

Number 8, Winter 1983

Elizabeth Anne Hull, Editor
1502 Seven Pines Road
Schaumburg, IL 60193 USA

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It remains something of a surprise that the SF fraternity grows old and dies just like ordinary people. A few months ago, the Polish SF writer Czeslaw Chruszczewski died. After Stanislaw Lem, M. Chruszczewski was one of the best-known SF writers in his country. He was also an active organizer of the SF movement. Those of us who attended Eurocon IV in Posnan will remember him with affection, and his energy and courtesy. He was one of the chief administrators of that hospitable occasion.

Peter Kuczka writes to tell me that M. Chruszczewski's widow is now in difficult circumstances. One way to help her--which seems a good way in view of World SF's international interests--is to press for translations of Chruszczewski's novels and stories, and to get them published in several countries. Editors please note.

Others may feel they would like to send some kind of gift or remembrance to Maria Chruszczewski, the widow. Her address is Wyspianskiego 2 m.6, Poznan, Poland 60-749. I'm sure she would be glad to hear from anyone in World SF.

Peter Kuczka's thoughtful message reminds me that--for obvious reasons--it is easier to note the death rather than the birth of SF writers. Perhaps an obituary column would be a good addition to the Newsletter. It may happen that each of us is, on occasion, the best person to announce that such and such a friend is no longer with us. Please let the editor or me know.

Such human things are part of our interest, just as much as the discovery of new comets. I was sitting in a cinema with my son watching E.T. this week. As the boys on their bikes and bombers sailed into the air and rose above the town, there was a great exhalation of delight from the young members of the audience. That lifting of spirits

was an example of the simple human pleasure SF produces--as legitimate as the awe or terror we also traffic in.

Such benevolent thoughts are provoked by the fact that I write this message only a few days before Christmas. 1983 is just around the corner. One of the chief events for us in 1983 will be the meeting in Zagreb in June. Bruno Ogorelec and Krsto Mazuranic were on the phone to me last week, and reported that arrangements there are up to schedule. I can recommend Croatia to everyone.

While we were on the phone, Krsto and I compared weather conditions. It was rainy and cold in both Zagreb and Oxford. How were you faring? In November, all the planets were grouped in the same section of sky on the opposite side of the sun to Earth--and relatively tightly grouped, too (within 65°). Scientists in Peking report that this synod, as the configuration is called, occurs once every 179 years. When a synod occurs in the winter months (of the northern hemisphere), it is followed by several decades of unusually cold and severe weather. There have been five synods since 1000 A.D., each followed by markedly deteriorating weather. The theory behind this is that the influence of the four giant planets causes Earth to speed or slow in its orbit, affecting the length of the seasons. If this SF or reality? Well, we shall see . . .

My warmest wish to you all is for good weather and harvests in 1983!

--Brian Aldiss

INVITATION TO TRANSLATE

Any member is invited to translate the Newsletter into other languages and circulate it to members or prospective members in his/her own country or other countries where the language is of use. World SF welcomes and encourages this practice.

THE DIRECTORY

The new edition of the Directory has finally appeared after many problems with the compilation. Our thanks go to Charles Platt for taking over and masterminding the preparation and to Gianfranco Viviani and the Italian Section of World SF for printing and mailing.

It is being posted by surface mail from Italy at about the same time as this issue of the Newsletter. Allow six weeks for delivery.

This edition of the Directory indicates, where known, the languages spoken and read by members and the work they do within Science Fiction. Unfortunately, this information is not available for every member, so if your details are missing, or there are any mistakes, please accept our apologies and send any corrections to Charles Platt, 9 Patchin Place, New York, NY 10011 USA. There is a form in the directory which you can use for this purpose, or you can inform your National Secretary when you pay your subscription (which is now due).

With your copy of the Directory, the Italian Section of World SF will send you, with their compliments, a copy of their *Repertory of the Italian Professionals in Science Fiction and Fantasy 1981*, which includes a bibliography of the SF books published in Italy in 1981, lists of publishers, editors, authors, artists and translators with their works during the year (something which the Directory cannot do!). This useful little booklet has been prepared by our Italian members under the editorship of Ernesto Vegetti.

