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EDM: ACTS & FACTS

It is the second World Con in Europe in this decade and the vey first in Finland. Helsinki is not the city to meet bears and elks, but not so far away you can. I'm sure.
We'll have happy days in Helsinki.

Rupert Schwarz / Germany:

Walking through the Art Fair and wondering why Claire Wandling as Guest of Honor is only presenting prints of he artwork. And these prints were just pined on the board with no further presentation. This is highly disappointing.
But I need to praise the organisation of the check in counter.
Well done guys.

Linda Robinett - United States of America:

Very busy and full of nice people. Fans from all over are attending. A polygot of languages and fandoms. Very nice.

Martin Schneider:

Freshly started to this Worldcon. A really big lot of people, unfortunately some of the panels are really overcrowded and the rooms are to small.
The opening ceremony was interesting, I liked the singers - nice voices and "interesting" lyrics. And a funny chairman.
So we are now in and have a con to take part in - let's roll!

Astrid Prüger:

My first WorldCon - I didn't know what to expect, but I was really curios. The first impressions are great, especially the opening ceremony was a good starting point with insights into the Finnish culture. Hopefully the next days are as great as the start. But already now I'm sure that I will get to the next WorldCon in Europe in Dublin 2019. To make sure that it's in Dublin, I'm now going to vote in the site selection ;-)

Susanne Schörner:

Hei! When I found out that the next Worldcon would be in Helsinki, I immediately knew I wanted to go. Especially for my first Worldcon... We actually came with a number of plans and even managed the first two at the con before we got sidetracked ;-) That's how it should be. I'm looking forward to many new impressions and meeting some new friends! Kiitos!

Ralf Belling, Germany:

Enjoying my second Worldcon. Visited my first panel today, and anyone, who would have bet money, that it would be My Little Pony would have won :) Later, it was Tea and Jeopardy with Special Guest George "Really Really" Martin. Hadn't he made it as a writer, he easily could have been a comedian as well. Later today, I managed to get a seat at the Kaffeeklatsch of Aliette de Bodard. Exited.

Geoffrey Landis, USA:

Here I am, still weary from jet lag, getting oriented to the convention. Helsinki is a marvelous city!

Dieter Schmidt, Germany:

Second day of Worldcon in Helsinki (being Thursday, 10th of August 2017 - said superfluous information proving that I'm capable of typing/talking without offering any useful contents), and the first thing I was informed about during breakfast by a fellow convention visitor: This event is too successful - people are flocking to come here, and to get into the programme items rooms. Their number was so large on Wednesday (yesterday), that most often not all of the interested people were allowed access to the rooms - because they were already overcrowded and people started stacking each other. Sadly, I was one of the "victims" and didn't make it to the opening ceremony.

Thus, "officially" I am still not informed, whether this whole event has really started and whether this really is the place and event where I intended to be ...

Judging from the fun people are having around me and the suspiciously fitting subject of the topics presented in this "M,,sscentrum" and being talked about, I do have the impression that I really am fine ... What did I want to tell earlier? Ah yes - the breakfast info! The convention comitee decided to stop selling tickets to day visitors or last-second-membership applicants, for the time being. The goal being to reduce the crowds in front of the programme event rooms to an manageable size. We shall see whether it works ...

Apart from this, I did visit a panel this morning: SF in China. It perhaps was not so wise to participate (even if only as a passive listener) in an event this "early in the morning": 10.00 a.m.! And at the beginning it was accounced that there would be three speakers with 20 minutes each and 10 minutes time of answering questions from the audience - thus adding up to 1.5 hours ... Unfortunately I was not yet awake enough to endure this whole time without napping away now and then. This not beeing the panel speakers fault - solely mine! Still - a slight lack of ogygen and (previous night's) sleep were somewhat exhausting. I also did not dare to leave (or was simply too dumb to do so), I therefore stayed to the very end.

The programme item's topic was not quite what I envisioned based upon the title "SF in China" (hoping for an overview of said SF production) - but the speakers were very competent academically anyway. So I did manage to pick up one or two new thoughts.

Let's see what the next programme item I have on my list will be like. And I have just discovered that I am waaay too late for the event which started at noon. Now it is 1.55 p.m. ... (: