

NUMBER 43

\$1.00

AUSTRALIAN



NEWS

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1

MAY 1986

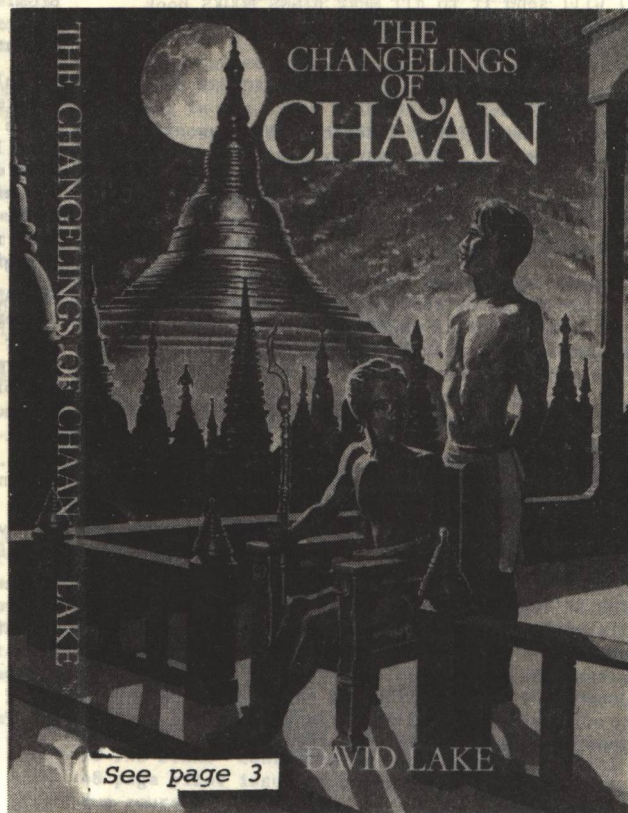
THE SF WORLD MOURNS



FRANK HERBERT

FRANK HERBERT, L. RON HUBBARD, JUDY-LYNN DEL REY AND ORSON WELLES ARE AMONGST PEOPLE WHOSE LIFE AND WORK INFLUENCED SCIENCE FICTION AND WHO HAVE DIED THIS YEAR. (See page 4)

NEW NOVEL BY DAVID LAKE



IN THIS ISSUE:

PUBLISHING NEWS, BOOKS

RECEIVED AND REVIEWED -

THE DITMAR AWARD WINNERS and

more of our usual features...

See page 3

DAVID LAKE

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS



ISSN 0155-8870

Edited and published by Mervyn R. Binns,
P.O. Box 491, Elsternwick 3185, Victoria,
AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS is registered for posting
under Australia Post, publication # VBG2791

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$6.00 for 6 issues,
by surface mail and \$15.00 for air mail.
Please make all payments to the editor,
Mervyn R. Binns or MERV BINNS BOOKS. At this
time I have no confirmed overseas agents, so
please contact me direct for new rates and
payment details. I plan to keep to no more than
twelve pages and to publish every two months.
Depending on future size and cost the sub rate
will most likely increase. A list of new books
by publisher, will be included and I will do a
complete listing of all books by author, that
have been published in the last six months in
a special publication, separate from the NEWS.
I will most likely continue to publish that
separately from the NEWS also in the future.
I will send it to all MERV BINNS BOOKS book
buyers free and to all others for \$1.00 includ-
ing postage.

ADVERTISING:

Full back page \$60 Interior full page \$50
Half page \$25 Quarter page \$15
These rates are for publishers and other
professional advertisements. Conventions and
other fan advertisements receive a 50%
discount.

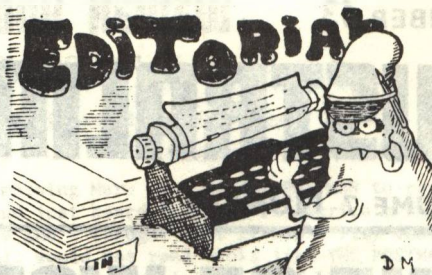
Copy ready size is 200 mm up, 150 mm across.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ page 100mm by 150mm, $\frac{1}{4}$ page 100mm by 75 mm.
If larger copy is received and has to be
reduced, advertisers will be charged for the
cost of reduction.

M B I N N S B O O K S

MERV BINNS BOOKS is plain and simply the
name of my new Mail Order Book Service.

THE SF TRADING POST #1

listing mainly second hand books is available
now and if you did not receive one already
please ask. A second issue will be done in
June and I can tell you now that I will be able
to offer new sf books and a range of cinema and
general books, in the near future.



DEAR READERS,

After gaffiating for the last three months and
watching what little cash that was available
rapidly running out, while sitting on the pier
or the bank of the river holding a fishing line,
I have finally made some decisions. AUSTRALIAN
SF NEWS will continue and I am starting a mail
order book service from home. Depending on how
things develop, I may open a small suburban
bookshop dealing largely in second hand books
and continue on the mail order for new science
fiction and possibly other types of books. It
will be some months before I can supply new sf
titles, but I will be producing lists of second
hand and some new books immediately. I have been
promised a large collection of magazines and
comics, but I will not have those until August
or later.

I would like to thank all the people who have
written to me saying how sorry they were to see
Space Age Books close down and many others hoping
that I would keep ASFN going. In both cases it
will depend now on the response I receive from
you all. If my book service prospers then so will
ASFN. I need lots of subscribers and almost all
subs run out with this issue, so I hope you will
all give me your support and resubscribe.

For ASFN to fill its purpose I need help from any
readers who can supply details on conventions and
other important fan events and most importantly,
information on new publications, along with
authors and their activities. A number of publishers
including Hodder and Stoughton, William Collins,
Corgi-Bantam, Arrow and Hamlyn Paperbacks, Bantam
U.S.A., Allen & Unwin and others, have been regularly
sending me books for review and others are sending
lists and information. I thank you all and I do hope
that you will keep ASFN on your mailing list and keep
me informed of your f&sf publications.

My thanks to all the people who do send me infor-
mation and in particular LOCUS, SF CHRONICLE and
ANSIBLE for allowing me to reprint information
from their pages. But I do need more details from
Australian sources, on authors sales, appearances
of sf stories in Australian publications and on
all fan activities. How about it!

