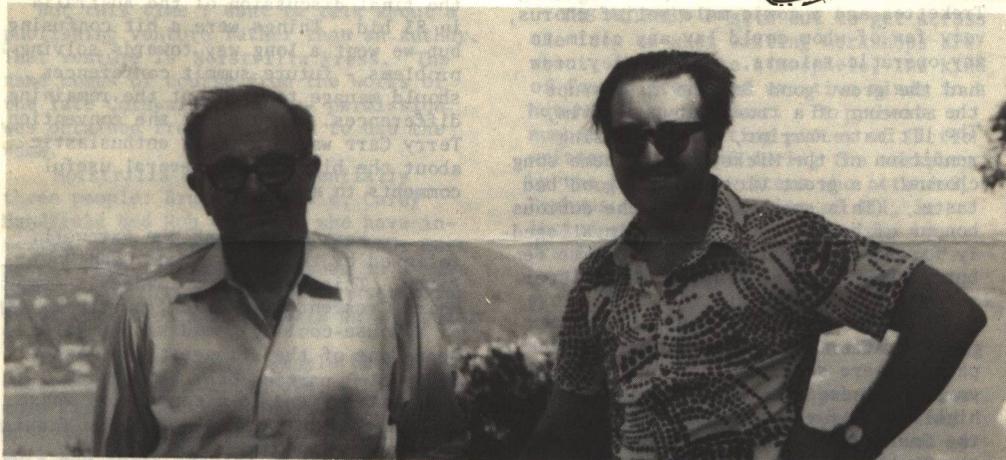


AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

VOLUME ONE:NUMBER SEVEN

FEBRUARY 1979



Ron Graham and the editor about a year ago.

RONALD E. GRAHAM 1908-79

It is with deep regret that I must announce the passing of Australia's number one Science Fiction fan, Ron Graham. He died on Sunday the 11th of February after suffering a stroke and coma, from which he did not recover. Ron had been collecting Science Fiction for many years, and made many friends all over Australia and overseas.

His collection of Science Fiction books, magazines, artwork and associated material, is one of the most comprehensive in the world. His passion to complete his collection of WEIRD TALES unfortunately, was never realised. The collection will, we believe, be going intact to the University of New South Wales, Fisher Library. Ron had a section built onto his house in Roseville to house his library, which was completed in 1975, just before AUSSIECON. Many visitors from interstate and overseas have been invited to view this collection and partake of Ron's always generous hospitality.

No doubt he will be missed by the many friends he made at the World Science Fiction Conventions. He had attended more than any other fan in Australia. Being invited to a party or dinner given by Ron at an SF Convention, was for many people a highlight of their convention attendance.

As most overseas and longstanding SF fans will know, it is a rare privilege to be a member of the first fandom, membership being open only to fans who were active in fandom prior to 1940. Ron was adjudged eligible because of a letter he had published in May 1928 AMAZING STORIES, which praised Frank R. Paul's illustrations and A.A. Merritt's stories, lambasted H.G. Wells and villified Jules

Verne. He concluded the letter with a fervant hope that AMAZING would reprint Hall & Flint's THE BLIND SPOT.

Ron had an insatiable appetite for any books in anyway approaching Science Fiction and Fantasy. If there were numerous bookshops in a place he was visiting, he would simply have to visit everyone, and he inevitably came out with arms loaded, or arranged for them to be forwarded. This is how I first met Ron, at McGill's Newsagency, where he always made a bee-line for whenever he was in Melbourne. He took a great interest in the activities of the Melbourne SF Club, and frequently made donations of books and cash to the club in Melbourne and conventions. If he did not directly contribute, he certainly helped fill the convention cash tins by paying top prices for items that took his fancy in the auction.

He was keen to support Science Fiction publishing in Australia, but when he did venture into the publishing world, his magazine VISION OF TOMORROW was edited and printed in England. This created problems, which I feel in time, would have been overcome, but distribution hassles killed VISION after twelve issues. He helped Paul Collins with his second book OTHER WORLDS, and he always wanted to become involved again directly in publishing Science Fiction and Fantasy.

He was awarded two 'DITMARS' for his publishing efforts. In 1976 at the World Science Convention in MIDAMERICAN, in Kansas City, he was awarded the E. Everett Evans 'BIG HEART' MEMORIAL AWARD. It is to be hoped that an appropriate way of remembering Ron will be organised by the Science Fiction fraternity.

His involvement with SPACE AGE BOOKS, was I know, of immense satisfaction to him. It was inevitable that with his love of books and diversification of business interests, that he would become involved with selling books. Purely by a chance passing mention in conversation in 1970 at a Science Fiction Convention in Sydney, he learnt of my passion to own a bookshop of my own, and SPACE AGE was born. Unfortunately, although SPACE AGE has been quite successful, it has not been the overall financial success that I would have liked it to be; which would have repaid Ron for his unflinching faith in me.

As a businessman, Ron had a long, varied and successful career. Born the son of a miner, Ron started as an apprentice boilermaker at Clyde Engineering, progressing to the drawing office but returned to the boilermaking until the depression. In 1931, Ron obtained a miner's license and enjoyed that year gold mining at Copeland near Forster until, in partnership with a friend, Fred Sayer, he opened his own boiler-making shop, Graham and Sayer. This business lasted a year, when due to customer's late payments, the partnership was dissolved. Fred Sayer opened a Coke, Coal and Produce store, Ron opened a fruiterers. Six months later, Ron sold this to his uncle and returned to Clyde Engineering.

In 1935, Ron joined Babcock's and Wilcox as a structural draftsman - the beginning of a long and happy association. In 1955, Ron left Babcock's & Wilcox, by now their chief draftsman, and opened his own design engineering office, and within a few months, had work from BHP, Colonial Sugar, Lever Bros and others. Starting with four men, he had such a successful first year that at the end of it, Ron was employing one hundred and twelve people.

Since then, the Graham Group, as it is now, has continued to expand, currently providing work for one hundred and seventy five people, though nowadays, design engineering is but a small part of the Group's activity which encompasses galvanising, gratings manufacture, welding and zinc plating. Ron retired from full-time management five years ago, and the firm is now under the capable guidance of his son, Peter.

Throughout his business career, Ron played a major and active role in the guidance of manufacturing standards as a member of the Australian Standards Association. This participation culminating in his official representation of Australia at the United Nations Conference on Standards, Helsinki, 1961.

A personal achievement of which Ron was understandably, very proud.

He was very much the family man, as I observed at the funeral of his wife in November 1975. Dearly loved indeed by his three sons and daughter, and their children in turn. I hope that they can understand how much we will miss him also, and that they have the most sincere heartfelt sympathy of all his Science Fiction fan friends.

BOILERMAKER, BIBLIOMANE, BOOKSELLER, BUSINESSMAN, DRAFTSMAN, ENGINEER, FAMILY MAN, GOLD MINER AND PUBLISHER.

This was also our fellow fan, friend and partner. RONALD EDWARD GRAHAM. He will be sorely missed.

MERVYN, R. BINNS

(N.B. My thanks to Keith Curtis who was one of Ron's closest friends over the last few years, for the latter part of the above from Keith's introduction to the THE FAN GUEST OF HONOUR-RON GRAHAM at his last convention, UNICON V.)

UNICON V WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT A THREE-DAY ROOM PARTY?

From the advance publicity, UNICON V looked like a relaxacon, and indeed it was; however, it was a great opportunity for reunions and fannish fun and games. It was also a very electronic and media-oriented Convention, with films and videotapes playing a large part.

The Science Center in Sydney proved to be ideal for a convention; it consisted of a large foyer, with the registration area/STAR TREK desk at one end, huckster tables along the walls, and three adjoining programming areas: a large auditorium capable of seating over 200, a small conference room, and an annexe with a TV and a VTR. Even with over a hundred people, the foyer remained uncrowded.

Obviously, not wanting to repeat the organizing and programming hassles of the last UNICON, the clever organisers did away with the offending article, the programming. In spite of this rather surprising omission, the convention was extremely enjoyable - there was much socialising and a very friendly atmosphere.

There were various films, NASA flicks, and videotapes running Saturday morning, but the first real programme item was the panel on Alien Lifestyles. Led (excellently) by Terry Dowling, this proved fascinating, and the best 'panel' of the weekend, discussing some of the different author's approaches to aliens. As a first panel it was very good; it started out quite SerCon and very quickly developed into a fun look at various favourite stories, laced with usual fannish bitchiness.

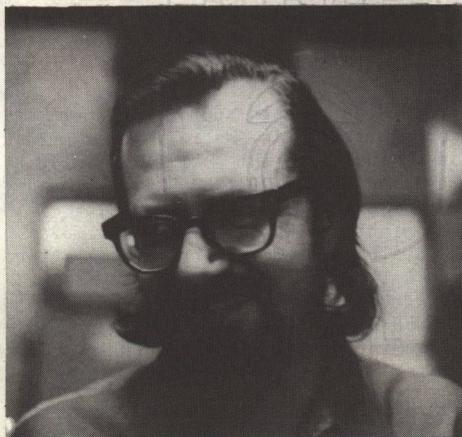
The highlight of the day was Patricia Wrightson's GOH speech. This was a well thought-out study of the recent history of fantasy, with discussions of it's role and it's relation with SF. According to Mrs Wrightson, the popularity of SF has

been largely responsible for the rebirth of Fantasy as a popular and respected form of literature.

There followed one of the soon-to-be-familiar long breaks, with nothing scheduled before the post-dinner masquerade but Doctor Who replays and films. The masquerade was enthusiastically attended: there weren't many great costumes, but lots of people tried to at least do something. Then came the most spontaneous event of the Con, The Great Foyer Kitsch Singalong, led by the shameless Jack Herman and ably supported by the Amazing Trekettes and a comic male relief chorus, very few of whom could lay any claim to any operatic talents. This motley crew had the great good fortune to disrupt the showing of a truly abysmal film, The Ultimate Warrior, with a rousing rendition of the Mickey Mouse theme song chorus! - a great victory for "good"bad taste. (This scene also had the dubious honour of being recorded on film, allegedly for the consumption of interstate fern, but probably for some far more sinister purpose...)

After this scene, the room parties were somewhat anti-climatic but very fun - indeed these were probably the highlights of the weekend. There was the Smof/bnf party. The Pulcon party, the Trekker party, the dope party, and several booze parties (Several of these were amalgamated...) and few ended before three AM.

Lack of sleep Saturday night may have been partially responsible for the fact that for a good many of the 120-plus attendees, the rest of the weekend flowed together somewhat. There was a talk on cosmology followed by a visit to the planetarium, one of Keith Curtis's usual raucous and entertaining auctions (in two parts; at one stage Keith and Jack successfully bid for the rights to lunch with the Trekker ladies, while in the latter half, they in turn auctioned off a report of all the sordid details, together with serialisation and first reprints rights...). There were also replays of Van Ikin's TV Series "WHAT IS SF?", a topic which was debated in various forms, with great enthusiasm and absolutely no discernable result.



