2014 Chesley Awards

This evening the 2014 Chesley Awards, for artwork produced in 2013, were presented. The winners are:

✦ Best Cover (Hardback): Todd Lockwood — *A Natural History of Dragons*
✦ Best Cover (Paperback): Kerem Beyit — *The Scroll of Years*
✦ Best Cover (Magazine): Dan Dos Santos — *Fables #136*
✦ Best Interior Illustration: Brian Kessinger — *Walking Your Octopus*
✦ Best Color Unpublished: Donato Giancola — *Huor and Hurin Approaching Gondolin*
✦ Best Monochrome Unpublished: Ruth Sanderson — *The Descent of Persephone*
✦ Best Three Dimensional Art: Devin Dorrity — *Cecaelia, Queen of the Ocean*
✦ Best Gaming Related Illustration: Lucas Graciano — *The Last Stand of Thorin Oakenshield*
✦ Best Product Illustration: Julie Bell/Boris Vallejo — *Jeannie’s Kitten*
✦ Best Art Director: Irene Gallo
✦ Lifetime Achievement: Jim Burns

Escalate! Escalate!

Worldcon is a very busy place and bottlenecks are forming because people are pausing at the top and bottom of the escalators. Remember if you are not confident on moving walkways lifts are available, with priority for those who need them.

Please remember that in the UK we stand to the left and walk on the right on escalators.

Oh, and please remember to lift your 4th Doctor scarf when travelling on the escalator.

Unlike the Doctor you will not regenerate.

UCLA Alums Demand Equal Time!

There will be an informal gathering of UCLA alumni - complete with 8 clap - near the information table on Saturday at 5pm. Look for the folks wearing BearWear. No Trojans, please.

[This is obviously a coded message. Good luck with your secret mission — Ed.]

WSFS Business Meeting Report

All constitutional amendments submitted to the Business Meeting survived the Preliminary Business Meeting and will be considered at the Main Business Meeting on Saturday (10am, CS 8+11). This includes the seven constitutional amendments passed on from last year and six new proposals. All thirteen were summarized in the WSFS Special Edition and are on the Loncon 3 web site. Two of the new proposals were referred to special committees that may report revised versions to Saturday’s meeting.

The most contentious item of new business was a proposal that would replace the current ratification process (a vote at the following year’s Business Meeting) with a ballot submitted to all of the members of the following year’s Worldcon. A proposal to prohibit Worldcons from selling memberships with any WSFS voting rights for less than the cost of a Supporting membership also had some controversy, and both were referred to committees with instructions to report back to Saturday’s meeting.

The Business Meeting also adopted the usual Hugo eligibility-extension resolution for non-US-published works (this may be rendered moot if the constitutional amendment making such extensions permanent is ratified) and a resolution recommending that the Mark Protection Committee establish a legal entity (“Worldcon Intellectual Property Trust”) for holding WSFS’s intellectual property, especially outside the USA.

The meeting received reports from many WSFS and Worldcon committees, including financial reports from past Worldcons. Details are in the agenda papers (copies should still be available at tomorrow’s meeting) and will be included in the minutes published after the convention.
Extra Signings

PS Publishing will have author signing at their dealer table (stand F) over the weekend.

Tomorrow, Matt Hughes will be signing his new novella, Whimsies and Noubles, from 2pm until 3pm. Brian Aldiss will be signing The Invention of Happiness and Paul McAuley will be signing his collection, A Very British History, from 3pm until 4pm.

On Sunday, Stephen Baxter and Ian R MacLeod will be signing between 2pm and 3pm.

Fascinating London Facts

The Docklands Light Railway has run entirely on clockwork since its introduction in 1872. Beefeaters based at Tower Gateway wind it up every morning as part of the traditional Ceremony of the Keys. Although the trains are widely believed to be driverless, they are actually operated by trained ravens. If you should see a member of DLR staff opening the front panel in a train, he is feeding the ravens.

ASFA Meeting

There will be an ASFA meeting at 10am tomorrow morning in SG33. Old, new and prospective members are welcome.

Strange Horizons

Tomorrow morning, Strange Horizons will be holding a brunch in the Fan Village from 10am to noon.

Real Glass Plastic for Real Ale

You can buy your fabulous Loncon beer glass plastic in the fan village at the table between the bar and the TARDIS. When you have your new glass plastic do please buy some real ale to put in it.

Unfortunately the convention is short of volunteers (but not real ale yet, drink more beer!) so the table isn’t always staffed — if you’re not already doing so please think about volunteering. The volunteer desk is at the back of the fan village.

More Tourist Tips

Pay for your tube journey by pushing your credit card into the slot at the ticket barrier.

Robot Boy

Brad Templeton is in Idaho this weekend, but sent a telepresence robot in his place. Guiding his battery operated avatar, rented from pilotpresence.com, round the Fan Village, he posed for photos by the Iron Throne, chatted with fans, strolled across the Village Green, took in a few Worldcon bids, and headed towards the bar. At this point, his image became blurry and his speech slurred. Was it a problem with bandwidth, or maybe just that robots can’t handle real ale?

Books For Prisoners

As part of the ongoing Books for Prisoners campaign against restrictions on UK prisoners receiving books from their families and friends, English PEN are supporting the establishment of dedicated Book Rooms at HMP Wormwood Scrubs. These rooms aim to complement the prison’s central library by providing a space where inmates are able to access books during association times.

If you are interested in donating a book to a prisoner, come to stand 54 in the exhibition hall where English PEN has a book drop. You can deposit your donations here and we’ll do the rest. If you’re on Twitter please consider tweeting a photograph of your donation @englishpen #BooksForPrisoners.

Mark Oshiro, Hugo Fan Writer Finalist, speaks:

Hello, fellow Worldcon members! I’m fresh from the overwhelmingly beautiful experience that was my first NASFiC. While the Ren Center’s labyrinthine arrangement could have been improved by a David Bowie (or two), the refreshing discussions and impressive cosplaying left me eager for more nerdivness. And I shall get it! This is going to be my second Worldcon ever, and it’s also going to be my second chance to travel to England. I’d like to think that I’m prepared, but let’s be real. Being unprepared is what I do.

I think what’s most exciting for me, after having been introduced to the SF/F community in the US in the last year, is the chance to get to experience the international community at large. And I think it’s important to recognise that this community spans the globe, across borders and languages and cultures. This year at Detcon1 I was a part of the Diversity Committee, which was responsible for outreach and programming to help represent a brilliant spectrum of SF/F fans. And now, I am so thrilled to get to experience my first SF con outside of the US. And be on panels! And possibly meet Sarah Rees Brennan. (Y’all need to read her work, I swear.)

Worldcon, I am completely not ready for you, and I could not feel better about that.