MERV BINNS

AUSTRALIAN PROFESSIONAL NEWS



Since the publication of two collections of SF stories at AUSSIECON TWO last year, the sf publishing scene has been very quiet in Australia. The most significant event is the publication of the new magazine APHELION, which is edited and published by Adelaide fan Peter MacNamara. The first issue is now on sale, but if you have difficulty in getting copies write to APHELION, P.O.Box 421, Stirling 5152, South Australia. The subscription rate is \$16 for four issues. This project is most definitely worth your support. Peter is beginning to realise what he has taken on and the best encouragement you can give him is cash!

HYLAND HOUSE, who published DAVID LAKE'S award winning novel THE MAN WHO LOVED MORLOCKS, have recently published THE CHANGLINGS OF CHA'AN. This new novel by Lake is a fantasy involving time travel and set in Asia. It draws greatly on Lake's experience as a boy, having been born in Bangalore in India. He was educated in England, did army service and later returned to Asia as a lecturer, now residing at the University of Queensland. His experience of Asia is very evident in this novel. Lake has been one of the most successful sf authors residing in Australia and we wish him well in the future.

PETER CAREY, whose writing borders more on the style of Jorge Luis Borges than the fantasy read by most of our readers, but coloured by the Australian yen for a "good yarn", has really hit the jackpot with his novel ILLYWACKER. It has been a bestseller in Australia and overseas and has now won the DITMAR AWARD for Best Australian Novel. It was also on the nomination list for the coveted British book award, The Booker Prize and is to be made into a movie.

People and Publishing

HARLAN ELLISON was not able to attend AUSSIECON TWO because of work on the new *Twilight Zone* TV series. He has since resigned as creative consultant on the series because an episode he had written and was directing, "The Nagles", starring Ed Asner, was banned due to not being appropriate for the Christmas season. It being one of the usual group of stories for the Christmas week episode. It apparently made some very strong comment on racial intolerance. From comments he made we doubt he will get involved with TV again.

PETER STRAUB has joined STEPHEN KING at NAL, who will be publishing his future work. The two authors have collaborated and readers tend to associate them because of their similar approach to writing. NAL and their associates Dutton, will now have the advantage of being able to market their works together, including three new books by Straub.

US publisher Scream Press were to publish the 1st edition, illustrated by J.K.Potter, of Stephen King's SKELETON CREW, but problems delayed its release until after the trade editions. First edition or not it sold out instantly and was soon listed by sellers at more than twice the original \$75 publication price.

MICHAEL MOORCOCK has three new books due out this year in Britain, all in hc editions. CITY IN THE AUTUMN STARS (a thematic sequel to THE WARHOUND AND THE WORLD'S PAIN) from Grafton in April, LETTERS FROM HOLLYWOOD from Harrap in June and DRAGON IN THE SWORD from Grafton (Granada) in September./ JOHN BRUNNER completed a new novel last year titled THE SHIFT KEY and was revising THE TRAVELLER IN BLACK for a new edition.

John W.Campbell Award winner LUCIUS SHEPARD has two books coming from Bantam, THE MAN WHO PAINTED THE DRAGON GRIABLE and PSIDERWEB. / ALFRED BESTER broke his leg last year and he sold a new novel to Donald I.Fine publishers./ STEPHEN DONALDSON has completed a new fantasy novel, THE MIRROR OF HER DREAMS, for Ballantine./ The first printing in the US of JEAN AUL'S third prehistoric fantasy novel, THE MAMMOTH HUNTERS, was for just over a million copies. A record. A big publicity drive is under way for the series, including a visit by the author to Australia last March. The film of the first book in the series, CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR, is currently on release.

DOUGLAS ADAMS is working on a new series. The first title, DIRK GENTLY'S HOLISTIC DETECTIVE AGENCY, will not be published until 1987. He describes the series as "a ghost/horror/ detective /time travel/ romantic comedy". Locus reports that there are over 7 million copies of the "Hitchhiker" books in print around the world.

JAMES TIPTREE, JR. whose novel BRIGHTNESS FALLS FROM THE AIR was published last year, has been very busy and has a number of new books on the way. This follows a period when she considered giving up writing, when it came out that she was indeed a woman, whose real name is ALICE SHELDON.

The publishing projects initiated by the late L.RON HUBBARD, will continue according to Author Services spokesman Fred Harris. The ten volumes of MISSION EARTH were completed by Hubbard and will be published at two month intervals. A decision as to whether the magazine L.RON HUBBARD'S TO THE STARS continues or not, after an initial 48 page pilot issue is published, will be made in due course.

A SAD START TO 1986 for SF fans and movie buffs

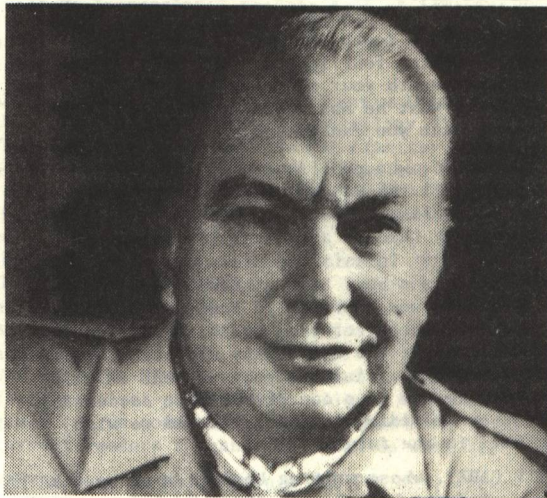
For me personally 1985 was a year of mixed emotions. It was great to have another World SF Convention in Melbourne, which like Halley's Comet I am never likely to see again, but having managed five in all I know I have done very well. Losing Space Age was a crushing blow, but 1986 has been a very unhappy year for all of us in the sf world. We have lost a number of authors in the last few months whose contributions to the fantasy and science fiction literary genre, range from tremendous to quite significant. To add to our sorrow in losing such great names as THEODORE STURGEON last year and FRANK HERBERT along with L. RON HUBBARD this year, it was a great pity to see such cinema greats as ORSON WELLES and YUL BRYNNER, who also contributed to the sf mythos, take their last bow. To top it off we were shocked by the CHALLENGER Space Shuttle disaster, which not only made us grieve for those killed in the accident, along with their family and friends, but it made us aware of the blow to the space programme, which is so dear to the hearts of so many sf fans. This "accident" should never have happened and we can only hope that the people running NASA have learnt their lesson. The announcement of the long range plans to establish permanent bases on the Moon and Mars within the lifetimes of many young people, was exciting, but tarnished by the CHALLENGER disaster.