TERRY CARR

Photo by John Foyster

Probably the last highlight was special guest Terry Carr's speech, which was rambling, informative, personal and delightfully spicy. During his entire time in Sydney, Terry proved to be very genial, easy-going, friendly and helpful - a most welcome visitor.

The only other items of importance were the business session, at which the two-year-in-advance bidding idea was not ratified, and where Monash beat AUSFA in bidding for UNICON VI (to be held at Easter, with Joe Haldeman as GOH): and the final discussion of the Australia in 83 bid. Things were a bit confusing but we went a long way towards solving problems - future summit conferences should manage to iron out the remaining differences. Throughout the convention, Terry Carr was extremely enthusiastic about the bid, and had several useful comments to make.

Last of all was the Farewell, followed by the traditional Dead Dog Party. This was held at Sydney's famous Moira Crescent Slan Shack, (partly by way of a house-cooling), and was by all means one of the strangest (and most enjoyable) parties ever held there... a most fitting end to a convention whose main highlights were usually of a fannish get-together nature.

So that was UNICON V. It was UNICON V on a much smaller scale; it was more friendly, perhaps because with few people all interacted well. The programming relied far too heavily on the passive forms of TV replays and other video-presentations (though the tour of Ron Graham's library was very popular). The real highlights were the guests and their speeches - and especially the gatherings in the foyer and the spontaneous entertainments emerging therefrom. And, of course, the parties, the talking to people, that initiation rite of Trufandom which begins only when the panels end.

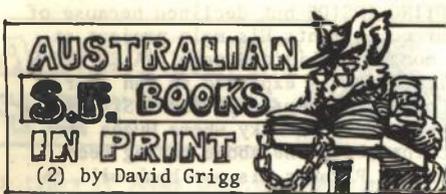
FROM THE NOTEBOOKS OF PETER TOLUZZI, JACK HERMAN AND GREGOR WHILEY.



My apologies for the lateness of this issue, but a number of things have caused delays. Issue 8 will be out in a very short time. Space is short so I will keep this brief, but I do wish to thank all my contributors, including letter writers, book reviewers and columnists.

I wish to correct a stupid mistake in issue number 6, in fact two stupid mistakes. The first was the date which should have been December '78 not '68. The second was in the list of new titles from GOLLANCZ which should have read: JEM A new novel by Frederick Pohl and THE DREAMER a new novel by James Gunn.

I do urge all readers to fill in the DITMAR, (Australian SF Achievement Award) nomination form enclosed with this issue. The closing date has been put forward to Easter, so you have time to send it in and make this the most representatives vote ever.



So far we've been talking about individual authors: David Lake, Cherry Wilder, Lee Harding. There's a few left to go, including George Turner, whose novel BELOVED SON is perhaps Australian sf's major achievement to date.

But this time I want to talk about a publishing venture rather than an author. That venture is Norstrilia Press. The name comes of course from the works of the late Cordwainer Smith - permission was obtained from his widow to use the name.

Norstrilia Press is essentially three people: Bruce Gillespie, Carey Handfield and Rob Gerrand, who have invested their time and money in what most people have traditionally seen as a sure road to bankruptcy: publishing Australian science fiction in Australia on a regular basis.

The fact that these people have already published three books, with two more expected by the middle of this year must surely be a testament to their hard work and their careful selection of books to publish.

We should all certainly keep our fingers crossed, because Norstrilia Press to my mind is the most hopeful sign we've yet seen for the future of sf publishing in this country.

The first book published by the Press was a volume of sf criticism in 1975. Entitled PHILLIP K DICK: THE ELECTRIC SHEPHERD, it featured lengthy articles examining that author's work in fine detail. Contributors included Dick himself (in the form of a speech); George Turner; Stanislaw Lem; and Bruce Gillespie. Those names alone ensure that if you are interested in serious and constructive criticism of sf, then this book is very much for you. However, I suspect that this volume has not sold very well so far because its subject matter is so specialised; and the awkward format of the book (19 cm square) probably hasn't helped. To the best of my knowledge, copies are still available, and if you are a fan of Dick, it is very likely you'd be interested in this book.

Next came a book which I think remains the publishers' biggest success:

THE ALTERED I, edited by Lee Harding, published in 1976. In 1977 came a not dissimilar volume, THE VIEW FROM THE EDGE, edited by George Turner.

Both of these books are centered around sf writing workshops held in Australia. The first deals with the workshop led by Ursula Le Guin at Booth Lodge in 1975, and the second with a much longer workshop at Monash University in 1977, led by Chris Priest, George Turner and Vonda McIntyre.

Though superficially similar, these books attempt to do quite different things.

THE ALTERED I sets out to get across the idea of what writing workshops are about, the intense atmosphere, the kind of forced growth of creative minds in a hot-house environment. It presents a number of interesting pieces of fiction written before and during the workshop by the beginning writers who attended. Perhaps most fascinating of all, it includes an original short story by Ursula Le Guin, which is workshopped by the participants before your very eyes. One major aim of the book, I think, was to make it useful as a manual for anyone wanting to set up such a writing workshop.

Now I have to confess personal bias: I attended Ms Le Guin's workshop, and some of the pieces in this book are by me. Nevertheless, I feel it possible to say objectively that the book does succeed in what it attempts, and is in many ways a fascinating and unusual volume. So successful was the book, in fact, that an edition was published by Berkley Publishing in the USA, and their version topped the sf trade paperback bestseller list for a month or so.

Berkley's edition is slightly different to the original: for a start, it includes the final re-write of Ms Le Guin's story, so that readers can see the workshopping process right through; and the US edition is organised so that this workshopping comes first in the book to introduce the reader to the process. You will, however, have trouble finding the US edition here, which is something of a pity. The original NP edition is still well worthwhile, though.

THE VIEW FROM THE EDGE reads more like a normal anthology of stories - and very interesting stories they are, too: more polished, more professional than those of THE ALTERED I. But in part this is because of the differing approach of the two books. The first printed the stories more or less as they were first written, warts and all, to show what can be done in an intensive environment. The second

volume contains stories which have been re-written under editorial supervision, to demonstrate how professional some of these aspiring writers are. And what makes THE VIEW FROM THE EDGE most interesting is that each and every story is followed by an incisive editorial comment from George Turner, detailing how the story developed, showing the remaining flaws and pointing out the author's strengths. These paragraphs alone are worth the price of the book.

It's interesting also to look at these books some years after the actual workshops and see the difficulties of becoming a professional writer. Out of the total of 26 different aspirants who attended these two workshops, only three to my knowledge have ever been published professionally since outside these two books. And only one of those looks to be on the way to real reknown: Phillipa Maddern. It's fascinating therefore to follow her progress through these books, which contain six pieces by her. But by the quality of some of the other stories, we may not have to wait too long before others join her.

Given just these three books, we should be glad that Norstrilia Press came into being. But due out later this year is a book which I suspect will be the venture's greatest success: MOON IN THE GROUND by Keith Antill. The manuscript of this novel won the Mary Gilmore Prize some years ago, but has as yet been unpublished.

Also to come this year is a volume of original Australian science fiction stories, edited by Rob Gerrand and to be published in a joint venture with Outback Press, called TRANSMUTATIONS.

If you can't get hold of these books in your local bookstore, write to Norstrilia Press, PO Box 91, Carlton 3053, Victoria.

-- David Grigg

SYDNEY SCIENCE FICTION WORKSHOP '79

This was, as far as I know, the first SF workshop held in Sydney. While main arrangements were made by Petrina Smith (enthusiasm fired by her experience of our 1977 Monash workshop), Carey Handfield, Peter Darling and heaven knows how many others had a hand in the administration - to say nothing of the organisations (Commonwealth Literary Fund and others who titles I do not know) who provided much of the backing. Someone who does know might perhaps publish the list?

Of the eighteen attendees, some were old hands back for more (Bruce Barnes, Sam Sejavka, Barbara Coleman) but most were fresh faces and generally very young. I took the first week as writer-in-residence, and was lucky enough to catch stories by Sam Sejavka, Lucy Sussex and Julie-Ann Ellis, which I feel should be considered for publication.

Terry Carr of California and 'Best Sf Of The Year' fame, took over for the second week, and reported enthusiastically to me on a story by Queensland's Leanne Frahm. Others were worthy of mention, but it is the outstanding that sticks in my mind, and

(Continued next page)

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

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our ready-for-the-editor stories produced under the gruelling conditions of a workshop is good going.

Experience of four workshops convinces me that there is talent in Australia whose present need is to be forcibly restrained from following American and English models. Sf, after all, is supposed to be the literature of fresh ideas.

George Turner.

PROFESSIONAL NEWS • AUSTRALIAN

GEORGE TURNER'S novel BELOVED SON will be published in paperback by Pocket Books (U.S) in April 1979 and by Sphere (U.K.) in May 1979. The book has also been sold to a Dutch publisher.

DAVID LAKE'S novel THE GODS OF XUMA, originally published by D.A.W. (U.S.) has been sold to a French publisher.

LEE HARDING'S three 'little sf books for children', THE FALLEN SPACEMAN, THE CHILDREN OF ATLANTIS & THE FROZEN SKY, were recently published in Denmark.

ABC producer LYNDAL JONES has announced that the response to the serial JOURNEY INTO TIME, written by LEE HARDING, has been "overwhelmingly successful". The serial will be repeated during the Second Term of 1979. Harding has been asked to write a sf serial of similar length - 12 episodes - and this will be broadcast during Third Term, 1979. At present he is putting the finishing touches to the book-length (and much revised) version of JOURNEY INTO TIME, which will be published by Cassell. He will begin work on the new serial in January.

