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This zine is published on the 1st day of EuroCon
in Stockholm (Sweden) 17-06-2011

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We're here. It's raining. We have the sun in our hearts and start this con awaiting lots of fans. If we all are successful you can read this on Saturday.

Eurocon has started. Gabi and me have been to the chocolat quiz. I've done my best to earn some sweets for my wife by answering questions on SF. We have been also to the science museum to have a look at the terrific NASA exhibition. The con seems to me quite fannish, pretty much like some conventions in Germany. I am looking forward to see more of the programme.

Just some short notes from Eurocon 2011. We had a very nice warming up pub last night (ca 150 attending). The Eurocon itself has now started. It is said to be ca 600 people attending, the biggest con in Sweden ever! I meet a lot of fans from different countries, eg Eckhard who has this interesting Confact thing and told me to write some impressions (difficult since the con has just begun). But I'm really looking forward to this weekend.

The EuroCon 2011 in Stockholm has been opened. And many many fans are here in the KTH, from all over Europe, and USA as well. More than thirtyv nations. Wow.

Ecki needs some email-adresses for contacts to sf-clubs anywhere in Europe, especially from the former Eastern fandom. Please, contact me.

Jan van't Ent:

Arrived in beautiful sunny Stockholm for a bit of tourism, then found a rainy day as the perfect start of a convention - as one can stay indoors then without feeling too guilty. Even managed to attend brief opening ceremony and interesting panel on "shameless infodumping" and other techniques to inform the reader about the world a story is set in. And now one about the interest in Worldcons. Great.

Staffan Vilcans:

What a day! There have been so many good items on the program that it has been very little time for beer. The lecture on fantasy maps was probably the most interesting today while the most entertaining was probably the panel on horror fiction. I have of course also had some time to buy way too many books.

Andrey:

It is hard day to visit all interesting things. but we are trying to visit all))

Monika:

This is a very nice Con with so many programmes that I just don't have the time to visit them all. Very well organised. Today we gave a presentation of Eurocon 2012 in Zagreb. I hope I'll see more SF & F fans from Germany next year in Zagreb since we are going to have 90% of all the lectures in English and fandom in Croatia speaks very well English and also German!!! See you in Zagreb, big SF kiss from Stockholm :-)

Astrid:

I came a long way from New Zealand, mostly to hawk my things, but the programme is impressive and I think I will sneak out for a couple of talks - I'm looking forward to the one on sci fi and feminism! Sales have been slow so far, but plenty of interesting conversations with fellow stall holders, and people browsing my things. See what the rest of the day brings!

Wolf von Witting:

It surprises me a little to find that the present German fans don't appear in one group... ever... Thomas Recktenwald sits at one table, Ecki and Matthew at another, Arno and Gabi are walking over there... somewhere... and... On the other hand... EVERYONE here seems to mingle and make new friends randomly, which is good. But for me it becomes a bit stressful to speak all languages, to switch from one to another and just hope that no one gets offended when they don't understand. Most fans, of course, do not have this problem. And most fans do have a passable grasp of English, so English more and more sticks out as the one language that could unite European fans in a joint effort to arrange BIG conventions. Such as a worldcon. The French want to run a worldcon, but they are not here.

However... it is just as well... I do not really like it when conventions become too big. I like small nice and cozy events like the Hanse Con was/is. When you really have the time to sit down and talk. When you don't have to run off to some program item. When you have the pleasure to REALLY get to know someone. Here... we see an old friend we have known for 20-30 years or more and there are so many of them that one really doesn't have proper time for them all...

I just want you to know... if we know each other for many years or have known each other many years ago. Time does not matter for me. I still just LOVE to meet other sf-fans. Because we think alike.