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NEWS

NOVEMBER 1986

WYNNE WHITEFORD SELLS MORE BOOKS TO BERKLEY

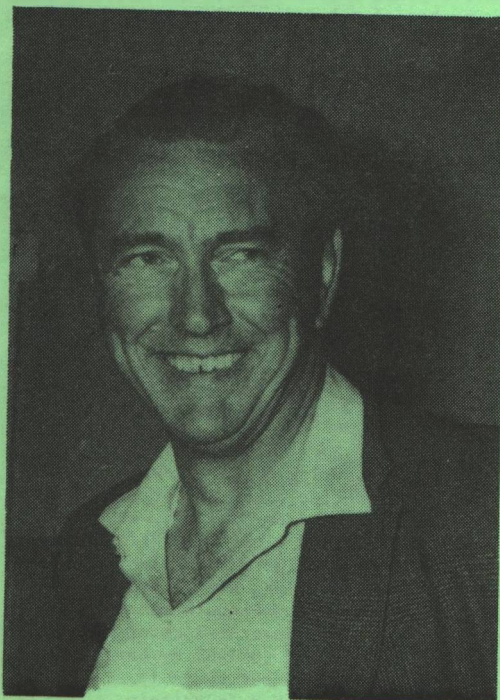


Photo M. Binns

WHILE ON A US TRIP TO ATTEND THE WORLD SF CONVENTION IN ATLANTA, WYNNE WHITEFORD CLINCHED A DEAL WITH BERKLEY FOR THREE REPRINTS, TWO NEW NOVELS AND PROBABLE SEQUELS FOR FIVE SERIES.

More details page 3.

ENDER'S WAR by Orson Scott Card wins 1986 Hugo Best Novel Award

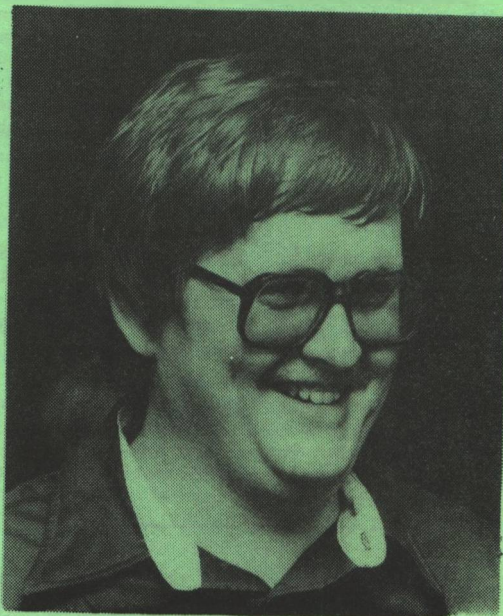


Photo by Jay K. Klein

ORSON SCOTT CARD

A MUCH DESERVED TRIUMPH FOR AN HIGHLY ORIGINAL AND OUTSTANDING SF NOVEL. Full Hugo Award Details inside.

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time I have no confirmed overseas agents, so
please contact me direct for new rates and
payment details. I plan to keep to 12 pages if
I can publish on a regular basis, but to catch
up I may be forced to produce slightly larger
issues from time to time. The main features of
the NEWS will remain as they are, with some
details on books announced by publishers and
a full list of all books sent to us by them.
A list of all books 'by author' is included
in my separate publication BOOKS, which is
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M.B.

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DEAR READERS,

First up I must apologise for the long deal in
publishing this issue, particularly after all the
new subscriptions I received back in June. The
response I received indicated enough interest to
keep publishing ASFN, but not enough to make a
big thing of it. So issues for the time being
will be small and to the point, not only because
of the number of subscribers I have, but also
due to the time it is taking me to earn a few
dollars selling books via mail order.

I hope that I can now get into the routine of
putting an issue together on a regular basis,
simply by allowing a few hours every week to
work on it. My new bookselling business has got
off to a reasonable start, but I still have a lot
of books in stock and I have a lot of work to do
producing new lists and finding people to send
them to.

There does seem to be a lot more fantasy books
available on the local bookstands at the moment,
but a quick look indicates less new sf. The US
publishers are publishing just as much sf as ever,
but a slight increase in fantasy may be noted,
while in Britain some publishers like Grafton,
formerly Granada, and Futura are turning out a
regular flow of sf and fantasy, with Allen and
Unwin not only producing more fantasy in cloth
and pb, but introducing a new sf series, ORION
as well. The output from Sphere however has
practically disappeared along with Arrow and
their now disappearing imprints Hamlyn. Methuen
are not doing to bad, along with a small but
regular contribution from Penguin and the odd
media items from Star. Some hard cover publications
like Asimov's novels and CONTACT by Carl Sagan
have made an impression, but there is still not
a lot of sf being published in Britain.

The Australian field however, compared to Britain
or even Antarctica, remains a disaster area. It
is very disappointing after the promising efforts
of publishers in Australia to get an sf field
going here, to see their efforts all for naught.
Apart from the magazines APHELION and OMEGA,
which only publishes a couple of stories each
month, I know of nothing due to be published or
published recently, in Australia. In a small way
I guess this could be attributed to the good old

Australian cringe, but I guess it really boils down to the fact that the total demand for sf books in the country is still not big enough to support their publication here. It is good to see a very Australian novel like ILLYWHACKER by Peter Carey, getting both local (Ditmar Winner this year) and overseas recognition and bestseller status.

I do not intend to include long lists of books that have been published or announced, in the NEWS. I recently published the first issue of my publication BOOKS, which listed all the sf&f books published, that I could find, from late 1985 up to June 1986. I hope to get that out regularly as I am offering many of the books listed for sale and offering to obtain all others. I will include lists of books on things like Space Travel in future issues, and a separate list of cinema and associated things like posters. I will send a copy of BOOKS #1 or Cinema Book & Poster lists on request. The NEWS will cover news of books coming, recently written or bought by publishers, plus details on books sent to me by publishers for review. I will definitely include some reviews. I expect to continue to carry other usual features, and with luck, add perhaps critical articles and such, when time and economics allow for an increase in size.

OK! I did say last issue I would include the book list by publishers, but I have found it more practical not to include the book list as part of the NEWS. I will put you on the regular mailing list to receive BOOKS, on request. It is free for the time being and will be as long as you keep buying books from me, but in future a subscription will be payable by non-book-buyers.

MERV BINNS

AUSTRALIAN PROFESSIONAL NEWS



While the publication of sf in Australia is at a low ebb, the writing of it not so bad. Short story writers have a few places to have their stories published here and they can off course try and break into the overseas market. The novelists are hard at it. The last I heard from KEITH TAYLOR was that Ace wanted more "Gard" novels. I would expect to see a fourth and fifth coming up soon. Since the publication of his book THE CHANGELINGS OF CHAAN last year, DAVID LAKE has indicated that it is unlikely that he will write any more fiction. LEE HARDING has turned his back on sf, temporarily I hope, to write a mainstream novel, which he expects to finish soon for Hyland House. It is hard to pry information out of some authors, DAMIEN

BRODERICK in particular, so apart from the fact that his novel THE BLACK GRAIL was published by Avon in September, we do not know what he is up to.

GEORGE TURNER has been hard at it. Faber will be publishing a new novel, THE SEA AND SUMMER, in July 1987. This is an expanded version of a novella, 'The Fittest', first published in URBAN FANTASIES. He is working on a "rather shorter novel" based on another novella, 'On The Nursery Floor', which saw the light of day in STRANGE ATTRACTORS last year. He said, "I'm doing this (novel) because (a) the story contains germs of ideas that need developing and (b) I just feel like doing a high-speed thriller, for a change of pace. APHELION will be publishing a few more of his short stories in 1987 and he expects to put a collection together for Norstrilia Press, who have shown interest in the idea. Nova Mob attendees and a few more of his friends, attended a party at John Foysters home in StKilda, to celebrate George's 70th birthday and the sale of THE SEA AND SUMMER.

The big success story of the moment is WYNNE WHITEFORD. After attending the World SF Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, in the USA, Wynne Whiteford returned with the news that he has sold a novel to Berkley, DARK FRONTIER, which is to be published in the fall of 1987. They are going to reprint each of his novels in paperback, THOR'S HAMMER, SAPPHIRE ROAD and BREATHING SPACE ONLY. Another new novel, LAKE OF THE SUN will be published first in hard cover and then later in mass market paperback. This story is set during the early days of a Martian colony, when mining exploration finds an underground colony of mutated humans. Survivors of a lost race on Earth, who tried to colonize Mars thousands of years ago. This novel is due to be finished in December, Wynne reports and it had better, as they have paid him an "advance, which is bigger than the one Stephen King got for 'Carrie'", he added. He is planning a sequel to THOR'S HAMMER for Berkley, and an outline for this, plus a sketchy one for a third novel in the series, have already been sent to Berkley. In fact five separate trilogies are now a strong possibility, based on the three novels already published, and the two coming up.

This report of Wynne Whiteford's success and George Turner's continued activity, brings a ray of sunlight to an otherwise bleak outlook for Aussie SF.

