

It is traditional for a science fiction fanzine to have teething problems (some never get over them) - and ASFM is no exception. This first issue was conceived as, among other things, a kind of dry run for the Yearbook and Directory. It is the first publication I have ever done on the direct-image offset method, and also the first time our printers have tackled it. I am rather pleased with the result, but I can see about ninety basic pitfalls of the medium into which I have not so much fallen as leapt feet first. (You'll just have to take my word for it that Bob Toomey is devilishly handsome, for example.)

One thing I have learnt from this experiment is that my preparation of the material for reproduction leaves a lot to be desired. Unfortunately about two-thirds of the Yearbook has already been prepared in exactly the same way. I have decided, therefore, to postpone publication of the Yearbook until the end of January, rather than produce an inferior book. This hurts, but if you have a close look at ASFM, particularly the early pages, you will understand why I am doing it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Unforgivably, I neglected to acknowledge the assistance I received in the production of ASFM from my sisters, Joy Warren (who did most of the typing) and Ruth Kirsten, and Miss Betty Foster. These ladies put in many hours of work on the magazine; between them they did almost all of the addressing. Peter Innocent did most of the finicky work of inserting corrections, and was most helpful on matters of layout and production - though I must take the final responsibility for this. David Langworthy and Rod and Daryl Hutchinson of GDR Press went out of their way to help. They are primarily interested in really first-class printing, and it must hurt to put in so much work on what is more or less a cheap-offset job. I certainly recommend their work to anyone looking for a good job at more-than-reasonable prices.

REVIEWS: Several people have indicated their willingness to review regularly for ASFM, and I am delighted to publish them. But a monthly schedule is pretty rigorous and I can't expect a handful of people to fill the review pages every time. If you are interested in book-reviewing, please let me know. Most publishers are very co-operative, and already I have a pile of review copies to hand out. The length of a review depends largely on the interest of the book: a very good or very bad book could warrant 1000-1500 words, a mediocre one 200 words. In general I am looking for an average 400-500 words. Occasionally I might have to borrow a book, in which case I must ask for its return, but most of the time the books I supply for review become your property.

ASFR SUBSCRIPTIONS: Our ASFR records got hopelessly out of control, but we know there weren't many people who had subscribed past no.20. We will not be applying any past subscriptions (or remittances for any purpose) to ASFM. If you had an unexpired subscription to ASFR, please advise us if you would like a refund. Alternatively your sub can be applied to Scythrop, if and when that legendary fanzine reappears.

EXCHANGE POLICY: If you publish a fanzine, we would like to see it and possibly review it. In general we prefer to exchange subscriptions, but this is a matter for negotiation. Overseas people who receive this issue by airmail may take this as an indication of our desire to see their publications as quickly as possible. If a straight airmail exchange is acceptable to you, it is acceptable to us. Some overseas people will receive ASFM by airmail because we would like it reviewed, or because we would like to hear from them, or because we've got into the habit.

ENVELOPES: We know that many people don't like receiving folded magazines in the mail. The post office, unfortunately, tends to insist on it. If you want ASFM posted flat, you will have to supply your own envelopes, pre-addressed. (This does not apply to multiple subscriptions. If you order more than one copy, they will be posted flat.)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Minimum charge 50c. 10c per line, first ten lines, thereafter 15c per line. Over 25 lines display rates apply. Paragon Books and Comorg reserve the right to reject or alter advertisements. Alterations will normally be advised before publication, unless they involve corrections to grammar or spelling. Hand-written advertisements must be legible. DISPLAY ADVERTISING rates supplied on request. Anything using illustrations or special lettering is display advertising. Comorg members get special rates.

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY : BOUND VOLUMES

At the end of each year of publication, AUSTRALIAN SF MONTHLY will be made available in a permanent form, with all twelve issues bound into one volume.

This annual volume will also contain a comprehensive index to the magazine and photographs of contributors. It will be a large book: about 500 pages, quarto size.

It will cost A\$12.00, or A\$16.00 if required in two volumes of about 250 pages each. This price includes a copy of each issue of the magazine as published.

The index and photo pages will be made available to all subscribers at \$2.00.

Only a limited number of bound volumes will be produced - probably about 100. If future demand warrants, volumes may be reprinted, but they will cost much more than the original editions.

A deposit of \$5.00 is required with your order. This, in effect, comprises \$3.00 for a year's subscription and \$2.00 for the index. When the annual volume is ready, you will be asked to confirm that you still require it by forwarding the balance of \$7.00 (or \$11.00, if you require the two-volume binding).

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW : BOUND VOLUMES

AUSTRALIAN SF REVIEW commenced publication in 1966 and ceased after twenty issues in 1969. In those three years the magazine established itself as one of the best of its kind in the world. In 1967 and 1968 it achieved the distinction of appearing on the ballot for the "Hugo" Award - the first time an Australian publication had ever done this. Samuel R. Delany said it was referred to in New York as "the Review"; Brian Aldiss said it was the kind of magazine an author wanted to say something in; and if testimonials of this kind impress you, we have dozens more. Today, ASFR is something of a legend. Complete runs are very hard to get. Individual issues fetch absurd prices at auction. And every few weeks I get a letter from a librarian or a bookseller in Sydney or Chicago or Birmingham or Tokyo or you-name-it, asking for a subscription or back issues.

ASFR contained about a thousand quarto pages of articles and reviews by some of the best writers in the business. The names of the contributors would take up the rest of this page, but among them were James Blish, Michael Moorcock, John Carnell, Damon Knight, Frederik Pohl, Harry Harrison, John Wyndham, William F. Temple, Robert Bloch, Ursula K. Le Guin, M. K. Joseph, Sam Moskowitz, John Hayden Howard, Ted White, Brian Aldiss, Samuel R. Delany, Judith Merrill, Stephen Murray-Smith, Mungo MacCallum, Harry Warner Jr, George Turner, Lee Harding, A. Bertram Chandler, Jack Wodhams, John Foyster, John Brunner and Mauricio Kitaigorodski.

Like the Monthly, the Review did not publish much fiction, but the fiction it published was good. A story by Bert Chandler in no.10 was chosen for Harry Harrison's collection, BEST SF: 1967.

I intend to reprint the whole run of ASFR in two bound volumes of about 500 pages each. In addition to the original material there will be a comprehensive index, photographs of contributors and introductory articles. The additional material will also be made available separately, at a cost of about \$2.00.

The reprint will be published when advance orders appear to cover production costs.

The two volumes will cost \$25.00. If four volumes are preferred, \$30.00. A deposit of \$5.00 is required with your order, and the balance on notification. If when notified you decide not to take the volumes, your deposit will not be refunded, but you may elect to receive a copy of the index and a year's subscription to ASFM.

OVERSEAS PRICES: ASFM ANNUAL VOLUME - US\$15.00 (in 2 volumes, US\$20.00);
£6.00 (2 volumes, £8.00). ASFR REPRINT - US\$30.00 (in 4 volumes, US\$36.00);
£12.50 (4 volumes, £15.00). Elsewhere, local equivalents of Australian prices.

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