OVERSEAS

ANNE MC CAFFREY'S "The White Dragon" has sold over 60,000 copies and was in the top fifteen bestsellers for two weeks or more. It is the first hard cover to remain on Locus's Bestseller list for seven months. It is being published by Sidgwick and Jackson in England in February, who are also doing new editions of "Dragonsong" and "Dragonsinger". "Dragondrums" is to be published by her American publisher soon, being the latest in the series. / PHILIP JOSE FARMER whose third Riverworld book DARK DESIGN is to be published by Panther soon, is working on a fifth in the series. THE MAGIC LABYRINTH which is the fourth in the main series is due to be published in the USA late this year. That is the last of the main series. The fifth and any later titles will not be part of the main sequence, but rather a "sidestream" series. Over 300,000 copies of DARK DESIGN in paperback and 20,000 in hardcover have been sold in the USA, which according to "Locus" is his first best-seller. That rather amazes us as we would imagine that the first two books in the series would have sold just as well. A quite amazing history of the Riverworld series was also reported by "Locus" in that the original book was the winning entry in a contest, on the basis of which Farmer quit his job and devoted his time fully to writing. However because of some shady dealings the publisher involved went

out of business and the book was never published. That was in 1953. Afterwards Farmer expanded on the idea with a series of novelettes which appeared in the sixties, but meanwhile he was financially in a bit of trouble. In 1971 TO YOUR SCATTERED BODIES go was finally published and won the "Hugo". FABULOUS RIVERBOAT appeared shortly afterward, and the third book was supposed to be out in 1972. However we had to bite our nails till 1977 for DARK DESIGN (1979 for the British edition), which talking as a bookseller was the most asked for sf book before publication ever. Even more sort, after than "Children of Dune" or "The Silmarillion". The novel which made Farmer the sensation of the sf world in the fifties, THE LOVERS, because it dared to introduce sex into sf with its publication in "Startling Stories" about 1953, is being reprinted by Ballantine. Playboy Press are to reprint his two pornographies fantasies, IMAGE OF THE BEAST and BLOWN.

A letter to Locus from Bob Wayne queries the Locus statement that DARK DESIGN is a bestseller. He says what about VENUS ON THE HALF SHELL which also has 300,000 copies in print. You sure have to be careful what you say, dont you Charlie Brown? Then again not everybody knows that the author of Venus.. is P.J.F, and what is more Dark Design has 350,000 in print including hard cover ...biggest but not first?

ISAAC ASIMOV'S 200th book published this month by Doubleday, is IN MEMORY YET GREEN: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY 1920-1954. / The late pop-novelist JACQUELINE SUSANN'S first ever novel called YARGO, which is apparently science fiction is being published by Bantam. / HARLAN ELLISON has edited a collection of stories set on a world which he has invented, called MEDEA: HARLAN'S WORLD, to be published by Bantam. / ORSON SCOTT CARD is looking for contributions to a fantasy anthology he is editing, which will include a full colour illustration with each story. The stories should include "any reasonable definition of the word dragon". (More details supplied by me on request. Ed) / POUL ANDERSON'S novel THE AVATAR is being acclaimed as his most ambitious novel yet. His first novel, VAULT OF THE AGES was also reprinted recently. He is also working on a Conan novel.

ROBERT SILVERBERG has sold one of his most highly regarded novels for filming, and it will most likely appear on TV; DYING INSIDE. BOOK OF SKULLS has also been taken up and seems very likely to be made. He was asked to do the script

of DYING INSIDE but declined because of prior commitments. His main project at the moment is his new novel VALENTINE'S CASTLE, which is expected to run over 600 pages in manuscript form. Silverberg has been very unlucky where Hugos are concerned, both the above having been nominated. Perhaps his new book will be the one. BILL ROTSLER has completed novels on a number of the Marvel Comic Characters. In a recent "Locus" he explained how he came to write his novel SHIVA DESCENDING. Some explanation he thought was due, as it is another "meteor collides with Earth story". As it happens it was planned and written before LUCIFERS HAMMER and other recent similar books. That is before he had read or heard of the other titles. It is inevitable, as Bill pointed out that with the wide dissemination of ideas and concepts today, that authors will get the same idea at about the same time. He said he was not apologising, but merely explaining, but he did not think it would be a good idea for any other writer to use the idea again.

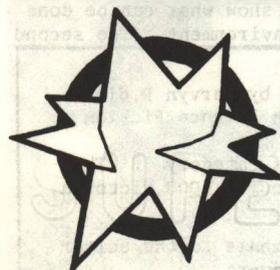
MICHAEL ASHLEY'S History of the Science Fiction Magazine has apparently run into a bit of trouble. He claims in a letter to Locus that New English Library has fouled up the sales of the series. (We have not even seen volume three in Australia yet Mike). They will not be publishing volume 5. It would seem likely that we will not see 3 or 4 in paperback here either.

NORMAN SPINRAD'S new novel, A WORLD BETWEEN will be excerpted in April "Heavy Metal" (Presumably illustrated) and in May "Galaxy".

POCKET BOOKS look like becoming a very strong force in the sf field. They will be the only publisher of all the "Star Trek" material from now on and no new ST books will be published by Bantam or Ballantine. Pocket will also be publishing the new Marion Zimmer Bradley which was done by "Starblaze" in their trade edition; THE RUINS OF ISIS.

Some titles were announced last year in the PINNACLE/FUTORIAN series. A report to hand states that all titles selected by Robert Silverberg when he was editor, have been dropped. We presume this will include P.J. Farmer's JESUS ON MARS, and other titles announced.

STERLING LANIER, who late last year returned to the U.S.A. after a year in Austria, is well on the way with his sequel to HIERO'S JOURNEY to be called THE UNFORSAKEN PRINCE. / KATHLEEN SKY has signed for another "Star Trek" novel following her VULCAN for Bantam. /



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ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION Ed Robert Holdstock Octopus \$9.95.

A times it seems that the paperback publishers can't get enough Science Fiction onto the shelves, and then just a few months later, there is a sudden famine, which may last several months and deluge once again,

As this is the New Year, I thought I might look at what we are about to receive from the local paperback distributors for the next few months. Granada are reprinting the "RIVERWORLD" series by Phillip Jose Farmer and look like having the long-awaited third book on our shelves by March or April, titled "DARK DESIGN". It is only the first half of the third book and it is, in my opinion, long and boring. The second half, "THE MAGIC LABYRINTH" will appear in hardcover in the USA late in the year, and when we see this in British paperback is anyone's guess. Farmer has just signed a deal for several more RIVERWORLD books, the details of which you may see in the news section.

Sphere books have the third of Zelazny's AMBER series slated for February, with no date on the fourth and fifth. This now means that the series is split between two publishers, Corgi and Sphere, making it almost impossible to have a complete series available for sale at one time. While Granada's Panther imprint has the sixth in the Family D'Alembert series, "THE PURITY PLOT", Wyndham has the first of a new Doc Smith series, "LORD TEDRIC". It is based on several short stories and the outline of a proposed series, and is ghosted by Gordon Eklund. Quite frankly it is unbelievably bad and is nowhere near the competent level achieved by

Stephen Goldin in Smith's D'Alembert series. Stay away from it at all costs.

Yet another Conan book has hit the stands, this time published by Bantam books. It is another Conan collection written by DeCamp, Carter and Nyberg, and an addition to the 12 books already in print. Conan has proved to be one of the more popular heroes, now appearing in comics, newspaper strips and a possible film series. Sphere books has finally (after two years wait) published CONAN OF AQUILONIA. Also just published in the USA is CONAN AND THE SORCERER, a large format with a cover by Sanjulien and interior illustrations by Estaban Maroto. Story is by Andrew J. Offutt and I hope he does better with Conan than he has done with some of his other work. I saw one story where a sixth century Irish warchief was seated at a desk giving orders to his staff just before a battle! And if you wonder what I am on about, please remember that Julius Caesar did not keep in contact with his army commanders via radio and he did not ride a motorbike either. An author should and must research his material before writing his book.

STAR TREK is still going strong as a series with VULCAN! due out in February together with 11 and 12 of the Fotonovels, which stop at that number for the moment. Due later in the year are three further novels, TREK TO MADWORLD

I imagine we can also look forward to a book of the film. One wonders where it will all stop.

VENDETTA by J.J. Adamson.

Futura Productions, 33 Whitely Drive, Trott Park. Adelaide. SA. 5158.

A star Wars Novel. I don't know how authorised this novel is, but it is a direct sequel to the film STAR WARS, and once again features all the favourites you know and love, Darth Vader, Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia Organa, C3PO, R2D2, Chewbacca and all the others, even Jabba the Hut. It is readable and whilst the writing needs some editorial work, this could be published if some smart local publisher is on the ball. What really amazes me about this novel is the amount of trouble to produce it, for it photocopies! Great if you are a Star Wars fan.



LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF PETER WILKINS Anon. Review Publications \$7.50.

This facsimile reprint of an 1842 novel (11 in by 7 1/2 in, double column) is a collector's item, excellently produced, for the lover of sf - as distinct from the sf 'fan'. The theme is standard for it's period, the lost race in Antarctica, and the book is readable without being a literary 'rediscovery' of importance. It's main interest for me was the demonstration that in 137 years of sf since it's appearance, there has been little advancement in basic authorial' conceptions of alternative civilisations

CINNABAR by Edward Bryant. Fontana pb \$2.50.

Another collection of stories about one of those fantasy cities with only a fantasy resemblance to life. A good one of it's kind, however, better written than most but with too little accurate perception of realities.

FUGUE FOR A DARKENING ISLAND. Christopher Priest Pan PB \$2.50.

Priest's early novel on the themes of racism, chauvinism and administrative breakdown. Literate and thoughtful. Recommended.

A DREAM OF WESSEX Christopher Priest. Pan PB \$2.50.

This is surely sf's most unusual treatment of the alternative future theme, and streets ahead of the competition. In this one, Priest has found a solution to the sf writer's bedevilling problem of how to manage realistic (as distinct from melodramatic or romantic) human interest as an integral part of a science fiction ambience. His best novel to date. Highly recommended.

This is not a true encyclopedia, but a selection of surveys of various aspects of sf and is as good as such catch-alls reasonably can be: it is also more interestingly and relevantly illustrated than most of the other sf 'picture books' of the past year or two. Like all it's fraternity, it is suitably reverent towards the wonders of sf with never a suggestion that there might be room for improvement in a genre that has het to produce more than a handful of works of any lasting quality. A more entertaining and picturesque book than it's tired cover montage would suggest.

MECHANISMO by Harry Harrison. Pierrot \$10.95.

I don't know whether to grin at Harrison's impudence in marketing this book or beautifully produced sub-teenage nonsense, or weep for the cynical money grabbing implicit in it's compilation. Sf has here hit a new low in a book of cutaway diagrams ('Plan Printouts') showing the inner workings of starship, female android, robot, light sabre and everything else the well-knitted-out-nine-year-old needs to debase his sense of wonder for ever. A super-ripoff of the STAR TREK peripherals.

THE HIGH FRONTIER: Human Colonies in Space Gerard.K.O'Neill. Corgi PB \$2.95.

This is, to the best of my knowledge, the only authoritative account of the technology, reasoning and extrapolation behind the proposals for building the 'O'Neill Satellite Colonies'. For those who like to know the factual basis of their 'sense of wonder' this is a necessary work. It's method is popularisation, but it is by no means written down for a naive audience. Recommended.

DEFINITELY MAYBE, THE FINAL CIRCLE OF PARADISE, MONDAY BEGINS ON SATURDAY, ROADSIDE PICNIC all by Arkady and Boris Strugatski and published in pb by various companies.