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People and Publishing



Charles N. Brown

ROBERT A. HEINLEIN

ROBERT HEINLEIN has sold another new novel to Putnam. *SAIL BEYOND THE SUNSET* features Lazarus Long's mother, Maureen Johnson, and her adventures on six timelines. It involves many characters from his other books. Publication is expected in the USA around July 1987. Heinlein suffered a series of nosebleeds in July, which doctors found hard to correct. Minor surgery finally repaired a damaged artery and he went home on August 17th. It maybe that his long term efforts for the bloodbank, have been at least partly re-paid.

ISAAC ASIMOV's latest "Foundation" novel, *FOUNDATION AND EARTH*, is due for publication by Grafton in the UK and Doubleday in the U.S.A. He has done a nifty job of combining and updating his earlier stories, but we all hope he finishes the job soon.

The revised edition of Brian Aldiss' sf history, *TRILLION YEAR SPREE*, is being published by Gollancz. The book was to be published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson, but following a legitimate disagreement with them, he took it away and returned the advance, and gave it to Gollancz. It should be available here from Century Hutchinson, before Christmas.

A new fantasy novel by RICHARD ADAMS was published by Sidgwick and Jackson in October. *THE LEGEND OF TE TUNA*, illustrated by Ul de Rico, is based on a Polynesian legend. An illustrated brochure advertising the book, featured a rather naughtily illustration, at least by the British Bookseller's standards, who refused to distribute the brochure.

Aussiecon 2 Fan GoH, TED WHITE, was convicted of possession of drugs, namely LSD and marijuana, in August, but was allowed to attend the World Con. He was jailed, but was expected to be released on parole in a short time.

HARLAN ELLISON joined Terry Carr, Donald Wollheim, Judy Lynn and Lester Del Rey, Edward Ferman, Robert Silverberg, and Ted Dikty, as a recipient of the MILFORD AWARD. This award is given at the J.Lloyd Easton Conference, at the University of California at Riverside. It honors lifetime achievement in the editing of sf and fantasy.

PIERS ANTHONY has amicably parted company with Del Rey Publishers. One more "Incarnations of Immortality" novel will appear from Del Rey, then the series will move to Morrow/Avon for at least two more books. The "Xanth" series will also move go to Avon. Ace will publish three more "Apprentice Adept" books, as well as the three "God of Tarot" books in one volume.

ANNE McCAFFREY has sold a fantasy novel based on "the lady in the tower" to Berkley/Ace. / MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY has put together a fourth "Sword and Sorceress" anthology for DAW and was recently finishing a "Trojan War" novel for Knopf. / PASSING FOR HUMAN by JODY SCOTT, made the Alternative Bestseller list in Britain, in it's Women's Press edition. The first chapter was also printed in the London weekly, *Time Out*. The Womens Press published Scott's novel *I, VAMPIRE* in September and the author was due to visit Britain on a promotional tour. / KATHERINE KURTZ has sold a new Deryni trilogy to Del Rey, receiving a reported \$300,000 payment. It will help to pay for the castle she is buying to live in Ireland. This also indicates the rewards that can be gained by good writers in the fantasy genre nowadays.

JACK CHALKER has written a new trilogy, which has been sold to Berkley. *WHEN THE CHANGEWINDS BLOW*. / GEORGE ZEBROWSKI is to edit a new series of anthologies for Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. *SYNERGY: THE NEW REVIEW OF SF*, which will feature articles as well as fiction. / POUL AND KAREN ANDERSON are working on a fantasy series, which has grown from a trilogy to a tetralogy and is called *THE KING OF YS*.

JOE HALDEMAN has sold two books to AVON. *TOOLS OF THE TRADE*, a future thriller and *THE LONG HABIT*, an sf novel about immortality. / C.J. CHERRYH has sold two sf novels in the style of *DOWN BELOW STATION* plus a fourth "Morgaine" fantasy novel, two "shared" anthology books, another book set in the same world as *ANGEL WITH A SWORD*, called *MEROVINGEN NIGHTS* and an unspecified book to Baen due for publication next year. A busy lady. / WILLIAM GIBSON has sold the third "Neuromancer" novel, *MONA LISA OVERDRIVE*, to Bantam. His earlier books were sold to Berkley paperback, but they were not allowed to bid for this one. Arbor House still own an unwritten novel, *THE LOG OF THE MUSTANG SALLY*. / ANDRE NORTON has sold a new "Witchworld" novel, *THE GATE OF THE CAT*, to Ace.

Hugo Winner ORSON SCOTT CARD has sold a new novel, *GENESIS* to Tor. / BARBARA HAMBLBY has sold *THE WITCHES OF WENSHAR* to Del Rey. / ALAN DEAN FOSTER has completed a new "Icerigger" novel, *THE DELUGE DRIVERS*, for Del Rey. / After a long

break, PIERS ANTHONY and ROBERT MAGAROFF have got together again for DRAGONS GOLD, sold to Tor.

MICHAEL BISHOP has sold a novel featuring Philip K. Dick as a major character, called PHILIP K. DICK IS DEAD. Arbor House will publish a fantasy novel by Bishop titled UNICORN MOUNTAIN and Mark Ziesing will publish a collection of his sf-related non-fiction, ALIEN GRAFFITI. He also sold an anthology to Peachtree Publishers titled CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE DEITY. / Another posthumous publication of a PHILIP K. DICK novel, will be a mainstream title, MARY AND THE GIANTS, which I gather was edited by BRUCE STERLING. / SPIDER ROBINSON has sold TIME PRESSURE, novel of hippie fascism, sex, drugs, rock'n'roll, and guns, to Bluejay and Ace.

The next three books in CAROL NELSON DOUGLAS's "Rynth" series will be published by Tor, rather than Del Rey, who published the earlier titles. The first titles, KEEPERS OF EDANVANT, will be published in hard cover.

Allen and Unwin Publishers have combined with another publisher, Bell and Hyman, to form the largest independent house in Britain, Unwin Hyman Limited. Future publication of fantasy is likely to be strengthened by the move. A special celebration is planned for the 50th anniversary of the publication of Tolkien's THE HOBBIT.

Gollancz have steadily shown a new approach to their sf publishing since editor MALCOLM EDWARDS took over from JOHN BUSH. More illustrated covers for one thing and now a series of paperback editions. Not only trade pb and simultaneous hc editions in the U.S. style, but a series of classic reprints in trade pb format. Now, starting in 1987, they are moving into mass market pb publishing and have signed up authors including Robert Silverberg, C.J. Cherryh, Andre Norton, Arthur C. Clarke, Greg Bear and Bob Shaw. Without Gollancz, the British sf field would be quite bleak, but with them it is at least showing some promise.

A newly formed British publishing house, HEADLINE BOOK PUBLISHING, plans to acquire 24 sf and fantasy titles over the next eighteen months. JO FLETCHER has been appointed f&sf editorial consultant. Headline will do hard cover and paperback editions.

WRITERS AND THE SCREEN

Piers Anthony's novel A SPELL FOR CHAMELEON has been optioned for a movie. / Parke Godwin's story "Influencing the Hell Out Of Time and Teresa Golowitz" has been bought by the TWILIGHT ZONE TV series. Incidentally, this TV series is apparently still going, despite previous reports to the contrary. Hugo Winning Fanzine editor of LAN'S LANTERN, George "Lan" Laskowski saw my report in the last issue about Harlan Ellison pulling out as TWILIGHT ZONE's creative consultant and has pointed out to me that George R.R. Martin has taken over. And why haven't we seen AMAZING STORIES here yet? Is it that bad, or are our TV people just not interested?

Horror film director, JOHN CARPENTER is writing an sf novel. He said that he is a "...little intimidated by the amount of work ..." involved, so it will probably take a very, very long time to finish it.

British horror writer CLIVE BARKER is trying to give the horror writer/movie king, STEPHEN KING, a fright. He has written and produced the film HELLRAISER, which he calls "intelligent and popular horror" and "not a stalk'n/slash movie, nor is it exploitive" he said. Two earlier films Barker made, RAWHEAD and UNDERWORLD were also waiting release in August. His first novel which is due to be published in the US, THE DAMNATION, was published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson last year. and they have published a boxed set of his collections BOOKS OF BLOOD, Volumes 4,5, and 6. It would appear that Mr Barker is very talented, but he does have a long way to go to equal the success of Stephen King.



LUCASFILM, who have been having a few financial problems after the abject failure of HOWARD THE DUCK, have shut down the Official Star Wars Fan Club. If they produce further Star Wars films, the club may be resurrected. It seems unlikely at this stage that they will ever be made. A TV prequel has also been cancelled. A new STAR TREK TV series was also planned by Paramount, but this has been cancelled, fearing that it may have detrimental financial effect on the new film STAR TREK IV. If the new film goes well, we may yet see good old STAR TREK back on TV, in a new form, with new stars.

DR WHO has been having a few problems. After being dropped by the BBC, it is back again on a "trial" basis. The BBC said the show was getting too violent and would have to be toned down. Long time script editor, Eric Saward consequently quit the show and has said that it is old fashioned and out of date.