--Gerald Bishop

THE ZAGREB ORGANIZERS SPEAK

The following is an open letter to the World SF membership from the Organizing Committee of the upcoming General Meeting to be held at the Hotel Esplanade 16-20 June 1983.

Hello, there, dear friends!

If you detect a bit of a frenzied tone in this letter, please don't raise your eyebrows in wonder. What with the lingering Season's joviality, what with the privilege of being host to all you dear peo-

ple of World SF, and what with the growing nervousness approaching hysterics that is the small price to pay for wanting to make a perfect meeting, we can't help using excited sentences.

Thank you for having accepted our bid. (Now we expect you all to come.) Also thanks to both the former and the present Presidents for their kind words in Newsletter 8.

Somewhen in February this year, shortly after you receive this Newsletter, you shall also receive our Progress Report Two with all the necessary information. Also the Registration Form with all sorts of questions. It is important that you rush the filled-in form back to us to help us calibrate the Meeting--to calculate the attending fee, to choose suitable sites for memorable outings, and to shuffle the multiple-track program into a well-balanced timetable. Also to be able to help anyone wishing to linger awhile in Yugoslavia afterwards to have a nice vacation or an interesting sight-seeing tour. And last, but not the least, to secure room for the exhibition. (We would like very much to have an exhibition of publishing, art, and film in various countries. Please get in touch with your National Chairperson or Secretary and work out a showcase of sf in your country.)

One more important thing: if you don't receive the Progress Report Two by March 10, please complain at once and give us your correct address. (It may easily happen that the address we have is wrong.)

About the program:

The Esplanade Hotel will have rooms for the Early Birds on Wednesday, 15 June. (If anyone wishes to come earlier, please let us know.)

Thursday, 16 June shall be a Warming up Day: Workshops and panels (see Friday) as well as final touches on setting up the exhibition (anything that wasn't done the previous day) and some entertainment provided by the hosts.

Friday, 17 June shall be a full working day: the Opening Plenary Session with Welcomes in the morning, and multiple track panels in the afternoon. Also workshops: we think it may be profitable for us to have the following workshops: Translators, Publishers, Literary Agents, Artists, Bibliographers and Librar-

ians, Teachers, Film Makers, and Vendors. We here don't know all of them; we hardly know *any* of them. Please try to interest people in your country to come and take part in the Workshops.

Also, there will be a Spouse's Outing.

Saturday, 18 June will be a Know-Thy-Host Day: we plan to show you Zagreb (a guided city tour) and introduce you to the local sf community.

Also, to have some work done: Panels and Workshops.

Sunday, 19 June shall be a Relaxation Day (who works on Sundays anyway?). Whoever saw the Plitvice Lakes agrees that few places in the world are more beautiful. Whoever tasted local specialties (spit-roasted ox to eat, *slijivovica* to drink) wanted to repeat the experience.

Monday, 20 June shall be the "Mopping-Up" Day. Whatever work there is left to be done at the Closing Plenary Session in the morning, the closing Banquet in the evening.

And again, a Spouse's Outing.

Did you know that a winner of the Academy Award (Oscar), a resident of Zagreb, is a member of World SF? Well, he is, and we plan to show you his award-winning film (which is also pure sf). We also plan some other attractions.

So we are looking forward to welcoming you all in June. You'll be dear guests.

Sincerely yours,

Krsto A. Mazuranic, Nat'l Chairman
D. Zokalja 1
41430 Samobor, Yugoslavia

and

Bruno Ogorelec, Nat'l Secretary
Kopernikova 10
41000 Zagreb, Yugoslavia

and

Fifty Yugoslav members of World SF

US TRAVEL AGENT DESIGNATED

Bernie Rose, Trans World Travel
Service, 1338 Old Skokie Road,

Highland Park, IL 60035, (312) 831-5050, has been named as the "official" travel agent for the Meeting in Zagreb.

Many people are reluctant to use travel agents, preferring to make their own reservations, perhaps fearing that the travel agent will cost more. Having been in the business, I can assure you that there are good agents and not-so-good ones. Bernie has been in the business for many years and specializes in group movements, but he has also been my personal agent for some time.

