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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With my family, I attended the Tenth Beneluxcon, held in Eindhoven in the Netherlands over the first weekend in September. It was a charming and easy-going event, held in the Hotel Cocagne. Eindhoven is a Philips town, and the hotel, a first class one by international standards, was instituted by Philips.

I sat in on the Dutch World SF meeting, conducted by Annemarie van Ewyck. You will remember that I asked Annemarie to form a committee to deal with the Karels and, more specifically, to draw up some rules to guide us. The solutions they have arrived at will be generally acceptable, I'm sure. On that subject I had better say no more. Annemarie will have her own report.

Behind the question of awarding Karels fairly lies the bigger question of how we can get SF to circulate more equably than it does. As we realize, in each country, a large part of the SF published consists of translations from the United States and Great Britain, whereas those two countries translate very little SF from overseas. I have butted my head against that problem for a long while; for years, I had a large anthology of Scandinavian SF stories which I tried to get published in English in the U.K.--with absolutely no luck at all. And that was in palmier days of publishing than now. Many have made similar attempts to resolve the question, but it remains a fact that really only Don Wollheim in the States shows any enthusiasm for publishing translations.

The Dutch chapter of World SF have come up with another and practical way of confronting the barrier. They plan to hire a room at Seacon

where some of their excellent artwork--not only Karel Thole, the best-known fantasy artist--can be displayed, and where they can talk to British publishers and agents over a drink. It's an enterprise in which we wish them well.

On this vexed question of translation, it is pleasant also to be able to report that the contract for the World SF Anthology with Penguin Books is all but signed. This is mainly thanks to Sam Lundwall, who has been a pillar of strength all along, and has agreed to deal with the labyrinthine questions of foreign rights. He and I will co-edit and make the selections from the various countries. If you wish to submit or recommend a story--your own or someone else's--please do so now, either to me or to Sam Lundwall.

Once the anthology gets going, World SF will for the first time have a small income of its own, and a lot of our dealings should be easier.

In a day or two, I'll be off on my travels again, hoping to see members of World SF and other friends in Ljubljana. When I was first in that pleasant city, nineteen years ago, I met only one fan. Now the breed has multiplied, there as elsewhere.

After the convention in Ljubljana comes the ambitious 1st Internationale Tage der SF und Phantastik in Bergish Galdbach, near Cologne. There the West German chapter of World SF will be meeting, with a lot of well-known names present, including those of Thomas Schluck and Herbert Franke. It seems that my friends Norman Spinrad and Bob Sheckley will also be present.

Following Die Tage, I'll be touring a few German cities with my hard-cover publisher, Hohenheim. October will see me home and within normal communication range again. And by then this phenomenal summer will be

well and truly over.

What happens when you return from summer holiday? Why, you confront a pile of mail, full of the good and bad things of life--a book succeeding unexpectedly here, another flopping unexpectedly there, a bill from one place, a cheque from another. Bad news of friends getting divorced in Hungary, good news of friends having a child in Washington. A pleasant surprise from Moscow, a present from Prague, a card from someone on holiday in Zadar--after which beautiful city I once named a favorite dog--and a card from Fred and Betty in Japan, travelling at speed on the Bullet Train from Tokyo to Kyoto. Proofs of jackets from London and New York. An invitation to join IAFA.

In short, all the usual things which happen to authors when they return from holiday. Plus, in this instance, a demand from Gerbish that I write a word to the membership. Today. The word has to be: GREETINGS. This is the precious word, you will recall, that was sent at such great expense from one rim of the universe to the other in Kurt Vonnegut's *Sirens of Titan*. It is a favorite word among World SF members, since we manage to bring greetings to each other at great expense (if you consider Sw.Fr. 25 expensive), despite the barriers of frontiers and oceans. Greetings.

Greetings in particular to new members, especially those in the Far East who sign on as a result of the visit of our apostles on the Bullet Train, and to those in Australia who join as a result of the generous spread accorded us by Merv Binns in his *Australian SF News* for July.

There are now one or two international associations connected with SF, although none so broad-based as World SF. The IAFA, for instance, mentioned above, has just published its first newsletter. The initials stand for International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts. The President is the well-known scholar, Roger C. Schlobin. I believe that it would be a good idea to form a close liaison between IAFA and WSF. If anyone has any ideas for or against this,

I would be glad to hear; equally, we would like to learn about any similar bodies striving for internationalism anywhere on Earth or thereabouts.

Pleasant words regarding our Zagreb meeting are still circulating. Those of you who attended will remember that we sent a letter of Greeting, signed by all, to Maria Chruszczewska in Posnan. She has sent a warm letter back, sending her best wishes to everyone and thanking them for their kind thoughts.