The Strugatski brothers are the best the Soviet Union has produced in SF writers, and rank with such as Disch, LeGuin and Budrys in the western world (with perhaps even a touch of Lafferty). They are original, provocative and meaningful. If you like sf novels, as against sf thrillers, these are YOUR meat. Highly recommended.

George Turner

THE YEAR OF THE COMET by John Christopher Re-released by Sphere Books 1978.

The conception of managerials in this book belies the time of it's writing to such an extent that today we do have the dreaded Telecom, albeit in a revised form. Originally published in '55, it is nonetheless a sustaining adventure which through the supporting character of Dinkuhl, gives one a deeper insight into the people created by and for the Society/ The Managerials. But here we must tread lightly for we are now venturing into Orwell's domain. The ending, considering it's first publication date, is rather fascinating, but apart from this, it provides Dinkuhl with a depth only as yet suspected.

DECEMBER BRITISH PUBLICATIONS

The following titles were published or were due for publication in Britain in December. All paperbacks should be distributed in Australia by March or April. Hardcover titles we expect in most cases, only available to order through your favourite SF shop.

ANDERSON Poul REBEL WORLDS.
Hodder PB
ANTHONY Peers PHTHOR
Panther PB
ASIMOV Isaac THE NAKED SUN
Panther PB
NEL PB
THROUGH A GLASS CLEARLY
A WHIFF OF DEATH
Sphere PB
BALLARD, J.G. THE TERMINAL BEACH
Penguin PB
BROSNAN John FUTURE TENSE: Cinema of
Science Fiction. Macdonald & Jane HC.
BRUNNER JOHN STAND ON ZANZIBAR
Arrow PB
CHRISTOPHER John THE DEATH OF GRASS
Sphere PB
A WRINKLE IN THE SKIN
Sphere PB
COPPEL Alfred THE DRAGON Pan PB
DE CAMP, L. Sprague THE FALLIBLE FIEND
Sphere PB
DICK, Phillip, K. A SCANNER DARKLY
Panther PB
DICKSON, Gordon, R. FUTURE LOVE Hale HC
FITZGIBBON Constantine THE GOLDEN AGE
Panther PB
GOLDIN Stephen & SMITH E.E.
Panther PB THE CLOCKWORK TRAITOR
HAY George ed PULSAR 1 Penguin PB
HEINLEIN, Robert, A. FARMER IN THE SKY
Pan PB
GLORY ROAD Nel PB
THE RED PLANET Pan PB
TIME FOR THE STARS Pan PB
TUNNEL IN THE SKY Pan PB
HERBERT Frank CHILDREN OF DUNE Nel PB
HOYLE Trevor BLAKE'S 7 Sphere PB
KING Stephen THE SHINING Nel PB
LANCOUR Gene SWORD FOR THE EMPIRE
Hale hc
LEGUIN Ursula THE LATHE OF HEAVEN
Panther PB
LYMINGTON John THE WALKING OF THE STONE
Hodder HC
McCAFFREY Anne DRAGONQUEST Sphere PB
MAGGIN, Elliot, S. SUPERMAN: Last Son of
Arrow pb Krypton.
MASON, Douglas, R. MISSION TO PACTOLUS
R. Hale HC
NORTON Andre BEASTMASTER Puffin PB
OFFUT, Andrew, J. CLANSMAN OF ANDOR
Futura PB
ROSS, Bernard, L. CAPRICORN ONE
Futura PB
SHAW Bob THE SHADOW OF HEAVEN
Corgi PB

SMITH, E.E. SECOND STAGE LENS MEN
Panther PB
VAN VOGT, A.E. EMPIRE OF THE ATOM Nel PB
WEBB William, T. POISONED PLANET Hale HC
WHITE James ALIENS AMONG US
I. Henry HC
WILTSHIRE David CHILD OF VODYANOI
Hale HC
ZEBROWSKI George ASHES AND STARS Nel PB
THE OMEGA POINT Nel PB.

DECEMBER AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS

Akers Alan, Burt GOLDEN SCORPIO
Daw PB #18
ANONYMOUS BATTLE STAR GALACTICA
BLUEPRINTS.
Grosset & Dunlap PB
ANTHONY Piers OX Avon PB
BEAGLE Peter THE LAST UNICORN
Gregg Press HC
BLACK Campbell ASTERISK DESTINY
Morrow HC
BOYCE Chris CATCHWORLD Fawcett PB
BOYER, Robert, H. & ZAHORSKIE, Kenneth, J.
FANTASTIC IMAGINATION 11
Avon PB
BROWN Frederic ROGUE IN SPACE
Bantam PB
BRUNNER John SQUARES OF THE CITY
Ballantine PB
BURROUGHS, E.R. THE GAVE GIRL Ace PB
BURROUGHS, E.R. THE ETERNAL SAVAGE
Ace PB
CARTER Lin YEAR'S BEST FANTASY
STORIES: 4 Daw PB
CLEARY Anthony SUPERMAN, THE MOVIE
Warner PB
DE CAMP, L. Sprague & PRATT Fletcher
THE GREAT FETISH
Doubleday HC
DIAMOND Graham LADY OF THE HAVEN
Playboy Press PB
DISCH, Thomas, M. & NAYLOR Charles
STRANGENESS Avon PB
DOZOIS Gardner STRANGERS Berkley PB
EDMONDSON, G.C. SHIP THAT SAILED THE
TIME STREAM Ace PB
EFFINGER George, Alec DIRTY TRICKS
Doubleday HC
ELLISON Harlan FANTASIES OF HARLAN
ELLISON Gregg HC
ELLISON Harlan ILLUSTRATED HARLAN
ELLISON Baronet HC
FARMER Phillip Jose STRANGE RELATIONS
Avon PB
FEDERBUSH Arnold ICE! Bantam PB
FOSTER Alan Dean ICERIGGER Ballantine PB
FREIVALDS John THE FAMINE PLOT
Stein & Day HC
GARRETT Randall TOO MANY MAGICIANS
Gregg Pr. HC
GESTON, Mark, S. LORDS OF THE STARSHIP
Gregg Pr. HC
GOTLIEB Phyllis SUNBURST Gregg Pr. H
GREEN Joseph STAR PROBE Ace PB

GREENBERG, Martin, OLANDER Joseph, WAUGH
Charles MYSTERIOUS VISIONS
St Martins HC
HALDEMAN Jack, C. VECTOR ANALYSIS
Berkley/Putnam HC
HARRISON Harry MAKE ROOM! MAKE ROOM!
Berkley PB
HARVEY James TITANS OF THE UNIVERSE
Manor PB
HEINLEIN, Robert, A. GLORY ROAD
Heritage Press HC
HENDERSON Zenna PILGRIMAGE: THE BOOK OF
THE PEOPLE Gregg Pr. HC
HERBERT Frank DESTINATION: VOID
Berkley PB rev. ed.
HOLDSTOCK Robert ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE
FICTION Mayflower HC
HOWARD, Robert, E. PEOPLE OF THE BLACK
CIRCLE. Berkley/Putnam HC
HOWARD, Robert, E. SOLOMON KANE: SKULLS IN
THE STARS Bantam PB
KILIAN Crawford THE EMPIRE OF TIME
Ballantine PB
LAUMER Keith RETIEF'S WAR Pocket PB
LEIBER Fritz THE CHANGE WAR
Gregg Pr. HC
LORD Jeffrey TREASURE OF THE STARS
Pinnacle PB
MILLER, Walter, M., Jr. SCIENCE FICTION STORIES
OF WALTER, M. MILLER, JR
Gregg Pr. HC
MONACO Richard PARSIVAL OR A KNIGHTS
TALE Pocket PB
NASH Bruce, M. OFFICIAL SUPERMAN QUIZ
BOOK Warner PB
PETROU David, Michael THE MAKING OF
SUPERMAN THE MOVIE
Warner PB
RUSS Joanna WE WHO ARE ABOUT TO...
Gregg Pr. HC
SABERHAGAN Fred BROTHER ASSASSIN Ace PB
SARGENT Lymha, T. BRITISH & AMERICAN UTOPIAN
LITERATURE, 1516-1975: An
Annotated Bibliography.
Gregg Pr. HC
SHECKLEY Robert CITIZEN IN SPACE
Ace PB
SILVERBERG Robert UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY
Berkley PB
SMITH Cordwainer QUEST OF THE THREE
WORLDS Ballantine PB
SOSNER IN THIS AGE OF STARS
Manor PB
STICKGOLD Bob & NOBLE Mark GLORYHITS
Ballantine PB
STURGEON Theodore THE DREAMING JEWELS
Gregg Pr. HC
Dell. PB
TEVIS Walter THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH
Gregg Pr. HC
TOPOL Allan FOURTH OF JULY WAR
Morrow HC
TUBB, E.C. QUILLIAN SECTOR
Daw PB #19.

We will complete this listing next issue. Not all of these titles will be distributed in Australia, but most can be obtained from the import SF specialists, or direct from bookshops in the U.S.A.



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MOST FREQUENT
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"It is a mine of information, features fine reviews, articles and artwork of interest to sf fans everywhere. ... Rollo Treadway contributes the best column on sf art to be found anywhere... I'm still surprised to find book-dealers myopic enough to pass up the chance of distributing this excellent sf zine..." -Fanzine Fanatic.

Edited & published by Brian Thurogood, 127 Wilma Rd, Ostend, Waiheke Is., NZ.
Australian Agent: Carey Handfield, PO Box 91, Carlton, Melbourne 3053, Australia. • \$A7.75/10 issues airmail: \$A5.50/10 issues surface mail.