To those who worry about the agent's costing more, let me assure you that agents are paid by the airlines and tour companies, etc., rather than by the traveler. The airlines especially are glad to pay the commission because it not only sells more tickets but also relieves them of the ticketing. And recently I asked Bernie to make a reservation for me to Cincinnati, giving him the flights that would arrive closest to the time I needed. That schedule would have made me eligible for a super saver fare of \$198 round trip from Chicago. My experience tells me that most airlines would have simply sold me that ticket. Bernie advised me that by leaving 45 minutes later I would be eligible for a "Q" fare of \$113. Since I don't usually earn \$85/hour, I was glad to wait.

Bernie will be keeping in close touch with Bruno Ogorelec in Yugoslavia to coordinate local arrangements.

It is difficult to quote exact air fares at this time because we expect price changes in the next few months, but we are hoping to qualify for the lowest possible fares by bargaining with the airlines for group rates. The more of us traveling, the better our negotiating position.

At this writing, typical fares are as follows: round-trip Chicago/Zagreb \$1228; r/t New York/Zagreb \$863; r/t Miami/Zagreb \$1061; and r/t Los Angeles/Zagreb \$1163. As you can see, the price wars on the New York/Los Angeles segment make the L.A. fare lower than the Chicago fare. Besides this, it's very likely that most folks will want to extend their stay abroad either before or after the meeting, and this would

in most cases affect the fare.

Bernie is fully prepared to work with you on your complete itinerary. I urge you to take advantage of his expertise, both for your own sake and so we can all benefit from any possible discounts we may become eligible for as a group.

--Elizabeth Anne Hull

OTHER NEWS FROM YUGOSLAVIA

Yugoslav publishers have cut back on SF rather severely in the last couple of years. The main reason is not the lack of interest--even though the market has softened somewhat the sales continue to be brisk--but the problems with foreign currency payments. Faced with the dearth of foreign currency and the need to make some cuts in imported titles, the publishers naturally try to concentrate on sure-fire hits, i.e. mainstream best-sellers, and neglect "minor" lines like SF.

It is symptomatic of the curious nature of the SF market that the void is being filled rather quickly. Two new publishing ventures have surfaced immediately, Polaris in Belgrade and Vizija in Zagreb. Both are small and--unusual for a socialist country--privately held. Yugoslavia is apparently unique among the socialist countries in allowing private publishing, and the people who are taking advantage of this seem to be able to sidestep most of the problems that beset the big, publicly-owned publishing houses.

The first paperback in the Polaris series, Clarke's *2010: Odyssey Two*, appeared in December last year, while Vizija (pronounced wheezeezya) prepares its Premiere, Fred Pohl's *Man Plus*, for March appearance. Both have launched unusually strong (for Yugoslavia) promotional campaigns and both rely on unorthodox distribution methods. To avoid giving customary heavy rebates to the bookstore chains, they rely on subscriptions instead. *Odyssey Two* has not appeared on the bookstore racks at all, and the entire print run is reportedly sold out nevertheless.

It seems likely that at least four or five titles will appear on the market by the end of '83--quite a

change in comparison with the last couple of years which have not seen even one. It is heartening to report that the proprietor of Vizija, at least, is a World SF member and thanks it for the support necessary for such a venture.

--Bruno Ogorelec

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

[World SF members] might be interested to know that at last I have published *S F Commentary Reprint Edition: First Year 1969*. This is the first eight issues of *S F Commentary*, which has acquired something of a reputation for reviews and critical articles over the years. However, the first eight issues have not been available since 1969--even long-time subscribers might not have seen them. The Reprint has them in a retypeset, printed form, along with a new introduction by me. Also photos. More than 200,000 words. 200 numbered copies only. \$40, available only from the publisher at this address: GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Vic. 3001, Australia.