Our favorite editor at Heyne Verlag, World SF member Wolfgang Jeschke, has met with a bad accident. We send him greetings and fond hopes for a speedy recovery.

Included with this mailing you will find a progress report on the plans for our meeting in Brighton next spring. It promises to be good, and costs are being held to a minimum. See you all there if not before!

--Brian Aldiss

WORLD SF ANTHOLOGY

At the General World SF Meeting in Zagreb, 15-20 June 1983, information was presented regarding the development of the World SF Anthology. I had the dubious pleasure of showing those present what little had been sent in--not very much, I assure you, less than one third of what would be needed and indeed expected. This would not do. However, our illustrious Chairman, Brian Aldiss, and I have been in close contact about this project and we had something else and maybe better to suggest at the meeting. The suggestion, which was approved, was that Brian and I handle the anthology according to slightly new lines, with a greater freedom in selecting material. We have an offer from a well-known UK paperback publisher to do an international anthology of science fiction, but are holding out signing a contract since we would like to have a better deal than the one suggested. Since I don't have the figures here, I'd rather not go into financial details at present, but it would be a good deal and the fact

that a prestigious UK publisher would do the British edition would benefit us. So these are the lines Brian and I will follow. We will actively search for good science fiction short stories from all over the world, the selection limited to works published the past ten years or so--and indeed hereto unpublished material. The goal would be a volume of stories from 24 countries running at an average of 5,000 words, plus a short intro to the history of science fiction in each country running to only 1,000 words. This would make a book, with the editors' intro, of about 150,000 words.

Brian and I would very much appreciate if each one of you in all those 24 different countries could send stories--to Brian or to me--for this anthology. Quality must be quite high, since this should be a showcase for us and for international science fiction as such. All material must be in our hands by the end of this year at the very latest.

We already have some very good material at hand, but nothing is finalized as yet and we will be wide open to suggestions all this year. Meanwhile, we'll go on searching on our own as well.

I do urge you to assist in this matter. The anthology is an important project for us, and the lack of response during the initial stage has been somewhat disheartening. I hope things will go better now.

We already have more or less firm commitments from publishers in about a half dozen countries who have declared their willingness to publish this book. Our goal is naturally to have the anthology published in all those 24 languages. Which, incidentally, also will mean a decent payment for each one of the contributors--and it will also mean badly needed money for World SF, since the idea would be to hand 20% of the income over to the organization.

Please send in material--in the original language and an English translation, if possible.

Albanian science fiction, Sikh science fiction, US science fiction--you name it, we need it.

--Sam J. Lundwall

TAGE DER SF UND PHANTASTIK

Arriving just too late for the last issue of the newsletter was an announcement of the First International Days of Science Fiction and Fantasy to be held September 23-25 in Bergisch Gladbach, Germany. Planned as an experiment, the convention will try to bring together a fan convention and an author's symposium. Bastei-Lubbe, one of Germany's leading sf and fantasy publishers, is the sponsor of this convention, which will discuss the current state of sf literature and its future development, as well as the literary and sociological meanings and implications of sf. Also planned are stage shows, multi-media events, a light-show, and a new prize, "The Robert Sheckley Short Story Award." We will publish a report on this event in the next newsletter.

THE JOURNAL IN JANUARY!

The first issue of the long-awaited *Journal of World SF* is now scheduled for January 1984. Says editor Kirpal Singh: "The first issue is in the press and all's quite well. . . . I seek contributions (learned articles, interviews, memoirs, sf poems, review-essays, etc.), all to be sent to me at this address:

Dr. Kirpal Singh
Department of English
National University of
Singapore
Kent Ridge
Singapore 0511

AMERICAN SF PEOPLE VISIT SHANGHAI

On July 26, 1983, seven American sf people arrived in Shanghai. They are Frederik Pohl, Betty Hull, Charles N. Brown, Judy and Roger Zelazny, William Wu, and Margaret Houle.

On the morning of July 28 the American guests came to the Shanghai Science Hall and were warmly welcomed

by Shanghai sf people including Ye Yonglie, Wu Dingbo, Ji Wei, Wang Yafa, and Wang Jinhai. Xiao Jianheng from Jiangsu, Liu Xinshi and Wang Xiaoda from Sciuan and Wu Yan from Beijing were also present. The hosts and guests had an informal discussion about sf for a whole morning.

In the afternoon, accompanied by several Chinese sf people, the American friends visited the Shanghai Museum of Natural History and the Shanghai Museum of History.

In the evening five Chinese sf people went to the Longbo Guesthouse where the American sf people were staying during their trip to Shanghai. Friends of the two countries carried on their interchange of ideas concerning sf. It was not until 21:00 that the guests and hosts bid goodbye to each other.