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NEW RELEASES FROM AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTORS

WILLIAM COLLINS BOOK DISTRIBUTORS

FONTANA
OUR LADY OF DARKNESS Fritz LEIBER Jr
WALKERS ON THE SKY David Lake
GLORIANA Michael MOORCOCK
PAN
THE DRAGON Alfred COPPEL
DOWNWARD TO EARTH Robert SILVERBERG
EARTHWIND Robert HOLDSTOCK
CASTLE OF CROSSED DESTINIES Italo CALVINO

GORDON AND GOTCH
CORGI
DRAGONSLINGER Anne McCAFFREY
RAVEN 3:THE FROZEN GOD Richard KIRK
THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER Steve GALLAGHER
SHADOW OF HEAVEN Bob SHAW
PANTHER
NOVA EXPRESS William BURROUGHS
LONG AFTER MIDNIGHT Ray BRADBURY
FABULOUS RIVERBOAT Philip Jose FARMER
THREE STIGMATA OF PALMER ELDITCH Philip K.DICK
PENULTIMATE TRUTH ..
MAN PLUS Frederick POHL
MOONBEAST A.E.Van VOGT
DESTINATION UNIVERSE ..
EARTH IS ROOM ENOUGH Isaac ASIMOV
THE DARK MAN (Vol One) R.E.HOWARD
MAYFLOWER
TALL DARK & GRUESOME (Auto-biography) Christopher LEE

THOMAS NELSON

SPHERE
STAR TREK QUIZ BOOK (Jan)
A CIRCUS OF HELLS Poul ANDERSON
PETTERMASTER Octavia BUTLER
THE POSSESSORS John CHRISTOPHER
TIME STORM Gordon DICKSON
DANGEROUS VISIONS
3 Volumes Harlan ELLISON
CAPTIVE UNIVERSE Harry HARRISON
PLAGUE FROM SPACE ..
THE SYNDIC F.POHL & C.M.
KORNBLUTH
FOOL'S HILL Andrew OFFUT
SIGN OF THE UNICORN Roger ZELAZNY
TUDOR-DOUBLEDAY Australia

FUTURA

THE CAT FROM OUTER SPACE Ted KEY (Juv)
TELEMPATH Spider ROBINSON
PERRY RHODAN #39 Silence of Gom
BALLANTINES

At this time we have no definite information which titles TUDOR will be distributing.

NEW ENGLISH LIBRARY

We believe NEL and NAL/Signet titles will be only distributed by William Collins Book Distributors from now, but this is unconfirmed. All titles released have already been listed. James GUNN'S ROAD TO SCIENCE FICTION is due soon. Distribution of DAW titles and SIGNET, the few that might be available officially for sale in Australia, has been completely non-existent for the last year or more. We hope the situation improves.

KENNARD- RICAL Distributors

Titles due February -March
WYNDHAM
THE DOLL WHO ATE HIS MOTHER. James Ramsey CAMPBELL
THE WEREWOLF OF LONDON Carl DREADSTONE
ROMANCE OF TWO WORLDS Marie CORELLI

KENNARD- RICAL continued

DR WHO and the SPACE WAR M.Hulke
DR WHO and the HAND OF FEAR T.DICKS
DR WHO and the TALONS OF WENG CHIANG..
MAGNUM
CLANSMEN OF ANDOR Andrew OFFUT
THE FUTURE MAKERS Peter HAINING
HAMLYN
THE LION GAME J.H.SCMITZ
THE OTHER LOG OF PHILEAS FOGG
P.J.FARMER
ACE Recent titles available
ARCTURUS LANDING G.R.DICKSON
SIGHT OF PROTEUS C.SHEFFIELD
THE MAGIC GOES AWAY L.NIVEN

HARPER AND ROW (Australia)

TOMORROW and BEYOND ed Ian SUMMERS
(A Collection of sf art from book and magazine sources mainly. A very good selection.)

BOOK PEOPLE AUSTRALIA

DRAGONS DREAM
21st CENTURY FOSS (Art) Chris FOSS
GREEN DOG TRUMPET and other stories Ian MILLER
YGRAEL/URM Philippe DRUILLET
LONE SLOANE/DELERIUS ..



Dino De Laurentis, who made the new version of KING KONG among other things, has bought the rights to film DUNE. It is reported to be the second highest price paid for film rights to a book. Frank Herbert's outline covers the whole of the first book, without leaving out anything essential, allowing for a three hour script. He has put aside Dune 4 until the script is finished for the film.

Sydney film producer Reg Grundy plans to make a film to be called THE CAPTIVES. It will be set in the Queensland outback and revolve around a group of alien creatures mining a mineral unknown to humans. Along with another film this film will be filmed in Queensland and Indonesia in conjunction with Aries Films, an Indonesian company.

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA recieved an award in France for technical excellence. / Some twenty women and one hundred and twenty men -"Star Trek" fans-will be appearing as players in the new movie. Including Bjo Trimble in a walk on role and others include speaking. /

A feature length documentary which was initiated by Alan Resnais and William (Exorcist) Friedkin, on the life and work of H.P. Lovecraft, is being made by the owners of Necronomicon Press, Providence, Marc and Paul Michaud. It will include interviews with contemporary fantasy authors. / A TV version of GNOMES, the best selling picture book of Dutch origin, is being planned. / Walt Disney Studios are well advanced with their ambitious sf epic called THE BLACK HOLE. Bob McCall worked on some of the sets. / The maker of the movie of WATERSHIP DOWN plans to make a film of Richard Adam's THE PLAGUE DOGS also.

THE WICKER MAN is currently being released in the U.S.A in a newly reconstructed version. Those who read the write up on this film in a recent issue of CINEFANTASTIQUE magazine, will be glad to hear this bit

of news. Although it would seem that the version screened in Australia was the original uncut one. Comments on this from films fans will be most welcome.

DOCTOR WHO VISITS AUSTRALIA

The Australian Broadcasting Commission which screens the British TV series DR WHO, which has had one of the longest runs of any TV series, sponsored the visit of the current DR WHO, namely actor TOM BAKER, to Australia in February. It was purely a promotional tour and he had no contact with fans that we are aware of.



FAN FUNDS

There has been a little controversy over the DUFF and GUFF fans funds, but we trust the problems have now been ironed out. We urge all our readers who are eligible to vote, and support the GUFF fund (and any other fan funds) by making a donation. You need to have been active in fandom and known to other fans for a year or two, to be eligible to vote. A voting form can be obtained from us at ASFN or from the administrator, Leigh Edmonds, P.O. Box 103, Brunswick, Victoria, 3056, Australia. A minimum donation of \$1.50 is requested. Your vote will help to send either John Alderson or John Foyster to SEACON-The 37th WORLD SF CONVENTION in Brighton, England. Help us to continue the strong ties with overseas fans that we are steadily building up.

Despite the fact that it was not such a good idea to run a DUFF fund this year to bring a fan from the USA to Australia, because most will be going to SEACON and consider it not possible to attend both SEACON and SYNCON, plus the fact that we are already pushing the GUFF fund, a DUFF fund has been started. Nominations are open till Easter. One nomination has already been received for a couple who are standing as a team, Ken Fletcher and Linda Lounsbury, who I hear hail from Minneapolis. More nominations are needed to make the race viable, and do take note that it is quite possible to attend SYNCON on August 10th to 13th and then fly on to SEACON which is two weeks later, at not too much extra cost. Nominations can be sent to Paul Stevens c/o Space Age Books, 305/307 Swanston St, Melbourne, 3000, Victoria, Australia or Bill Rotsler, P.O. Box 3780, Los Angeles, CA 90028, U.S.A.

Peter and Elizabeth Darling held a GUFF weekend on the 10th and 11th of February. We regret we did not have the opportunity to tell everybody about it before hand. I was not able to attend but I believe it was quite successful and an amount of money was raised, including the sale of the local spa -water by Jillian Foyster.

John Alderson, well known fan, author, fanzine editor and GUFF candidate had a quantity of his own made wines and fanzines stored at a relations home in Melbourne. Unfortunately there was a fire and the said items will not now be put up for auction at EASTERCON for GUFF. All the more reason you should vote for GUFF and make a donation of material such as unwanted sf mags and books.

FANZINES

BY LEIGH EDMONDS!!



SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW is as enjoyable as ever for people who are interested to know what's going on behind the scenes in sf with plenty of interviews, letters and reviews. There's also some interesting comments from the editor and the third part of a novel he has written which is enjoyable. VOLTA, on the other hand, is nowhere as interesting and perhaps it is unfair of me to compare them - there is a reprint of an article on Anne McCaffrey and a review of BattleStar Galactica and, best of all, some good fanzine reviews. KRATOPHANY is a beautifully produced genzine that reminds me of a fat personal fanzine. The editor has taste, a very useful attribute, and the material he uses and its presentation are very good. KNIGHTS is a fanzine of considerable interest, there's a fair bit of material on feminism, a couple of decent reviews, an article by Thomas Monteleone about growing tired of sf and some very interesting letters. BELLEROPHON'S RAGE is in essence an apazine but this issue begins with a convention report of interest and the mailing comments are mostly written to make sense to people not in the apa to which they are directed.

KICKSHAW is from Clifford Wind who lived in WA for a few years, it is enjoyable to get a fanzine from him. There's mostly stuff on sf and a fine piece by Frank Denton to top the whole thing off. Future issues will, after this start, be quite good. DON-O-SAUR is one of the most personal fanzines being published. It seems that a lot of people enjoy reading about the depths of Don Thompson's private life and with the style Don has I'm not at all surprised. Most of this issue is the reasons for him and his wife separating and Don moving into his new place. LAN'S LANTERN is another interesting genzine with plenty of conreports, some letters and ramblings by the editor with a good personal touch. The interview with Wilson (Bob) Tucker will be of interest to all his friends and fans. RUNE is the fanzine of the Minnesota SF Society but for the most part it reads like a well put together genzine. I always like Minneapolis fanzines because they are put together by Minnstf crazies - I'm the Australian agent for this fanzine and so I'm biased.

The best thing about Brisith fanzines is, so it seems to me, the humor which they have - even when they are on a serious subject. DRILKJIS is a fine example of a Brisith fanzine, it has a fine article on Delany and a classic Bob Shaw speech to name but two of its gems. DOT is another jolly little fanzine, a personalzine in which the editor tells us what entertainments he's been up to recently. ERG begins with a discussion of energy sources and has one or two other good contributions. The slant is more towards sf than the other British fanzines with articles and reviews. NABU has the second part of Peter Roberts TAFF report and needs no more recommendation. All the same there's a nice fannish piece, a write up of a Jefferson Starship concert and some good reviews of British fanzines.

From Germany is MRU, if your German is better than mine you may enjoy this. The photographs of authors and fans on the front and back covers are in English though and there is an english summary page.

There's a few fanzines about that do nothing but review fanzines, you may think it's tedious but most fanzine fans like to know what's going on and what fanzines they aren't getting. LULU REVIEW reviews comix fanzines and so is not of much interest here. FANZINE FANTASTIQUE is British based and poorly produced but has a good coverage of the British fanzines and a lot of other non US stuff. FANZINE DIRECTORY lists all the fanzines produced in 1976 - perhaps not every last one but still a huge number. The WHOLE FANZINE CATALOGUE, on the other hand, is much more up to date and as well as fanzine reviews has material on the process of producing fanzines.

WESTWIND is the newsletter of the North-West SF Society, very nicely produced with local club news to the fore but a lot of other material of general interest scattered through its pages. 21 has "The Post-Premier 'Battlestar Galactica' Plot Permutation Pocket Computer" which covers just about every imaginable situation including old "Bonanza" re-runs. DNQ is a "subjective" newzine which means that you have to read between the lines to find the news. I find doing this to be enjoyable even though the 'news' may not be as earth-moving as that in other fanzines. KARASS, the main fannish newzine in the US has finally folded, the contents of the final issue are mostly unused artwork, over thirty pages of it. As always LOCUS has all the latest professional sf news, awards results, sales, markets, reviews and media notes and goodness knows what else. It's probably the closest we can come to mandatory reading for sf fans.