. . . Norstrilla Press has had its first success in Australia (apart from *The Altered I*, sold to Berkeley in the USA). Its a novel by Gerald Murnane, called *The Plains*, and it has just been shortlisted for Australia's most prestigious literary award, The Age Book of the Year Award. We've published this as a general novel in Australia, but *The Plains'* vision of an alternative Australia, devoted to the arts instead of sheep-raising and mining, would be enjoyed greatly by sf audiences as well as general audiences. (We've also had rave reviews here.) Anybody who wants to buy a copy should send US or Australian \$9.95 plus \$2 postage to Norstrilla Press, P.O. Box 91, Carlton, Vic., 3053, Australia.

Future books for Norstrilla Press include *Lavington Pugh*, a comic novel by Jay Bland (just released here at \$6.95 trade paperback), a collection of new stories by well-known Australian sf writers, such as Damien Broderick and George Turner; and a comedy-fantasy. We are also promised George Turner's book of literary-sfnal memoirs, when he finishes writing it.

--Bruce Gillespie

NEWS FROM ITALY

Inisero Cremaschi, editor of *La Collina* ('The Hill'), the annual anthology of criticism and fiction, delivered to the publisher, Editrice Nord, Milan, the critical and creative texts to be printed in the fourth volume. *La Collina 4* will appear in March 1983.

Gilda Musa was awarded four literary prizes for some single neo-fantastic short stories in Autumn 1982: "Elea" in *Ascea Marina* in September; "Insula Romana" in *Bastia Umbra*, "Viriglio" in *Arco di Trento*, and International Prize "Dante d'Argento" in *La Spezia*, all three in October. The last one also emphasized Musa's entire prose work.

SF STUDY CENTER TO OPEN

The world's first center for comprehensive, scholarly study of sf will open in February at the University of Kansas under the direction of James Gunn (Professor of English at KU as well as veteran sf writer) and Stephen H. Goldman.

The KU Center for the Study of Science Fiction will take over coordination of several existing KU science fiction activities and will promote scholarly research and information exchange in the field. One of the center's first projects will be to raise funds to support research, scholarships and additions to KU's already-substantial collection of sf library holdings, among which is the World SF collection. It will also consolidate sf activities currently based in a number of KU departments and work to attract more sf scholars and students by publicizing KU's resources in the field.

LETTERS FROM GERMANY

For the "Grande Enciclopedia della Fantascienze" (Editoriale Del Drago, Via, A. Stradella, 13, I-20129 Mailand, Italy) I have written two articles about the theme of science fiction and cinema, and have given 76 slides for publication, on the basis of a written agreement. As yet I have not received back my pictures, no copy of the publication, and no fee, despite many letters and personal contact with the publishers at the book fair in Frankfurt. My purpose in this let-

ter is to ask if other colleagues have similar experiences--especially with this edition. I've heard there are also similar cases in France wherein the author gets no fee because of missing tax declaration forms.

--Herbert W. Franke

(The following was originally addressed to Gerald Bishop)

I received with thanks your letter dated 1 October 1982 [the official letter of thanks as per the vote of thanks passed at the Linz Meeting] and I was very glad that the General Meeting of World SF in Linz was so successful. On behalf of the organisers of *Ars Electronica* I should also like to thank you for the cooperation and assistance in our Festival--the General Meeting of World SF was a very important enrichment of our programme.

The total SF activities evoked a very positive echo in the media and publicity. This is the reason why we are intending to integrate into other *Ars Electronica* Festivals an item about science fiction. The next *Ars Electronica* will take place in September 1984. If any members of World SF have any ideas or would like to participate, please get in touch with me.

I remain with best wishes for the coming year 1983, yours faithfully,

--Dr. Hannes Leopoldseder
ORF, Franckstrasse 2a
4010 Linz, Austria

PRESIDENT MAKES APPOINTMENT

I greatly regret that there has been some misunderstanding regarding the appointment which was created for M. Pierre Barbet at the Stresa meeting. Through an oversight, the appointment never got into the records. I am glad to be able to put the matter right.

Pierre is already doing valuable liason work between various European groups, and for the SFWA. He now becomes officially the World SF European Liason Representative; his role will be to act in liason work between us and the *Comite Europeen de SF*, and other bodies in general. This of course will not affect the local work already being

done by liaison committees appointed for specific conventions.

--Brian Aldiss

1982 KAREL NOMINATIONS

At this writing the chair for the 1982 committee to bestow awards for excellence in translation has not been confirmed.