Your editor has been missing most of the f&sf films that have been screened of late. I hope to catch up with Hugo winner BACK TO THE FUTURE when it is released on video shortly. I did get to see ALIENS, with members of the Melbourne SF Club, this month. Quite honestly I was a little disappointed, but like most sequels it was interesting because it carried on the story from the previous film ALIEN. Sigourney Weaver does a great job again, but the film really is only a slightly more elaborate version of the first film, with a multiple of the nasty creatures, rather than just one. For a large part of the film it is quite impossible to see what is going on, due

simply to the darkness of the set and what seems to be a deliberate blurring. Apart from that however the film is very well done. If you enjoyed the first film you will probably enjoy this one, but I think that people who did not see the first film will get more out of it. Specially if they like a combination of sf and horror in a film and this new film, just like its predecessor, is exactly that. The apparent magnitude of the sets is very impressive and it is this one thing that is making the modern f&sf films quite breathtaking at times. When the film makers get it altogether, with a good story, good sets, good acting and good direction, all the box office records will most likely be obliterated. When!!

The popularity of ALIENS prompted the appearance of Sigourney Weaver on the cover of TIME in October. Few movie stars or films have gained such high prominence. STAR WARS was one.

The director of ALIEN and BLADERUNNER, Ridley Scott, has been making TV commercials for Barclays Bank, showing banking procedures in the future. They entail the use of up to 100 extras and P100,000 worth of lighting. The three commercials run for 80 seconds each. The British Airways sf commercials seen here a year or so back, were quite impressive and a the use of sf and fantasy sets and ideas is becoming common. And while talking about short films, a film starring Michael Jackson, CAPTAIN EO, made for Disney and running for only 17 minutes, is reported to be the most expensive film per running time, ever made.

The designs of H.R.Giger are again evident in ALIENS. The hotel where this years World con was held, going by photographs in LOCUS, could have quite easily been designed by him also. The Marriot Marquis in Atlanta, must be quite an experience. A Giger painting used for a record cover, "Frankenchrist" featuring a punk group, the Dead Kennedys, shows ten sets of male and female genitals engaged in sex acts. Not surprisingly the people involved finished up in court, but it was also said to be clearly within the area protected by the freedom of expression under the First Amendment. The painting appears in Gigers book, NECRONOMICON 2.

I missed the movie ENEMY MINE, which on first reports sounded pretty good, but as many people have pointed out to me, including the above mentioned "Lan" Laskowski, the story was changed so much to fit the STAR WARS mould, that the producers succeeded in wrecking it. As "Lan" says, "The Indiana Jones rescue and the end voice-over replaced two crucial scenes of the novella and thus ruined the movie. I wish that some producers would give the audience credit for a little intelligence".

I would like to include more reports on current films, TV shows, or videos. I am curious for instance about a film titled THE QUIET EARTH. So I would be pleased to receive brief reports and comments from readers.

M.B.



ConventionS

AND OTHER EVENTS

It does not seem that over a year has passed since AUSSIECON 2, but even the 1986 World Convention, CONFEDERATION has now been and gone. Worldcon goes will now be looking forward to CONSPIRACY, being held in Britain next year. Meanwhile a few words about CONFEDERATION

The 44th World SF Convention, held in Atlanta, Georgia USA, attracted 5500 attendees. Held over the period from August 28th to September 1st, the con was spread over three hotels. The Hilton, which was the smaller of the three, The Downtowner and the Marriot Marquis, which has a spectacular design, that reminded sf movie fans of H.R.Giger's set designs for ALIEN. The attendance was more than the organisers budgeted for, so it is unlikely that this world con will finish in the red.

Wynne Whiteford who attended CONFEDERATION, had this to say about it: "Ray Bradbury's Guest of Honor speech was tremendous - one of the most stimulating I've heard, not only at a Con, but anywhere. The preceding speech by Bob Shaw seemed much better than the one he gave in Melbourne, but maybe that was because on this occasion I was placed in the hall where I could actually hear it all.

The panels were interesting, especially one with Orson Scott Card, who turned out to be an excellent speaker and full of enthusiasm and technical know-how. I was on a panel on 'National Character in SF', chaired by Elizabeth Hull (Mrs Fred Pohl), with a Dane, Frenchman, American, Japanese, Englishman, Irishman and me. Don't know whether it achieved much. I led off with the idea that good SF is international and that hit a major market you don't want to emphasise local peculiarities except where you're deliberately using them for regional colour. I don't know whether this slanted the rest of the program negatively - still. we had plenty of audience questions that ran over time, as we were on before lunch, I think, and didn't have a tight deadline for getting out to make room for the next panel. Incidentally, the whole con ran very smoothly, I thought. Very well organized. The three hotels involved - two of them gigantic - were across the street from each other in letter L formation, which was convenient."

With 600 no show and 500 non-attending members, the total membership was 6,6600 compared with LA Con in 1984 of 9,282 total membership.

New Orleans won the bid to hold the World SF Con in 1988, and as the voting has now switched to a three-years-ahead-vote, the ballot for 1989 was also held this year and it went to Boston. They will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first World Con.

Two conventions were held in Australia over the Queens Birthday holiday weekend, June 7th to 9th. KINKON in Melbourne and SYNCON '86 in Sydney. KINKON was a well planned and organised small convention, with something for everybody. The Guests of Honor were Duff Winners Lewis Morely and Marilyn Pride. Organisers Andrew and Ruth Murphy, Angus Caffrey, Ali Kayne and the rest, did a good job and I hear they are putting up KINKON 3 for the National Australian SF Convention in 1989. One cannot really point to any outstanding features or memorable moments at KINKON, but as I said, everybody found some thing to enjoy. The only report I have seen on SYNCON indicated that it was very similar in content to KINKON, so it would seem that although the majority of fans only see their interstate friends once a year or less, they succumb to the same influences. And despite some fans attitudes to anything other than the written word being beyond their contempt, media fandom, sf fandom, and fanzine fandom and all the rest, seem to be getting together for the benefit and enjoyment of all. KINKON tried to run their fancy dress show a little differently as did SWANCON, the 1986 Natcon in Perth at Easter. I hope we see more innovations in this area.

Amongst the conventions coming up next year (there are no more this year), the first off the rank is SWANCON, who have unfortunately changed their usual date from the Australia Day weekend to the W.A. Labour Day holiday Weekend, March 1 to 3. The new generation running this one are obviously not worrying about any interstate fans attending. Details can be had from SWANCON XII, P.O.Box 318, Nedlands 6009 W.A.

The big media con this year was TIME-WARPED CON which was held in October, with "Mr Chekov" himself, WALTER KOENIG as GoH. One attendee at least told me that he enjoyed it very much. Melbourne Star Trek fans are holding STAR TREK III at the Victoria Hotel in the City of Melbourne, on March 14th and 15th 1987. The 4th STAR TREK film is being previewed here on Monday December 15th. The premiere is on Thursday December 18th and on that night, fans are requested to come in costume. For more details and ticket trading, contact AUSTREK, c/o Julie Hughes, 10 Cardinia Way, Rowville 3178. For details on TREKCON III write to GPO Box 5206AA, Melbourne 3001 Victoria. Enclose SSAE.

A unique situation has developed next Easter. EASTERCON, a so called relaxacon is being held in Melbourne's Kings Cross area, StKilda, at the Diplomat Motor Inn, Acland Street. The actual date is April 17th to 20th 1987. Details can be had from EASTERCON '87, P.O.Box 215, Forest Hill, Vic 3131. The organisers suggest that people on the way to CAPCON, The 1987 National SF Convention, being held in Canberra over the following weekend, 25th to 27th of April (The 25th being a Friday and the Anzac Day holiday), stop off on the way at EASTERCON. The G's o Hs at CAPCON are ROBERT LYNN ASPRIN and LYNN ABBEY. More details can be obtained from CAPCON,

P.O.Box 312, Fyshwick, A.C.T. 2609. Like all cons, the costs of putting on CAPCON is rising and the memberships will increase as the months pass, so we suggest you get onto it now if you intend to attend. And yes! A unique Australian experience to attend to cons in a week.

Also over the Easter Weekend (another chance to attend two cons in a week) WINDYCON is being held in Wellington, New Zealand. The Gs of H are JOE and GAY HALDEMAN. The venue is the Hotel StGeorge and full details can be obtained from WINDYCON, 51 Coromandel St, Newtown, Wellington 2, N.Z.

CONVICTION is the 1988 National Australian SF Con, being held in Sydney, June 10th to 13th. The Gs of H are SPIDER and JEANNE ROBINSON. Details from Box 272, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney, 2006, N.S.W. Due to the fact that 1988 is the Australian bi-centenary year, CONVICTION is being promoted as an Australian con that overseas fans should attend.



SPIDER & JEANNE
ROBINSON

Rick Hawes

Many Australian fans obviously want to see another World Con in Australia. There was talk of a Sydney bid for '91, but I do not know how serious that is or was. Perth fans were also talking about '94. Meanwhile Holland is bidding for 1990 and voting for 1990 takes place next year. If you have not been to an overseas Worldcon yet, you should make every effort to get to Britain next year. CONSPIRACY is being held in Brighton, England, at the Metropole Hotel in Brighton, on the 27th of August to the 1st of September 1987. You will see all the British sf greats and fans from all over, at the Worldcon and you can attend the North American convention or some other con in the USA coming or going. The G's of H for CONSPIRACY '87 are DORIS LESSING and ALFRED BESTER, along with ARKADY and BORIS STRUGATSKY, Film Guest RAY HARRYHAUSEN, Artist JIM BURNS, Fans KEN and JOYCE SLATER along with DAVE LANGFORD. Toastmaster is BRIAN ALDISS. The Australian Agent for CONSPIRACY '87 is Justin Ackroyd, GPO Box 2708X, Melbourne, Vic 3001. The British address is P.O.Box 43, Cambridge, CB1 3JJ, U.K. USA: Bill and Mary Burns, 23 Kensington Court, Hempstead, NY 11550, USA.

