

# The Wisent

the Eurocon newsletter

## Hugo short stories discussion

Those who plan to attend the newly added panel on this year's Hugo nominated short stories on Sunday at 2pm may want to read the stories first. They are available at <http://www.renovationsf.org/hugo-intro.php>.

One of the stories, "The Things" by Peter Watts, is based on the classic sf/horror film *The Thing*. Some background information about this film can be found at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Thing\\_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Thing_(film))

## Swecon 2012 BID SESSION - NEW TIME

There are two bids for Swecon 2012 (see more information below). The bid session has been moved from Saturday at 10 am to **Saturday at 2pm in Gröten**, where the programme item about future conventions will begin with a brief presentation of the two Swecon 2012 bids and a vote. All members of this convention are eligible to vote.

What's all that about, then?

This convention is not only the Eurocon, but also the Swecon, this year's Swedish national science fiction convention. In a similar fashion to Eurocon, Swecon moves around; in previous years it has been held in Uppsala, Gothenburg, Linköping and Stockholm, and the venue is selected at the previous year's Swecon. When there is more than one bid, the venue is selected by a vote (show of hands). For 2012, there are bids from Gothenburg and Uppsala.

## as bob knew

A quick report from the panel on 'infodumping' in SF novels: this isn't new, or even to be ashamed of, as you need to inform your reader, but it has to be done well. Elizabeth Bear was not apologising for "Moby Dick" either; actually, infodumps can be seen as non-fiction, which does require a somewhat different writing skill. Still, the information is needed, fiction should be entertaining, and thus the infodump should never be boring, but entertaining as well. An author may even get away with the cliché "As you know, Bob"...

## As you know, Bob - another take on the panel

Several famous authors gathered to discuss how to sneak in or disguise infodumps. "But we like infodumps!", protested some members of the audience. Ian McDonald won, for putting a highly technical infodump in the middle of a sex scene.

## Future Eurocons

Just as I was putting the finishing touches on this newsletter, I saw a tweet that informed me that the 2013 Eurocon will take place in Kiev, Ukraine. More information about this will no doubt be forthcoming. The 2012 Eurocon will be in Zagreb, 26-29 April.

(Googling for *Eurocon 2013* is confusing, since apparently there is going to be a convention for builders, called Eurocon, in Zagreb in 2013...)

## Worldcon fun

As a device to lure more people to Worldcon, this panel may be deemed a failure, as most of the audience were not exactly new to worldcons. But it was nice to hear the panelists compare notes on how this might just be the thing for you if it "scratches two or more of your itches". There's meeting the authors, friends in interesting new places, attending wonderful program items, the relaxed atmosphere, and more. Actual reasons to go to your first worldcon vary (but it's often local, making the interesting thing affordable), and reasons to return differ too (there were jokes of getting addicted after two or more, or getting roped in to work these cons after enjoying two as a fan), but reports are that you'll not regret it - your reasons may vary over time, discussions may continue from one con to the next, but the experience never disappoints.

Find Steve Cooper to ask about going to **Renovation**, talk to Flick about supporting **Chicon 7** and getting the chance to vote for the **UK in 2014**, and Kurt Baty will be happy if you want to presupport the **Texas in 2013** bid, and of course there's the UK in 2014 table in Hyllan that wants your support too.

## Lots of people

Number of warm bodies at the convention on Friday: 493.

## Restaurant warning

Quoting a tweet by Cheryl Morgan from Friday evening: "Please warn people not to go to the Italian restaurant round the corner. They are very, very rude."



Finnish fan, deep in thought. Photo: Tero Ykspetäjä

### **Båtcon**

Since time immemorial (or 2007) Finnish and Swedish fans have gathered on the small island of Åland to enjoy science fiction. Åcon, as this delightful relaxation is called, is always held on Ascension day weekend. This year Ascension day happened so close to Eurocon that Åcon decided to have a gap year. To ease the withdrawal symptoms, Finnish fandom decided to double the fun and organise a con on the ferry on the way to Eurocon from Finland. And not only one but two! Econ, for those travelling on a shoestring budget, launched from Turku, and Båtcon from Helsinki. For the 21 participants (one person missed the boat, something lame about flight from Shanghai being late, apparently...) Båtcon offered three hours of programming, from a literary round table discussion to a quiz that revealed such a shameful gaping hole in our collective knowledge that we all took a vow of absolute silence never to reveal these humiliating details. [Editor's note: OK, now you **have** to tell us.] After an excellent buffet supper and requisite digestive, the evening continued in the con suite with free discussion and - as is mandatory in Finnish cons - a sauna. All in all, a con on a boat on the way to a con was great fun. Next time we will persuade some Swedes to take a cruise from Stockholm on the previous evening and join the con on their way back. The sea, it unites us!



View from the sauna. Photo: Tero Ykspetäjä

### **Bellis the Greek**

Have you heard of Zorba the Greek? The fan fund auction on Friday evening featured Swedish fandom's answer to that, Bellis the Greek, who in classic sunglasses auctioned out the most bizarre things together with coveted books and dvd's, assisted by the Ukrainian tractor parking director Katja. The auction went on for almost an hour, and satisfied buyers got both newly published books and old collections of insults, and a mystery item which the buyer was forbidden to open until after leaving the convention, for fear "it would explode". Around 1500 SEK was raised for the purpose of sending Swedish fan Anna Davour to Finncon and it is rumored that the auction will continue today, Saturday. Apart from more books both excellent and horrible, and undescribable dvd's, one of today's items is a bottle of Fanta that is promised to transmute into high grade Ouzo once it leaves the convention venue. Is it true? Well, there is only one way to find out, suggests our correspondent.

### **Tweeting the convention**

A number of people tweet from the convention; don't forget to use the hashtag #eurocon2011 to make your tweets show up in the feeds of the people who follow the convention tweets.

### **Competition**

If you haven't noticed already, there's an alternate newsletter roaming around the convention, Eckhard Marwitz's "Confact". This too needs your input, to be the interactive medium it wants to be. Do visit Ecki's table in Hyllan and type in a line or two to fill the next "Confact" (and remember writing an interesting convention anecdote or newsworthy item for "The Wisent" as well, while you're at it...)

### **Dinner at the Last Chance Saloon**

On Friday evening, six of us descended upon 12 Kungsstensgatan without a reservation. They happily pushed tables together and we had the best meal we've eaten since arriving in Stockholm. They will only be open for two more days before closing for summer, and are running out of some menu items and wine, in no small part due to our efforts.