Therefore, please send your nominations to the newsletter editor, who will forward them when a chair is selected.

The criteria as established last year are simple: any members may nominate any translator, who, in their judgment, has done notably excellent work in translating sf stories or novels from one language to another. The translation should demonstrate high literary quality in the finished work as well as faithfulness to the original.

In your nomination, please supply the following information: title of work in original language; title in translation; date published in translation; name of publisher (or periodical); and, of course, name of translator.

Although a nomination may be for more than a single work, only those which appeared in 1982 will be considered eligible. All nominations should be received by 1 May 1983.

GENERAL MEETING 1984

Good progress is being made with the plans for our 1983 General Meeting which will be held (we hope) with an associated conference for World SF and Eurocon 1984.

For our own meeting and conference, I am hoping to recreate the beautiful atmosphere of the Dublin Conferences, where World SF started, and I have the agreement of some of the people who made the programme there as lively and enjoyable as the company, to delight and inform us again.

However this Brighton meeting depends upon the result of the site selection vote for the 1984 British Easter Convention at Glasgow this Easter. The "Seacon '84" bid for

a combined Eurocon and British Eastercon is progressing well and looking most impressive. With the plans that are being discussed at a series of intensive committee meetings, I feel sure that Seacon '84 will be an enjoyable convention for you to stay on for and will contain a number of programme items which will inform and/or entertain you. The World SF programme will also continue through Seacon with some World SF sponsored items on the main programme, and our Workshop session will take place during the Eurocon (with minimum overlap of interest) "behind closed doors" for our members only.

A fine time will be had by all, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

--Gerald Bishop

MEXICO BIDS FOR 1985

While President Brian Aldiss is corresponding with our Russian representatives about the proposal to host the 1985 World SF General Meeting, he has also received exploratory letters from agents eager to sponsor a meeting in Mexico.

Both possibilities will be fully explored and both parties will be given ample time at the meeting in Zagreb to provide the membership with information to help make the decision.

CONFERENCE ON THE RIVIERA

The Centre d'Etude de la Metaphore is sponsoring a conference devoted to sf and fantasy in Nice, 21-23 April 1983. Theme: "Images of Outer Space--Images of Inner Space." For more details: Denise Terrel-Fauconnier, 17 Faubourg Saint-Esprit, 06560 Valbonne, France.

--Neil Barron

JOURNAL ON HOLD

Since Kirpal Singh, the editor appointed for the launching of the World SF Journal, will be in New Guinea until June 1983, the first issue has been unavoidably delayed. More news on this should be available in the next newsletter.

1983 ELECTIONS

During the Stresa meeting, two vice-presidents were elected, one East and one West. Unfortunately, this was irregular procedure, since the constitution had not been changed to accommodate these extra offices.

The following amendment has been suggested:

Paragraph IV now reads (as amended at the 1982 meeting in Linz): "The elected officers of World SF shall comprise a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a minimum of six Trustees, to be elected at each annual World General Meeting to serve until the next. Collectively, they shall comprise the Board of Governors, which shall be empowered to conduct the affairs of World SF between World SF General Meetings. No two Trustees shall be residents of the same country."

(Please note that the new directory does not reflect the change in wording in this paragraph.)

The further change would insert between the first and second sentences the following:

"From amongst the Trustees, one from each major geographical area (i.e. East, West and Asia) shall be chosen by the Trustees themselves to act as a Vice President of the Association for that area."

Proposed: Gerald Bishop
Second: E. Hull

If you would like to offer any comment or friendly amendment to the proposed change, contact either the proposer or seconder no later than 1 April at which time the official ballot will be prepared.

To avoid the complications of write-ins and nominations from the floor that occurred in Linz, and to be as fair as possible to all people willing to stand as candidates for office, please send all nominations to the Newsletter editor no later than 1 April 1983. You may, of course, nominate for the offices of President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustees.

Other comments and suggestions to improve the election procedures would be gratefully received.

OFF TO CHINA AGAIN

Your editor is planning to return to the scene . . . 23 July to 9 August 1983, I'll be leading a tour, "The China Explorer," for Ask Mr. Foster Travel Service.

