

# SEACON '79

## 37th World Science Fiction Convention

BRIGHTON, ENGLAND. 23rd - 27th AUGUST 1979

Permanent Address:- 14 Henrietta Street, London WC2

April, 1978

Reply to:

72 Beeches Drive,  
Erdington,  
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### CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER - No. 2.

My idea of a special, limited-circulation WorldCon Newsletter seems to have been quite well-received. As John Millard says in a recent letter, "Ever since the Kansas group introduced the formal typeset magazine-type progress report in 1974, Worldcon committees haven't been communicating very well, although most PRs have been very good in presentation and content. The problem, as I see it, is the long lead-time required to organise, print and distribute, so that by the time individual members get their copies the urgent information is out of date."

We have exactly the same troubles. Although fairly modest by N.American standards, our publications do consume a fair amount of effort and take some time to get out. And our PR-1 was particularly unlucky and seems to have taken an average of 3 months to cross the Atlantic due to the effects of the U.S. East Coast stevedores' strike.

This Newsletter is seen as a partial answer to the problem of keeping in touch. Please spread around any news items herein. Meanwhile, Graham Charnock is on-target so far with our PR-2, which should be mailed out on June 1st. Over and above that, these Newsletters will continue to be issued at bimonthly intervals.

#### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

At the time of writing I don't know exactly how big SEACON has grown. Now, that might seem a terrible admission to make but the reason is our success in recruiting at the British Eastercon this year - SKYCON - which took place just two weeks ago. We seem to have taken over 200 more names and these, together with the huge piles of mail which have been arriving daily during March (as belated response to PR-1) have meant we've temporarily lost track of the precise numbers of memberships taken out.

What happens is that our membership secretary, Eve Harvey, sends out the appropriate material and then transfers details to a standard form. These are sent in batches for data preparation and computer processing. Every so often ace DP manager Martin Hoare re-sorts and prints out a revised list and/or mailing labels. It's at this time we make note of totals to date.

As a guess, I would estimate SEACON now has somewhere over 1500 members - I'll give a more precise figure next time.

Please note that rates are now \$15.00 attending, \$7.50 supporting (£9.00 & £4.50) until the end of 1978, after which time they will increase again.

#### CONFUSION AND CONSTERNATION

We've had complaints during the last few months that some people were wrongly listed in PR-1 with "supporting" rather than "attending" status. Others seem not to have been listed at all.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: SAC, [illegible]  
FROM: [illegible]  
SUBJECT: [illegible]

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This is what went wrong. First, errors in assigning correct status are generally our fault. Preparing the list in PR-1 was very much a rush job particularly when one considers the mess of paperwork we brought back from Miami. As a result only a partial correlation was made between presupporting and voting members (well, you try matching up two sets of 1000+ names, neither in any sort of order!).

Correct details have now been entered on to our records and PR-2 will contain a re-classified membership list which should reassure everyone who may have wondered about our staffwork. New membership cards should already have been issued where necessary.

But there have been instances where people seem to have disappeared from the system completely, and these remain a mystery. There's not much we can do save to listen sympathetically to complaints, but I have to note in passing that we recently received a package of 16 voting stubs from the 1977 site-selection ballot, "found" and posted to us by the SUNCON committee in February 1978. Naturally the various cheques had expired after 6 months and each of these had to be returned individually.

#### DEADLINE DATE APPROACHES

As I mentioned in the first Newsletter, October 1st is the nominal date upon which booking forms for the Metropole and other convention hotels will be posted (1 week earlier for overseas members, airmail). It's very important that people realise this and join SEACON early; also that they return the form promptly because there may be something of a scramble.

Certainly it's essential that we take as many hotel rooms as possible before Christmas, before the holiday-season rush starts for the Brighton hotels.

One or two people have been writing to enquire whether they can book rooms now. Sorry - the answer has to be "no", and the hotel has been told to accept no bookings for the convention period except through our system.

The only exception to this rule concerns suites in the Metropole Hotel itself, of which there is a limited number only. Suites will be allocated separately via Rob Jackson, and as far as possible he will try to ensure these go to individuals (or groups) whose need is greatest - i.e. for professional or entertaining purposes, etc.

If you want a suite or indeed, wish to organise any special function (SFWA, SFRA, etc) during the convention period, write to Rob now.

