

EASTERCON '77

The 28th Easter Science Fiction Convention

8th - 11th April 1977

at the De Vere Hotel, Coventry

Guest of Honour: John Bush

PR 3

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PROGRESS REPORT 3

Hot on the heels of Progress Report 2 comes this - titled, not surprisingly, Progress Report 3. Or maybe it doesn't appear to be 'hot on the heels' to you, though to us it seems like only days since we sent out PR2!

With this PR you will find your Hotel Booking Form and your Hotel Reservation Card. Please complete both and return to Dave Upton as soon as possible. **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN THE CARD AND THE FORM.** Every convention there is always someone who returns their Reservation Card without signing it...it then has to be returned for signing...then sent back to the committee...then to the hotel who inform us that they are fully booked. Avoid being disappointed - make sure you sign it!

One item that has had to be omitted from the booking form is the section relating to Child Minding. Many parents requested at Bancon that we attempt to organise something so that parents would have some, if not all, of the burden of looking after their children taken from them. We've approached the hotel to see if they can get a qualified Child Minder and they are hoping to let us have details on this nearer to Easter. In the meantime, however, it would be very useful if we could have some idea of the number of parents interested in this idea. If you could send Pauline details in the next couple of weeks we'll keep you informed of progress on this. What we require is - number of children, ages and the approximate times the Child Minder would be required... would you want the Child Minder just to look in on the child when asleep or would you want the Minder to look after the child during the day when awake...the child that is, not the Minder!

What's On?

The official programme of EASTERCON 77 will commence at 2.30pm on Friday 8th April. Before that time the book room will be open from about 10.30 - or as soon as the dealers get set up. Part of the art show may also be open. At 2.30 our Chairman will open the convention and traditionally introduce celebrities for the benefit of first-time attendees. The first item at 3pm will be a talk on Robotics by D F Young of the University of Aston in Birmingham. At the time of writing this we're not sure that we'll be able to get some of Dr Young's model robots along but if we can get them transported to Coventry, we will.

As this convention is the 40th Anniversary of the very first British

convention (Leeds in 1937), we had been planning something special. We'd obtained the names of the 11 attendees and have been tracking down the current whereabouts of the surviving members. Unfortunately, though we'd found 7 or 8 of them, they either couldn't attend this convention or were not interested. So what plans we had for a special event on the Friday evening have fallen flat. We're now busy trying to organise an alternative for late Friday night after the first of the films (see later for details of films).

The Saturday evening will consist of a film followed by the Fancy Dress Parade at about 11pm. There will be a break after the film so that you have time to get into your costume so don't worry about having to miss any of the film.

The Banquet will be at 8.00pm on the Sunday night. Toastmaster will be Pete Weston. Awards and prizes will be presented at the Banquet. This will be followed by a dance in the main convention hall - music by Graham Charnock's group THE BURLINGTONS.

Daytime programming - though virtually all the items are finalised, the actual time they will be on has not been finalised. The speech by our Guest-of-honour John Bush will be the first item after lunch on Saturday. Other items that will be on sometime Friday afternoon, Saturday, Sunday or Monday morning will be a talk by Bob Shaw - "The Bermondsey Triangle Mystery", a talk by Toby Roxburgh and a SCIENCE FICTION MASTERMIND prepared by Pete Weston. 4 people will answer a round of questions on a science fiction specialist subject of their choice and then a round on general SF. Those who watch the real MASTERMIND may remember in the last series a gentlemen from Sutton Coldfield named David Wilson who answered questions in the final on the novels of James Joyce. Mr Wilson came second in the finals and during one of his regular visits to ANDROMEDA informed us that had he won MASTERMIND he would have then gone on to SUPERMIND - the subject he'd picked being the novels of Philip K Dick. We're pleased to announce that he will be attending EASTERCON 77 and has agreed to take part in our version of MASTERMIND. It will be interesting to see how he fares against some of the greatest brains in SF fandom!

THE SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION will be presenting a new Award at this year's convention - for Excellence in SF Criticism. The Award itself will be presented at the Banquet but on Sunday afternoon Peter Nicholls wishes to give a short speech regarding the Award. This will be about a 15 minute item and will be run in with a panel of SF editors which will be chaired by Peter.