SF colleagues of China and the United felt very much impressed by this happy interview.

--Ye Yonglie

FURTHER CHINA ACTIVITIES

Before we left we knew it'd be hot--it was hot at home too. But we did not anticipate that this would be a factor in sending people out of the city to get relief from the heat just at the time we arrived in Beijing--and so we were disappointed in our hopes to meet some of the same people I'd met there before, especially at Ocean Publishing House. But we did meet some tv producers and some editors from *Chinese Literature* and *The Beijing Review*. We even recruited a new World SF member, Angelika Lange (a German national), who is working for *Beijing Review*. At one time she began work on a dissertation on Chinese sf for her university in Munich, though she has not yet completed it and regards the project as inactive for the time being. Through Angelika, we were able to meet sf author Wei Yahua in Xian, and I had a chance to discuss with him a story of his, "Conjugal Happiness in the Arms of Morpheus," which caused a great critical controversy in China in 1982 (Wu Ding-

bo and I are currently collaborating on its translation into English).

We were delighted on arrival in Guangzhou to find that our local guide, He Sen, was also an sf translator and had made arrangements for our group to have a banquet with eight local sf translators and writers. And so the network goes--sf people everywhere are like family or instant old friends.

If you're planning to go to China, do write and let me know your itinerary. I'd be happy to arrange for you to meet any of the wonderful people I had the good fortune to meet in China. In fact, I'm already looking forward to my third trip myself, perhaps in 1986.

--Elizabeth Anne Hull

SF FOR THE BLIND

Regarding bibliographical research into SF for blind readers (mentioned on p. 3 of Newsletter #11), anyone interested in this should contact:

Ed Meskys
RFD #1, Box 63
Center Harbor, NH 03226 USA
Phone: 603 354-6207

Ed, who is blind himself, has been compiling a bibliography of SF in braille, talking books, and other formats for blind readers.

--Fred Lerner

SF & FANTASY MARKETS

World SF member Scott Green writes to say that he is editing/publishing *Rising Star*, a newsletter that covers new markets for sf and fantasy writers. The subscription is \$6 for 6 issues. Overseas subscribers should add \$4.80 to the rate. World SF members who subscribe can have a \$2 credit towards an ad or a free 15-word classified ad, whichever they prefer.

--Scott Green
47 Byledge Road
Manchester, NH 03104
USA

TRUSTEES ELECT V.P.'s

A long-distance telephone call from Gerald Bishop reports that with over half the ballots returned, it is clear that the following representatives have been elected by the Trustees: Vice President East: Eremey Parnov; Vice President West: Frederik Pohl; Vice President Asia: Sakyo Komatsu. This is in accordance with the amendment to the constitution which was passed at the Zagreb meeting in June.

Congratulations to the new vice-presidents!

WORLD SF PROGRAM BOOK

In addition to the Seacon Program book, World SF plans to publish its own program book, which is inviting advertising at the following rates:

| | | Copy size |
|--------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| Full page | £40.00 | 180mmx260mm(vrt) |
| Half page | £20.00 | 180mmx125mm(v) or 55mmx260mm(v) |
| Quarter page | £10.00 | 55mmx125mm (v) |

The back cover and inside front and back covers are available at £50 ea. Rates are for camera-ready copy, black ink on white. Artwork, half-tones, processing and color printing charged extra. Copy will be reduced to 70% of original size for publication.

Deadlines: All space to be reserved by 1 February 1984; all copy received by 1 March 1984. Payment should be enclosed with copy in £ Sterling only, check payable to World SF. Send bookings and copy to Gerald Bishop, 2 Cowper Road, Cambridge, CB1 3SN, England.

BOOK EXHIBIT

Publishers from around the world are requested to send a selection of current science fiction books, with any posters advertising their sf list, with a note of the company name and address (including country) for display at Seacon/World SF next April to: Seacon '84; 78 Somerset Road; Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4NW, ENGLAND, to arrive by 1 April 1984.

KAREL AWARDS

In a previous newsletter it was announced that I would occupy myself with the Karel Award for excellence in translating.

A number of people erroneously assumed that I would be in charge of the awarding this year and have accordingly sent me nominations for the next award.

I am very sorry I could not react to those in time.

As a matter of fact, all I offered to do at the President's invitation, was to assemble a group of people with large experience in translating, to draw up a proposal of rules governing the procedure of nominating and awarding the Karels in the future.

This group will very soon lay before the Board of Trustees and, I hope, the World SF membership, a finished proposal for a simple set of rules on how to nominate, how to insure maximum response, and how to set standards for awarding.

