooms than is common in America, containing one bed and a couch. We plan to give full details of the various rates for rooms in a later Progress Report, at the same time as full travel details are announced.

Getting There

Half the fun of an overseas journey used to be the journey. Nowadays, there are not too many ships on the South Pacific, and we expect most visitors will be flying. It is hard to quote air fares two years ahead, but current rates are given here as a guide. The cheapest rates on scheduled airlines are for a group of 25 or more people travelling together both ways. On this basis, the round-trip fare from North America's West Coast to Sydney, Australia is \$550. Group rates between home city and the West Coast would only apply if the number of people travelling together over that leg were also over 25. Stopovers, that is, stops for more than merely long enough to change planes, may cost an extra \$25.

From Sydney on to Melbourne and elsewhere in Australia also costs extra. There will be concessions on domestic Australian travel if enough people can arrange to travel together. This whole subject is complicated, but be assured that we are watching the entire travel field and members will receive very full information as it can be made available.

Currently, charter air fares are no cheaper than the group rates mentioned above. This situation may be changed soon. For one-way trips, or journeys further afield than merely Australia, individual excursion fares, or 'Inclusive Tour Excursion' (ITX) fares may be appropriate. In the next Progress Report, which will only be distributed to members, privileged information will be given, and also the names of people who will be collecting lists of potential group travellers to AUSSIECON from their areas.

We will also announce which airline is to be the official AUSSIECON airline, and give details of all the other happenings you might be interested in around Australia near the time of the Convention.

From Britain and Europe, the current round-the-world excursion fares are about £380.

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