Several auctions will take place as usual. On Saturday morning there will be a special auction of first-class material, the proceeds of which will go to the funds of the bidding Committee for the Worldcon in 1979. This item is organised wholly by the Worldcon Bidding Committee. The second auction will be on Saturday afternoon/early evening - books, magazines, manuscripts, artwork, etc - all items either donated or sold on a commission basis (10%). This is one of the main sources of income for this convention so please try and bring something for this auction. Attendees may bid for pieces of artwork at any time during the weekend up to Sunday afternoon when the Art Show closes and there is one last chance to up your bid in an Art auction. If necessary there will be one final auction to clear all remaining items sometime on Monday - possibly the very last item of the convention at about midday.

Films

In PR2 we announced that we had booked PLANET OF THE APES - well, forget it, we've cancelled it. The distributors came back to us after we sent in the booking form (we'd booked it by phone) and they'd decided that a convention could not be classed as a private showing so we'd have to

WHAT, YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN OUT PRE-SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP YET ?????!!!

Well, don't delay any longer! Help us to bring the World Science Fiction Convention to Britain in 1979 — and get full information on our plans from our Progress Reports (two so far published) — by joining the 650-plus people who have already registered for SEACON '79.

Contact one of the committee during the weekend, or send 50p to:

Leroy Kettle
43 Chesholm Road
London N.16

SEACON '79

37th World Science Fiction Convention
BRIGHTON, ENGLAND. 23rd — 27th AUGUST 1979

Bidding Committee

Chairman: Peter Weston Treasurer: John Steward

Vice-chairmen: Malcolm Edwards, Rob Jackson, Roy Kettle, Peter Roberts

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pay the public performance rate - almost double what we expected to pay. As this committee doesn't rate the film that highly we decided to forget it. At the moment it looks as if the final list of films shown will be the ever-popular classic THINGS TO COME, the animated FANTASTIC PLANET, the little-distributed ZERO POPULATION GROWTH (was this ever shown outside of London?), TENTH VICTIM - based on Robert Sheckley's short story, and for early Sunday morning the DR WHO film INVASION EARTH - DALEKS 2150AD. We thought we had SILENT RUNNING but apparently the 16mm version has been withdrawn. Damned annoying if it is withdrawn - I'm fond of those robots!

So if all goes well those are the films that you will be able to see at EASTERCON 77. It's getting increasingly more difficult to find films - good films - that haven't been shown at recent conventions. With two cons per year the problem is multiplied. I also note that the BBC are doing a short season of SF films - kicking off next week (16th Feb) with FORBIDDEN PLANET.

The Fan Room

Two years ago at SEACON, the fan room was one of the bedrooms with all the furniture removed. A popular room but unfortunately it was too small. This year we've decided to put a far greater aspect on Fandom and as announced previously we put Greg Pickersgill and Simone Walsh in charge of this item. Originally planned as something slightly larger than the Fan Room at SEACON, we've had further thoughts and now find we've got what is almost a Fannish convention alongside the main one! We asked Greg for a short piece for this PR to explain what the Fan Room is all about - that short piece ended up as 6 A4 sides! Edited down he then submitted just a couple of sides - so from here on is Greg's idea of what the Fan Room will consist of - held in the large Fairfax Suite incidentally.

WELL ALRIGHT SO I'VE BEEN FOOLISH - And who wouldn't be, in fact, to take on the task of organising an Eastercon Fan Room and Fannish Programme - the sort of venture which is, to a large extent, dependent for its success on the voluntary co-operation of fandom, which is made up of probably the least co-operative of a generally unco-operative mass of people! Anyway all we can do is our best and so in a fine spirit of almost Rowe-esque belief in human good nature we lay before you a number of ways in which you can maybe do yourselves, fandom and us (in that descending order) a bit of good.

FANZINES. If you are currently producing or have ever produced a fanzine, you are invited ('demanded' sounds a bit heavy) to present stacks of recent and back issues for sale at any reasonable price in the Fandom Room. The type, size or scope of the fanzine is irrelevant - we want to see a good selection ranging from the most serious to the most fanzishly personal, covering every level and realm of fandom's interests. Any editors who want to provide some sort of special display for their goods are encouraged to do so, especially those who have figured large in the various Polls and Awards. All who participate are requested to provide a photograph of themselves plus any information on themselves and their fanzine that seems worthwhile or entertaining. Deliver your material to me, Greg Pickersgill, at the con or if not attending send to me at the address listed elsewhere in this PR.