FRANK HERBERT was an author who I believe contributed to the current, broader popularity of sf with his "Dune" series, as much or more than any other writer. He died following treatment and an operation for pancreatic cancer in February. Herbert attended AUSSIECON TWO with his new wife of last year, former Putnam representative Theresa Shackleford. I had the pleasure of dining with both Herbert and his first wife Beverly, (who was at that time having treatment for lung cancer and who succumbed in 1984) on their visit to Australia for the National SF Convention in Adelaide. They, like all sf pros I have had the pleasure of meeting over the years, were very nice people. Before he died Herbert set up the Frank Herbert Cancer Research Fund, at the University of Wisconsin.

No publisher wanted to publish DUNE until it was taken up by technical book publisher Chilton and although it had relatively small print runs, they sold the rights to Putnams after making a lot of money out of it. Since then the book and its sequels have been some of the biggest selling books in the sf field. Critics have criticised them, but like most series, the fans loved them, and their originality and unique style along with his other books, will ensure Herbert a major place in the development of the sf field.

L. RON HUBBARD, the science fiction author who founded dianetics or scientology and became the

head of the world wide organisation devoted to it, died of a stroke on January 24th, aged 74. Hubbard was reported to have died last year, but although that report was false, this one is not. His fantasy and science fiction writing, such as THE SLAVES OF SLEEP, TYPEWRITER IN THE SKY and the "Doc Methuselah" stories are highly regarded by all who have read them. His recent return to the sf field with the giant novel BATTLEFIELD EARTH and the ten volume epic MISSION EARTH, plus the sponsorship of a new sf magazine and anthologies of sf stories by new writers, was welcomed by many readers. It is a pity he got sidetracked on the money-making scheme called scientology, for which he will be long remembered after his sf writing is forgotten.



L. RON HUBBARD

JUDY-LYNN DEL REY, 43, publisher and editor of Del Rey Books, died February 20 in New York City. She suffered a brain hemorrhage in October last year and never regained consciousness. Judy-Lynn came up through the ranks of sf publishing, from working with GALAXY magazine when Fred Pohl was editor, up to editor-in-chief of Del Rey, and ultimately the marketing expert for Ballantine in all fields. Assisted by her husband Lester, she was instrumental in making Del Rey Books probably the most financially successful sf publisher in the world. She added Arthur C. Clarke, Robert Heinlein, Stephen Donaldson, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Jack Chalker and Terry Brookes, to name a few, to her stable. She was largely responsible for getting sf on the bestseller lists. Judy-Lynn made a tremendous contribution to the f&sf field and will be sorely missed.

We have also lost a number of authors whose contributions to the field may have been small, but never the less significant. Writers such as TAYLOR CALDWELL with her "Romance of Atlantis"

and other fantasy tales; ITALO CALVINO, the noted Italian writer who was awarded the Ditmar for his novel COSMICOMICS, was a major novelist of world standing. His allegorical fantasies such as INVISIBLE CITIES and THE CASTLE OF CROSSED DESTINIES, won him the Life Achievement Award at the 1982 World Fantasy Convention; The author of I CLAUDIUS and fantasies based on Greek mythology such as SEVEN DAYS IN CRETE and WATCH THE NORTH WIND RISE, ROBERT GRAVES, died at the age of 90, in December last; BERNARD WOLFE, who was the secretary of Russian exile Leon Trotsky and who wrote the highly regarded novel LIMBO 90, died last October at the age of 70.



Judy-Lynn del Rey
photo credit: Helen Marcus

Other sf personalities whom we have seen pass on include: ROBERT P. MILLS, editor of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* for many years, including a period when the magazine was awarded two Hugos, died on February 8th 1986; A colorful member of American sf fandom for years, who Aussie fans attending TORCON and other conventions will remember and whom I toured the hotel at Toronto with, looking for room parties, my first overseas con, BANKS MEBANE, died on December 18th of a heart attack. Banks lived at Melbourne Beach in Florida, which he was quick to point out to Aussie fans from Melbourne; WALTER B. GIBSON, who wrote under the name of Maxwell Grant, suffered a stroke on December 6th last year. He wrote over 300 novels in the pulp series, "The Shadow";

Artist JACK GAUGHAN, who would be one of if not the most recognisable cover artist for *ASTOUNDING* and *ANALOG* magazine, died in July 1985. Gaughan served as art director for other sf magazines and did illustrations for many others.

I cannot help making further personal comment when I think back on this most unhappy year for me. The cinema has influenced and coloured my life perhaps even more than science fiction dare I admit. ORSON WELLES in "Citizen Kane" and his famous "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast; YUL BRYNNER and his famous bald head in "The King and I" of course, and many others roles including the robot gunman in "Westworld"; RAY MILLAND whose movie career stretched from the 1920s to TV and included such films as "The Uninvited", a great ghost story, "The Man With X-Ray Eyes" and the sf epic "Battlestar Galactica"; ROCK HUDSON was best known for his comedy roles with Doris Day and TV appearances, but besides those he appeared in "Seconds", the story of the man who is given a new body, a film directed by John Frankenheimer and TV's version of Ray Bradbury's "The Martian Chronicles"; all of these actors died over the last few months. Ray Milland in March 1986 and Yul Brynner and Orson Welles on the same day late last year. Other movie people who have left this world and who appeared in f&sf films, include GRANT WILLIAMS "The Incredible Shrinking Man"; GALE SONDEGAARD who appeared with Basil Rathbone in some "Sherlock Holmes" films and many other sinister roles; EVELYN ANKERS a queen of serials appeared in "The Wolf Man" with Lon Chaney Jr. and "Son of Dracula" among other well known B's;

All these people have died recently, but their familiar faces will flicker across the silver screen for eternity. Both writers and cinema stars have left us a lot to appreciate and always remember them by.