AWARDS



I would like to cover all the awards and give the nominations and all, but due to lack of space I can only give the winners. It is interesting to compare the different awards for the same period. THE 1986 LOCUS AWARD WINNER for Best SF Novel was THE POSTMAN by David Brin, who was also awarded the JOHN W.CAMPBELL MEMORIAL AWARD for the same novel. The Best Fantasy Novel was TRUMPS OF DOOM by Roger Zelazny. Best First Novel was CONTACT by Carl Sagan. Best Non-Fiction/Reference went to BENCHMARKS: GALAXY BOOKSHELF by Algis Budrys. The Best Novella was "The Only Neat Thing To Do" by James Tiptree, Jr. Best Novelette "Paladin of the Lost Hour" by Harlan Ellison. Best Short Story, "With Virgil Oddum at the East Pole" also by Harlan Ellison. Best Collection, SKELETON CREW by Stephen King. Best Anthology, MEDEA: HARLAN'S WORLD edited by Harlan Ellison. Best Artist, Michael Whelan. Best Magazine, LOCUS. Best Publisher, Ballantine/Del Rey. A thousand LOCUS readers voted the above winners.

It is perhaps significant that none of the above figured in the NEBULA AWARDS, but some you will see do turn up in the HUGOS. The 1985 NEBULA AWARD WINNERS are:

BEST NOVEL: ENDER'S GAME by Orson Scott Card
BEST NOVELLA: "Sailing to Byzantium" by Robert Silverberg

BEST NOVELETTE: "Portraits of His Children" by George R.R. Martin

BEST SHORT STORY: "Out of All Them Bright Stars" by Nancy Kress

GRAND MASTER AWARD. Arthur C. Clarke

THE HUGO AWARD WINNERS for 1986 are:

BEST NOVEL: ENDER'S GAME by Orson Scott Card

BEST NOVELLA: "24 Views of Mount Fuji by Hokusai" by Roger Zelazny

BEST NOVELETTE: "Paladin of the Lost Hour" by Harlan Ellison

BEST SHORT STORY: "Fermi and Frost" by Frederik Pohl

BEST NON-FICTION: SCIENCE MADE STUPID by Tome Weller

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: BACK TO THE FUTURE

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR: Judy-Lynn del Rey

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Michael Whelan

BEST SEMI-PROZINE: LOCUS edited by Charles N. Brown

BEST FANZINE: Lan's Lantern edited by George Laskowski

BEST FAN WRITER: Mike Glycer

BEST FAN ARTIST: Joan Hanke-Woods

THE JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD: Melissa Scott

(NB: This is an award presented for best new writer. The J.W.Campbell Memorial Award is a different award for best author and novel for the year. A 'committee' award.)

Lester Del Rey created a sensation at CONFEDERATION when he refused to accept the Best Professional Editor Award for his late wife, Judy Lynn-Del Rey. In a statement read out by Del Rey Publishers: Owen Lock, Lester Del Rey said that his late wife was opposed to the publication of posthumous novels, and the granting of awards that were not initiated before death. "There were many years during which she could have been given the award while she was still alive," he said. "But the members of the World SF Society chose not to confer it on her. I find no reason to believe that a Hugo would have been given to her this year, had she not died. I cannot accept an award for her dying. The Award is rejected."

Personally I tend to sympathise with Lester del Rey. It was a little late for the field to recognise Judy-Lynn's efforts, but better late than never I always say.

M.B.

THE NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1986 WORLD FANTASY AWARDS are of particular interest to us as you will see. Best Novel:

THE DAMNATION GAME by Clive Barker (Weidenfeld)
ILLYWACKER by Peter Carey (U.Q.P./Harper & Row)
THE DREAM YEARS by Lisa Goldstein (Bantam Spectra)*
WINTERKING by Paul Hazel (Atlantic Monthly Press)
THE VAMPIRE LESTAT by Ann Rice (Knopf)
SONG OF KALI by Dan Simmons (Bluejay)
* Also recently published by Allen & Unwin.

Best Novella:

"Flight" by Peter Dickinson (Imaginary Lands)
"Nadelman's God" by T.E.D. Klein (Dark Gods)
"Dead Image" by David Morrell (NIGHT VISIONS 2)
"The Gorgaon Field" by Kate Wilhelm (IASFM 8/85)
"Dare I Eat A Peach?" by Chelseas Quinn Yarbrow (Shadows 8)

Best Short Story:

"Paper Dragons" by James P. Blaylock (Imaginary Lands)
"The Slovo Stove" by Avram Davidson (Universe 15)
"Return of the Dust Vampires" by Sharon Farber (Whispers V)
"The Jaguar Hunter" by Lucius Shephard (F&SF 5/85)

Best Collection/Anthology:

CLIVE BARKER'S BOOKS OF BLOOD, Vols IV-VI by Clive Barker (Sphere)
BLACK VENUS by Angela Carter (Chattor & Windus/Hogarth)

SKELETON CREW by Stephen King (Putnam)

NIGHT VISIONS edited by Charles L. Grant (Dark Harvest)

IMAGINARY LANDS ed by Robin McKinlay (ACE)

FAERY! ed by Terri Windling (ACE)

DRAGONFIELD AND OTHERS STORIES by Jsne Yolen (ACE)

Best Artist: Special Award/ Professional:
Thomas Canty Thomas Canty & Phil Hale
Jeff Jones (A MONSTER AT CHRISTMAS)
Alan Lee Donald M. Grant (Grant)
J.K. Potter Pat Lobrutto (Doubleday)
Terri Windling

Fantasy Award Nominations continued -

Special Award/Non-Professional:

Jeff Conner (Scream Press)

W. Paul Ganley (Weirdbook/Weirdbook Press)

Paul Mikol & Scott Stadalsky (Dark Harvest Press)

David Silva (The Horror Show)

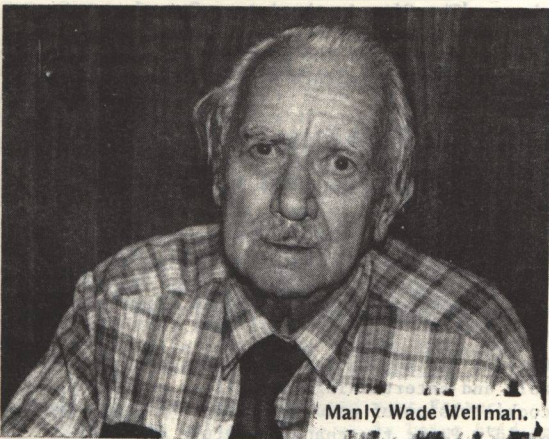
Douglas Winter

I guess I should have given all the nominations for the Hugo Awards, but space... The other novel nominations were: BLOOD MUSIC by Greg Bear, THE POSTMAN by David Brin, CUCKOO'S EGG by C.J. Cherryh and FOOTFALL by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle.

A little late, but not covered by me before and I think still worth bringing to your attention, the BRITISH SF ASSOCIATION AWARDS for 1985. The Best Novel Award went to MYTHAGO WOOD by Robert Holdstock, which was published by Gollancz in hc and recently by Grafton in pb. Other nominees were EMPIRE OF THE SUN by J.G. Ballard, NIGHTS AT THE CIRCUS by Angela Carter, the Hugo winner NEUROMANCER by William Gibson and THE GLAMOUR by Christopher Priest. Short Fiction Award went to Geoff Ryman for "The Unconquered Country". Media Presentation to COMPANY OF WOLVES. Artist Jim Burns.

Australian writer PATRICIA WRIGHTSON received this year's Hans Christian Anderson Award for her contribution to children's literature.

obituaries



Manly Wade Wellman.

MANLY WADE WELLMAN died at his home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina on April 5th, 1986, at the age of 82. He was the son of a medical missionary. Worked for some years as a journalist and then took on writing as a full time occupation. He wrote for the pulps, comics and then graduated to book publication, in many fields of fiction and non-fiction, reprints of his pulp writing and then he became interested in the people of the mountain country of Madison County, North Carolina. This resulted in the so called "Silver" John novels, an appellation he loathed.

He wrote 85 books and 100 short stories. He was awarded the 1975 World Fantasy Award for WORSE THINGS WAITING (Best Collection), and in 1980 he was given the World Fantasy Life Achievement Award. His crowning achievement however may yet have to be published. An historical novel, CAHEENA, set in 7th century Northern Africa.

Manly Wade Wellman was a well loved figure in the sf&f literary field and will be missed.

