

WORLD SF - PROGRESS REPORT NUMBER ONE

Science Fiction is the great popular literature of our century. From the pioneers of the last century, Jules Verne, Constantin Tsiolkovski, Mary Shelley, Edgar Allan Poe, and H. G. Wells, has grown an enormous volume of work which is durable and international in appeal.

A marked feature of science fiction is the loyalty and activity it engenders. When the First World Science Fiction Writers Conference was held in Dublin, in September 1976, there was a great deal of international interest and attendance. When the idea of a World SF organization was suggested it was of immediate interest. All those present were professionals in some aspect of science fiction--and all cared a good deal about the international aspect of this literature. An informal meeting was held and it was decided that this idea should be changed into a reality, in such a way as to enhance the international nature of science fiction and its still-growing hold on the imagination of forward-thinking people everywhere.

This decision has received marked support from both East and West; plainly such an organization is desirable. It is visualised that an international SF association could be established that would widen lines of approach to include all major world centres of SF creativity.

Once established the international association would hold as its prior aims the general dissemination of creative SF, the furthering of scholarship, the interchange of ideas, and of course the fostering of closer bonds between those who already hold such deep interests in common, around the globe.

The next step has been taken by the Organizing Committee--the publicizing of the idea of the organization and the registration of all those interested. The Organizing Committee has this single function, and will step down as soon as the association is formally begun and officers elected.

To aid the Organizing Committee there are national chairmen in a number of countries. These chairmen are as informal in appointment as the committee. Their task is to aid in the publicizing of the association. There are countries where a national SF organization already exists, and these organizations are urged to take the lead in helping with the formation of the world organization. Some countries do not have chairmen as yet and we urge those interested to inform the committee of your desire to be of aid. The national chairmen aid by translating our releases into their own languages.

Because the idea for this association was proposed at an English speaking conference we are using that language at this time. National chairmen aid also by collecting dues in those countries where foreign currency transfers prove difficult.

At this stage the organization is a most informal one, which is ideal. It is our hope that, in the coming year, groups will meet in each country to discuss details of formal organization. While individuals are of course welcome at the first international conference, delegations representing national groups will certainly be of great importance. Sound suggestions are needed, plans must be formalized, and specific goals spelled out.

That such an association as this is needed is beyond doubt. The coherence of the science fiction field has been a phenomena for decades. The many national and international conventions are one strong indication of this. That these are organized usually by readers and fans is a strength, not a weakness. If this much can be accomplished in the name of a hobby or an enthusiasm--how much more can be done by the professionals in this field?

A charter membership form is enclosed with this progress report. All current members are urged to reproduce this form and to circulate it widely. By all means translate it and see that not only SF writers received it, but editors, critics, teachers, agents, publishers--everyone connected professionally in any way with SF--receive it as well.

We are at the very beginning. Therefore members are urged to think about what form the association should take, as well as ways to implement its growth and success. Suggestions are most welcome and should be sent to the committee. The more ideas the better so that when the first organizing meeting is held there will be plenty of material for discussion. This will also be of aid in the planning of the program.

The Organizing Committee

WORLD SF

An international science fiction association for professionals:

WRITERS EDITORS ARTISTS CRITICS TEACHERS HISTORIANS
LIBRARIANS AGENTS PUBLISHERS and all other professionals

Charter membership: \$2.00 U.S. or £1-00 Sterling. Make check payable to:

WORLD SF
10 Fitzwilliam Square
Dublin 2
Ireland

(In case of difficulty with currency transfers, the equivalent sum in your national currency may be paid to your national chairman.)

You will received a membership card and organizing publications. As the organization grows progress reports will be sent. When details are finalized you will be sent an invitation to the SECOND WORLD SF WRITERS CONFERENCE, which will include an organizing session for WORLD SF. This will be held in June, 1978, at the Burlington Hotel in Dublin.

- - - - - Detach and return with charter membership fee - - - - -

Name
Address
.....
Professional affiliation
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(Please give category of professional interest, and sufficient information to identify affiliation: title of published work and where published; school or college; etc. No formal standards for membership eligibility have yet been established.)

WORLD SF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Brian W. Aldiss Harry Harrison Frederik Pohl