

A stylized, black and white illustration of the British Isles. The map is rendered with fine, wavy lines to suggest terrain. A prominent mountain peak, likely Ben Nevis, is shown on the left side, topped with a compass rose. A suspension bridge, resembling the Forth Road Bridge, spans across the top right of the map. The title 'BRITAIN in Seventy Nine' is overlaid on the map in a bold, serif font.

BRITAIN in Seventy Nine

Progress
Report:

01

Britain is fine In 'Seventynine!

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We hope to produce further issues of this pamphlet up till 1977. Anyone wishing to contribute material or to advertise in future issues should contact the committee for rates and deadline.

Cover: Andrew Stephenson.

A group of British fans has begun to prepare a bid for the 1979 Worldcon. In this pamphlet we aim to tell you a little about the bid and the reasons for it, and about fan and sf activity in this country. We're also hoping to enlist your support for Britain in '79.

A Brief History of British Fandom

Britain has one of the oldest organized fandoms in the world, second only to that of North America. The first British fanzine, *Novae Terrae*, appeared in 1936 and, as with its American counterparts, many of the people involved in it have since become household names: John Carnell, Eric Frank Russell, John Russell Fearn, and, of course, Festus Pragnell... The first British sf convention was held in 1937.

Since then things have not looked back. The 1975 British Eastercon is the 30th altogether and the 26th in a continuous series stretching back to 1948 (excluding 1957, year of the first UK Worldcon). Only the Worldcon itself has a longer history. Attendances are rising all the time: that first convention in 1937 attracted some twenty people, and less than five years ago anything over 200 was considered good going; the 1974 Tynecon, however, had an attendance of over 400 and a membership of over 500.

After a period of comparatively little activity other fanac has also seen a recent upswing. Peter Roberts' guide to current fanzines lists thirty five from the UK. The venerable amateur press association, OMPA, founded by Ken Bulmer and Vinç Clarke in 1954, has now acquired a 'rival', ROMPA. The British Sf Association has its ups and downs, but is still active after fifteen years. A second, regional convention, the Birmingham Novacon, is now well-established. We are even about to undergo our first *Star Trek* convention...

Britain and the Worldcon

The Worldcon has come to this country twice before, in 1957 and 1965; it came to Europe again in 1970 at Heidelberg. By 1979, therefore, it will have been fourteen years since the last British Worldcon and nine years since the last Worldcon anywhere in Europe. These are long gaps, especially when you consider the size and strength of fandom in the UK and on the continent.

The idea of a third British Worldcon has been simmering for a long while. Pete Weston tried in 1971 to set up a bid for 1975 or '76, but it never got off the ground for a variety of reasons, perhaps chief among which was that many British fans had already expressed support for Australia in '75, and to organize a bid for another overseas venue then or the following year would have proved detrimental to the Aussies' chances. The idea then lay dormant for a couple of years, only to re-emerge towards the end of 1973 in conversations between the present bidding committee. Firm proposals were then aired at the 1974 Eastercon and all agreed that the time was now ripe to put forward the case for another British Worldcon. So here we are.

Why 1979 ?

1979 seems on a number of counts to be the ideal year. It is far enough ahead to allow for plenty of advance planning, though not so far as to become remote. On the three-year rotation system it allows each of the North American zones a Worldcon after the Aussiecon: Mid-West in 1976, East Coast in '77, and West Coast in '78. It is also significant for two-thirds of the bidding committee in that if they wait until 1980 they will have passed their thirtieth birthdays, and they don't like looking that far ahead.

Know Your Committee

PETER WESTON is the senior member of the committee, having been in fandom for over a decade (though he started young). He's best known internationally as editor of *Speculation*, which has been on the final Hugo ballot no less than five times and may well be the best fanzine never to win a Hugo since fanzine Hugos were instituted. He has also been one of the major organizational forces in recent British fandom, steering the 1971 Eastercon to huge success, founding the large and active Birmingham sf group, lecturing on sf, and always proving a significant contributor to the programme at British conventions. He was Fan Guest of Honour at Tynecon '74 and was the worthy winner of the 1974 TAFF race. He is married, with a precocious small daughter, Alison. His wife, Eileen, is shortly expecting their second child.

PETER ROBERTS is Treasurer for the 1975 British Eastercon and for the 1979 UK bid. He has recently bought an expensive electric typewriter. Hmm... In his half-dozen years in fandom Peter has been an incredibly active publisher and is now nearing his 100th fan publication. These include a very successful newszine, *Checkpoint*, and a fannish fanzine, *Egg*, which was voted best British fanzine two years running. He drinks Guinness and among other odd habits is a vegetarian. He read a science fiction novel not so long ago and was pleasantly surprised to find it quite readable. Peter was the worthy runner-up in the 1974 TAFF race and is Fan Guest of Honour at Sfancon 5 in Belgium.