THOMAS N. SCORTIA, scientist, author, and editor, died of leukemia on April 29th in La Verne CA, near Los Angeles. He was 59. As a chemist he worked on solid fuel rockets. He sold his first story in 1953 and followed with the publication of stories in various magazines and anthologies and he edited various sf anthologies. He wrote TOWERING INFERNO in collaboration with Frank M. Robinson. The book and the resulting movie brought him a good financial reward. He collaborated with Robinson on other books and scripts, including THE GOLD CREW, which came out as a movie titled THE FIFTH MISSILE, for NBC TV. In the late seventies he moved to Hollywood and worked in the industry as writer, packager and producer. His last novel, DEEP CUT, was due for publication late this year.

CHESLEY BONESTELL, space art pioneer, died in his sleep at his home in Carmel, California, on June 11th this year. He was 98. He was an architect, Hollywood background artist and landscape painter, but he is best known to us as the illustrator of books such as THE CONQUEST OF SPACE, THE EXPLORATION OF MARS and BEYOND THE SOLAR SYSTEM, which were published in the '50s and '60s. He won an Oscar for special effects on the first serious look at space exploration in a movie, DESTINATION MOON, which was from a story by Robert Heinlein. He is one of the few artists to have a one man show at the Smithsonian Institute. A collection of his space and other art, was published in 1983; WORLDS BEYOND: THE ART OF CHESLEY BONESTELL, edited by Ron Miller, and Frederick Durant and published by Donning publishers,

ROBERT F. YOUNG, author of numerous sf&f stories and four novels, died June 22, 1986, from complications following a heart attack he suffered in January. He was 71. He was born in Silver Creek, New York. As well as a three and a half year stint in the army during the war, he worked at a number of other jobs. His first story was published in STARTLING STORIES in 1953. Most of his writing was short fiction, and much of it was collected in THE MANY WORLDS OF ROBERT F. YOUNG (1965) and a GLASS OF STARS (1968). Following his retirement he began writing novels; STARFINDER (1980), ERIDAHN (1983) and THE VIZIER'S SECOND DAUGHTER (1985).

MARJORIE BRUNNER, 65, wife of author John Brunner, died August 5th, 1986, following a stroke which she suffered in April. She married John in 1958 and she ran the business end of Brunner Fact and Fiction, Ltd., attending a number of sf conventions.

OBITUARIES Continued

RUSSELL M. GRIFFIN, died on August 27th. He was 42. Griffin, a professor of English at the University of Bridgeport, wrote *THE MAKESHIFT GOD* (1979), *CENTURY'S END* (1981), *THE BLIND MEN AND THE ELEPHANT* (1982), and *THE TIME SERVERS* (1985). He also had some poetry and short fiction published.

JERRY JACKS, well known USA fan, died on September 12th this year. Jerry was 39. He had been unwell for some time and his death was not entirely unexpected. Born in Baltimore he moved to the West Coast in 1966. After attending the Worldcon in Chicago in 1962, he became very active in the field and was chairman of Westercon three times, in 1971, 1973 and 1979. He was the first openly gay fan personality, but this made no difference to his wide popularity in fandom.

A memorial service was held in San Francisco on September 16th.

Book Reviews



First up I would like to thank Allen & Unwin, William Collins/Grafton, Corgi Bantam, Hodder and Stoughton, and more recently DAW and Arbor House for sending me books for review. I cannot cover all you have sent me in detail, but it will help to give some detail here and more in my companion publication, *BOOKS*. I have a reasonable number of reviews here and more to come next issue, and I hope more publishers will send me the odd book in future to review for them also.

M.B. Ed.

SCHISMATRIX

by Bruce Sterling

Penguin, 288 pp \$6.95 ARP

Bruce Sterling's latest novel is set in various colonies throughout the solar system, collectively known as the Schismatrix. It is the story of Abelard Lindsay, of many names, as he lives and moves through one hundred and forty years of future. Beginning amongst the circumlunar colonies he eventually travels through asteroid bases, via an alien Investor ship, Jupiter moon habitats, a ruined Earth and finally departs on a star ship.

The Schismatrix is a mix of rampant capitalism, plotting, intrigue and machinations. Each colony vying for gain and profit; all with their own politics and ideologies, their own microbes. A time of Shapers and Mechs and their wars. Shapers - genetically altered for longevity. Mechs - dependent on technology for life. Spies, assassins, pirates - anything goes.

10. Mankind is gradually changed, Lindsay himself gains

a prosthetic arm. An entire community accepts modification to live in Europa's sea. Through embassies to aliens the stars are coming within reach.

Sterling writes well and intricately. Described as a 'cyber punk' he handles technological jargon competently. Schismatrix is episodic in structure however, sometimes dwelling too much on trivial matters while leaving decades of interest alone.

Lindsay is quite a character. Human, with foibles, he holds the reader's interest, providing reference amidst the chaotic technological changes of society.

Schismatrix offers a detailed view of the future. One which requires careful reading, but contains touches of wonder and the unexpected.

Review by Alan Stewart

THE CITY IN THE AUTUMN STARS by Michael Moorcock

Grafton HC, 344 pp, \$24.95 ARP

In *The City In The Autumn Stars* Michael Moorcock traces Ritter Manfred von Bek, descendent of Graf von Ulrich von Bek protagonist of the earlier *The War Hound and the World's Pain*, in his flight from French revolution excesses. Pursued by evil Montsorbier he travels Europe, eventually reaching Mirenburg, scene of alchemist congregation.

Fleeing in a hydrogen balloon accompanied by the mysterious Libussa - Duchess of Crete, St Odhran - a Scots aviatorist, and Klosterheim - the two hundred year old antagonist of Ulrich, he enters the Middle Marches. They arrive at a transformed Mirenburg, 'The City in the Autumn Stars', on a quest for the Grail, according to legend delivered to Satan by Ulrich, at the approach of the Concordance - time when the nature of the coming millennium is decided.

The City in the Autumn Stars appears to be a blending of Moorcock styles. The historical romancing of *Byzantium Endures* with the fantastical of *Corum* or *Elric*.

Moorcock captures attention with the straight 'quest' style narrative, keeps it moving through conflict and attack. Yet raises deeper, darker issues as the final mechanistic/alchemical decision approaches.

The City in the Autumn Stars comes across as readable and entertaining. As well as portraying Moorcock's vision of good and evil; the Grail and the World's Pain; the changing nature of civilization's dominating motif - alchemical to mechanical.

Overall sombre, moody and flashy.

Review by Alan Stewart

VENUS OF DREAMS

by Pamela Sargent

Bantam, PB 536 pp \$5.95 ARP

Venus of Dreams, the first volume of a saga, can rightly be described as epic, both in length and scope.

It is set six hundred years hence; Earth under benevolent despotism of the Mukhtars, rulers of the, Nomarchies, developments of the old Islamic States; the Habbars in hollowed out asteroids and space colonies; and Venus, Earth's brave terraforming project, Habbar aid grudgingly included, where the two cultures meet.

The scientific endeavours of the terraforming add interesting background to the novel. From the floating 'island' cities in the atmosphere, to the first armoured surface domes, interest is maintained in the changes, and how people react to them. Strong winds and harshly eroded surface become real when a damaged airship plunges to the ground, and a rescue mission is launched.

The background technology and power plays between Earth and the Habbars, with the project caught in the middle, is seen through the eyes of one pioneering family. Iris - born to farming commune in Nebraska she leaves family and past, to become a Specialist on Venus. Chen - exiled to Earth he bonds with Iris, fathers her child, and returns to Venus as a technician. Benzi - carried to Venus by his parents' ambition he becomes a space pilot.

This family adds a human touch to the novel and one follows their trials and triumphs, much in the tradition of Michener. Sargent shows overall that we remain human; with all our bickerings, joys, politics and endeavour even in the new worlds of her tomorrow.

Lavish in background detail, Venus of Dreams is perhaps just too long a read, although what happens to this Venus in future volumes is eagerly awaited.

Review by Alan Stewart

The Mark Of The Unicorn

Fantasy Reviews by CATHIE KERRIGAN

HART'S HOPE: Orson Scott Card, Unicorn Unwin
PB, 301 pp, \$9.95 ARP
JORMUNDGAND: Nigel Frith, Unicorn Unwin
PB, 210 pp, \$10.95 ARP
A PRINCESS OF THE CHAMEL: Cherry Wilder,
Unicorn Unwin PB, 275 pp \$10.95 ARP
THE DREAM YEARS: Lisa Goldstein, Allan & Unwin
PB, 181 pp, \$9.95 ARP
BAGDAD: Ian Dennis, Allan & Unwin, HC
\$24.95 ARP

The mark of the unicorn is becoming increasingly prevalent on the spines of fantasy books. The Unicorn is an imprint of Allan and Unwin who specialise in fantasy. Their best-known fantasy is of course, THE LORD OF THE RINGS. But how good is the rest of their fantasy? I set out to investigate with five books: HART'S HOPE; JORMUNDGAND; A PRINCESS OF THE CHAMEL; THE DREAM YEARS; and BAGDAD. Of these, two of the books have others to follow them.

BAGDAD is subtitled a 'Romance' on the cover and Book One of 'The Prince of the Stars in the Cavern of Time' (A Romance in Two Books) inside. Author Dennis has created a romance of the old kind - a long tale of heroes and extraordinary or mysterious events. The events in BAGDAD are both mysterious and extraordinary and the telling of them is interspersed with other tales such as "Tale of the Magical Golden Pipe" and "The Children of the Stars". These tales are not there for atmosphere - they all relate to the events of the book. Though Dennis sometimes belabours his narrative (as in the massacre in the Caliph's palace), the narrative still manages to carry one along with it in a sense of breathlessness. And doubtless, the explanation of the extraordinary events will be forthcoming in the sequel.