#### NEW RECRUITS FOR SEACON COMMITTEE

Over and above our central, management committee of nine, we have been steadily recruiting other committee members to handle specialist jobs. Some of these newcomers are:-

John Brosnan: author of several books on films, John came to the UK in 1970 on the celebrated Heicon bus from his native Australia and in 1979 he will handle our film programme.

Jack Chalker: needing no introduction for his work on North American conventions and proprietor of Mirage Press, Jack will take a leading role in the auction team, and as U.S. liaison for auction materials.

Pat Charnock: celebrated lady editor of Wrinkled Shrew and member of the 1975 Seacon committee (at Coventry), Pat will set up our Fan Room, fast becoming the heart of British Eastercons (after the bar, of course).

Coral Clarke: congratulations are in order for Coral; not only does she join Rob Jackson to organise the Masquerade but she has recently become engaged to the same intrepid individual!

Donald Eastlake: few are better-qualified for the job as manager of the business meeting at SEACON '79. Don will also advise us on handling the 1981 site-selection ballot.

The first of these is the fact that the United States is a young country. It has only about 100 years of history, and its institutions are still in the process of being formed. This is a great advantage, for it allows us to learn from the mistakes of other nations and to create a better system than they have. It also allows us to experiment with different forms of government and to find the one that works best for us.

The second of these is the fact that the United States is a large country. It has a vast territory and a large population. This is a great advantage, for it allows us to spread our influence over a large area and to have a strong voice in the world. It also allows us to have a diverse economy and to be able to withstand economic shocks.

The third of these is the fact that the United States is a free country. We have a long tradition of freedom and individual rights. This is a great advantage, for it allows us to attract the best talent from all over the world and to create a dynamic and innovative society. It also allows us to have a strong moral authority in the world.

THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

The future of the United States is a subject of great interest to all Americans. It is a subject that has been discussed for many years, and there are many different views on what the future should be. Some people believe that the United States should continue to expand its territory and its influence over the world. Others believe that the United States should focus on domestic issues and on improving the lives of its citizens. Still others believe that the United States should withdraw from the world and focus on its own interests.

There are many factors that will influence the future of the United States. One of the most important is the economy. If the economy continues to grow and to create jobs, the United States will be able to maintain its position as a world power. If the economy stagnates or declines, the United States will lose its position as a world power.

Another important factor is the military. The United States has a strong military, and this is one of the reasons why it is a world power. If the military continues to be strong, the United States will be able to maintain its position as a world power. If the military weakens, the United States will lose its position as a world power.

There are many other factors that will influence the future of the United States, and it is difficult to predict what the future will be. However, it is clear that the future of the United States is in our hands, and it is up to us to create a better future for ourselves and for our children.

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Marsha Jones: organiser of Art Shows for most recent British conventions, we're delighted that Marsha will take on the same job for SEACON '79.

David Langford: author, editor of Nova-winning fanzine Twil-Ddu, and leading light on SKYCON, Dave will be Administrator for the 1979 Hugo Awards.

Susan Lewis: with vast experience from a myriad U.S. conventions, Susan becomes our North American liaison for the Art Show.

Carol & Mike Resnick: creators of top costumes, Carol & Mike have agreed to be North American liaison for our Masquerade. (We hope that won't prevent them taking part themselves!)

WORTH COMING A LONG WAY FOR!

At a recent committee meeting the decision was taken to make this a four-day convention; official opening will be on Thursday afternoon, 23rd August, with a full programme of events during the rest of that day (and night).

I don't want to say too much about those 'events' at the moment, except to say that the opening ceremony itself will be something extraordinary - you're urged not to miss it!

And something special will take place every night; Grand Banquet on Sunday, Masquerade on Saturday, and two other major things on Friday and Thursday evenings. "Watch this space" as they say...

Finally, John Millard advises that he's organising a group flight to fly from Toronto-London from the 7th-28th August, with airline connections for those who might want them for Louisville and NASFiC. Please spread the news - interested parties to get in touch with John direct, at 18-86 Broadway Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4P 1T4.

Do write if you have any queries or suggestions,

Best Regards,

*Peter Weston*

Peter Weston

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is arranged in several paragraphs, but the characters are too light and blurry to be transcribed accurately.