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EDM: NITES & FITES

We now know that next Eurocons will be in Belfast and in Croatia in 2020. I remember well the con in Zagreb. Now it's Rijeka. We don't know people who will get the ESFS awards, but later on we will see. In my opinion there were fewer delegates than in the years before. So often nobody gets up, when the countries are named. I hope that will be better next year.

Heidi in France:

Today we visited the Jules Verne House, which is very beautiful but also very closed between 1.30 and 4 in the afternoon. This makes it very clear that we are in unknown territory. Speaking of unknown territory: I would invite everybody to come to Ireland Worldcon next year! The perfect opportunity to get to know this beautiful country AND celebrate SF and Fantasy with all the fans. And while you are here visit the lightshow at the cathedral at night! It is truly amazing.

Martin Stricker:

Yesterday was such a busy day that I didn't find any time to write in ConFact. Luckily they changed the program today, so I have an hour without an interesting program item... ;-)

The Round Table Looking to Africa from abroad was a very improvised panel, but turned out to be very interesting and entertaining with Gillian Polack and Geoff Ryman playing ping-pong explaining the different views (or lack thereof) on Africa in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. A person from Belgium added his country's negligence of colonial past (because Congo was the private property of the king), and a person from the United States added the US view on slavery. It was also pointed out that in Europe slavery was invisible, because it only happened in the colonies, while in the USA it was everyday life experienced in the southern part of the country, and the mechanisms succeeded the Civil War into the 1960s.

Directly afterwards I was volunteered to interview Australian writer Gillian Polack, because she said she needed someone asking her quest-

ions to structure her talk. Well, I got to ask her 3 or 4 questions, then the hour was over. :-) Gillian is an amazing person, who is very open and outspoken about her religious and political ideals. It was great fun to interview her and listen to very detailed analyses of political and ethical issues in Australia and globally.

Next panel was Vladimir Arenev and his illustrator (unfortunately unnamed in the program, like many other panelists - "The perfect EuroCon Handbook" must be meant ironically) from Kiev, Ukraine. They were unsure what to talk about, so I volunteered again as interviewer, and it turned out that again I only had to ask a few questions to get them to fill the hour with interesting information about their books and the situation in Ukraine that is reflected in one of the books.

The theatre play in the evening was nice, though it was more like a scenic reading than an actual play. I liked it, and I now have the English version autographed by both the author and the translator. :-)

This morning Radoslav Kot from Poland gave a lecture about the difficulty of translating, which is not just due to words meaning not exactly the same, but especially the cultural context readers in the translated language may not have, thus the translator needs to find a way to include the necessary cultural information in his or her translation.

The panel of cooperating small presses was also very interesting - mon was that speculative fiction is still considered children's stuff and not regarded as high as, for example, poetry. The availability of governmental grants, however, was quite different across the countries represented (Portugal, Finland, and France).

After lunch Ian Watson's talk about Mary Shelly's Frankenstein and its potential influence on Karl Marx was both interesting and funny (as expected from him). The good thing: Ian now owes me a signed copy of his still-to-be-written short story "The Monster, the Mermaid, and Mengele", so now he as the utterly needed psychological pressure to actually write it! :-) :-) :-) I'm very much looking forward to it!

Bridget Wilkinson:

Jim Walker, a frequent attendee at past Eurocons has been unable to come to this Eurocon for health reasons. He sends his best wishes to all old friends.

Richard Stephenson:

Meta Hycu

I give you hiku

fuve seven, then five too

my Hiku for you

Barbara-Jane:

Still trying to decide if I'm going to survive it I substitute food for sleep again. I don't want to waste time sleeping but sometime I'm going to have to....

There is a Rom(ul)anian wine exhibition in the lobby ...

Romanian Wine is like the blood of the earth
Come, pour yourself a glass
And when I get sad, then it is because
I always dream of home.

Udo Jürgens: Greek Wine