



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Within the last few weeks five major science fiction films have been released in the United States: *E.T.*, *The Thing*, *Blade Runner*, *Tron* and *Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn*. That's a surprising fact in itself. Even in these boom years since *Star Wars* there have not been many seasons with so many big-budget sf films appearing all at once.

What's more surprising is that most of them are doing exceedingly well at the box office--both *E. T.* and *Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn* set new records for early box-office returns, and all of the others look promising. Most surprising of all, the level of quality is very high. It's possible to find flaws in all the films. *The Thing* is almost revoltingly gory--but quite faithful to the original story; *Tron* is pretty juvenile in theme and treatment--but spectacular in its video-graphic special effects. But each one of them would have been cause for rejoicing in the streets a decade or two ago . . . and the end is not in sight: at least a dozen important new science-fiction films are in the works right now.

If World SF needs drastic improvement in any one area, I think it is in the science-fiction film--which makes it all the happier that our meeting this year will be in conjunction with the Ars Electronica festival in Linz. I'm looking forward to discussions and displays which will give us some glimpse into the future of science fiction in visual form--as well as, of course, the opportunity to discuss all of the other areas of science fiction world-wide.

So much for the future--but there is something about the past that I have been meaning to mention in this column. A couple of years ago I was asked to narrate a documentary on the science-fiction film of past years for the International Communications Agency. The I.C.A. (which used to be called the United States Information Service) is a branch of the U. S. State Department, and so the emphasis is on American films--but there are many examples from the rest of the world as well and actually, when I saw the documentary, I thought it was well worth seeing. (I can say this in all modesty since I had very little to do with its creation; I simply read a script for the narration). World SF members abroad who would like to see it (and who have facilities for showing a

videotape, because that is the form it comes in) need simply contact the nearest U. S. Embassy, consulate or information center--it's free, and the purpose it was made for was exactly so that it could be loaned to people like us. (Provided only that we live outside the U. S.--by law, the tape may not be shown in the United States, I'm sorry to say.)

This will be the last opportunity I have to write to you as President of World SF, so in a sense it is a farewell. I am grateful for the chance to work with all of you, and particularly grateful to the many members--Betty Hull and Gerald Bishop are only two, but two who are especially prized--who have worked so hard and done so much to make the organization work. And I'm looking forward to even greater strides with Brian Aldiss at the helm.

In another sense, of course, it's no farewell at all--I'm retiring as President, but I have every intention of continuing to be active as a member in what I firmly believe to be the most important organization in science fiction today!

--Frederik Pohl

ITEMS FOR AGENDA OF GENERAL MEETING

1. Opening
2. Minutes of last meeting (as printed in Newsletter No. 4)
3. Elections (beginning with voting on Constitutional Amendment proposed for Paragraph VI)
4. Finances: Treasurer's Report (statement of accounts as of 1 September 1982 as prepared by G. Bishop); dues structure
5. Anthology
6. Discussion of Policy, Goals and Projects
7. Site of next meetings (proposed Zagreb in '83; U.K. in '84)
8. Old business
9. New business

Please send any other items for the agenda to Gerald Bishop to arrive no later than 20 September 1982.

If you will not be in attendance, please return your mail ballot to Gerald Bishop to be received no later than 20 September 1982. You may also wish to designate a proxy for voting on any other matters that come up at the general meeting. Please be sure that the person your name is planning to attend the meeting.

BOOK EXHIBITION

Osterreichischer Rundfunk and the City of Linz are mounting an exhibition of science fiction books and posters from around the world to co-incide with our meeting and Ars Electronica, to be mounted in the Stadtmuseum Nordico.

Apart from the exhibit being shown to the delegates to the World SF meeting, the exhibition will be open to members of the public. Publishers are being asked to send a selection of their science fiction books, with some loose illustrated dust jackets, any posters advertising SF lists, and a note of their company name and address (including country!) for display to:

Dr. Georg Wacha
Science Fiction Ausstellung
Stadtmuseum Nordico
Bethlehemstrasse 7
A-4020 LINZ
AUSTRIA

to arrive, if possible, by 15 September.

After the exhibition, the books will be donated to specialist research libraries in Central Europe, to form the core of a representative collection of international Science Fiction.

VIDEO EXHIBITION

ORF hope to run a program of TV SF plays on Video Tape.

The video systems available in Linz are:

BCN 1 inch
U-matic 3/4 inch

High or low band (low band preferred). The color system used is PAL (European).

It will be a help in planning, if some details of any material you can obtain from producers in your country could be sent to Dr. Christine Schopf, ORF, Franckstr. 2a, A-4010 Linz, Austria. Information needed would be title, running time and type of tape.

The presentation of Video programs will be to private groups with no publicised program, so it will not be necessary to obtain full public performance rights.

NEWS FROM ITALY

The Italian section of WSF counts almost 60 members, representative of all the professional categories working in SF and Fantasy; that's the subdivision of categories: publishers, authors, translators, critics, artists, directors and editors of TV and radio rubrics, creators of wargames, lecturers, booksellers and book collectors, uni-

versity lecturers.

On May 8 & 9 the members of the Italian section held their General Meeting, guests of the Second National Fantasy Congress, which took place in Chieti. During the meeting the new members of the Executive Council were elected and the Council is now composed of:

President: Gianfranco Viviani (publisher)
Vice Pres.: Sebastiano Fusco (Editor)
Nat'l PR Secretary: Sergio Giuffrida (Ed.)
Foreign Relations Secretary: Alessandro Voglino (Critic)
General Secretary: Vittorio Curtoni (Author and Editor)
Treasurer: Franco Storch (Artist)
Responsible for the General Bio-Bibliography: Ernesto Vegetti (Book Collector)

Speaking of the initiatives of WSF ITALY, we have to point out the literary concourse organized in order to make a choice of the story which will represent Italy in the International Anthology of WSF. In the competition, 13 authors took part; the judges were the 23 members scheduled as writers. The winning story was "Quo Vadis Francisco?" by Lino Aldani, which has already been sent to Sam Lundwall. As far as the publisher of the anthology for Italy is concerned, we have already pointed out to Lundwall that the Editrice Nord of Milan is available for the publication, and the contract's terms have been communicated as well.

WSF ITALY has moreover planned a project to realize a National Directory of professionals in SF and Fantasy. A booklet will be printed and directly sent to all the WSF members all over the world within the next month.

In 1983, to promote the works of its members, WSF ITALY will organize a great National Exhibition of Fantastic Art and a Studies Meeting on SF and Fantasy Literature. The Executive Council had already contacts with the Public Authority of Milan, which promises its help, both economically and in organization.

We inform all the members of WSF, that if they need any information concerning the Italian SF professionals, they can address our Foreign Relations Secretary: Mr. Alessandro Voglino, C.so Monforte 21, 20122 MILANO, ITALY

--Alessandro Voglino

TRANSLATIONS OF THE WORLD SF NEWSLETTER

Any member is invited to translate the Newsletter into other languages and circulate copies to members or prospective members in his/her own country or other countries where the language is of use.

MAIL BALLOT/PROXY FORM

PROPOSAL FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Paragraph VI: Delete at the beginning: "There shall be nine elected officers of World SF: A President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and six Trustees."

Insert: "The elected officers of World SF shall comprise a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a minimum of six Trustees."

(The effect of this is to remove the restriction on the number of Trustees.)

Proposed by: G. Bishop. Seconded by: E. A. Hull

Yes

No

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

For President: Brian W. Aldiss (England) Nominated by: F. Pohl, 2nd E. Hull.

_____ (write in)

For Secretary: Gerald Bishop (England) Nominated by: F. Pohl, 2nd E. Hull

_____ (write in)

For Treasurer: Harry Harrison (Ireland) Nominated by: F. Pohl, 2nd G. Bishop

_____ (write in)

For Trustees: Sam J. Lundwall (Sweden)

Patrice Duvic (France)

Charlotte Franke (West Germany)

Gerald C. Izaguirre (Brazil)

Peter Szabo (Hungary)

Eremy Parnov (U.S.S.R.)

Frederik Pohl (U.S.A.)

Ye Yong-lie (People's Republic of China)

_____ (write in)

_____ (write in)

Above slate nominated by G. Bishop, 2nd E. Hull

PROXY DESIGNATION

(Date)

I, _____, designate _____
(World SF Member's name; please print legibly) (World SF

_____, to vote for me at the meeting in Linz,
Member's name; please print legibly)

24-26 September 1982.

(signature)

Return address:

FIRST CLASS
AIRMAIL

Gerald Bishop
Aardvark House
2 Cowper Road
Cambridge CB1 3SN
ENGLAND