



State of the Guild, October – 2019

On September 17th, 2019 we launched Worldhoppers Guild with a written piece of my own. *The Man Who Sold the World* is a personal piece and if you haven't, I hope you can take the time to read it. The buildup to this launch had been six months in the making and the response has far, far exceeded my expectations. Submissions come in with regular frequency and we are nearing in on 800 Facebook followers. I could thank so many people, but I want the focus of this letter to be aimed at you, the readers and contributors.

As momentum continues to grow, we are in touch with more authors each day, earning more and more of your site visits - both returning and new -, and gaining more and more followers as each hour passes. We have several exciting updates right around the bend. These include site functionality improvements (thank you for your continued feedback), some really great author features, a new Worldhoppers' Library area that will allow us to continue promoting our featured authors after they've fallen off our main page, and, of course, continued content.

By far the biggest addition that is on the horizon will be the Worldhoppers Guild Podcast. You have heard me reference this before in posts and on the site, but the launch and everything that goes along with it has taken up a lot of my time. I will not set a release date yet but know that the original format of narrated short stories, author interviews, and other interviews with people in the industry (cover artists, editors, and even local bookshop owners) are still our focus. We all share a clear vision of the future of publishing, especially in our genres with all of you.

I'll leave you with a final thought: This entire concept is based on passion. Passion for fantasy, science fiction, and horror. It doesn't matter whether you write it, read it, or in most cases, do both. Worldhoppers Guild, at its core, is an online community designed to support these genres of indie authors, writers, and artists, providing readers access to works they might otherwise not have encountered. We are here to support, celebrate, and exhibit each other's works and provide a platform for marketing and networking. By helping us spread the word you will, in turn, be helping yourself.

Worldhoppers Guild has big plans and we thank you for the early support. You will be rewarded for your loyalty. Never hesitate to reach out to us or submit your own work. You don't need to be published to share a story and you don't need to have a story to read and enjoy one. Best of luck until we speak again!

Ryan Meier

