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EDM: ACTS & FACTS

This is the first ConFact on a WorldCon. We had some on last EasterCons.
I collect the impressions of fans. Sit down and write. If two pages
are filled, they are printed at once, and you can take your ConFact
with you.

THIS IS A TYPEWRITER. (You remember?) The editor is a line editor.
Replace the next two words with your input.

Dieter Schmidt:

I just come from the Opening Ceremony of Loncon 3 - it was thorough
fun. Starting rather humble with some really sentimental and funny
improvisational theatre performace, we surprisingly discovered to
have ended at the wrong event. It seems that instead of the World
Science Fiction Convention, the master of ceremonies welcomed us
to the the new year of the school of wizardry and witchcraft or
something of this kind. Only begruntedly and gradually, he conceded
to also greet these strange kind of creatures calling themselves
"fans".

So in the end, everybody united in the "Loncon Convention Song" and
decided to have a great time and fun - whether being a magic student
or a sf fan.

A great opening ceremony!

kirsti:

so today has begun with some sort of an explosion in people.
busy hours at registration desk, making sure we had enough space
to work and drinks and all that. At around two we seemed to have
managed to clear the crowd though.

No for looking around the halls, finding old and new faces
and see what is on the program.

BiFi:

45 Minuten Wartezeit musste man heute mitbringen, um sich bei der Registration zu melden und Con-Buch samt Programmheft plus Con-Badge zu bekommen. Die Warteschlange wollte einfach nicht kleiner werden und die Helfer hatten eine ganze Menge zu tun. Zum Glück hatte ich am Mittwoch bereits alles erledigen können und konnte somit, nach Aufbau des deutschen Präsentationsstandes und vielen Gesprächen mit (überwiegend) deutschen Neuankömmlingen, die Opening Ceremony besuchen. Kurz darauf befand ich mich bereits wieder in einem Programmpunkt: The World at WorldCon: German-language SF/F. Martin Stricker gab hier den Moderator und die Autoren und Aktivisten Ju Honisch, Oliver Plaschka, Volker Tanger und Stefanie Zurek erzählten sehr unterhaltsam von den Befindlichkeiten des Verlagswesens und stellten einige Bücher und Autoren vor. Es gab einige lustige Geschichten zu hören und die Zuhörer hielten sich auch nicht mit guten Fragen zurück. Für schlechte Akustik sorgte zwischenzeitlich ein Gewitter. Der Regen prasselte teilweise so stark aufs Dach, dass man das Gefühl hatte, die Welt um den Con herum würde untergehen.

Christoph Lühr:

Moderiert von Paul Cornell gab es ein nettes 90-minütiges Gespräch mit George R.R. Martin und Connie Willis. Beide sprachen sehr gut verständliches Englisch, und die Lautstärke in dem großen Saal war hervorragend. Das Ganze war sehr unterhaltsam, beide Autoren beantworteten unterhaltsam und gut gelaunt viele Fragen von Moderator und Publikum zu ihren Werken und ihrer Arbeit. Die 90 Minuten waren viel zu schnell vorbei. Auch die Arbeit mit Hollywood über Adaptionen von Büchern kam ehrlich und nicht unkritisch darin vor.

Silke:

My first program point after the Opening Ceremony was "The Changing Face of the Urban Fantastic". I couldn't really understand the voices, because the micro was calm and the rain made enough noise, too. My second item was the conversation with George R.R. Martin, Connie Willis, and Paul Cornell. I understood really more, because all the authors spoke clear and slow English. I'll write more the next days....

Martin Stricker:

So I'm on my very first WorldCon and did talk at my very first panel about German-language SF today, getting very positive feedback. I'm quite glad it worked out so well, and big thanks to my panel participants!

Nordic SF was an interesting panel for me - I've met some Danish authors and fans, now there were Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish fans on the panel. I even got some hints of what was translated into German. "Better eating through chemistry" was a must for me (I've studied chemistry), unfortunately it had a fight with British customs who refused to release the tasting samples in time.

That was a bit the mantra of convention logistics: Many items promised are missing, like my panel speaker ribbon, the "no photography" button and, worst, the Andromeda Science Fiction Magazine special WorldCon issue with my article on German SF awards that I wanted to hand out during my panel. Darn British customs!

The lecture about the first German SF TV series Raumpatrouille Orion (prior to Star Trek!) was badly done - a real pity!

Therefore I fled to Kim Stanley Robinson - my best decision today! He was talking about time in novels - from Ulysses needing 800 pages for just 24 hours to Stapledon doing the universe in 200. Magnificent!