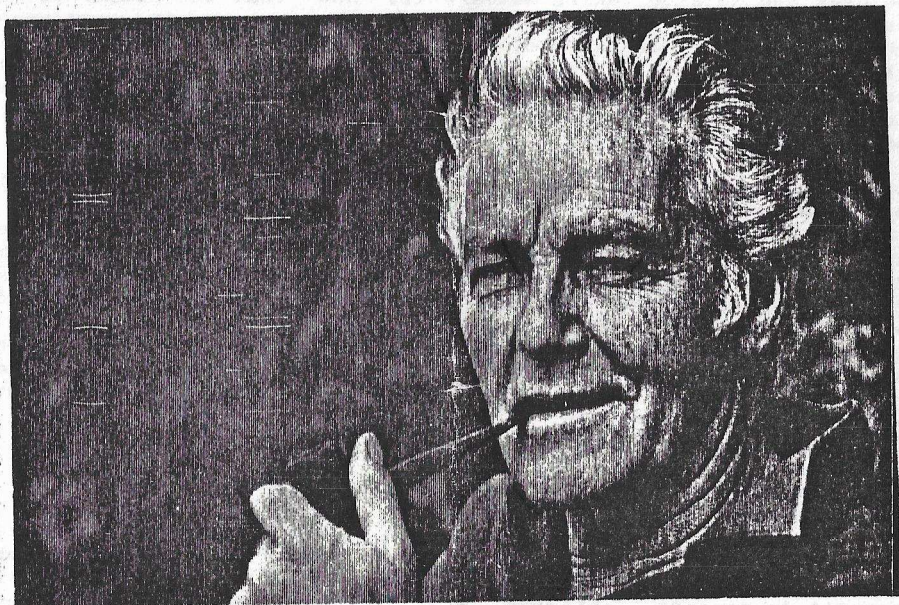


BECCON PR 2



RICHARD
COWPER

THE STORY SO FAR

Once upon a time there was a little Convention called BECCON, and the word went out that they were taking registrations. So the people sent their money from far and wide, until the Committee were overwhelmed and took to hiding in corners.....

In fact, we have had a real problem with the number of registrations recieved, which has exceeded all possible anticipations. Unfortunately the hotel in Basildon has only a certain number of rooms, and there is no other accomodation within several miles so we are unable to arrange for an overflow. Now it is our belief that everyone who has signed up for a Convention has a right, should they wish, to a bed. Consequently we have had to stop taking Memberships now that the number of members equals the number of beds in the Hotel, unless on the understanding that a bed is not guaranteed. Naturally we are aware that there will be various people who, although they already have a membership, will not, for one reason or another, require a bed. We have also opened a waiting list for those people who have not yet joined, and will only wish to do so if they can get a bed.

So what we will do is this:- Progress Report 3 will be issued in the New Year (late Jan/early Feb) and will contain the Hotel Booking Form. The Booking Form will have a deadline of a month or six weeks, to give those, up to number 210, who have a guaranteed chance of a room, the first option. After that we will deal with the members after number 209, and those on the waiting list. When that is all sorted out, we will re-open for memberships at Easter, if there is still any room left. In other words we will take all possible steps to deal with room allocations in the fairest manner we can devise - but it will have to be up to you to return your Booking Form promptly, as we cannot hold rooms vacant indefinitely.

KIDDIECON

In common with other Conventions, such as Novacon, we have found that there are several people with young children who have signed up for BECCON, and so we are planning to run a creche, as we reckon this is of benefit to parents, children, and to the rest of the Convention. Obviously this is still in the early planning stage, so we can not say what the facilities will be or whether we might have to make a small charge for them. For when the creche is not operating, the hotel can provide a listening service. It would help if we knew who was planning to bring children - how many, and what age. Also is anyone willing to help out for a while, or know of anyone (perhaps a non-fan) who would be willing to supervise a creche for a small remuneration?

(And I always thought that a creche was a car accident in Chelsea! Ed.)

DATA PROTECTION BILL

In common with most Conventions, I imagine, BECCON keeps membership records on a computer and we have been concerned that this legislation may present problems. We have, however, now studied the relevant sections of the Act and concluded that we are O.K. - provided everybody has been informed. You have, of course, now been so informed.

ADDRESS

All correspondence for BECCON 85 should be sent to:

199 The Heights, Northolt, Middlesex, UB5 4BY

where Kathy Westhead will deal with it (or maybe Mike).

HOTEL

Just to remind you, the hotel for BECCON 87 is the Crest Hotel, Basildon, but room bookings will be handled by the Committee and the hotel should not be contacted directly. Room rates for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday will not be more than;

Single	£19.00
Twin/Double	£32.00

Prices include V.A.T. and English Breakfast. Should anyone wish to travel down earlier for some reason (there will be nothing happening) then we can also obtain these rates on Thursday night for a few people.

