

June 16, 1965

Dear

Today I received a worried letter from Ethel Lindsay of London in which she asked for my help.

It seems that rumors have been spread around among Americans, particularly in New York, that the London con is either not doing the right things or is doing the wrong things and that "it's going to be a disaster."

Ethel would like to set the record straight by saying, "These are the facts and I'd be grateful if you would quote them far and wide among American fans and New York ones in particular:

"We have a hotel which was chosen because it had a hall that was suitable for a World convention. We have rooms booked to house Project Artshow which will be run as usual. We have other rooms booked to house the hucksters of fan and pro variety..with as usual a splendid display from Ken Slater. We have a banquet laid on. We have a very co-operative manager who is himself an sf fan and who has come up with a most imaginative menu. Not only can fans toast the Queen but a glass of wine will be provided in the cost of the banquet ticket for them to do so. Our programme will feature the Guest of Honour's speech as usual..Brian Aldiss -- a talk by John Brunner. A discussion by an sf writer from Yugoslavia and one you already know Dr. Nesvadba from Czechoslovakia. Films are being made by the Delta Group from Birmingham..and are already well advanced in their preparation. Plans have been made to stage the fancy dress parade with the maximum advantage to all concerned.. special award is being given this time for children under 12. We have panel discussions lined up..and this in fact is our biggest hold-up as we wait to be sure how many US pros will be here. But the acceptances are coming in..Don Wollheim's arrived today. Ella, as all the committee..has been working jolly hard on this. I, for instance..didn't get this duodenal ulcer from sitting on my fanny sucking my thumb. I'd be obliged if you would help to scotch these rumors. (And don't forget to mention there will be a Ceremony of Saint Fanthony!)"

Now hear ye, all Americans! (Dave Kyle talking) This is the latest information direct from Ethel Lindsay, the secretary.

Don't believe anything about the convention except what you have read in the Progress Reports -- or in letters directly from the committee. (Except for me, when I'm quoting from letters directly from the committee.)

Ethel has a right to be disturbed, because it seems that things that have been stated as facts about the London con simply aren't true. Ethel feels that gossip and rumors have been misrepresenting the con committee. I've written to her for a clarification and when received I'll pass it along to you.

See you in London!

Dave Kyle