Merv B

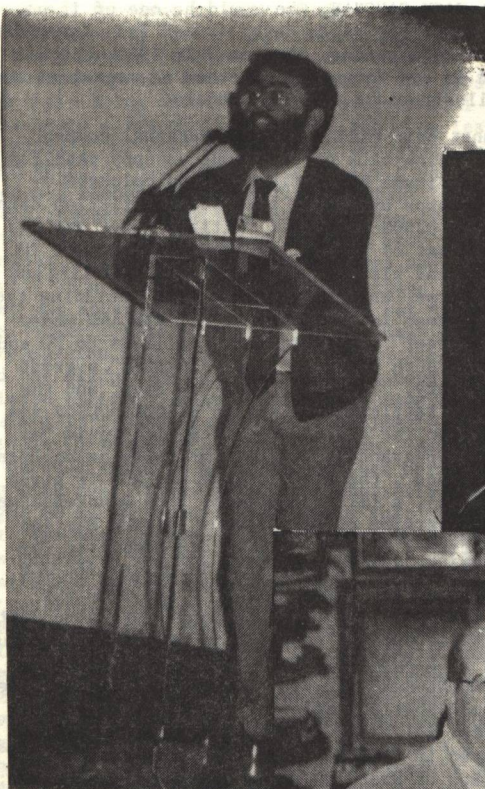
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

The disappointments of the year continue! It seems most unlikely that FORREST J. ACKERMAN'S extensive sf and movie memorabilia collection will remain intact. Los Angeles local government authorities had agreed to set up a home for the collection, but they have apparently reneged on the deal. Other collections of books no doubt exist and perhaps more complete, but there is material that Forry has that does not exist anywhere else. It will be a pity if it disappears into private collections, never to be seen again.

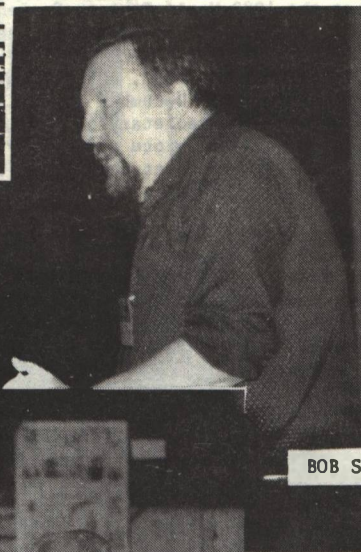
MANLY WADE WELLMAN had a fall last year and following complications while being laid up, had to have both legs removed. He intends to keep writing and has been working on a novel./ Publisher DONALD WOLLHEIM has recovered from major surgery last year and was reported to be spending a little time back in the DAW office.

AUSSIECON

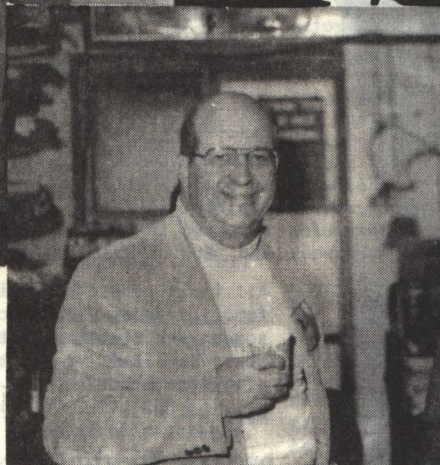
The 43rd Wo



MARC ORTLIEB



BOB SHAW

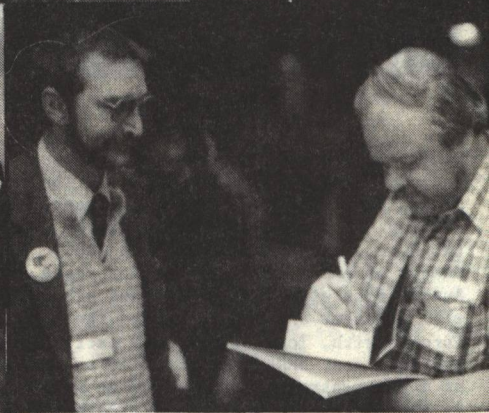


GENE WOLF & GEORGE TURNER

"FAMULIMUS"



Hugo Winners MIKE GLYER, CHARLES BROWN,
DAVID BRIN & ALEXIS GILLILAND.



JACK CHALKER signs for PAUL STEVENS

TWO World Science Fiction Convention

PHOTOS by Merv Binns
and Helena Roberts



Nick Stathopoulos

SOME OF THE BEST COSTUMES
FROM THE MASQUERADE



"PYANFAR CHANUR"

by Barbara de la Hunt



"DEMON CREATURE" by Lewis Morley

AUSSIECON TWO is past history now and I do not intend to dwell on it, but some of my readers may not have heard how it went. Admittedly my mind was on other things, with the decline of Space Age looming on the horizon, but I managed to rope in a few of the visiting authors for a booksigning at Space Age including GENE WOLFE, DAVID BRIN, ED BRYANT and BOB SHAW. They and all others attending the convention were, as usual, available to the fans. Long lines of fans were seen waiting to have their books signed at all the convention booksigning sessions. This opportunity to meet the authors is the biggest drawcard at conventions and it will be a very long time before Melbourne fans in particular, have the opportunity again to meet so many of their idols at the same time. ANNE McCAFFREY, ROBERT SILVERBERG, HAL CLEMENT, ALEXIS GILLILAND, FRED POHL, FRANK HERBERT (for whom sadly it was his last World Con) and JACK CHALKER, to name a few of the overseas authors, along with GEORGE TURNER, LEE HARDING, DAMIEN BRODERICK, WYNNE WHITEFORD, JACK WODHAMS and FRANK BRYNING were there along with others, representing the home grown talent.

The general opinion of AUSSIECON TWO by people attending was that it went very well. The main complaint I heard was the splitting up of the programme between the various hotels and other venues, which was unfortunately a disrupting factor. It was pointed out that many of the items held at the other hotels could have easily been accommodated at the main hotel, The Southern Cross. All those who attended AUSSIECON ONE were agreeably surprised at the extra space the hotel now has in the function area, since its alterations, but I believe the committee did the right thing in spreading things around. It must have seemed absolutely necessary in advance, but it unfortunately proved wrong in effect. I heard a few other complaints, including the over zealous attitude of some security people, but there obviously were a lot of little things that could have been criticised if you start comparing AUSSIECON TWO with the average U.S.A. world con. Nobody, including the many fans from the U.S.A., Britain and other parts of the world, would take anything away from the great job the organizing committee did, particularly when all circumstances are considered.