Australian fans have been fairly active since the previous issue of ASFN. The two issues of CHUNDER might not have been as newsy as possible though they are full of debate about DUFF and Ditmars and some of us think that's fairly important and interesting.

The WASFAN is the newsletter of the West Australian SF Association and carries news of that groups activities which will be of interest to those who like to know what happens on the other side of the continent. Similarly FORERUNNER is the newsletter of the Sydney SF Foundation, but the news may be of a little wider interest as it has reviews, lists of forthcoming books and perhaps letters as well as club news. DATA is a Star Trek club newsletter and so has lots of news of ST fan activities as well as notes on other media sf. SPOCK is another ST club fanzine but much larger in size. Most of the contents are fiction and a lot of it is better written than I had hoped. A lot of it is also one or two page ideas that could use padding, on the other hand some of the stories are longer than they should be (if that makes sense). ST fans should enjoy both DATA and SPOCK.

SCIENCE FICTION NEWS again has very little news, however it does contain an interesting article entitled "Danger - Academics at Work" which is most agreeable and a couple of fairly good reviews. As usual NOUMENON contains a lot of interesting

letters which have been sparked by previous issues and which will, in their turn, spark future discussion. There is also an interview with Frank Herbert, reviews and articles about art and music and sf.

GEGENSCHEIN this time around seems to be a "catching up" issue full of snippets of letters and quick reviews of things that people have done/are doing. CHAO this issue is much the same as previous issues except that it has been so long since the previous issue that most will not remember it. Mostly articles and reviews of science fiction with that touch of Alderson that gives it a different "taste". John should run for GUFF more often if it will encourage him to put out issues of his fanzine.

STRIPS is a comic fanzine with comic art and articles about comics. I'm not sure which parts I like best, and I don't even like comics in the first place. The contribution by John Ryan on Australian comics is probably the best in another superb issue.

CHAO 21, John Alderson, Havelock, Vict 3465/no publishing information but you can probably get it for the usual/irregular/30pp.

CHUNDER Vol 2 Nos 10 & 11, John Foyster, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne, Vict 3001/8 for \$1 or contribution/tri-weekly/10pp & 14pp.

DATA 19, edited by Catherine Robinson for ASTREX, 6 Bellevue Road, Faulconbridge NSW 2776/available to members/13pp.

FORERUNNER Nov '78 & Dec '78, edited by Jack R Herman, 29 Moira Cres., Randwick, NSW 2031 for the Sydney SF Foundation/available to members/monthly/7pp & 8pp.

GEGENSCHEIN, Eric Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave., Faulconbridge, NSW 2776/available for most of the usual/irregular/16pp.

NOUMENON 26, Brian Thurogood, Wilma Road, Ostend, Waiheke Island, Hauraki Gulf, NEW ZEALAND (Australian Agent: Carey Handfield, PO Box 91, Carlton, Vict 3053)/\$5.50 for 10 issues seamail or \$7.75 airmail, or perhaps the usual/monthly/28pp.

SCIENCE FICTION NEWS 57, Australian SF Association, Box 4440, GPO, Sydney, NSW 2001/\$5 per annum membership of the ASFA/bimonthly/16pp.

SPOCK 11 & 12, edited by Ian McLachlan and Joan McLauchlan for AUSTREK, PO Box 46, Rosanna, Vict 3084/\$1.50 per issue to non members, 60¢ to members/bimonthly/44pp & 46pp.

STRIPS 9, Rollo Treadway, PO Box 47385, Ponsonby, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND (Australian Agent: Carey Handfield, PO Box 91, Carlton, Vict 3053)/\$9.00 per annum airmail, \$5.00 seamail/bimonthly/36pp.

The WASFAN 6, edited by Roy Ferguson, 247 Gloucester Street, East Victoria Park, WA 6101 for the WASFA/available to members or \$2.50 (for some undisclosed number) to non-members/5pp.

BELLEROPHON'S RAGE 11, Denys Howard, Box 8975, Portland, Oregon 97208, USA/19pp.

DNQ 9 & 10, Taral and Victoria Vayne, PO Box 156 - Stn D, Toronto, Ontario, M6P 3J8, CANADA/\$1 for 3 or the usual/monthly/16pp & 19pp.

DON-O-SAUR 51, Don Thompson, 940 Mariposa Street, Denver, Colo 80204, USA/ to be had for the usual or 50¢ per issue/30pp.

DRILKJIS 3, Kevin Smith & Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Ave, Reading, Berks.-RG2 7PW, UK/40p or the usual/28pp.

OT 4, Kevin Smith, 7 Fassett Road,
Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, UK/
for the usual, perhaps/14pp.

ERG 64, Terry Jeeves, 230 Bannerdale Rd.,
Sheffield, UK/4 for \$2 or the usual/
22pp.

FANZINE DIRECTORY Vol 2, Allan Beatty,
PO Box 1040, Ames, IA 5001, USA/\$1 or
for trade/20pp.

FANZINE FANTASTIQUE 32, Keith & Rosemary
Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd.,
Lancs, UK/for trade or 3 for \$1/8pp.

KICKSHAW 1, Clifford R Wind, 304 E.
Thomas, #14, Seattle, WA 98102/for the
usual or 25¢ an issue/23pp.

KNIGHTS 19, Mike Bracken, 1810 Ramanda
Blvd., Collinsville, Ill 62234, USA/
\$1.25 per issue or some of the usual/
70pp.

KRATOPHANY 11, Eli Cohen, 2236 Allison
Rd., Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1T6, CANADA/
available for the usual or \$1 per issue/
irregular/40pp.

LAN'S LANTERN 7, George J Laskowski Jr.,
47 Valley Way, Bloomfield Hills,
MI 48013, USA/the usual/41pp.

LOCUS 214, 215 & 216, Charlie Brown,
Box 3938, San Francisco, CA 94119, USA/
\$18 per annum airmail/monthly/28pp,
24pp & 20pp.

LULU REVU 2, Pubbug, 11220 Bird Road,
Richmond, BC V6X 1N8, CANADA/8 for \$3/
six weekly/8pp.

MRU 147, Waldemar Kummig, Herzogspital-
strasse 5, D-8000, Munchen 2, WEST
GERMANY, for the usual/62pp.

NABU 5, Ian & Janice Maule, 18 Hillside,
163 Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey,
SM1 4NG, UK/available for all the usual/
37pp.

RUNE 52 & 53, edited by Lee Pelton &
Carol Kennedy, 1204 Harmon Place #10,
Minneapolis, Minn 55403, USA for Minn-
Stf (Australian Agent: Leigh Edmonds,
PO Box 103, Brunswick, Vict 3056)/
\$2 per year or the usual/27pp & 27pp.

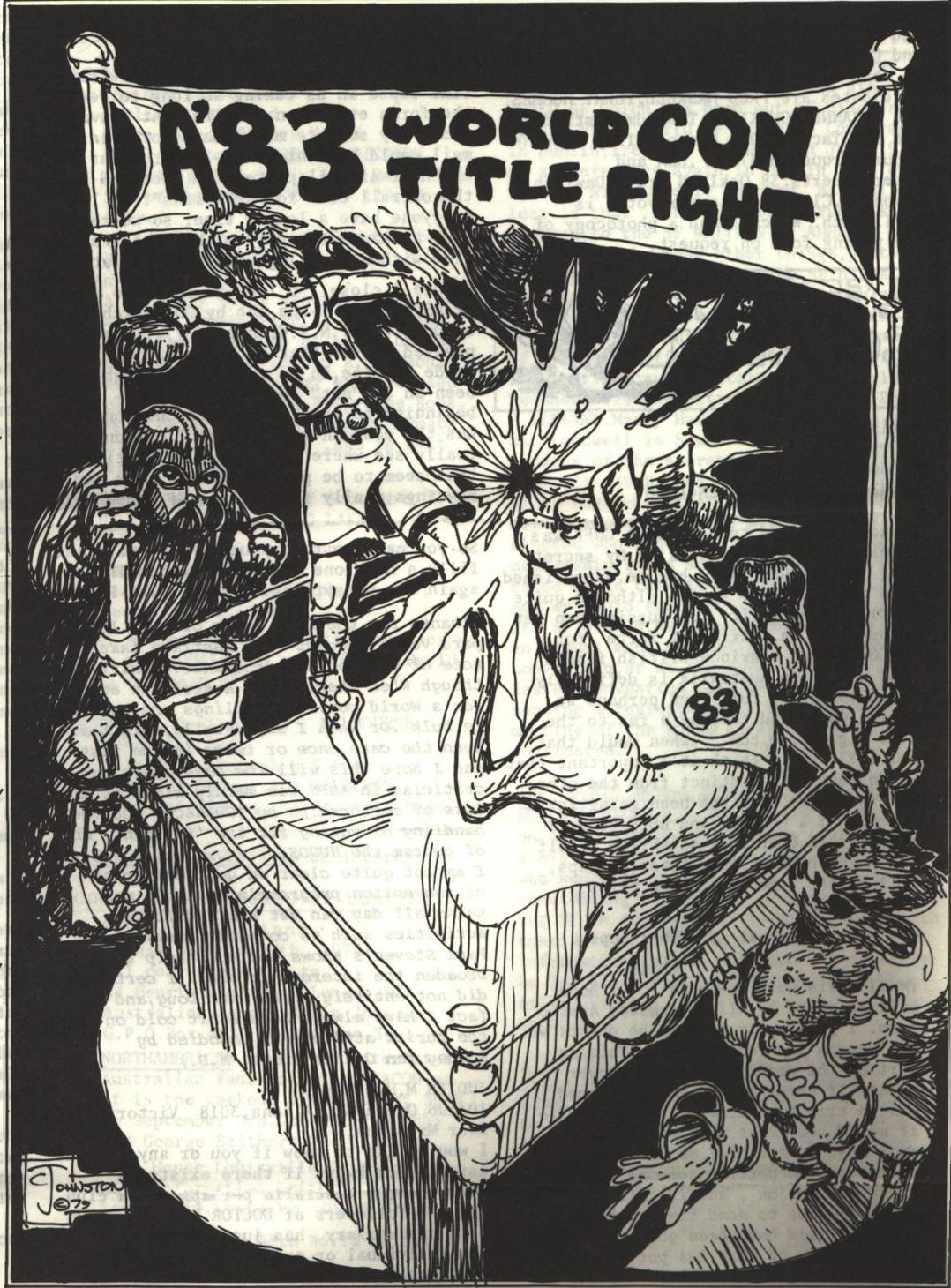
SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW 27, Richard E Gies,
PO Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211, USA/
\$1.50 per issue/bi-monthly/64pp.