HART'S HOPE is quite different. Cast in the form of a letter to the king pleading for clemency on behalf of the hero, it relates the tale of a kingdom ruled by a cruel witch-queen called Beauty. Mind you, there is some sympathy for Beauty for the suffering she endured at the beginning of the story. Scott Card delineates his characters clearly and it is difficult to definitely say who is hero and who is villain. Is it Beauty or Palicrovol? Scott Card leaves it for his reader to decide.

Cherry Wilder's A PRINCESS OF THE CHAMEL is described as Book One of THE RULERS OF HYLOR Trilogy. It is the story of Aidris, the princess of the title and, whilst it takes time to gather momentum, one gets caught up in the story of the princess hiding in exile. It is a satisfying read and indeed, it is not necessary to read the remainder of the trilogy. I suspect that the only thing that makes the trilogy a trilogy is its setting in the world of Hylor.

THE DREAM YEARS is quite dream-like and this is not only fitting for the title but its theme: that of surrealism, not simply as an art form, but as a philosophy for approaching life. The narrative through its focus, Robert St. Onge, moves from the beginnings of the surrealist movement in Paris in the 1920's to the general strike of the 1960's and hence to Paris some forty years after where it is war between surrealists and the mechanists. It is a novel that will bear reading for a number of its concepts as well as its depiction of people trying to come to terms with reality through precepts of surrealism.

JORMUNDGAND is a different kettle of fish. Nigel Frith's text reads as a poor copy of the Penguin translations of The Odyssey and The Iliad. JORMUNDGAND tells the story of the Norse god Frey's battle to win the hand of the snow-goddess Hron who is forbidden to wed by prophecy and guarded from this fate by Jormundgand, the world-serpent. Perhaps the problem with Frith's attempt to use an epic prose is that it is marred by the anachronisms that he allows to creep in, such as "... and simultaneity is not a problem". The story also ends unsatisfactorily.

ily when Frith provides Frey with a means of beating the prophecy and then fails to utilise it.

Still, one dud out of five is not a bad hit rate. If Allen and Unwin can maintain this standard, then the mark of the unicorn will be a fairly good indicator of quality.

Merv has given me a pile of paperbacks and asked me to make the reviews brief, so here goes....

STARSILK by Sydney J. Van Scyoc,

Penguin, PB, 245pp, \$6.95 ARP

STARSILK is the third of a trilogy which began with DARKCHILD and BLUESONG. I was wary about reading it as I hadn't read either DARKCHILD or BLUESONG, but I was surprised. STARSILK is quite a pleasant read, a quiet and introspective tale of a girl who must come to terms with the fact that she can never achieve her expected destiny but must find an alternative. Mixed with this is the problem that confronts Tsuka, member of an intelligent feline race. The problem, as set up, is not entirely satisfactory and neither is the resolution. Nonetheless the sections dealing with the sithi are enjoyable.

THE TIDES OF TIME by John Brunner

Penguin, PB, 235pp, \$6.95 ARP

I have not previously read any of Brunner's works - such tomes as STAND ON ZANZIBAR or THE SHEEP LOOK UP always appeared to be daunting tales of gloom - not my taste at all. Nor is my taste inclined towards such stories as THE TIDES OF TIME. It comes across as a vaguely interesting exercise on a theme that has been considered before, most notably in "Scanners Live In Vain". Brunner's solution is new, contrived, and fairly pessimistic. Still Brunner fans should enjoy it.

THE SOUL MASTER by Graham Dusntan Martin

Unwin, PB, 293pp, \$8.95 ARP

THE SOUL MASTER is a fantasy with a difference. Martin depicts an ordinary man as hero, struggling against a foe with extraordinary powers. Victory is achieved through the hero exploiting a flaw in the vision of the Soul Master. Martin tells his story in just the right length, neither too short nor too long, which makes THE SOUL MASTER an oddity in these days of three-volume, four-volume and five-volume fantasies. Nor is there any suggestion of a sequel. Recommended.

THE BISHOP'S HEIR by Katherine Kurtz

Century Publishing, PB, 328pp, \$8.95 ARP

THE KING'S JUSTICE by Katherine Kurtz

Del Rey, HC, 324pp npa

Having read the two previous Deryni trilogies, I knew I wouldn't be able to review THE KING'S JUSTICE without first reading THE BISHOP'S HEIR, these being Volumes II and I respectively of the 'Histories of King Kelson'. The level of narration is similar to that of Marion Zimmer Bradley and

these books will appeal to those who enjoyed the previous Deryni trilogies or the 'Darkover' series.

(Editor's note: Volume III, THE QUEST FOR SAINT CAMBER has just been published in HC by Del Rey. Other editions I would not expect until 1987. M.B.)

DRAGON'S EGG by Robert L. Forward

NEL, PB 308pp, \$7.95 ARP

THE FLIGHT OF THE DRAGONFLY by Robert L. Forward

NEL, PB 312pp, \$7.95 ARP

If you enjoy hard-core sf, then these two will be right up your alley. Both novels represent the sort of technological extrapolation related in a good story such as one used to get from Larry Niven. But much better. The first, DRAGON'S EGG, is set on a neutron star and the second, THE FLIGHT OF THE DRAGONFLY, on a binary planetary system. Both feature very interesting aliens - the cheela and the flouwen. Both have been around for a while but if you haven't read them, do give them a go.

(Editor's note: A sequel to DRAGON'S EGG, again featuring the cheela, STARQUAKE, was published in hc by Del Rey last year, and should be showing up in pb soon.)

MYTHAGO WOOD by Robert Holdstock

Grafton, PB, 319pp, \$6.95

There is a trend for lead characters in fantasies to be highly introspective (it's called characterisation) and MYTHAGO WOOD is no exception. Here Holdstock posits the idea that we not only create our myths but give life to them as well. He suspects that it is possible to go back to the original myth and "mythago". MYTHAGO WOOD is worth reading for holdstock's theories on Myth Making and the importance of myth. It's also an intriguing fantasy

KILLASHANDRA by Anne McCaffrey,

Del Rey, HC, 303pp npa

As I had been disappointed in the last McCaffrey book I'd read (MORETA, DRAGONLADY OF PERN), I didn't expect very much from KILLASHANDRA and had originally planned to write a catty review of it (being in the mood to do such a thing at the time). Well, I was wrong. KILLASHANDRA is a well-paced, enjoyable adventure. (And I much prefer the American cover of Killashandra on Ballybran to the British cover of Killashandra as nubile nymph.) This is vintage McCaffrey and it's great to see - and read.

Cathy Kerrigan

(Editors note: My pet peeve for many years, has been poor and inappropriate cover illustrations. The publisher owes it to the author to put a cover illustration on the book which leads the reader into looking at the book and being encouraged to buy it. They should not rely just on the authors name to sell the book. My current hate is the covers on Grafton's editions of the new Asimov books, which although well done are quite irrelevant to the story.

MB)

BOOKS I HAVE READ

By MERVYN R. BINNS

Bantam sent me a copy of *THE PROTEUS OPERATION* by James P. Hogan, in hard cover. Hogan has his limitations, but after reading his first four books I have missed everything else up to this title, and I can see an improvement in style. But the most important part of his stories is ideas, in the grand sf tradition and he sure serves them up in all his books and no less in this one. It is a twist on the old time travel plot of sending people back from a 'different' future, to a past that allows them to alter things to our norm. *THE PROTEUS OPERATION* is a good yarn, well told and I think his devotees will be well pleased with it.

I am hooked on Asimov's robot novels, but they are becoming a bit of a bore really. At first I was intrigued by his idea of combining the 'robot' and 'Foundation' novels, I like the idea, but it seems to be taking one hell of a time to get anywhere. *ROBOTS AND EMPIRE* begins to show just how important the two robots, Daneel and Giskard are in the grand overall scheme of things. And if you remember the events of the 'Foundation' novels and *FOUNDATION'S EDGE* in particular, you will have a glimmer of what is to come. The next book in the sequence, *FOUNDATION AND EARTH* is being published now, but that may not be the last. How much longer do we have to wait for Dr A to end our suspense?

An author I have avoided for a while is Orson Scott Card, as I tend to avoid the somewhat downbeat styles of such authors as Brunner, Ballard, Disch, and Bishop, to mention a few, in favour of the more optimistic approach of Cherryh, Foster, Niven and others, and I tended to include Card in the former. How wrong can you be! I have just read the US SF Book Club edition, *ENDER'S WAR*, which includes *ENDER'S GAME* and *SPEAKER FOR THE DEAD*. The former won this year's Hugo for Best Novel and I believe that a precedent will be set with the next awards, because I think, *SPEAKER FOR THE DEAD* will win. Thus being the first time an author has won two years running and with a book and its sequel. Not only do these two books present some great ideas, Card has a marvellous way of presenting them and in the second book in particular, a very moving and poignant milieu, which almost moved me to tears. And yet the book does have a happy ending. I urge you to buy, beg, borrow or steal, both these books. They are great! *ENDER'S GAME* has been published in a Century Hutchinson hc and tpb edition distributed here, but not in mass market pb yet, or in the case of *SPEAKER FOR THE DEAD* even in hc yet. TOR has published both books in hc and the first in pb only. PBs of both will be available here eventually, but I know, it is an annoyance when the Hugo Winner is not available here when it wins the award.