Memorable moments at the convention included the audiovisual opening; the speech by an old fan and now a minister in the Victorian Government, Race Mathews; The Hugo Awards presentations, despite the mix up with the audio-visuals and the following musical interlude; The way in which the numerous programme items were altered, but everything was kept flowing reasonably well and all the attendees were kept right up to date with the changes. Although not obvious at the time, the steady hand of some old hands in the business of running conventions, helped keep the ship on course; 7

The great job done by many of the organisers in the evergrowing face of adversity, especially Marc and Cathie Ortlieb; The very obvious enthusiasm of new fans about meeting the pros and their being involved in the programme; I only heard a few of the speeches and even less of panels, but BOB SHAW's speech was great and GENE WOLFE's hit home, although for a GoH speech I thought it was a little brief; The fancy dress competition or masquerade if you like, attracted only 32 entries, varying from the very complex enteries of Nick Stathopoulos and Lewis Morley to some very simple presentations, but the best was equal to the high standard set by the U.S. cons; The highlights of the business session were the iron fist control of chairman Jack Herman, and the discussion of the use of the term "world science fiction", which some people regarded as a storm in a tea cup and others decidedly did not. Britain is to host the 1987 Worldcon, SEACON TWO, to be held again in Brighton. Another World SF Con will most likely be held in Australia and it might be in Perth in 1994. We will just have to wait and see. Everybody agreed that AUSSIECON TWO was great, in varying degrees. All the overseas visitors I spoke to enjoyed it and without being patronising, they pointed out, that considering the problems that the organisers were confronted with in running a World Con in Australia, which they were quite aware of, it went quite well and they thoroughly enjoyed it. Committee people I have spoken to had their reservations, but the biggest problem confronting the organisers a year or two back was the financial aspects of running the thing. That in the final run out was the least of their worries.

Over 1250 people attended the convention, including over 400 overseas visitors, mainly from the U.S.A. and Britain, but also from Japan and various European countries. This report is as needed, brief, but LOCUS and SF CHRONICLE gave much larger and profusely illustrated coverages, and I will try and obtain copies of them if any of my readers ask.

THE HUGO AWARD WINNERS

For those who did not receive the insert with our last issue or see the list elsewhere, the winners of the HUGOS at AUSSIECON TWO were:

BEST NOVEL: NEUROMANCER by William Gibson

BEST NOVELLA: "Press Enter ()" by John Varley

BEST NOVELETTE: "Bloodchild" by Octavia Butler

BEST SHORT STORY: "The Crytal Spheres" by David Brin

BEST NON-FICTION BOOK: WONDER'S CHILD: MY LIFE IN SCIENCE FICTION by Jack Williamson

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: 2010: ODYSSEY TWO

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR: TERRY CARR

BEST SEMI-PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINE: LOCUS

BEST FANZINE: FILE 770

BEST FAN WRITER: DAVE LANGFORD

BEST FAN ARTIST: ALEXIS GILLILAND

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER:
LUCIUS SHEPARD

A

Quarter Of Conventions



CONVENTION REPORTS

by Cathy Kerrigan



April is here and already there have been three conventions including both the National conventions.

UNICON '86 took place over the Australia Day weekend in Adelaide as part of an ongoing attempt to revive the tradition of Unicons. It was a small enjoyable convention the highlight of which was probably the launching of APHELION, Australia's newest sf magazine. (If you haven't bought a copy yet, slap yourself on the wrist and go out and buy one - it is well worth supporting.) The GoH, Victor Kelleher was delightful and future conscoms should seriously Victor as a GoH. The auditorium in which the con programme was held is a fannish dream come true - it was excellent. AUSFA plan to hold another Unicon next year and I, for one, look forward to it.

Where Unicon had an attending membership of about 50, I think GALACTIC TOURS had an attending membership of about 300 - I can't be sure of this, as media cons have an annoying habit of not numbering badges or publishing membership lists. Why is it that the first convention in Melbourne every year coincides with a wet weekend? It happens without fail. For the media fan, there was plenty to do: people with only a passing interest in media sf would have found it a bit on the dull side. The GoHs, Dave Prowse and Katy Manning gave the concom value for money: Darth Vader out of his suit is a charming Scotsman and the contrast between Dave and diminutive Katy led to some lovely moments. Quibbles included the masquerade running 1½ hours late with the audience kept waiting out on the roof of the Townhouse in the cold (at one stage, with two minutes to go before the promised time of the doors opening, everyone counted down from 120-unfortunately, it didn't work.) and the Townhouse as a convention facility - that lift is as bad as ever- and Alan Stewart being named as the author of my short story when it won first prize in the lit. competition - I was not impressed.

Perth fans have a reputation for putting on good conventions and SWANCON XI did nothing to detract from that reputation. Held in the Miss Maud Convention Centre, it was a relaxed convention with just enough to do. It featured a superb banquet,

a well-organised masquerade, a wide variety of talks and panels ranging from autobiographies to Trek and Dr Who to the launching of ASFR II and other assorted zines. Monday featured the traditional Fan Olympics which were won by the Heavyweights, a team consisting of Cath McDonald, Jack Herman, Carey Handfield, Justin Acjroyd and Greg Turkich, and was followed by the equally traditional cream pie throwing. The success of Swancon XI seems to have assured its success for the bid for the '89 Natcon. There were virtually no complaints to be heard about the convention. C.J. Cherryh, a quietly spoken woman, is another GoH who gave value for money. I now intend to read more of her books. Of the constitutional wars, I'll say nothing as it will be fully written up elsewhere. However future natcons can now only award 5 Ditmars plus the Atheling Award.

Summing up, there have been no bad conventions so far this year, certainly there have been no duds as far as GoHs are concerned. It will be interesting to see how the remainder of this year's conventions shape up.

Cathy Kerrigan

DITMAR AWARD

THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 1986

- BEST INTERNATIONAL FICTION: Ursula LeGuin for "The Compass Rose" (Gollancz)
 BEST AUSTRALIAN FICTION - NOVEL: Peter Carey for "Illywhacker" (Penguin Books Aust.)
 BEST AUSTRALIAN SHORT FICTION: Terry Dowling for "The Bullet That Grows in the Gun" from "Urban Fantasies" (Ebony Books)
 BEST AUSTRALIAN FANZINE: Metaphysical Review
 BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN WRITER: Leigh Edmonds
 BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN ARTIST: Nick Stathopoulos
 WILLIAM ATHELING AWARD: George Turner

(I am puzzled as to how a "The Compass Rose" could even be nominated, let alone win, when it was published in 1984. When in hell are we going to get these awards making some sense. It should be considered also that any individual who wins an award more than five times, should be ineligible from then on. George Turner is one of my best friends, and I am sure even he would agree with me. Then when I read the report of the business session at SWANCON XI I am not surprised at "Compass Rose" being nominated, given the state of the Australian SF Convention constitution. I regret that I do not have space to reprint the report in full, but briefly, the old constitution was voted out and a new one voted in. The number of awards has been reduced to five, which I cannot say I am entirely in agreement with, but at least a step has been made in the right direction, although I get the slight impression from reading this report that some road making equipment tactics may have been used at this business session. I assume it all has to be ratified at CAPCON in Canberra next year. M.B. Ed.)