SPELLING ACTION Oct - Dec 1978, Jan 79,
Harry Lindgren, 40 McKinlay Street,
Narrabundah, ACT 2604/\$2 per year/
monthly/6pp, 8pp, 8pp & 6pp.

VOLTA 4, Daniel Farr, R.R. #8, Dunnville,
Ontario N1A 2W7, CANADA/35¢ per issue

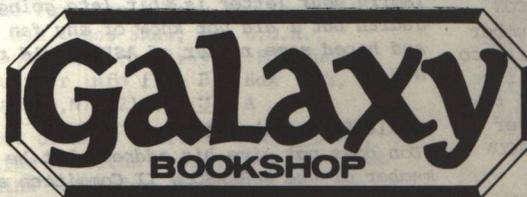
WESTWIND 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22, edited by
Greg Bennett, PO Box 24207, Seattle,
WA 98124, USA for the Northwest SF
Society/available to members/monthly/
8pp each except 22 which is 12pp.

The WHOLE FANZINE CATALOG 1 & 2, Brian
Earl Brown, 16711 Burt Road., #207,
Detroit, Mi 48219, USA/\$1 per issue
airmail or for trade/bi-monthly/
12pp & 12pp.



Send fanzines for review to:
Leigh Edmonds
PO Box 103
Brunswick
Victoria 3056
AUSTRALIA

We have been very grateful to LOCUS the American Science Fiction News magazine, for a lot of our information over the first six issues of ASFN, however we are managing to get more original material with each issue. We will continue to report as much of the overseas news that we know will interest local readers, from LOCUS, but we suggest a subscription to LOCUS if you want to get all the overseas news. The subscription rate is now \$18.00 for 12 issues AIRMAIL and \$9.00 ordinary mail.



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PHONE 61 7630

Write for our catalogue. And remember we also stock a full range of fabulous DOVER PAPERBACKS.



The original fan fund between America and U.K. called TAFF, on which the DUFF and GUFF funds are based, this year is to send an American fan to SEACON. The candidates are FRED HASKELL, TERRY HUGHES and SUZANNE TOMPKINS. The administrators are Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Road NW Albuquerque, NM 87107, USA and Peter Roberts, 38 Oakland Drive, Dawlish, Devon, UK. Closing date for votes is April 14th. We can send a photocopy of the voting form on request.

LETTER COLUMN



Chris Priest
1 Ortygia House
6 Lower Road Harrow,
Middlesex HA2 ODA ENGLAND

I was interested to hear that GUFF was running into fan politicking. My secret hope is that GUFF will become established into the TAFF/DUFF system, although quite distinct from it. If you Aussies can get across here in sufficient force for SEACON, we can convince British fandom that a trip to Australia is definitely worth competing for. Then perhaps we could run a fund to send a fan to the next big Aussie con... when would that be? 1983? But I think it's important that we do keep GUFF distinct from the other two fan funds. TAFF has been going for a quarter of a century, and DUFF is well established. GUFF must establish itself as an independent fund. Later, perhaps, will be the time to combine trips... but not now.

Any way, see you at SEACON I hope.

Chris.

(Well Chris your comments I hope will be noted by all interested Aussie fans. I personally have grave doubts we can manage two funds a year. This is part of the problem currently under debate. If British fans are convinced that a trip to Australia is worthwhile it would seem that they will have to foot most of the bill. We are primarily interested in getting someone to the World Convention, and if this had been a year for us to send the fan over for DUFF he would have been going to SEACON. The starting of GUFF has put the whole thing out of stride, but it now seems that we will be sending some one to the U.S.A. next year, as we will be having an American guest(s) at SYNCON in August this year. There are a number British fans or authors we would like to see over, so I have no doubt that if we can raise the cash needed, GUFF will be on again. We will kick it around over here and talk about it more at SEACON M.B.)

VAL ROGERS, 16 Arundel St, West Pymble, N.S.W 2073
Dear Merv,
In your October issue, I found the last paragraph (page 2, centre column) very pertinent to my own experience. I know convention organisers are extremely busy, but some indication as to whether they've received the registration form and money - even just a receipt would stop a lot of concern, as things do go astray.

(I mean, we all know the mails are really infallible, but--)!)

Also, if the organisers would allow for the time-lapse in us taking so long to receive the forms etc., when they're sent "down under" by surface mail. Maybe overseas mail could be sent out 2-3 months earlier: or their airmail postage be included in the overall cost for us "aliens"? Or let everyone have a longer time, so we could have a chance to apply within the stated time without getting ulcers in the attempt.

Before I close, I'd like to refer to another ASFN article - the one by Doug Nicholson of Double Bay, N.S.W. (on page 7). I was pleased to see that he has a similar attitude to mine, in as much as although I've been an SF "nut" for over 30 years - I was beginning to think I was the only one who was the odd man out, because I couldn't really see where such games and activities that seem to be perpetuated at Cons and meetings, really fitted into SF scheme of things.

So you can see that your SF News magazine fills a need: one of communication. Thanks again for everything. Sincerely Val Rogers.

(Thanks for the nice words of your last para Val. I suggest Don Eastlake takes note of some of your comments. Usually though when there is an Australian agent for a World con, the mailings are sent out in bulk. Or when I say usually, this has been the case once or twice in the past and I hope this will be the case again. My criticism in ASFN was mainly aimed at the loss of memberships by IGUANACON and the handling of voting for the '81 sight and of course the HUGOS.

I am not quite clear on your criticism of convention programming. Panels and talks all day can get a bit dull. Side activities such as computer games, films, Paul Steven's shows and such help to broaden the interest in cons. I certainly did not entirely agree with Doug, and in fact I have always been a bit cold on the purist attitude as embodied by Sydney fan Graham Stone. M.B.)

JUDITH M. HOUSTON
10/196 Queen St, Altona, 3018 Victoria

Dear Mr Binns,
I would like to know if you or any of your association knows if there exists in Melbourne (or Australia perhaps) a fan club for the followers of DOCTOR WHO. The shows 15th anniversary has just passed, and if any individual or organisation is doing anything about it, you would probably be in the best position to know what's going on.

(Sorry your letter is a bit late going in Judith but I did not know of any fan club and hoped some reader of ASFN would reply. M.B.)

Donald E. Eastlake, III
(Don does not give his address but he is a member of the NOREASCON II Committee and Presiding officer, SEACON '79 Business Session. Noreasocon's address is: P.O. Box 46, MIT Branch Post Office, Cambridge, M.A. 02139, U.S.A. NOREASCON is the 38th WORLD SF CONVENTION to be held at the SHERATON-BOSTON HOTEL August 19th to September 1, 1980. Robin John is Australian agent. He has changed his address to some place in Sydney. Please let us have your new address Robin.)

Dear Editor,
I was looking at the copy of Volume 1 Number 5 of your newsletter (in particular the copy

sent to NESFA) and thought that I should make some reply to the last paragraph in your editorial about the need for greater responsibility on the part of Worldcons.

Under the current organization, there is really nothing that can be done other than the voters to be more cautious and to consider the organizational competence of the bidders as well as whether they would like to take a vacation to the city being bid for.

This sort of problem is one of the things being considered by the committee of the World Science Fiction Convention Society which is considering drafting a new constitution for the society. People interested in this effort could write to the secretary of the committee, Larry Smith, at 875 Overland Park, Columbus, OH 43224 USA. I believe that for \$1 US you can get a copy of their draft version that was distributed at IGUANACON.

(I have heard about this draft but so far I have not seen same. Discussion of it has already been carried on here however in John Foyster's CHUNDER for instance. I have had other correspondence on the matter from John Millard, who I expect will be commenting in CHUNDER on what Foyster has raised. It would appear that certain suggestions will not be conducive to our point of view, and could upset plans for our future bidding for World Cons. But as John Millard has pointed out our interpretation may be entirely in error. Thanks Don for your letter and I hope some of us will be at SEACON and perhaps get a better idea of the situation then. M.B.)

M.D. Jacobs
40 Violet Street, Hemmant, Brisbane,
Queensland 4171.

I would appreciate any information on clubs and any Australian SF Conventions.

(We have sent Mr/Ms Jacobs a copy of the current ASFN listing Conventions, but we hope that Brisbane fandom will contact and advise of any activity there. In a future issue of the ASFN it would be a good idea if I could list all the names and addresses of SF clubs. Would you all please advise me of people to contact, meeting times and so forth. M.B.)

A couple of important address changes for two Sydney fans heavily involved in conventions and other activities:
Peter TOLUZZI P.O. Box K471, Haymarket
2000 N.S.W
Jack Herman, 7 B Kingsbury St, Croydon
Park, 2133 N.S.W



HAPPENINGS

CONVENTIONS & OTHER EVENTS

WAYCON '79 March 2nd to 5th
Ozone Hotel, 27 Adelaide Tce.,
Perth, West Australia
Guest of Honour:
Leigh Edmonds
Memberships: \$12.50
Students and Easter State
Fans : \$10.00

(This is more of a reminder to W.A. fans as it is a little late for anybody else. Our apologies to the organisers. Who can be contacted at (09) 457 6048 or G.P.O. Box N1060, Perth 6001 W.A.)



THE AUSTRALIAN *Star Trek* CONVENTION

March 10th and 11th 1979
MENZIES HOTEL SYDNEY
14 Carrington Street, Sydney, N.S.W
Guest of Honour: GEORGE TAKEI
Other guests have been invited but confirmation is not yet received.
Membership rates now are :
Under 13 \$15.00
Over 13 \$20.00
From February 1st;
Under 13 \$18.00
Over 13 \$23.00 (Proof of age may be requested)
Supporting Membership \$5.00
For further details contact :
Karen Lewis: Star Trek Convention
P.O. Box 110, Rockdale, N.S.W 2216

EASTERCON 1979

Friday 13th April to Monday 16th
MELBOURNE SHERATON HOTEL
13 Spring Street, Melbourne, 3000
Guest of Honour : A. Bertram Chandler
Fan Guest of Honour: Brian Thurogood

The organisers are Christine and Derek Ashby c/o P.O. Box 175 South Melbourne, 3205, Victoria, who will be happy to send you details of hotel booking, programme etc.

Memberships: \$10.00 Attending
\$5.00 Supporting

QUASARCON June 16th - 18th

The venue and the accommodation is secret. All the PR one says is that the convention will be held in a suburban Theatre-Cinema, and the accommodation will be in a near by Flag Motor Inn. It is no secret that DAVID LAKE is the Guest of Honour. Don't tell any one but the secret rendezvous is somewhere in ADELAIDE

For further information :
Paul Anderson, 21 Mulga Rd,
Hawthorndene, S.A. 5051

A two night convention was held in Adelaide last month with visiting American author/editor Terry Carr as guest. No report to hand. Very secretive these Adelaide fans.