FANZINE AUCTION. Usual sort of thing here. Clear out your old bottom drawers, attics, etc. of all the fascinating fanzish trash you've long forgotten and don't need. This year the Fanzine Auction will be held under Fan Room supervision in the Fairfax Suite and we hope to sort all material prior to the auction itself. Again, hand all material to me in the Fan Room or if not attending send to the address listed elsewhere. Preferably sent to me well in advance so that we've got

time to sort it properly.

PHOTOGRAPHS. We don't want the usual load of random snapshots that lie around ignored for the whole weekend - we want specific things. So hustle right away to your albums and archives to see if you can supply some of the following:-

- 1) - Personality type shots of notable individuals in fandom past and present, with the emphasis very much on fans of today.
- 2) - Action photos of any notable events that have happened in fandom, whether at conventions or anywhere else.
- 3) - Group shots of local fan groups, meetings, convention committees, or any other semi- or wholly organised fannish congregations.
- 4) - Especially wanted are 'before' and 'after' photos of today's notable SF authors who have come up to professionalism through the ranks of fandom. If you have either old or new shots of such fans into pros as Chris Priest, John Brunner, Rob Holdstock, Ken Bulmer or Andrew Stephenson (to name but several) we'd dearly love to be able to display them.
- 5) - This year the Fan Room staff are offering a £5 book voucher prize exchangeable in the convention bookroom for a photograph best conveying the essential spirit of a convention. Entries are limited to three photographs per person, and will be judged by the Fan Room staff.

Ideally all photos - clearly marked with the names of donors to facilitate return - should be sent to Greg Pickersgill in advance of the convention, so that they can be matched, sorted and mounted. Jeff Hacker of Birmingham will be assisting on this and he has facilities for copying any photos that are valuable. Anything of the valuable nature will be copied, the original returned before the con and only the copy will be used.

FANZINE ARTWORK. Artists and editors alike are invited to loan any examples of essentially fannish artwork for display; couplings of the original artwork and the final reproduction are especially wanted.

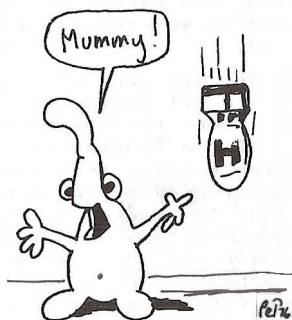
Also, anyone with interesting examples of the various methods of reproducing artwork is encouraged to bring them along for display.

FAN GROUPS. All SF or fannish groups of whatever kind are reminded that this is a fine opportunity to make new contacts; accordingly we'd like each group to provide a poster-type information sheet (including photos if possible) giving the general tone of your activities and how interested parties can get in touch. If you can't manage to do this please provide us with some sensible gen and we'll try to show it in some suitable manner. Obviously the first is preferred as self-advertisement is always the best, as any fan knows.

BRING AND BUY STALL. Something of a new departure, this is neither an opportunity for the enterprising to finance four days of drunken revelry by selling off complete sets of WEIRD TALES or SF MONTHLY at extravagant prices or an attempt to steal the bookdealer's trade. It is, however, somewhere where fans can

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THE OFF-TRAIL MAGAZINE
PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION

Keith & Rosemary Walker
2 Daisy Bank
Quernmore Road
Lancaster
Lancs.

turn unwanted books, magazines, records, comics or whatever else they have around into a little spare change. No limit will be placed on the quantity of stuff presented for sale, but we reserve the right to refuse to handle anything notably highly priced. Any material for sale must be delivered to the Fan Room itself at the start of the convention, accompanied by a full list of items and prices requested. Fan Room staff will handle all sales, etc.

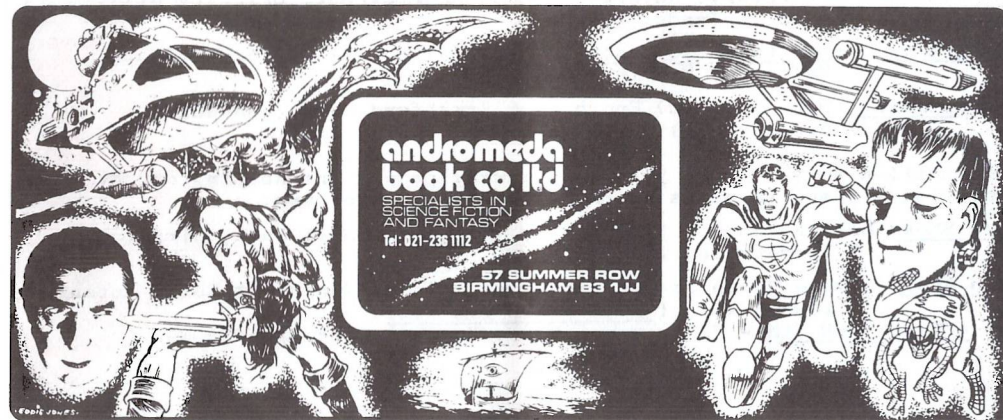
TAKE THE BEST AND LEAVE THE REST. That seems about all we've thought of to ask for right now, though if anyone out there has any brilliant notions we'd only be too glad to take them up.