Other Awards made at SWANCON XI included:

- THE TIN DUCK: Chairman's Award for Services to the Convention to Cindy Evans and Kit Steven.
 THE SILVER SWAN AWARD for services to West Australian Fandom to Grant Stone.
 THE GOLDEN CATERPILLER AWARDS presented by Paul Stevens included GOOD GUY AWARDS to Cindy Evans, Jay Plester, Sally Beasley. Justin Ackroyd got the "Rat Leaving A Sinking Ship Award". Jack Herman was given the "Iron Hand Award" for running the business session at AUSSIECON 2. Other awards went to Ian Nicholls, Barbara De La Hunty, Grant Stone, and John Hall Freeman.

The NEBULA AWARD nominations and winners along with the HUGO nomination will be covered in the next issue.



Conventions

KINKON 2

7th - 9th June Victorian Queen's Birthday Holiday Weekend

Victoria Hotel, Little Collins, Melbourne
 Attending: \$25 to June 6th \$30 at the door. The emphasis will be on the visual aspects of sf, with panels, film screenings, a fancy dress competition and all the usual features of sf conventions. For further details write to 11 Hopkins St., Dandenong 3175.

SYNCON '86

7th - 9th June N.S.W. Queen's Birthday Holiday Weekend

Metropole Convention Centre, 287 Military Rd., Cremorne 2090, Sydney, N.S.W.
 Attending: \$30 from now till June 1st then \$40. Day rate \$15. For further details write to Syncon '86, Box 272, Wentworth Building, Sydney University 2006, N.S.W.

HALLEYCON

May 30th - June 2nd
 Southern Cross Hotel, Dunedin, New Zealand

Attending \$30. Supporting \$10.
 For details write P.O.Box 5516, Dunedin, N.Z.

Other up coming Australian conventions include: TIME-WARPED CONVENTION to be held in Sydney on October 3rd to the 5th. ECCENTRICON, July 3rd to 6th 1987 and the 1987 National SF Convention, CAPCON in Canberra April 25th to 27th, Anzac Day holiday weekend 1987. GoH Robert Asprin.

Syncon '86 is seen as a beginning of the build up for the National Convention in 1988, which was announced at SWANCON XI and will be voted on at CAPCON, and called CONVICTION. Appropriate for Australia's Centennial year and a late bid is being made for the World SF Convention. One may

think it is a very long chance, but it is most certainly worth putting in the bid. Best of luck to Convenor Jack Herman and everybody else in Sydney involved in organising their cons. The GoHs for CONVICTION are Spider and Jeanne Robinson and Carey Handfield. Carey has been involved in Melbourne fandom for years and among other things has worked tirelessly for two world conventions, AUSSIECON 1 and AUSSIECON 2.

The 1986 WORLD CONVENTION is CONFEDERATION being held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, on August 28th to September 1st. The GoH is Ray Bradbury, Fan GoH Terry Carr, with Bob Shaw Toastmaster. For more details write to Suite 1986, 3277 Roswell Rd., Atlanta, Georgia 30305, USA. The 1987 World SF Convention is SEACON, to be held in Brighton England. More details next issue.

Well as usual space has run out and there is so much more I wanted to include. Film News for instance: A.E. Van Vogt's SLAN is a \$15 million dollar budget film project. John Schlessenger is to make a film of THE RUNNING man from the book by Richard (Stephen King) Bachman. ENEMY MINE, a film based on the novel by Barry Longyear and made by the producers of the film of NEVER ENDING STORY, had a very short run in Melbourne. Is it a bad film, or was it just a casualty of too much product around at the moment? The ABC has been screening all of Val Lewton's "sophisticated" horror films. I always thought they were overrated, but on second look it is easy to understand why film experts praise them. Concise and to the point, with a minimum of fuss and no need for all the ridiculous gory details of today's garbage. A lot more on films next issue,

Thanks to all those people who have been sending me their fanzines, including The Melbourne SF Club and their *ETHEL THE ARDVARK*. The club now meets at St David's Uniting Church Hall, 72 Melville Rd., West Brunswick. Mail address P.O. Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne 3005. The club now has 41 paid up members. They had a weekend camp at Heathcote last month, to view Halley's Comet. I had the pleasure of attending the inaugural meeting of the Dandenong Valley Science Fiction & Futurist society at the D.V. Regional Library, where I was interviewed by Chief Librarian Colin Watson. It was a great experience to see the growth of fandom first hand. A few small items that did not come out in Cathy's reports on the conventions: The attendance at SWANCON XI was around 200. The features of GALACTIC TOURS included along with the GoHs Dave (Darth Vader) Prowse and Katy Manning (from Dr Who), a life size model of the Star Trek USS Enterprise bridge, a display of airport navigation, and models of the Space Shuttle and the AUSSAT satellite. The Red Cross were the charity beneficiary of Galactic Tours.

That's all till next issue. M.B. Ed.

Books Received

From September '85
to April '86



Yes, it is six months since I did my last listing of new f&sf books published or due, plus titles received from distributors and publishers for review. I will list all the latter, and I will do a complete catch up with a special listing separate from the NEWS, followed by regular listings of new books in future issues of the NEWS. The number of reviews carried will be limited, but Australian books will take preference, with four or five books being covered each issue. Meanwhile let's see what we have on hand.

ALLEN & UNWIN Australia have sent us in hard cover, the first book in a new fantasy trilogy, *THE SUMMER TREE* by Guy Gavriel Kay. This is a fantasy adventure being compared to Tolkien of course and based on Celtic and Norse mythology. (November '85 \$21.95) *THE SOUL MASTER* by Graham Dunstan Martin is now published in Unicorn paperback. This is a far better than average fantasy novel. (January '85 \$8.95) *THE LAST WARRIOR QUEEN* by Mary Mackey is a new edition, having seen HC in the U.K. and U.S.A. and Berkley PB (US) An historical fantasy using myth and legend very well. (November '85 \$7.95) *WAR WITH THE NEWTS* by Karel Capek is a science fantasy, first published in 1936. A classic in the genre and we commend Allen & Unwin for giving current readers a chance to catch up with it.

