

Wooden shoes and Cotton t-shirts

Some fans really believe that Holland is the place for the 1990 worldcon. They had so much faith in us that they gave us money before we had anything save our name to give back.

Don't Panic ... Get Your Button!

That's now changed. Annemarie has already mentioned in an earlier article that we have goodies like buttons with our brave mouse sailing in front of our slogan 'Don't panic - Holland in 1990!' on a field of red, white and blue. Or little wooden shoes to hang beneath the button. Or even t-shirts, for which we do have to ask for money, pity.

We'll be giving out the buttons and wooden shoes to presupporting members of Holland in 1990 at the conventions where the Dutch committee members themselves can be present, either at parties or at booths set up near the registration desk. Be sure to look for us if you don't have your button or your wooden shoes yet.

We'll meet you at...

We know a fact that at least one committee member will be attending the following conven-

tions: Confederation, in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 28 August - September 1986; Perry Rhodan Weltcon, Saarbrücken, Germany, 6-7 September 1986; Boskone, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, 13-15 February 1987; and of course Conspiracy '87, Brighton, England, 27 August - 1 September 1987. Currently on our 'possible' list is - Coloniacon, Cologne, Germany, 14-15 June 1986; Ballcon, Zagreb, Yugoslavia, 10-13 July 1986; Science Fiction Club Deutschland Jahrescon 1986, Saarbrücken, Germany, 25-27 July 1986. Still others can be added, and there are always the conventions covered by our agents, where you can convince a friend to take a supporting membership.

T-shirts coming up...

T-shirts are available in various sizes. They can be picked up at conventions where you can get your buttons and wooden shoes, or you can order them directly from us for \$ 10.00 US, £ 6.00, or f25.00, return postage included. The t-shirts are 100% cotton, so no matter how hot it gets, you'll be comfortable declaring your support for Holland in 1990.

High Tide

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Greetings from Holland in 1990 to:

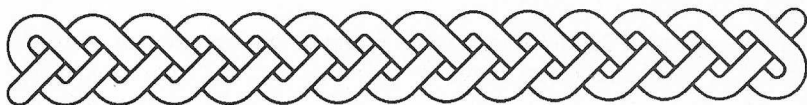
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2KON

Burns Night Special

You thought we'd forgotten you, didn't you? Well you're wrong. Welcome to the 2Kon Burns Night special, a brief update on the current state of things and containing all those vital little snippets of information we forgot to put in PR1...



Who, what, when, where, how...

<voice style="Basil Fawlty">

We're sorry. Very, very sorry. Very, very, very sorry. We missed out all that vital stuff from PR1, like where, what and when we are. Little things like that. How did we do that? We're not sure, but we did. Sorry. We apologise deeply for any inconvenience caused by our gross inability to proof-read. How can we ever make it up to you? It'll never happen again, we can promise you that.

So just for the record, 2Kon is Eastercon 2000, the fifty-somethingth British National Science Fiction Convention. It'll be held in the Central Hotel, Glasgow, from the 21st to the 24th of April 2000. Our guests of honour are Guy Gavriel Kay, Katherine Kurtz, and Deborah Turner-Harris. There you are.

Sorry.

</voice>

The Pushmi-Pullyu

...and a large side order of Why?

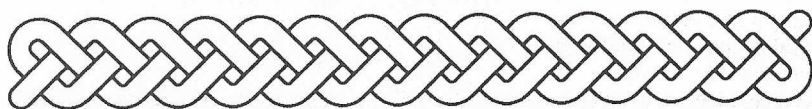
Why a Burn's Night Special? Because a Christmas card is passe, we're all busy in the run up to Christmas and the Christmas post is so appalling, and we are a convention in Scotland (though *not* a Scottish Convention).

Why Guy Gavriel Kay, Katherine Kurtz and Deborah Turner Harris as Guests of Honour? Because the original bid committee likes their work¹ (in particular I'm a really big fan of Guy Kay), they haven't been Eastercon guests before, and their work fits very well into a Celtic Speculative Fiction theme.