MALCOLM EDWARDS is too modest to expend the many pages necessary to detail all his accomplishments. He is chairman of the 1975 British Eastercon, has edited the BSFA fanzine, *Vector*, with sufficient success for Charlie Brown, if no one else, to think it worth a Hugo nomination. He was voted best British fan-writer in a recent poll (he isn't quite sure why); he also does a lot of reviewing and that kind of stuff, including a column for the British

prozine, *Science Fiction Monthly*. He is married, and he and his wife, Christine, can tell the difference even if other people have claimed to have difficulty.

Where in Britain ?

Well, the previous two British Worldcons have been in London, but we don't want to commit ourselves to making it three in a row. At the moment new, large convention hotels and convention centres are springing up all over the country and we're watching and waiting. At the 1965 Worldcon attendance was less than 500 and there was no problem finding a large enough hotel. With Worldcons on the present scale the number of sites is obviously more limited; but we are aware of several fully capable of hosting a seventies Worldcon. Of these, perhaps the most impressive is the brand new Midlands Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

Science Fiction in the UK

Better mention that sf activity in this country has been booming lately; more publishers are entering the field and more books are appearing. Britain's own prozine, *Sf Monthly*, has achieved phenomenal success, with a circulation, on a firm order basis only, of 60,000. Before paper shortages caused a cut back from the usual sale-or-return distribution it was selling a comfortable 90,000. A British publisher recently brought out Doc Smith's *Lensman* series in paperback and has sold over a million copies in just over a year. Britain has its fair share of excellent sf writers: Brian Aldiss, J.G. Ballard, John Brunner, D.G. Compton, Michael Moorcock, and Bob Shaw - to name, without disrespect to the many others, a few which spring to mind. We also have a leavening of expatriate Americans, including James Blish, Samuel Delany, Harry Harrison, Anne McCaffrey, and John Sladek.

Pre-Supporting Members

1 Fred Hemmings	53 Ken & Joyce Slater	105 Rod Milner
2 Andrew Stephenson	54 Eric Briggs	106 R.Milner
3 Simon Joukes (Bel)	55 Hazel Reynolds	107 John Brunner
4 Jan H. Finder (US)	56 Jennie Brunton	108 Jim Goddard
5 Anne McCaffrey	57 Martin Easterbrook	109 John-Henri Holmber (S)
6 Tony Rogers	58 Peter Dowson	110 Lars Strandberg (Swe)
7 John Jarrold	59 I.G.Bengry	111 Carey Handfield (Aus)
8 Waldemar Kumming (G)	60 Rob Jackson	112 Thomas Schlück (Ger)
9 Hans Loose (Hol)	61 Dave Bendelow	113 Eva Maria Schlück (Ger)
10 Pat Kennedy (US)	62 Pauline Dungate	114 Bill & Mary Burns
11 Peggy Kennedy (US)	63 Jeff Hacker	115 George Hay
12 Eddie Jones	64 Wendy Glover	116 Christine Hay
13 Marsha Jones	65 James Barker	117 Harry & Marie Nadler
14 Howard Rosenblum	66 Dave Upton	118 Leroy Kettle
15 Ian Maule	67 Chris Bursey	119 Jannick Storm (Den)
16 Vera Johnson	68 David Gress-Wright	120 Vita Andersen (Den)
17 Gerald Lawrence	69 Elliot Shorter (US)	121 John Millard (Can)
18 Roger Earnshaw	70 Stan & Helen Eling	122 Christine Edwards
19 Michel Feron (Bel)	71 Martin O'Brien	123 Rob Holdstock
20 Vernon Brown	72 Dermot Dobson	124 Janet Shorrocks
21 Norman Shorrocks	73 Dave Langford	125 Ken Bulmer
22 Ina Shorrocks	74 David Warren (Can)	126 Brian Aldiss
23 Jose Bernard (Bel)	75 Frank Barron	127 Malcolm Smale
24 Hartley Patterson	76 Arnold Akien	128 John Bramall
25 Dave Rowe	77 Alan Stewart (Ger)	129 Pam Bulmer
26 Trish Parker	78 Elke Stewart (Ger)	130 Deborah Bulmer
27 Charles E. Noad	79 Darroll Pardoe	131 Rog Peyton
28 David E. Bridges	80 Rosemary Pardoe	132 Larry Bulmer
29 Mike Meara	81 David Garnett	133 Lucy Bulmer
30 Pat Meara	82 Phil Rogers	134 James White
31 Chris Fowler	83 Doreen Rogers	135 John Harvey
32 Tony Edwards	84 Michael Rosenblum	136 Evelyn Simmons
33 Marjorie Edwards	85 Betty Rosenblum	137 Lee Montgomerie
34 Greg Pickersgill	86 Peter Barrow	138 Frank Doss (US)
35 Dave Chopping	87 Diane Barrow	139 Gerald Bishop
36 Peter Nicholls	88 Don Allen	140 Lesleigh Luttrell (US)
37 T.P.Hogan	89 Graham Roak	141 Hank Luttrell (US)
38 Simone Walsh	90 Meg Palmer	142 Joanne Burger (US)
39 Pete Wilde	91 Gerry Webb	143 Bob Roehm (US)
40 Arthur Cruttenden	92 John Lowe	144 Alan Greenfield (US)
41 Alan Robson	93 Vic Hallett	145 Barbara Greenfield (US)
42 Don Rogers	94 John Steward	146 Joe D. Siclari (US)
43 Peter Mabey	95 Brian Hampton	147 Chuck Holst (US)
44 Paul Skelton	96 Brenda Piper	148 Alan Luck (US)
45 Caz Skelton	97 Jim Linwood	149 A.Wilde (US)
46 Brian Parker	98 Graham Poole	150 George Wells (US)
47 John Cole	99 Peter Boyd	151 Gary S. Mattingly (US)
48 Malcolm Davies	100 Michael Damesick	152 Mike Baker (US)
49 Jeremy Elsmore	101 Tony Walsh	153 Frank Prieto, Jnr (US)
50 John Piggott	102 Tony Sudbery	154 Gerald Tishman (US)
51 Roy Mortimore	103 Jack Cohen	155 Jim Sakland (US)
52 Daphne Mortimore	104 Lisa Conesa	156 Jerry Kaufman (US)

