

OMPA CON '73

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Pan Books

No, the Treasurer has not absconded with the funds, here, at last, is the first OMPACON Progress Report.

Following our successful bid to organise the 1973 British Science Fiction Conference, a diverse Committee has been formed, comprising:-

Ken Cheslin (Stourbridge) - Chairman and, in his own description, General Dogsboddy.

Fred Hemmings (Slough) - Secretary/Treasurer, Conference Booklet Compiler, Hotel Liaison Officer, Printing Organiser and taker-over of things, like this report.

Gerald Bishop (Leeds and Exeter, depending on the season) - Publisher Liaison Officer, Film Organiser and Projectionist Extraordinary.

Mike and Pat Meara (Derby) - Art Exhibitionists, Huckster Liaison Officers and Auction Organisers.

Brian Robinson (Manchester) - Press Officer and writer of a Progress Report lost somewhere in the post.

Terry Jeeves (Sheffield) - Artist and crumbling mansion owner.

Dave Rowe (Wickford) - Another Artist and vegetarian Viking.

The decision, that OMPA should bid for the 1973 Conference was not finally taken until a meeting at the Blossoms, last Easter, although the original suggestion had been made some months previously. We had a hotel, we thought, and since the majority of us were new to Fandom, let alone trying to organise a Con, the problems appeared to lie somewhere between minor and non-existent. How little we knew; and how quickly we learnt. Fortunately, our Chairman had done it all before and Gerald Bishop had contacts in the film and publishing worlds, while, on the art side there were Terry Jeeves and Dave Rowe. For the rest of us it was a matter of common sense, hard work and a lot of talking to people who knew more about it than we did ourselves. In that last category I should like to make special mention of Peter Weston who has supplied much 'technical advice'.

There exists a great Fannish tradition of leaving virtually everything until the last possible moment, to date, the

OMPACON '73 Committee have been no exception to this. However, some traditions are made to be broken and we feel eleventh hour action is on of these. This first Progress Report is emerging somewhat late but the next should appear in no more than eight weeks, providing full details of hotel and town, while the third should include the booking form and come out before the end of October. That is is we don't have a rush of enthusiasm and include it with number 2. Our reasons for considering sending the hotel booking form out so early are two-fold; first because we feel that those registering early should have first crack at the accomodation and second because we're going to try and arrange with the hotel that room parties happen some distance away from, for example, sleeping children and that sort of thing takes time.

VENUE

After considerable investigation the possible hotels have been narrowed to three, one of which has been classified 'Prefered' and another 'Emergency Only'. No final decision has yet been made but since both the first and second choice hotels are in Bristol and negotiations are progressing favourably the conference seems almost certain to be held there; only a major snag arising in the near future can prevent it.

Situated almost at the mouth of the river Avon, Bristol has very good communications, both home and abroad, road rail and air links being available. Motorways have made access from East, West and North extremely simple, while the much shorter routes to the South have a network which isn't at all bad. The main railway station, Temple Meads, has a frequent service with trains connecting to most parts of the British Isles; nearer the date we hope to provide a list of suitable trains from the more major towns. Finally there are air services, both from Bristol and Cardiff airports (the latter only about 40 minutes distant), to most of the countries in Europe; here again we hope to print details nearer next Easter.

PROGRAMME

We may be a little behind in obtaining a hotel, owing, as

they say, to circumstances beyond our control but we intend catching up quickly once this is settled. Lack of certainty about Conference accomodation makes it difficult to work out an exact programme and as a result of this approaches to possible speakers have not yet been made. However, despite this problem, a provisional programme has been written; this contains some traditional items and some which, so far as the Committee are aware, have not been covered before, at least not the way we intend doing it. We are not forgetting that you will have ideas too, the Committee is neither proud nor omniscient, if there is something you would like to see, either new, or a repeat, let us know, after all, it's your Con. I say let us know but do it quickly while there is still time to make changes, organisation takes time.