PROGRAMME

At this stage the Programme is only in outline, with a list of ideas to fill that framework. Many of those ideas still have to be developed, and some will fall by the wayside, but I think we can safely say that we will be having;

FILMS: a varied selection, and they will run all through Saturday night.

FIREWORKS: we will again experience the illuminating presence of those urbane gorillas from Oxford.

AUCTION: so save your surplus books and cash.

(UN)USUAL Quizzes and panels.

GUEST OF HONOUR

As you may have guessed from our cover, we are very pleased to be able to announce that Richard Cowper has accepted our invitation to be Guest of Honour at BECCON. Author of at least a dozen Science Fiction volumes he is perhaps best known for the White Bird of Kinship trilogy. Roger Robinson will be producing a Bibliography for the Convention.

THE BECQUIZ

We warned you in P.R.1 that there would again be a BECCON quiz, and we have been racking our brains ever since to come up with something new, imaginative, and suitably fiendish.

In this P.R., on the next two pages, is set out the first part, the Beccrostatic.

Part 2 will be completely different, and will be called the Becconundrum.

Part 3 will bear no resemblance to the others, and you are going to get no advance hints.

Parts 1 & 2 will be reprinted in PR4, in case you have lost them by then! So, have a bash, and even if this part is not your scene, perhaps part 2 or 3 will be! After all, the crucial bit of this one is to extract the acrostic, and you don't need to answer all the clues for that.

THE CLUES.

- 1 This monkey drew. This monkey lied.
Horribly drawn, it's owner died.
- 2 A son of David thought that these
Lived on Earth in all the seas.
- 3 Of vegetable life there is no dearth
During the long afternoon of earth.
- 4 You seek a Smith with eyes of grey.
In this direction lies the way.
- 5 After such knowledge this doctor sought.
The church said heresy was what he taught!
- 6 Plains of ice fostered this invention.
To sail on home was the intention.
- 7 This station's also known as Pell.
It won a ruddy Hugo, as well!
- 8 The autumnal city wounded lies.
A tricky work to summarize.
(We strain in doggerel to devise
A clue to massive weight and size!)
- 9 A long ago and far off place
Where Thongor ran a savage race.
- 10 What this concept means to me
Is thoughts of cooling cups of tea.
- 11 The land-worker reaps, without a fault
A woman a day, or a temporal halt.
- 12 You may find magic, myth, and mirth
With eyes above the dying earth.
- 13 Most will agree, there's no forgetting
The consequence of six suns' setting.
- 14 A pallid hero ruling here
Has walling sword that all men fear.
- 15 A Hobbit lives beneath a mound.
And so his alias may be found.
- 16 The rest of the robots have numerous flaws.
This robot - at random - runs rings round their laws.
- 17 When madness winks a doorknob's eye
Fairy chessmen far off spy....
- 18 This is the only place I know
You'll find a Desrick on

1	J	I	Z	Z	L	E			
2	O	Y	S	T	E	R	S		
3	H	O	T	H	O	U	S	E	
4	N	O	R	T	H	W	E	S	T
5	M	I	R	A	B	I	L	I	S
6	I	C	E	R	I	G	G	E	R
7	D	O	W	N	B	E	L	O	W
8	D	H	A	L	G	R	E	N	
9	L	E	M	U	R	I	A		
10	E					P			
11	T	I	M	E	S	T	O	P	
12	O	U	E	R	W	O	R	L	D
13	N					F			
14	M	E	L	N	I	B	O	N	E
15	U	N	D	E	R	H	I	L	L
16	R	O	D	E	R	I	C	K	
17	R					T			
18	V					O			

'TEC - NO FEAR.

I suppose Earl Norbert Phetilfoon's ace detective career began when he was a simple cocoa salesman on the planet Insomnia. A simple mining community on an always dark surface, due to a dull primary and extensive cloud cover, the people had great trouble sleeping and worked extra-long shifts in order to bring on exhaustion. However Earl's cocoa put a stop to all that as one cup produced a psychosomatic reaction making the drinkers feel tired even if they weren't. Unfortunately the mine owners were none too happy with this, as productivity went down, and so stole and hid the supplies of cocoa. Luckily Earl, out for a stroll, having contracted the strange sleeplessness from the natives, fell into a hole where the cache of cocoa had been hidden. Simple fingerprint analysis pointed out the culprits and Earl was hailed as a hero in the planet's newspaper, which bore the banner headline CAD BURIES CHOCOLATE.