Books Received

APRIL to OCTOBER
1986



Allen & Unwin, the original publishers of the *LORD OF THE RINGS* by J.R.R. Tolkien, have done an excellent job of bringing the fantasy reader a regular supply of their favourite literature. First in my pile is American Book Award winner, Liza Goldstein's *THE DREAM YEARS*, which is a love story in time, in the Richard Matheson style. *BAGDAD* by Ian Dennis, is a satire in an Arabian nights setting. Both of these books are available in hc and the first is also available in pb. Also received a few months back was *THE INITIATE, Book 1 of the "Time Master Trilogy"* by Louise Cooper.

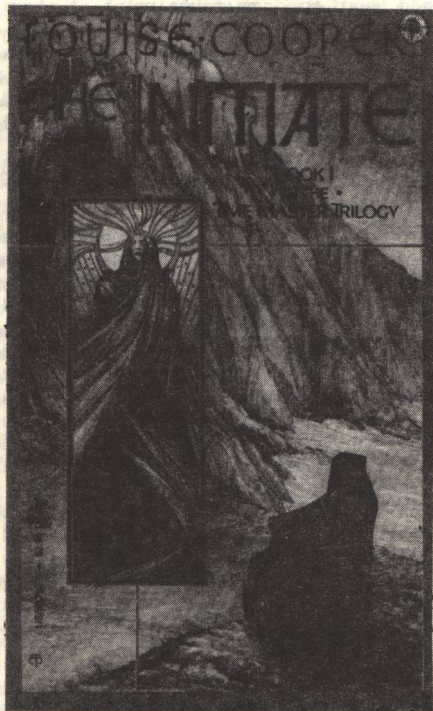
Another batch of Allen & Unwin books included: *HART'S HOPE* by Orson Scott Card, which is a fantasy about bitter revenge. *A PRINCESS OF THE CHAMEL* by Cherry Wilder, is the first in the *Rulers of Hylos* trilogy. High adventure in a mythical kingdom. From the author of *ASGARD* and *KRISHNA*, comes another fantasy based on mythology, *JORMUNGAND*.

Allen & Unwin, now in top gear with their fantasy and now sf publishing, have sent me a further pile of books including: *DRAGONSBANE*, by one of the best of the best of the new wave of fantasy authors, Barbara Hambly. *THE SUMMER TREE* by Guy Kaviel Kay, the first of the *Fionavar Tapestry* series and new in paperback, following hc publication by Allen & Unwin last year. *JORMUNGAND* by Nigel Frith, a fantasy based on Norse mythology. *DAYBREAK ON ANOTHER MOUNTAIN* by Colin Greenland, an original and imaginative fantasy. All to here being in the Unicorn pb series and the next two in the new sf Orion series. *TIME-SLIP* by Graham Dunstan Martin, set in a 21st century Scotland, spared from total destruction in a holocaust. *ESCAPE PLANS* by Gwyneth Jones, gives a stark view of a world completely dependent on technology. Four new fantasy hard covers: *KHALINDAINE* by Richard Burns is an adventure set in a kingdom under constant threat from its enemies. *THE ROAD AND THE HILLS* is Book One of *A Walk In The Dark* series, by an author who goes simply by the name of Spedding. It is another "historical" fantasy set in a mythical empire. *THE WITCH IN THE CAVE* by Martin H. Brice, is based on ancient myths, and set in a time when witchcraft was a way of life. *A PLACE AMONG THE FALLEN* by Adrian Cole, a sword and sorcery novel, set in a savage land, where the forces of good and evil clash. And finally from A&U another Unicorn pb, *YORATH THE WOLF* by Cherry Wilder, the second in the *Rulers of Hylos* Trilogy.

Bantam in the USA have sent me the following books, most of which are distributed here by Corgi & Bantam Australia, but not all: *THE MELTED MAN* by Jack Dann, a 1985 Nebula nominee. *MAGICIAN: APPRENTICE* and

MAGICIAN : MASTER, being the first volume of the series, MAGICIAN by Raymond Feist, published by Grafton in one volume. These Bantam editions are not available here, but if you see the above listed and think you have missed one, you can rest easy. TRIAD by Sheila Finch is an sf novel for young readers, by the author of INFINITY'S WEB. The latest in the ancient Ireland historical series by Kenneth C. Flint is CHALLENGE OF THE CLANS. Randall Garret and Vicki Heydron's THE STEEL OF RATHSKAR, THE GLASS OF DYSKORNIS, AND THE BRONZE OF EDARTA have appeared in one volume as Gandalaria Cycle Volume One. The historical fantasy THE LAST RAINBOW by Parke Godwin, set in ancient Britain, was released locally. THE LIGHT AT THE END by John Skipp and Craig Spector, is a novel for horror readers, set in the New York underground railway. AMERICA 2040 by Evan Innes is the first in a new series, which will extend the American pioneer saga into the far future. Volume one deals with the first interstellar voyage, to establish a new frontier for the American nation.

More from Bantam: MOONDUST AND MADNESS by Janelle Taylor, is a romance novel in which an Earth woman falls in love with a man from another world. THE FALLEN COUNTRY by Somtow Sucharitkul, is a fantasy for young readers. THE COMING OF THE QUANTUM CATS by Frederik Pohl, is a novel about parallel worlds. SINGULARITY by William Sleator, is a novel for young readers, about a passageway to another universe, which could unleash a force that may destroy the world.



A recent bundle from Bantam USA includes REBELS' SEED by F.M. Busby, which is a new Hulzein dynasty novel, featuring Brian Tregare and Rissa Kerguelen. Three books by Norman Spinrad include CHILD OF FORTUNE, which features Wendi Shastra Leonardo, who travels the galaxy living life to the full, THE VOID CAPTAIN'S TABLE, a story of forbidden space travel and A WORLD BETWEEN, a reprint of this 1979 social satire set on the world of Pacifica. Lisa Goldstein's DREAM YEARS is now in Bantam mass market pb, but not available here. FIRE WATCH is by award winning author Connie Willis, is a collection of a dozen stories. OUT OF SIGHT by Chester Aaron, is a story for young readers about a brother and sister with psychic powers.

Australasian Publishing Company sent me three new titles in the Women's Press SF series. First up is THE BOOK OF THE NIGHT by Rhoda Lerman, followed by QUEEN OF THE STATES by Josephine Saxton and PASSING FOR HUMAN by Jody Scott. This series is obviously aimed at the readers of feminist literature, who would not normally read sf, with the chance of picking up a few regular sf readers as well. They are not hard-core feminist writing by any means, and the regular sf reader should not be put off by them being published by the Women's Press. Also from APC I received GREEN EYES by Lucius Shepard, winner of the 1985 John W. Campbell Award for best new writer. A story of bizarre research and scientific horror. A title in the sf series started by Chatto and Windus publishers last year.

Hodder & Stoughton Australia sent me D.A.R.Y.L. by N.H. Kleinbaum, which is a novel about a ten year old boy, who is really a robot and is taken from a movie of the same name. Also from Hodders I received in Futura/Orbit books, THE BEST OF HARRY HARRISON, 21 stories by the author of the "Stainless Steel Rat" series. Another printing of Jane Gaskell's "Atlant" series has now reached number four in the series, THE CITY. Orbit are doing the "Pelbar Cycle" by Paul O. Williams, originated by Del Rey, and I have THE ENDS OF THE CIRCLE, which is number two in this series set in a world recovering from disaster. THE SHATTERED WORLD by Michael Reaves, is the first in an innovative fantasy series from Orbit. And a new collection of stories by Joe Haldeman, DEALING IN FUTURES is also in Orbit. The unique "Circus World" saga by Barry Longyear continues with ELEPHANT SONG.

New English Library titles received from their distributors Hodder & Stoughton, include Robert Heinlin JOB, A COMEDY OF JUSTICE, plus reprints of his NUMBER OF THE BEAST, FRIDAY, STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, TH DAY AFTER TOMORROW, and SPACE FAMILY STONE. An A.E. van Vogt title for the first time in a British edition is COMPUTERWORLD, which features conflict between me and a super computer. Alan Dean Foster's THE TAR-A-KRANG was also received and I think the other titles in this series have also been reprinted. The V series were very hot when the series was on TV, but I think they are flogging a dead horse now re-issuing

V, PURSUIT OF DIANA, EAST COAST CRISIS, THE CHICAGO CONVERSION AND THE FLORIDA PROJECT. Finally from NEL, THE 2024 REPORT, A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE FUTURE 1974-2024 by Norman Macrae. An optimistic, scientific and detailed prognostication of the next forty years in the life of our planet. Also received from Hodder was CHILDREN OF THE DOG STAR, by Marie Stuttard, a novel based on an sf series on TV originating in New Zealand, in Knight Books.

