

The 2nd International Week of Science Fact and Fiction



PROGRAMME BOOK

19 - 25th May 2003 - Timisoara

Autographs

The 2nd International Week of Science and SF Souvenir Programme Book

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The 2nd International Week of Science and Science Fiction

Four days of informality followed by a two-day convention for science fiction professionals, personalities and fans.

With:

Danut Ungureanu

Romanian SF writer

Ian Watson

English SF writer

István Nemere

Hungarian SF writer

H.G. Wells

English writer, our Week's Ghost of Honour

and

Vince Docherty

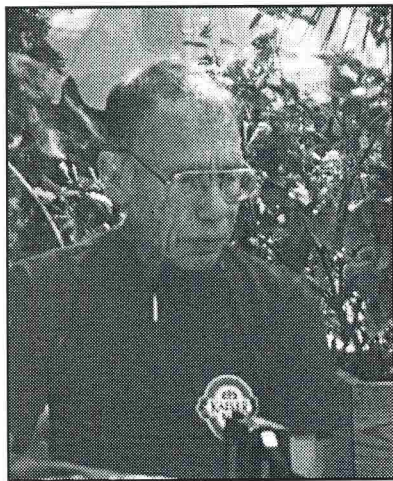
Scottish SF fan and Worldcon organiser

Presented by the Week's toastmaster

Roberto Quaglia

Italian SF writer

19 - 25th May 2003
Timisoara, Romania



Robert Sheckley, US Guest Author of the 1999 International Week, recalls Timisoara

Here I am sitting in my apartment, which is bare of anything except a laptop computer, a chair and table. In a few days I move to Nevada City CA, for two months, then back to Portland. Everything I own is stored or thrown out. Timisoara seems a long time ago, but here are some of my impressions of my visit.

What a glorious feeling it was, to leave the Hungarian border and cross into Romania. I remember the roads, long and straight and lined with poplar trees. Passing through small towns, the houses lined up neatly on either side of the highway. I remember the historical sense of going deeper and deeper into a homeland of the Latin people. Heat was radiating out of a pale blue sky. Then Timisoara, entering it, going to our hotel, a bit of banal international architecture, one size and shape fits all. Many fans. Their enthusiasm contagious. Almost makes you want to write again. Many congratulations, toasts proposed and drunk, the camaraderie off an international function. A blur of memories of people, fading internal thoughts about them. The differences in a cuisine and national style different to what I had known.

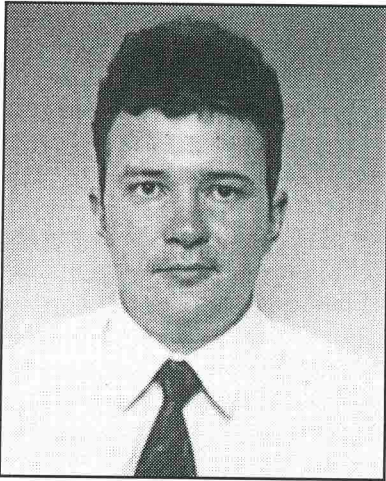
It's the people you remember. The look of the ones you don't meet, the look of crowds. A sense of being among cultured people in an international setting.

My thanks for it all. I hope that I will return and experience it all again.

Robert Sheckley

Footnote: There is no keeping a good man down. Having been a Guest of Honour at the *1st International Week*, Bob will be a guest among thousands of participants at the World SF Convention, *Interaction*, to be held in Glasgow in 2005. By sheer synchronicity, one of the guests for the *2nd International Week* just happens to be organising the 2005 Worldcon. Can this truly be coincidence or is this some huge, peculiar cosmic joke? No! It is a *small* cosmic joke; we know a *little* astronomy.

TIMISOARA - the be-SF-t place to be



Welcoming you, Terrestrial SF trekkers, is a very pleasant duty for us.

Why choose Romania, why Timisoara for this special close encounter? The answer is really quite easy and it is based on an elementary statistic: usually Romanians have a high degree of open-mindedness, and here in Timisoara (according some E.T. classified studies) we have reached the peak value in mindedness.

Also, welcoming you, our friends, is an honour for us because we are members of the H.G.Wells Science Fiction Society, where a new member is welcomed as if as an old friend.

I remember my first visit to the H.G.Wells SF Society way back in November 1991, when I met Silviu and Antuza Genescu and other SF literati such as Dorin Davideanu, Laurentiu Nistorescu, Adrian Musca, Costel Babos and more others in this big family. At the Society I learned to appreciate the value of a short story. Because in fantasy and science fiction we can convey quite a message, an idea, in just a few pages. At that moment I was a rookie, a beginner in SF, but all the people I met there were interested in listening to my point of view about their works. It was an extraordinary experience for me to discuss with them and to discover the intrinsic mechanism of literary creation.

And I still believe that they have really created 'literature' and are not just writing for fun. After eleven years I still have in my mind that amazing feeling as if I were a novice and I hope you can share this with me during the forthcoming *2nd International Week of Science and Science Fiction*.

Anyway, I do not know if I have managed to capture your attention but I must tell you this: Timisoara is not just an ancient town with an interesting history. SF in Timisoara is alive thanks to its people and especially to a group of open-minded people who enjoy meeting new friends. This group is known as the H.G.Wells SF Society.

Cristian Koncz
President H. G. Wells SF Society
Timisoara