BANTAM sent us David Brin's *THE POSTMAN*, which is reviewed in this issue. Another hard cover from them is James P. Hogan's *PROTEUS OPERATION*. Hogan is another academic turned writer, who likes to play with the concept of time. This novel is a clever "what-if" story and if you liked Hogan's other novel you will more than likely enjoy this one. HC \$16.95 US The larger proportion of people living today will not live to see space exploration spread beyond the planet Mars. Even that far, considering recent events and not allowing for various disasters that may wipe us off the face of the planet that we live on. That is why, I think, that a lot of us are addicted to SF, hoping to get some view of the future, however close to reality that it may become. Byron Preiss has taken advantage of us and put together a very attractive volume of factual articles, accompanied by a fictional work and illustration with each chapter, about the planets of our solar system. Works by Arthur C. Clarke, Ray Bradbury, Frank Herbert, Isaac Asimov, Jack Williamson and many others. (\$24.95 US HC)

New in paperback is Ian Suyin's 18th century fantasy novel *THE ENCHANTRESS* (\$5.95 ARP Available Corgi-Bantam Australia). Other paperbacks include: Jack

Dann's **THE MELTED MAN**. Probably the best book so far by this talented writer. (\$3.50 US); **THINGS INVISIBLE TO SEE** by Nancy Willard is a "blend of fantasy, nostalgia and the supernatural" (\$3.50 US); **JOURNEY TO THE FLAME** by Richard Monaco is a sort of sequel to H.Rider Haggard's **SHE**, blending fact, fiction and adventure (\$3.50 US); **MAGICIAN: APPRENTICE** by Raymond Feist, is the first part of the book **MAGICIAN**, which was published by Granada in the UK in one volume (\$3.50 US).

CORGI-BANTAM Australia have sent us the one volume edition of **THE WINDSINGERS** by Megan Lindholm, which includes "Harpy's Flight", "The Windsingers" and "The Lambreth Gate". All 637 pages in one big fat volume \$9.95 ARP. Also two other books, reprints from the original Del Rey editions, of books in fantasy series: **MASTERS OF THE FIVE MAGICS** by Lyndon Hardy and **SIX OF SWORDS** by Carole Nelson Douglas. A must for all fans of Anne McCaffrey's "Dragon" series is **ATLAS OF PERN**. Everything and I mean everything, you wanted to know about the dragons, the people and the planet Pern, illustrated with maps and diagrams throughout. \$12.95 ARP

Recent releases from **GRANADA** in Australia include: **DAYWORLD** by Philip Jose Farmer is a typical Farmer novel, with some typical mindblowing concepts. HC \$19.95 ARP; **SILVERTHORN** by Raymond E. Feist is the sequel to **MAGICIAN** set in the marvellously imagined worlds of Midkemia and Kelewan. HC \$19.95 ARP; **ROBOTS AND EMPIRE** by Isaac Asimov, the sequel to **THE ROBOTS OF DAWN** and further tying together the threads of his robot and "Foundation" novels, was released in Australia by William Collins in January. The cover illustration as usual has absolutely nothing to do with story, giving a completely wrong impression of the contents. HC \$21.95 ARP.

In **GRANADA** paperbacks, distributed by William Collins, we received three new editions of titles by J.G. Ballard: **THE UNLIMITED DREAM COMPANY** \$6.95 ARP, **THE DISASTER AREA** \$6.95 ARP and **THE ATROCITY EXHIBITION** \$6.95 ARP. Three new Brian Aldiss reprints are **ENEMIES OF THE SYSTEM**, **FRANKENSTEIN UNBOUND** and **GALAXIES LIKE GRAINS OF SAND**, all at \$5.95 ARP. Harry Harrison's magnum opus **WEST OF EDEN**, featuring intelligent saurians pitted against developing humanity in prehistoric times, is \$6.95 ARP and is accompanied by Harrison's **SKYFALL**, a reprint at \$5.95 ARP. Richard Lupoff's crazy alternate world story **CIRCUMPOLAR** is \$6.95 ARP. A new "Family d'Alembert" story **REVOLT OF THE GALAXY**, by Stephen Goldin and E.E. Smith, #10 in the series, is priced at \$5.95 ARP. **LIES, INC.** by Philip K. Dick, is a posthumously published revised edition of his novel **THE UNTELEPORTED MAN**, which includes, 30,000 more words than the original printing. New in pb at \$5.95 ARP. **THE BOOK OF THE RIVER** by Ian Watson is the first of a series, set on a far distant world. \$5.95 ARP. After many years Jack Vance has written another new "Dying Earth" novel, after **CUGAL'S SAGA**, titled **RHIALTO THE MARVELLOUS**, now available at \$5.95 ARP. **NIFFT THE LEAN** is an original fantasy novel, set in a nether world that

horrible and nasty things inhabit. It is by Michael Shea and won the World Fantasy Award for Best Novel. \$6.95 ARP.

HODDER & STOUGHTON in Australia have sent us a **MAMMOTH HUNTERS** by Jean M. Auel. This, the third in the series featuring life in prehistoric times, follows "The Clan of the Cave Bear" and "The Valley of the Horses". Hard cover at \$24.95. There are many excellent French comic strips that I would love to see translated into English, but at least Hodders have made a start, in conjunction with the French originating publishers Dargaud, with the "Valerian" series. An excellently illustrated science fiction series of extreme originality. The titles are: **AMBASSADOR OF SHADOWS**, **WORLD WITHOUT STARS**, **WELCOME TO ALFLOLOL** and **HEROES OF THE EQUINOX**. Each \$6.95

A nice pile of **NEW ENGLISH LIBRARY** titles sent to us by Hodder & Stoughton Australia includes the paperback of **DRAMOCLES** by Robert Sheckley, which proves that Sheckley still wears the funniest of author crown. \$7.95 ARP. **WORLD'S END** is the sequel to the Hugo Award winner **SNOW QUEEN** and it answers all the questions left unanswered in the first book. \$7.95 ARP. **DRAGON'S EGG** by Robert L. Forward is an example of science fiction with a capital S, and his second book, **THE FLIGHT OF THE DRAGONFLY** is more of the same. \$7.95 and \$6.95 ARP respectively. Three more titles are added to the post-holocaust "Horse Clans" series by Robert Adams, #10 **BILI THE AXE**, #11 **CHAMPION OF THE LAST BATTLE**, and #12 **A WOMAN OF THE HORSECLANS**. Each \$7.95 ARP. NEL have reprinted the classic other world adventure series by the late, very successful screenwriter Leigh Brackett, **THE GINGER STAR**, **THE HOUNDS OF SKAITH** and **THE REAVERS OF SKAITH**, featuring Eric John Stark. Each \$6.95 ARP.