I'm very much looking forward to visiting again with the people I met on my previous trip in Shanghai and Beijing, and to seeing more of the sights of Xian, but I'm also excited about the prospect of spending three days in Urumqi and vicinity, way off the tourist track of the "Eastern Corridor." The tour will also stop in dazzling Hong Kong, noted for its glamour and wonderful shopping bargains. And an optional six-day extension in Japan will be available after the tour.

The tour isn't limited to sf people but there are four "sf personalities" already signed up to go with me: Judy & Roger Zelazny, Charles N. Brown, and Frederik Pohl, and I am planning to arrange as much as possible for us to meet with sf counterparts in China.

Write me for a brochure with full details.

--Elizabeth Anne Hull
1502 Seven Pines Road
Schaumburg, IL 60193

ACTRACK WILL REPEAT

Donald Hassler has been persuaded to chair "AcTrack" once again for the "Worldcon" 41--"Constellation" 1-5 September 1983 at the Baltimore Convention Center on the Inner Harbor.

The theme: "The Sciences in Science Fiction and Fantasy," a broad inclusive topic.

Says Hassler: "We would like discussions of alternative 'sciences' such as the science of fantasy that Gene Wolfe talks about or the science of magic as it is worked out in Zelazny's *The Changling*. We would like discussion of what is not science . . . We would like detailed scenarios of science in fiction of all types."

Send proposals for papers to him at the Honors & Experimental College, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242 USA (216) 672-2312.

DUES NOW DUE

With this newsletter you may be receiving a dues notice from your national officers. If you've already paid for 1983, please ignore it. But if you haven't, please renew your membership now, while you're thinking about it.

We have barely been able to keep the newsletter up, and launching the journal will depend on our obtaining dependable financial support.

If you receive this newsletter direct from the editor and you do not know who your national officers are (names are published in newsletter no. 4, fall 1981), you can find out by writing the newsletter editor or contacting any of the Trustees or other officers.

Dues were set at the meeting in Linz at 25 swissfrancs, for the purpose of establishing a rate that was relatively stable. Please do not, however, pay in Swiss currency outside Switzerland, as this will result in costly banking charges which could eat up our resources.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

New Address:

Laurraine Tutihasi
135 Loyola Avenue
Atherton, CA 94025

New Member:

Alan Dean Foster
4001 Pleasant Valley Drive
Prescott, AZ 86301

Returned "Unknown"

Bent Irlov
Fredensborggade 6
DK-2200 Kobenhavn, Denmark

If you know this last person, or any other individual who has been "lost" please contact Charles Platt, 9 Patchin Place, New York, NY 10011 USA.

Attention, all national officers: Please send Directory updates to the newsletter editor as well as to Charles Platt; I will publish as space permits.

ANTHOLOGY PROJECT

Sam Lundwall, the editor appointed to publish the World SF Anthology, reports that he is resorting to unorthodox recruiting for the volume, which has been stymied by the apathy of many of the national officers who have not made nominations and/or contacted publishers in their own countries for the venture.

Everyone agrees that this anthology must be a "showpiece." Sam cannot accept every story that is suggested to him: this we all realize. But he has no way to locate stories in all countries unless he has help.

Perhaps magazine editors are in the very best position to nominate stories from among those they themselves have published, and they are invited to do so, directly to Sam. (Each story should be accompanied by an English translation if at all possible.) But other sf professionals also read short stories and should be willing to acknowledge excellence in the work of their colleagues.

Sam is waiting to hear from you!

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

The World SF Constitution and By-Laws provide that: "An agenda for the business meeting shall be prepared and distributed to all members not less than thirty days before each meeting" (par. VIII).

In order to comply, the agenda will appear in the next newsletter. Please send any items you wish to have placed on the agenda to the newsletter editor to be received no later than 1 April 1983.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Normally, closing dates for the Newsletter are the 20th of January, April, July, and October. Because of the June meeting this year, however, I am requesting that any copy for the next issue reach me by 1 April so members can have sufficient time to receive information pertinent to the meeting.

--Elizabeth Anne Hull