The Karel can then become a regular institution that does just what it ought to: enhance the prestige and reputation of the translator of science fiction in the eyes of the public and the publishers.

A little patience therefore--the Karel will soon be on its way.

--Annemarie van Ewyck
Weteringkade 64
2515 AR DEN HAAG
The Netherlands

DIRECTORY UPDATES

New members:

Richard K. Preston; Director, STAR Foundation; 225 Church Street, NE; Vienna, VA 22180 USA

Angelika Lange; Am Rehsprung 5; 3500 Kassel; Federal Republic of Germany (permanent address for directory). Now: Friendship Hotel, 8-14-43; Beijing, CHINA

Patrick G. Hogan, Jr.; Department

of English; University of Houston;
Houston, TX 77004 USA

David G. Hartwell; 153 Deerfield
Lane; Pleasantville, NY 10570 USA

Maxim Jakubowski; 95 Finchley Lane;
London NW4 1BY; ENGLAND

Pascal Ducommun; Cheminots 23; La
Chaux-de-Fonds, 2300; SWITZERLAND

Missed from the directory:

Dorothy Houghton; 6 Birchington
Road; Crouch End; London N8; ENGLAND

Changes of address:

Jay Rothbell & Robert Sheckley;
19 Rue Alphanand; Paris 75013; FRANCE

Malcolm Edwards; Victor Gollancz
Ltd.; 14 Henrietta Street; London,
WC2E 8QJ; ENGLAND

Tom A. Shippey, add postcode LS2
9JT

Bob Shaw; 90 Albert Road; Grappenhall;
Warrington; Cheshire, WA4 2PG;
ENGLAND

Jack Cohen; 39 Greenhill; Blackwell;
Bromsgrove, Worcs, B60 1BL; UK

Chris Morgan; 321 Sarehole Road;
Hall Green; Birmingham, B28 0AL, UK

Peter Nicholls, 83 Lavender Sweep;
London SW11, UK

R. L. Fanthorpe; 48 Claude Road;
Cardiff, Wales, UK

Paul G. Begg; 37 Vesper Gate Drive;
Kirkstall; Leeds, LS5 3RD

Terry Jeeves, house number 230 not
320.

Annemarie van Ewyck; Weteringkade
64; 2515 Ar Den Haag, NETHERLANDS

Bernd Kreimeier; Am Funkenbusch 4;
4355 Waltrop, WEST GERMANY

This issue of the Newsletter is being flown over to Britain, to be printed there and distributed with copies of a Progress Report on the World SF meeting plans for Brighton and hotel booking forms.

NOTEWORTHY AWARDS

The Nebula Awards, given by the Science Fiction Writers of America for best work of the year went to the following: (novel) Michael Bishop, *No Enemy But Time*; (novella) John Kessel, "Another Orphan"; (novelette) Connie Willis, "Fire Watch"; and (short story) Connie Willis, "A Letter from the Clearys."

At the worldcon in Baltimore, the following Hugos were bestowed: (novel) Isaac Asimov, *Foundation's Edge*; (novella) Joanna Russ, "Souls"; (novelette) Connie Willis, "Fire Watch"; (short story) Spider Robinson, "Melancholy Elephants"; and (non-fiction) World SF member James Gunn, *Isaac Asimov: The Foundation of Science Fiction*.

The John W. Campbell Memorial Award for best science fiction novel of 1982 (not to be confused with the JWC award for best new writer) went to our own president, Brian Aldiss, for *Helliconia Spring*.

At Daicon 4, 20-21 August 1983, the Japanese Seiun Sho (translated as star cloud or nebula but similar in concept to Hugos, voted by the fans) Awards were announced: Best Japanese novel, *Sayonara Jupiter 'Goodbye Jupiter'* by World SF's new VP for Asia, Sakyo Komatsu; Japanese short story, "Kotaba-zukai-shi" "The Word Handler" by Chohei Kambayashi; best foreign novel, *Dragon's Egg* by Robert Forward; foreign short story, "Nightflyer" by George R. R. Martin; best dramatic presentation, *Blade Runner*; Best Cartoonist, Moto Hagio; Best Artist, Yoshitaka Amano.

H. Bruce Franklin won the Pilgrim Award, which is given by the Science Fiction Research Association for lifetime contributions to the field of science fiction scholarship and criticism.

SFRA SETS MEETING DATE

The annual meeting of the Science Fiction Research association is set for 22-24 June 1984 at the University of Missouri-Rolla. Contact: Wayne Cogell; G-7 Humanities/Social Sciences; University of Missouri-Rolla; Rolla, MO 65401 USA; phone: 314 341-4131.