Arrow, now a division of Century Hutchinson, have sent me a few books that have been distributed here by Gordon & Gotch. In their Hamly imprint, which is to disappear entirely in the near future, I have MICROWORLDS, a collection of computer stories edited by Thomas Monteleone. Number 9 in the Hamlyn/Venture series is David Drake's CROSS THE STARS. I hope they keep this series of space-operas coming, as they have reprinted some worthwhile titles. In the Arrow imprint itself I received another title in the never-ending Dumarest Saga, NECTAR OF HEAVEN by E.C. Tubb.

Associated Book Publishers in England sent me some titles of theirs in the Methuen paperback series. It is great to see WASP and SINISTER BARRIER by Eric Frank Russell, two novels by the late, great writer of both humorous and just plain good sf stories. Other titles of Russells are also on the Methuen list and now can be enjoyed by a whole new generation of sf readers. Methuen continue with their editions of titles by Roger Zelazny, and their latest is probably his best, the Hugo winning LORD OF LIGHT. Also received was a Ben Bova novel of epic proportions, ORION.

From William Collins I received THE LAST LEGIONARY QUARTET by Douglas Hill in Pan Books. This title is an omnibus volume containing GALACTIC WARLORD, DEATHWING OVER VEYNAA, DAY OF THE STARWIND and PLANET OF THE WARLORD, all of which add up to a great bit of space opera. The saga of the Exiles by Julian May was not everybody's cup of tea, but for those who appreciated it and want to appreciate it a little more, A PLEISTOCENE COMPANION will add to their enjoyment. (No I do not know what has happened to May's novel JACK THE BODILESS, which has been mentioned somewhere!) Finally from Pan I received SUNRISE ON MERCURY by Robert Silverberg, a collection of his short stories.

In case you haven't noticed, Granada publishers are now calling themselves Grafton (why change a good and respected name?) They now probably have the largest range of sf&f books available in pb and hc in the UK. Their distributors here, William Collins, have sent me a pile of books, more of which I wish I could cover in more detail. However, the first on the stack is Piers Anthony's early novel, MACROSCOPE, followed by the fourth in his Bio of a Space Tyrant series, EXECUTIVE. A reprint of Philip K. Dick's WE CAN BUILD YOU. A game book for kids, YOU CAN BE THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT by Harry Harrison, along with his novel WAR WITH THE ROBOTS. A new book by the author of the 'Hiero' novels, Sterling Lanier, MENACE UNDER MARSWOOD, about rebellion in a colony on Mars. Bob Shaw's FIRE

PATTERN deals with the phenomena of spontaneous human combustion. A QUEST FOR SIMBILIS by Michael Shea is a 'Dying Earth' type novel. Finally, a spoof on a certain sf series, National Lampoons DOON by Ellis Weiner. Many books have been written now relating to the Arthurian legends. Not the least in importance is Jack Vance's LYONESSE and Volume II: THE GREEN PEARL is out from Grafton. THE BOOK OF STARS by Ian Watson, is the second part of a very unusual science-fantasy series, with a third one to come. And the last title in that bunch was Brian Aldiss' collection SEASONS IN FLIGHT.

Further books from Grafton include a new edition of Michael Moorcock's Corum books. A hc edition with THE KNIGHT OF SWORDS, THE QUEEN OF SWORDS and THE KING OF SWORDS in one as THE SWORDS OF CORUM, at \$24.95 ARP. A series that typifies the best in the new wave of fantasy writing is "The Rift War Saga" by Raymond Feist. DARKNESS AT SETHANON is the third in the series, just out in hc and the pb edition of SILVERTHORN was also recently released. I must say that I have not read any of this series but the excellent cover illustrations do certainly make one want to dip into them. Another very good and award winning fantasy is MYTHAGO WOOD by Robert Holdstock, in pb. Other pbs include: The space opera series by Piers Anthony, "Bio of a Space Tyrant", EXECUTIVE, the 4th in the series. A welcome new printing of funny man Robert Sheckley's MINDSWAP. THE COLOUR OUT OF TIME in the Lovecraftian style of Michael Shea. A reprint of Michael Moorcock's 3rd Runestaff volume, THE SWORD OF THE DAWN. Bob Shaw is a good yarn spinner and his THE PALACE OF ETERNITY is new in pb. An sf novel featuring space war between humans and aliens. Last year's Hugo winning novel, NEUROMANCER by William Gibson was an August release in Grafton pb. The same month William Collins released the award winning THE ANUBIS GATES by Tim Powers. Fantasy in a Philip K. Dick style. The mind boggles.

Doubleday Australia are the distributors of the books and games published by TSR in the USA. They sent me the first in a new "Dragonlance" series, Legend, Volume One, TIME OF THE TWINS by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman. Another fantasy novel received was GREYHAWK ADVENTURES, SAGA OF OLD CITY by Gary Gygax. These and other titles featured in a recent promotion and I hope to list all titles in the my next issue of "BOOKS". Recent Dungeons and Dragons related items released by Doubleday included WHERE CHAOS REIGNS and LANKHMAR, Swords of the Under City, which is based on Fritz Leiber's sword and sorcery series.

Collectors of Robert Bloch's writings will not want to miss OUT OF MY HEAD, which is a collection of stories by Bob Bloch, put together to honor his GoH appearance at Boskone XXIII convention. Included are some very fanish stories such as "A Way of Life" plus articles on people including H.P. Lovecraft, John W. Campbell and Fritz Lang. This limited edition hard cover (600 copies) is available from NESFA, Box G, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, 15 Mass. 02139-0910 USA. Cost \$15.00 US.

ROBERT HEINLEIN

Fallen Idol

By MERV BINNS

I discovered Robert Heinlein's writing with THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH and the following "Future History" titles. I have read all but one book that he has written since then with anticipation, but I have also never gotten around to some of his earlier excellent juvenile novels. I enjoyed all I read, with few reservations up to STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, particularly that, despite the very different nature of it, to anything else written previously. Then! FEAR NO EVIL just did not appeal and I started but never finished it. TIME ENOUGH FOR LOVE took me a year to read as I kept going back and reading a bit more. THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST was one of the most frustrating books I have ever read. I wanted him to get on with the story, but all I got was interminable arguments between the characters. Suddenly I realised my idol had clay feet, but I persevered and read FRIDAY, which was the Heinlein of old and I sighed with relief.

My relief was short lived because then came JOB: A COMEDY OF JUSTICE, which I have in front of me now in the NEL pb edition at \$8.95 (Distributed by Hodder & Stoughton Australia). This has to be the most boring and uninteresting book that Heinlein has ever written. Perhaps I missed the point of the story, but I found the main character very unimpressive and the whole concept of the story very tenuous and shallow. Some readers may see humour in the story, but I only found boredom, and sadness because I will never want to read a book by R.E.H. again, one of my all time favourite authors. I have not read THE CAT WHO WALKS THROUGH WALLS, but my old friend Paul Stevens has and he tells me that it is just as bad as the previous book. It makes me very sad!

Merv B.



For #6 send \$3.00

For #5 & #6 send \$5.00

TO:
Michael Hallstone,
P.O.Box 193,
Woden, A.C.T. 2606



FANZINES RECEIVED

6

OTHER THINGS FANNISH

Thank you to all the people who have been sending me their fanzines. I will mention a few here and more next issue.....

ETHEL THE AARDVARK is the Melbourne SF Clubs zine. Copies are available to trade or on subscription. \$8.00 Australia. \$10.00 Overseas. Six issues. P.O.Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne 3005, Australia. The club meets at the Saint David's Uniting Church Hall, 72 Melville Road, West Brunswick, on Friday nights at 7.30 PM

THYME The Australian SF News Magazine
Thyme covers all conventions and other fan events, plus book and film reviews and news, and articles. Edited by Roger Weddall and Peter Burns. Sub \$10.00 for 10 issues. To: P.O.Box 273 Fitzroy, 3065, Victoria, Australia

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW

Is produced by Jenny Blackford and friends, mostly attendees of the famous Nova Mob, who meet at Jenny and Russell Blackford's home most months. (Details of meetings will appear in the next issue of ASFN) ASFR is a critical review of sf. It carries on the tradition established by John Bangsund. A subscription is \$10.00. Back issues are available. From: Ebony Books, G.P.O.Box 1294L Melbourne, 3001, Australia

SCIENCE FICTION A Review of Speculative Literature
This excellent magazine has now been in production for nearly 10 years. It gives an in depth view of sf and fantasy books and films. Edited and published by Dr Van Ikin, Department of English, University of Western Australia, Nedlands, W.A. 6009, Australia. \$10.00 for 3 issues in Australia. \$15 overseas.

THE NOTIONAL is edited and published by one of Australia's leading fan writers, Leigh Edmonds assisted by Valma Brown. It contains news, comments, and reviews. Sub: \$15 for 12 issues

TIGGER is edited and published by the other leading Australian fan writer and publisher, Marc Ortlieb. A nice blend of serious comment, news and fun. Available for trade or donation to a fan fund. Write to: P.O.Box 215, Forest Hill Victoria 3131 Australia.

CAPTAIN'S LOG is the official magazine of the Victorian STAR TREK Club, Austrek. Need I say more. News, articles, club meetings and convention dates. Free to members. Write for details. Austrek, GPO Box 5206AA, Melbourne 3001, Vic.

That's all for now folks! More next issue.
Thank you to LOCUS for the overseas news in this issue.

Merv B.