METHUEN continue to give us new editions of the marvellous writing of Clifford Simak and two titles just received are **ALL FLESH IS GRASS** and **TIME AND AGAIN**. PBs, received from UK and local price not known. Another winner in the Methuen stable is C.J. Cherryh and the latest offering is **FORTY THOUSAND IN GEHENNA**, which is set in the same universe as the award winning **DOWNBELOW STATION**. Science fiction at its most enjoyable. PB Australian price not known.

ARROW are slowly catching up with the Dumarest series, with their latest release being #24, **NECTAR OF HEAVEN** by E.C. Tubb, \$5.50 ARP. Distributed by Gordon & Gotch. In the Hamlyn imprint from Arrow we have two more in the Venture SF series: **CROSS THE STARS** by David Drake, \$5.95 ARP and **SOLD-FOR A SPACESHIP** by Philip E. High \$5.50 ARP. Also from Hamlyn is **MICROWORLDS: SF STORIES OF THE COMPUTER AGE** edited by Thomas F. Monteleone, \$7.95 ARP.

From **PAN** books via their Australian agents William Collins, we received **A PLIOCENE COMPANION** by Julian May, which is a guide to her complex and unusual "Saga of the Exiles" series, \$7.95 ARP. Pan have combined Douglas Hill's **THE LAST LEGIONARY**

QUARTET into one book containing GALACTIC WARLORD, DEATHWING OVER VEYANAA, DAY OF THE STARWIND and PLANET OF THE WARLORD, \$7.95. A "Starwars" type of adventure that young readers appreciate,

Australian publisher Greenhouse Publications, have decided to reprint in Australia, the "Classics of Modern Science Fiction" series originated by Crown publishers in the USA. The first three in the series, hard cover by the way, are : MEN, MARTIANS AND MACHINES by Eric Frank Russell, THE JOY MAKERS by James M.Gunn and THE SHORES OF ANOTHER SEA by Chad Oliver. Each book has an introduction by George Zebrowski and a forward by Isaac Asimov. Also listed but not seen is THE CLASSIC PHILIP JOSE FARMER 1952-1964. This is a very worthwhile project and I hope that both Crown and particularly Greenhouse find it profitable to continue it. The books are distributed by Gordon & Gotch.

The PENGUIN entry in the race is small but of relatively high quality, with CODE OF THE LIFEMAKER by James P.Hogan, who is an English born scientist, now living in California, U.S.A (\$6.95 ARP) and MOLLY ZERO by Keith Roberts, the author of PAVANE and THE FURIES. The local is 200 years from now in Britain under martial law. (\$5.95 ARP)

The NEW ENGLAND SF ASSOCIATION PRESS have sent me two books. The first is LATE KNIGHT EDITION, which is a collection of stories by Damon Knight, issued to mark Knights appearance as Guest of Honor at the Boskone Convention in 1985. Six stories. US, price \$13.00. The second book is LIGHT FROM A LONE STAR by Jack Vance and is a collection of six stories, plus "A Talk With Jack Vance" by Vance expert Tim Underwood and "A Vance Encyclopedia" being excerpts taken from a number of Vance's novels, just to give an idea of the detail and the colour of his writing. The book was issued to mark Vance's appearance at the Lone Star Con. Both these books are in limited editions of only 1000 copies.



A painting of the moon by astronaut Alan Bean. His paintings of the moon are the only such renderings by someone who has actually been on the moon. Just one of the many photographs and paintings by various artists in the new book THE PLANETS, a December Bantam hardcover.

BOOK REVIEW

THE POSTMAN by David Brin

Bantam Books, 1985 HC, 295pp.

Reviewed by Kathy Kerrigan

The morning Merv gave me THE POSTMAN to review, we had just heard the news of America's attack on Libya and I thought that it was a pity that Reagan et.al. would not read books like THE POSTMAN. It is the latest in a long line of books dealing with post-holocaust futures. But Brin's holocaust was not only nuclear: the nuclear war is small so that the nuclear winter is, for the survivors, mercifully short. But there are several disasters:

"... even the combination - a few bombs, some bugs, and three poor harvests - would not have been enough to ruin a great nation, and with it a world."

To Gordon Krantz, the postman of the title, the factor that caused the final collapse is the Holnists:

"Survivalists. ... antisocial paranoid gun nuts ... More than the enemy, whose bombs and germs has wrought such destruction during the One-week War, the people in nearly every wrecked county and hamlet blamed these outlaws for the terrible troubles that led to the final Fall.

"And worst of all had been the followers of Nathan Holn ..."

Sixteen years after the Fall, Gordon Krantz begins to live a lie: a lie that begins to weld together the scattered communities that still survive in Oregon. And his lie brings him into conflict with Holnists to defend it and the dream that it represents. The novel revolves around Krantz, his lie and the war with the Holnists.

Essentially THE POSTMAN is a study of an ordinary man's struggle to survive in an extra-ordinary world. It explores what happens when that ordinary man takes on the mantle of all heroes from Odysseus onwards; it also explores the powers and responsibilities of symbols. The postman is a symbol, as Krantz finds, a symbol that carries weighty responsibilities. It is a symbol that transforms Krantz from just another man struggling to survive in a hostile world to one who can make it easier for others, not to just survive, but to start developing a civilisation again.

In many ways, THE POSTMAN is reminiscent of George Stewart's EARTH ABIDES but I would say that THE POSTMAN is more optimistic than EARTH ABIDES.

THE POSTMAN has been nominated for the Nebula Award and the Hugo. Not having read the other nominees, I can't say what its chances are but it is one of the better sf books that I have read recently and I can recommend it. It is a pity, however, that it and other books like it will be ignored by those who should read it.