One of the things we shall be trying for is greater audience participation. We have heard many complaints of being lectured at, we hope to cut this down by having more panels than individual speakers but that is not enough, participation is the foundation of enjoyment and it is the latter which constitutes our target.

As regards films, we think it about time those which are genuine Science Fiction had a bigger share, so we'll be scouring the world, or at least England, for the most suitable. The target here is SF and fun with less of monsters and fantasy (but don't be suprised if you see some, especially in the fun section), while the ghoulie and ghostie group will definately feel the pinch.

GUESTS OF HONOUR

The position of Guest of Honour is not something given out lightly, yet one must make a choice. To start with you think , 'who would I like to see', but then practicalities intrude. Several people deserve the honour and although no approach has been made at time of writing we have people, both Pro and Fan in mind for the positions; as soon as something is settled we'll let you know. Watch this space!

What space?

The space that would have been here if I'd not typed this.

Oh! All right, I'll watch the space. I'm watching!!!

CONVENTION MEMBERS as at 1st June 1972

FROM OMPA

Gerald Bishop
Ken Cheslin
Lisa Conesa
Jane Coombe
John Coombe
Jim Goddard
Fred Hemmings

Terry Jeeves
Mike Meara
Pat Meara
Darroll Pardoe
Roe Pardoe
Brian Robinson
Paul Skelton

FROM THE GREAT WORLD OUTSIDE

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. R. Gray | 31. Vernon C. Brown |
| 2. Ken Eadie | 32. Jean Cheslin |
| 3. Gary Kluepfel (G) | 33. Arthur Cruttenden |
| 4. Uschi Kluepfel (G) | 34. Peter Darling (Aus) |
| 5. Brian Burgess | 35. Hartley Patterson |
| 6. Howard A. Rosenblum | 36. Brian J. Hampton |
| 7. Mario B. Bosnyak (G) | 37. Lars Strandberg (S) |
| 8. Michel Feron (B) | 38. Richard Newnham |
| 9. John D. Roles | 39. Peter Mabey |
| 10. Jacques Guind (F) | 40. Ted Tubb |
| 11. Andrew M. Stephenson | 41. Stanley Eling |
| 12. Cas | 42. Helen Eling |
| 13. David Grubb | 43. John Newman |
| 14. Peter L. Dowson | 44. Ken Bulmer |
| 15. Hans Loose (H) | 45. T. Sgt. Al
deBettencourt (G) |
| 16. Phil Rogers | 46. T. P. Hogan |
| 17. Doreen Parker | 47. Vic Hallett |
| 18. David A. Kyle (A) | 48. Tony Edwards |
| 19. Ruth Kyle (A) | 49. Marjorie Edwards |
| 20. Norman Shorrock | 50. Roger Peyton |
| 21. Ina Shorrock | 51. Arline Peyton |
| 22. F. John Steward | 52. Dave Rowe |
| 23. Pete Wilde | 53. James Blish |
| 24. Hazel Reynolds | 54. Judy Blish |
| 25. Pauline E. Dungate | 55. Graham R. Poole |
| 26. Horst Evermann (G) | 56. Bill Burns |
| 27. Holger Muller (G) | 57. Eric Bentcliffe |
| 28. P. N. Weedahl | 58. John Piggott |
| 29. Jeffrey D. Hacker | 59. Jim Marshall |
| 30. Keith A. Walker | |