Of course, apart from all this fine educational and informative stuff there will be lots of genuine Fun laid on for all. Peter Roberts will be our man-on-the-fence in charge of the separate Fannish Programme which mainly will take the form of artfully engineered arguments on the state of fandom today. David Bridges, the most recent hot tip for Leroy Kettle of the 1980's will be organising a series of hot competitions on the various TV games (tele-soccer, Wipe-Out, etc.) dotted throughout the hotel and Fan Room. Prizes will, of course, be vast and manifold. On top and around all this there will be Music and Liquor (and Women too if the mission to the Inner City gets out alive, otherwise you'll have to bring your own!). Also, many other things you didn't know you couldn't do without until you experienced them. In fact, we have the idea of creating a perfect little fannish paradise. In time all will be revealed. For now please do scurry about and help us to help you to help us all.

The Fan Room Staff

(Greg Pickersgill, Simone Walsh, David Bridges,
Leroy Kettle and Peter Roberts)

SCIENCE FICTION STARTREK FANTASY SWORD & SORCERY HORROR FILM BOOKS COMICS



WE MAIL ANYWHERE! — SEND FOR CATALOGUE

Members

Being a list of those people who have joined the convention since PR2.

291 Esther Mawani	313 Celia Parsons	335 Tony Edwards
292 Lou Grauwels	314 Jenny Rigby	336 Marjorie Edwards
293 Mia Grauwels	315 Chris Bursej	337 Elizabeth Nightingale
294 Alex Hill	316 M A Gray	338 Eric Bentcliffe
295 Andrew Muir	317 Nio Rogers	339 Richard Slaughter
296 Davie Cobbledick	318 Peter Wareham	340 R A Hepworth
297 Joen Grant	319 David Raggett	341 Peter Roberts
298 David Griffin	320 Garry Kilworth	342 Stephen Gould
299 Mary Caulton	321 Annette Kilworth	343 D J Kemper
300 Roy Hill	322 Mike Dickinson	344 Harry Nadler
301 Derek Adams	323 Colin Lester	345 Peter Nicholls
302 Stephen Charest	324 Dave Lermitt	346 Leslie Flood
303 Sandra Charest	325 Richard Hughes	347 Julia Selton
304 Allan P Milne	326 Howard Sayles	348 R A Hakes
305 Stephen Foster	327 John Pegg	349 M O'Connell
306 Colin Campbell	328 Richard Brandshaft	350 Martin Dixon
307 Guido Bekhaut	329 Simon Arrand	351 Rosemary Wyn
308 Ian Cooper	330 Ian W Moor	352 Toby Roxburgh
309 Keith Walker	331 Pat Baxter	
310 Eileen Lanigan	332 J Maudsley	
311 Nicola Le Saux	333 Nick Webb	
312 Chris Walton	334 Brian Lewis	

Anyone who sees this PR and has not yet registered should send £1.50 to Dave Upton at the address below. On receipt of your registration fee you will be sent your Hotel Booking Form.

The Committee

Chairman: Pauline E Dugate, 4 Lindswoth Court, Monyhull Hall Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 3QS

Treasurer: Laurence H Miller, 19 Peartree Court, Bishop Asbury Crescent, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 6HL

Registration Secretary: Dave Upton, 49a Moor Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3SP

Programme Book & Progress Reports: Rog Peyton, 131 Gillhurst Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 8PG

Advertising: Mike (Big Oz) Brown, 666 Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11

In addition to the above 5, the following people are helping out by organising specific parts of the convention. They are:

Art Show: Marsha Jones, 25 Mount Way, Bebington Hall Park, Wirral, Merseyside, L63 5RA

Fan Room: Simone Walsh and Greg Pickersgill, 32 Woodhurst Road, Acton, London W3. (UP TO MARCH 7th ONLY)

AFTER MARCH 7th - 7A Lawrence Road, South Ealing, London W5