It was after this article went into galaxy-wide syndication that Earl was contracted to go to Earth by Sotherby's, and I accompanied him. Being somewhat paranoid about his own belongings he insisted on buying one of the most secure houses available, made by Sure Lock Homes, before we went to Sotherby's. Once there we found that they were auctioning tombstones of old sit-com stars; someone was defacing these and had to be caught. So far only one had been attacked, just behind the podium on which were a mike, hammer and auction list. This particular stone belonged to Captain Mainwaring's alter-ego and looked as if it had been attacked with a piece of cutlery - which would have required considerable strength. To find out who would mar Lowe we examined the cuts and found traces of fish eggs and peas. Earl immediately checked the guest list, and let out an "Ah ha!" "Does that mean that you have found the perpetrator?" asked I. "Confidentially, yes," replied Earl. "Oh. A private aye!" quoth I to the displeasure of those about me. A trap was prepared in Sotheby's cafeteria and we sprang upon the next muscular individual to order fish eggs and peas. "You," said Earl, "are Mr Hercules Pois-roe and you are under arrest for defacing tombstones." As the unlucky soul was dragged away I asked, "What will become of him?" "I suspect he will be incarcerated on the herb planet Spoth." "What a horrible place to do time." "Yes. Half the criminals harvest the spoth-herb and the other half prepare it by soaking it in hot water. A self sufficient prison planet." "How does the stuff taste?" "Horrible. Apparently too many crooks boil the spoth." It was at this point that I ceased to be Earl's assistant.

MEMBERSHIP LIST UPDATE.

A = Attending

S = Supporting

001A Richard Cowper
070S Douglas Macdonald
071A Tim Illingworth
072A Liz Burak
073A Simon Beresford
074A D.G. Thomas
075S Mike Don
076A Kevin Reader
077A Marina Holroyd
078A Joe Gibbons

079A Ashley Watkins
080S Ozzie
081S Aandi Inston
082A Debby Moir
083A Mike Moir
084A Sue Harrison
085S Moira Shearman
086A Helen McNabb
087A Mike McNabb
088S Mike Gould

089A	Chris Cooper	154A	Martin Howell
090S	Mike Molloy	155A	Richard Vine
091S	Henry Balen	156A	Keith Knight
092A	Mike Damesick	157A	Peter Knight
093A	Larry Van Der Putte	158A	Angela Insole
094A	Steve Bull	159A	John Paul Smit
095A	Peter Mabey	160A	Pete Grove
096S	Graham Koch	161A	Kim Campbell
097S	Martin Tudor	162S	Judy Smith
098S	John Styles	163S	Julian Headlong
099A	Susan Francis	164A	John Jarrold
100A	Richard Van Der Voort	165A	Ros Calverly
101A	Marion Van Der Voort	166A	Pam Wells
102S	Chris Sellar	167A	John Clute
103S	Gil Harris	168S	Bruce Saville
104A	Rory Kenny	169A	Clute 2
105A	Eileen Kenny	170A	Geoff Ryman
106A	Malcolm Davies	171S	Kevin Rattan
107A	Kate Davies	172A	Annette Kilworth
108A	Helen West	173A	Garry Kilworth
109A	Chris Suslowicz	174A	Chris Walton
110A	Tom Taylor	175A	G N G Tingey
111A	Stephen Davies	176A	Helen McCarthy
112A	Pat Gardner	177A	Barbara Kitson
113A	Martin Hoare	178A	Shelley Ingram
114A	Katie Hoare	179A	Miles Harris
115A	Fabian	180A	Steven Lawson
116A	Charlotte Bulmer	181A	Laura Wheatley
117A	Tony Chester	182A	Nigel Pearson
118S	Barbara Rochford	183S	Jonathon Green
119S	Vincent Docherty	184A	Dermot Dobson
120A	James Steel	185A	P Dobson
121A	Jackie Smith	186A	D Williams
122A	Nick Mills	187A	Charles Thornton
123S	Iain Dickson	188S	K.R. Armstrong-Bridges
124A	Saul Burs	189A	Paul Brazier
125A	Wendy Glover	190A	Jenny Steele
126A	Ken Brown	191S	Jessica Brennan
127A	Graham Head	193A	Joan Fine
128A	Denise Atkinson	194A	Hugh Mascetti
129A	Roger Campbell	195A	Marsha Jones
130A	Andie Oppenheimer	196S	Frances-Jane Nelson
131A	Phil Willis	197S	Anne Wilson
132A	David Plant	198A	Anne Page
133S	Duncan Booth	199S	Nick Lowe
134A	Morag Kerr	200S	Margaret Wellbank
135S	Lawrence Dean	201S	Jim Barker
136A	Stuart Andrews	204S	T.J. Furniss
137A	Lisanne Norman	205S	Lilian Edwards
138A	Mr Rod the Druid	206A	Fiona Anderson
139S	Karyl Weber	207S	Nick Rowsell
140A	Paul Oldroyd	208A	Chuck Partington
141A	Chris Donaldson	209A	Harry Nadler
142A	Mary Carmichael	210A	Tim Broadribb
143A	J.C. Reynolds	LSTA	Sylvia Starshine
144A	Stephen Rothman	501A	Barbara Conway
145A	Matthew Shackle	503A	Neil Taylor
146A	Ken Lake	504A	Stephen Linton
147S	Undepoldus	505A	Stuart Aston
148S	Delicia of Grod	506S	Pete Gilligan
149A	Rick Fox	507A	Tony Rogers
150A	Robert Meades	508A	Peter Colley
151A	Andy Robertson		
152A	Krystyna Oborn		