Convention members continued:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 60. Peter Weston | 81. John Eggeling |
| 61. James White | 82. Steve Moore |
| 62. Peggy White | 83. Stan Nicholls |
| 63. Tony Moran | 84. George Hay |
| 64. Keith Freeman | 85. Brian W. Aldiss |
| 65. Wendy Freeman | 86. G. M. Webb |
| 66. Sam J. Lundwall (S) | 87. Anne Keylock |
| 67. Ted Ball | 88. Joanne Burger (A) |
| 68. Ethel Lindsay | 89. Jill Adams |
| 69. Nigel Haslock | 90. Rob Holdstock |
| 70. Bob Shaw | 91. Gerd Hallenberger (G) |
| 71. Tony Rogers | 92. Thomas Schluck (G) |
| 72. Christine Priest | 93. Eva Reisch |
| 73. Graham Andrews | 94. Bram Stokes |
| 74. Eddie Jones | 95. Diane Stokes |
| 75. Marsha Elkin | 96. Bob Rickard |
| 76. Pete Presford | 97. Harry Harrison (A) |
| 77. Roy Mortimor | 98. David Sutton |
| 78. Chris Bursey | 99. Sandra Sutton |
| 79. R. Milner | 100. David Riley |
| 80. Dave Gibson | 101. Tony Walsh |
| | 102. Simone Walsh |

Key to bracketed letters, in case you hadn't guessed:-

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| A - America | F - France |
| Aus - Australia | G - Germany |
| B - Belgium | H - Holland |
| S - Sweden | |

Over 100 people by 1st June isn't bad but we want a lot more; more people means more money and the more money we have the better the Con we can organise. All registrations should be sent to myself, Fred Hemmings, at the address on the last page and be made payable to OMPACON '73, they should also be crossed - join now, only 50p (abroad \$2).

SPECIAL EVENTS

Additional to the programme, yet often an essential part of it, these have become firm favourites, and who are we to fly in the face of success. To reveal all our plans would be to trespass on future reports and present uncertainties

but all the usual items will take place. As always there will be Auction and Art Show, together with facilities for our mercenary friends, the hucksters. The Banquet will be held on Sunday evening, together with the awarding of trophies and prizes; while the previous night will have seen the Fancy Dress Parade, always an item of major interest. Another special item already arranged is a party on the Friday night, organised by OMPA at which FREE DRINK WILL BE SUPPLIED TO EVERYONE, though we shall have a collection bowl on the floor to, hopefully, ease a severe case of pain in the pocket. This is not all, the rest is merely, yet to be arranged.

AUCTION MATERIAL

Since we are having an auction we obviously need material, anything and everything will be gratefully accepted, but, in our mercenary way, we shall be especially pleased if the contribution is a valuable one.

One advantage, we hope, of a Committee spread around the country (and it needs one, to balance the disadvantages), is that we may just be able to arrange transport for the collection of bulky items and, since our eager auction organisers want to list everything properly, this would be preferable to your arriving with it at the Con. If therefore you contemplate contributing something too large to post, contact me, Fred Hemmings, address on the back page, and I will attempt, probably unsuccessfully, to sort something out. For items that can be posted the address is:

Mike and Pat Meara, Flat A, 5, Kedleston Rd., Derby.

ADVERTISING RATES

On the principal, it's never too early to start (except after a room party), we have already decided to make our Programme Booklet the same size as this report, A5; this allows a printing area of $4\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ on each page. Rates for advertising will be as follows:-

Full Page £3 (abroad \$9), half and quarter pages pro rata. All fan advertisements will be carried at half price. The back cover is by far the best place for an ad. and will therefore cost you more, anyone interested should

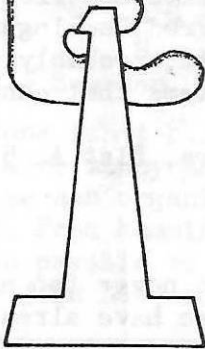
make us an offer.

So far there is no deadline for copy but potential users should note that it will not be later than 28th February 1973. All copy should be black on white (colour can be supplied at extra cost), and be twice the required size.

Advertisements can also be inserted in Progress Reports, rates here will be two thirds of those for the Booklet. Copy should again be black on white (colour at extra cost), but in this case everything should be supplied to the size required.

This has been

OMPA-
GRESS



From: Fred Hemmings, 20, Beech Rd., SLOUGH, SL3 7DQ,
Bucks.

The Committee is grateful to Pan Books Ltd., for their assistance with the production of this Progress Report.