THIRD SYDNEY SF & FANTASY FILM FESTIVAL

Will be held over the weekend of May 12th and 13th. For full details contact Tony Howe, P.O. Box 191, Gordon, N.S.W 2072

SYNCON '79 18th NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

August 10th - 13th 1979
The New Crest Hotel
Darlinghurst Road,
Kings Cross, Sydney, N.S.W
Guest of Honour GORDON R. DICKSON
Attending Membership till March 1st \$10.00. Thereafter \$15.00. \$20.00 at door.
All correspondence to P.O. Box 146, Burwood, N.S.W 2134

Syncon Competitions

A literary short story competition and Art competition is also being held. The art is to be based on the work of the GoH Gordon R. Dickson, and the winning entry will be used on the cover of the Programme Book. More details from Shayne McCormack at the above address, and in next issue of ASFN.

PULP CON 1st and 2nd of September '79

Guest of Honour: DAVID LAKE
A Melbourne SF Club convention
For details contact :
Timothy Dawson, 11 Murphy Street, Kew, Victoria, 3101.

(Yes! According to publicity releases we have from QUASARCON and PULPCON, David Lake is Guest of Honor at both.)

UNICON 6 Easter 1980 MELBOURNE

Venue not Set.
Organisers: Monash U.S.F.A.
Guest of Honour: Joe HALDEMAN
More details as they come to hand.

Some OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS of Interest:

SEACON The 37th WORLD SF CONVENTION

Brighton, England
August 23rd to 27th 1979
All correspondence to
14 Henrietta Street, London, WC2
Australian Agent: Robin Johnson
G.P.O. Box 4039, Melbourne, 3001
NORTHAMERICAN may be of interest to Australian fans going to SEACON as it is the weekend after. August 30th to September 3rd. Guests: Fred Pohl and George Scithers. The Place : Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky. For More information write to Box 58009, Louisville, Kentucky, 40258, U.S.A

NOREASCON The 38th World SF Con.
Sheraton-Boston Hotel
August 29th to September 1st 1980
More details later.

NOVACON 2nd - 4th of November '79
The Turf Inn, Albany New York, USA
G.O.H. : Bob Shaw, Fan G.O.H. : Jack Cohen, Toastmaster: Bob Tucker
Further info from P.O. Box 428, Latham, NY 12110, U.S.A

A list of most overseas conventions, all the American ones at any rate and I think the major ones in other places, will be found in LOCUS- see fanzines page for details.

(Sorry Adelaide for the rather facetious comments about Quasarcon. I find in another circular that negotiations have not been settled for the venue. We will have more details of all the conventions in the next issue out in two weeks.)

FORMATION OF WORLD SF ORGANISATION

Brian Aldiss has kindly sent us a copy of the details of the formation and aims of WORLD SF, which was born out of discussions at the First World SF Writer's Conference in Dublin, Ireland in 1976. In June 1978 at a conference again in Dublin the organization was formally founded. Basically the idea is that WORLD SF will serve a similar purpose to the SF WRITERS of AMERICA organization which among other things, protects the rights of authors. WORLD SF plans a register of all translators, editors and writers. A magazine devoted to the affairs of WORLD SF. An international bibliography of science fiction literature. Further information can be obtained from World Headquarters, 10 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2, IRELAND. Harry Harrison is Chairman and Sam Lundwell is Secretary/Treasurer. The address of the secretariat is Storskogvagen 19, S-161 39 Bromma, SWEDEN. It is suggested that local branches be formed in each country with officers elected who can collect dues, organize membership lists and so forth. Those interested could talk to me about it at EASTERCON and we could come up with something definite at SYNCON. We should then obviously have an annual meeting possibly at the national convention, or at the seemingly regular Easter convention date. The possibility of sending a representative to the annual meeting of the WORLD SF also must be considered. M.B.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON TEACHING SCIENCE FICTION is being held in the U.S.

on April 27th to the 29th. It is probably a bit late for anyone from Australia who would be interested to attend, but considering the growing practice of teaching SF in Australia it might be well worth considering attending next year. For information contact 4th Annual Conference on Teaching SF, Office of Continuing Education, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton FL 33431, U.S.A.

STAR TREK CON GUEST OF HONOUR CHANGE

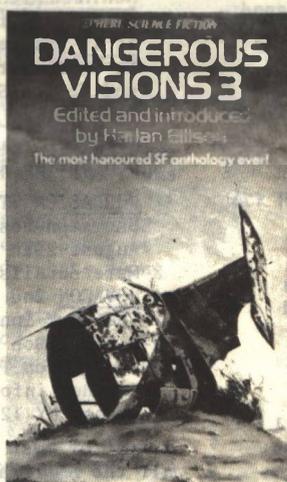
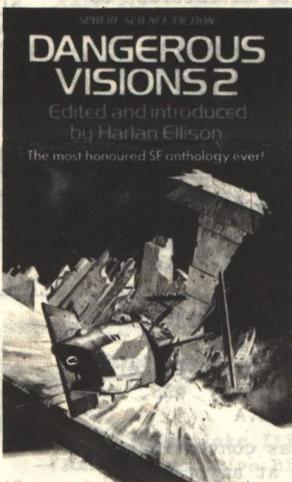
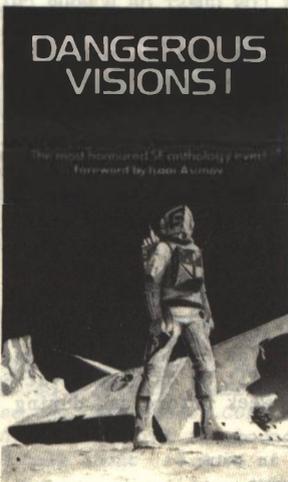
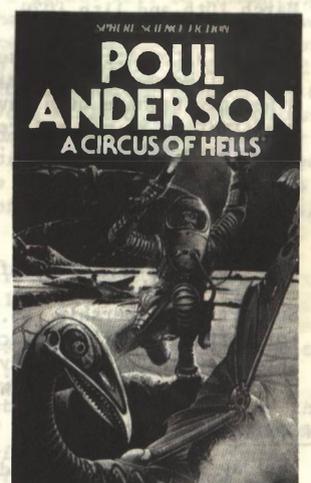
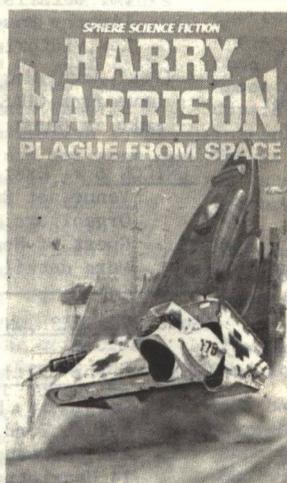
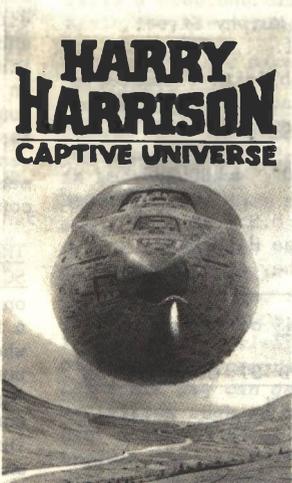
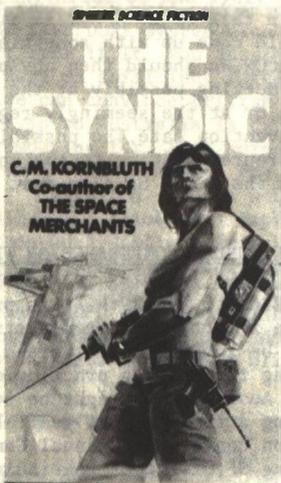
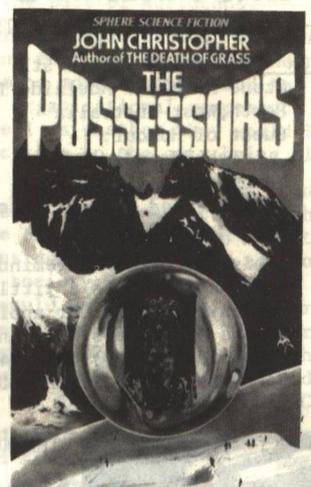
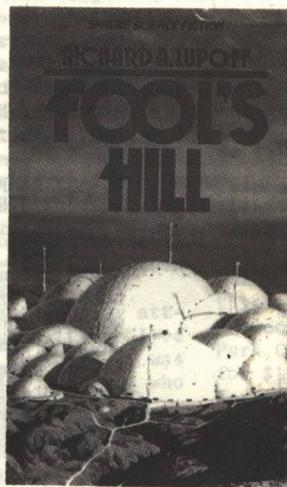
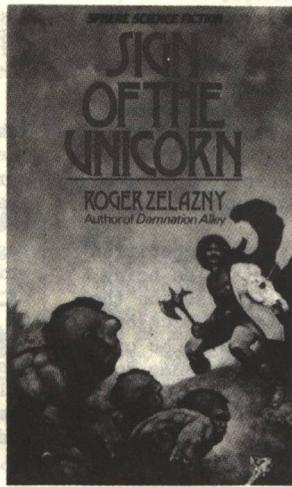
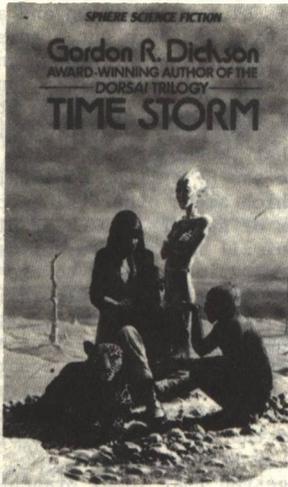
James Doohan will not be attending the STAR TREK Convention in Sydney in March. No official word has been received from the organisers but Melbourne fan Dianne Marchant assures us that GEORGE TAKEI will be attending. Memberships for the convention are coming in thick and fast, so do not waste any time in joining or you may miss out. (See Convention listing for details)

SPACE AGE POSTER COMPETITION

Space Age Books are running a poster competition. The winner will be announced at Eastercon '79, and the entries will be on display at Space Age the week before and during Easter

PAUL STEVENS tells me we should support the SEATTLE IN '81 WORLD CON BID. He said he will make me eat dried hazelnuts and berries for the next two years if I don't. So SEATTLE IN 1981 and

AUSTRALIA IN '83!



SPHERE SCIENCE FICTION

will be held over the weekend of
Nov 17th and 18th for full details
Contact Tony Howe, P.O. Box 101,
London W.2 8 1073