157 Mike Glicksohn (Can)	172 Sam Castfriend (US)	187 Paul Galvin (US)
158 Steve Miller (US)	173 Aubrey McDermott (US)	188 Robert Briney (US)
159 Trina E. King (US)	174 Gary Faber (US)	189 Jo Ann Wood (US)
160 Richard Eney (US)	175 Anthony Lewis (US)	190 Ed Wood (US)
161 Beresford Smith (US)	176 Suford Lewis (US)	191 Spike MacPhee (US)
162 Scratch Bacharach (US)	177 Jill Eastlake (US)	192 Barbara Nostrand (US)
163 Ira Donewitz (US)	178 Don Eastlake (US)	193 Stewart Brownstein (US)
164 Ben Miller (US)	179 John Turner (US)	194 Amy Brownstein (US)
165 David Stever (US)	180 Jim Hudson (US)	195 David Shank (US)
166 Jim Burrows (US)	181 Kathie Horne (US)	196 Gene Wolfe (US)
167 Selma Burrows (US)	182 Ellen Franklin (US)	197 Ted Ball
168 Rick Sternbach (US)	183 Mark Swanson (US)	198 Dave Gibson
169 Kris (US)	184 Ann McCutchen (US)	199 Lurine White (US)
170 Bonnie (US)	185 Terry McCutchen (US)	200 Graham Charnock
171 Fred Isaacs (US)	186 Mae Strelkov (Arg)	201 Pat Charnock

We'd Like Your Support

If you're in favour of a British Worldcon in 1979, you can help us in many ways, particularly by spreading the word through fanzines and at fannish gatherings. We'd also welcome any active help - suggestions, useful information, and so on.

As you can see from the list above, we're taking pre-supporting memberships. These are intended to help finance the bid, allowing us to advertise in various publications and to produce items like this leaflet. They also help to show the strength of our support, both in the UK and abroad. All we're asking is 40p, \$1 (US/Can), or equivalent. In the event that the bid is successful, this will be deducted from the actual membership charge. If you'd like to join, please send your money directly to the committee or to an overseas agent. At this stage please make cheques payable to the individual concerned (Peter Roberts in the UK) and please do not send foreign currency cheques, since conversion charges make them almost worthless (paper currency or international money orders are fine).

A Note on Terminology

In this report we've used Britain and the UK interchangeably. The various possible names for this country always confuse people (including the British themselves), so by way of explanation: the proper name of the country is The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, popularly abbreviated to Britain or the UK. If you want to avoid offending someone, don't use: *England* - this offends the Welsh, Scots, Irish, Cornish, Manxmen, and Channel Islanders.

Great Britain - this offends the Irish and other offshore dwellers.

British Isles - this offends inhabitants of Eire who are foreign and proud of it.

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