Why the Central Hotel? It's in Scotland, and the Eastercon hasn't been North of Manchester since 1991; it's a really welcoming and fan-friendly hotel, and we've been holding conventions there for a long time with few problems.

Why attend 2Kon? Because it's going to be fun and full of really wild and hoopy things.

A³



Boom tomorrow. There's
always a boom tomorrow.

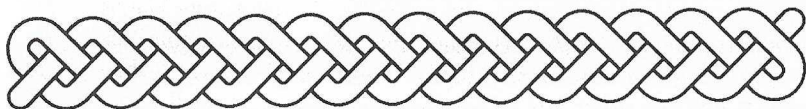
2Kon is happy to announce that John Salthouse has agreed to come up to Glasgow to give another of his famous *son et lumiere* productions.

I'm sure that those of you who've been to these before will be racing for the front row to get close to the action – well, as close as health and safety regulations will allow. For those of you who haven't had the pleasure before, let me explain that John Salthouse is a Professor of Chemistry with an interest in highly exothermic reactions.

¹ Except for the one that hasn't read any of it, although that'll change Real Soon Now.

In other words, things that go BOOM. Very loudly. With lots of bright lights. Please remember to leave all gremlins, small children and other pets who might be frightened by explosions safely locked up in your room during this item, then come and enjoy the spectacle.

Nikkums



Burns' Night - what's all that about, then?

Culture, that's what it's all about. And not that fake Victoriana either, but real, pre-1800 stuff. It's about getting together, eating traditional Scots food, the sort of thing that the English would *never* eat. It celebrates the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns in 1759.

To A Haggis

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great Chieftan o' the Puddin-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy of a grace
As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your pin wad help to mend a mill
In time o' need,
While thro' your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.

His knife see Rustic-labour dight,
An' cut you up wi' ready slight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright
Like onie ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-reekin, rich!

The main event is the arrival at dinner of the haggis, which is normally preceded by a piper in full Highland dress. The haggis is then addressed by the... er... the haggis-addresser (don't blame me – this half of the Pushmi-Pullyu is English, and only writing this so that the Scots half doesn't get embarrassed if he gets anything wrong) with the traditional lines (see left) extemporaneously devised by Burns himself at dinner in Edinburgh in 1786.

This goes on for ever, or at least it seems that way, as interminable speeches to various men, women, small furry creatures from Alpha

Centauri and anything else that the Victorians decided to add at a later date. You do get to eat during this, and there's a lot to drink to take your mind off the never-ending poetry.

Come on, get to the gruesome bit. What about the haggis itself? That poor innocent little Highland creature with two legs shorter than the other so it can run around mountainsides more easily?

...that you skin to make bagpipes? No. It's a sheep's stomach (which means it's got a covering of tripe – cool!) stuffed with barley, minced mutton and any other bits of dead animal. herbs and spices that you find lying around in the bottom of your larder. Like Irish Stew, Scouse, Ratatouille, Chop Suey and similar famous dishes, it is a method for getting rid of spare ingredients that some posh folk decided to write down the recipe for.

Thank you... So the vegetarian haggis is made from a vegetarian's stomach?

Obviously. Haggis usually turns up with mashed tatties and neaps (aka potatoes and turnips). The servings'll probably look small, but don't complain: your chances of being able to finish what you're given are limited.

Okay, so this didn't end up being an article about Burns' Night, but that's because it's a made-up thing that Burns would probably have laughed himself silly over. See you next PR!

The Pushmi-Pullyu

New members since PR1

A Bug	A Caroline Bott	S Bob Shaw
A Simon Bradshaw	A Gwylim Hunter	J Alan Webb
A Chris Suslowicz	A Margaret Austin	A Gerry Webb
A Dr Tones	S Liam Proven	A Mali Perera
A Ian Sorensen	S Tanya Brown	A Alipuss

2Kon – Eastercon 2000
Central Hotel, Glasgow 21st – 24th April 2000