

On your list of nominations for Best Fanzine 1966 you will find something called AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW. Never heard of it? I wouldn't be surprised. Never seen a copy? I'd be even less surprised.

My name's John Bangsund. I live (if that's the right word) in Melbourne, Australia, and I publish this thing. Started it in June 1966, under pressure from a bunch of enthusiasts at the 7th Australian SF Convention. (And I hope you have as good a time at yours as we had at ours.) Since then we've seen 11 issues, and the 12th is coming up in October.

ASFR is a serious fanzine, but not what you would call deadly serious. We love sf, we do it the honour of regarding it as a special but nonetheless worthy branch of literature in general; but we also believe that sf is fun, and a certain light-heartedness is often detectable about some of the stuff we publish.

Who do we publish? Well some of the people who have made appearances in ASFR are Brian Aldiss, James Blish, A. Bertram Chandler, John Brunner, E. J. Carnell, Michael Moorcock, Lin Carter, Judith Merrill, Keith Roberts, William F. Temple, John Baxter, Jack Wodhams, Ted White, Harry Warner Jr., Robert Coulson, Walt Willis, Chris Priest, Graham Hall, Sten Dahlskog, Rick Sneary, Don Tuck, Andy Porter, Ugo Malaguti, Ron Bennett - oh, and many others, including a host of Australians whose names might mean little to you just now.

Our tenth issue ran to 94 pages. Future issues will be around 60, and will appear every second month. No. 11 included 2 very thoughtful articles about Cordwainer Smith, as man and writer; a provocative (what else?) piece by William Atheling, Jr., a number of other articles, and reviews and letters.

My American Agent is Andrew Porter. Being Secretary of your Convention, he is probably awfully busy right now, but there's a chance he might show, lend, give, or sell you a copy of ASFR if you ask him nicely. If you catch him at the right moment he might even accept a subscription from you.

Back issues of ASFR are readily available, except No. 1, which we are seriously thinking about reprinting. Nos. 2 to 10 are available from Dick Witter at the F&SF Book Company (P.O. Box 415, Staten Island, NY, 10302), if you prefer not to wait a month to see them.

Now, back to the NYCon. Enjoy yourself!

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SUBSCRIPTION FORM: Mail to Andrew Porter, ASFR, 24 East 82nd Street, NY, NY, 10028.

Please arrange a subscription to ASFR for me, commencing with issue no. 11. I enclose 40¢ per copy. (Please make all checks & money orders payable to A. Porter.) I would also like the following back issues: 1 (60¢) 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 (all 40¢)

NAME AND ADDRESS: name.....  
(please include street..... Apt.....  
ZIP code) city..... state..... Zip.....

A FEW REMARKS ABOUT AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW:

E. J. CARNELL: ASFR 2 thudded in this morning. I found No.1 very pleasant and interesting, but No.2...! This is one of the freshest and most entertaining magazine issues I have read for several years. Somehow, down under, you have managed to produce a different feeling and insight into what must, of necessity, be a prosaic subject to anyone who has been connected with it as long as I have.

RON BENNETT: With issues 3 and 4, ASFR consolidates itself as the leading international sf fan magazine. Terrific stuff, with John Foyster taking a lengthy and analytical look at recent editorials in ANALOG.

WILLIAM F. TEMPLE: ASFR has a very special freshness and vitality, and - that quality rare in this tired, disillusioned, heard-it-all-before corner of the world - enthusiasm. Withal, intelligent enthusiasm - the only worthwhile kind.

BUCK COULSON: ASFR is presenting some of the best commentary on sf now being written in the fanzines. John Brunner's article (ASFR 9) is the best single item I have seen in a fanzine this year - from the standpoint of either entertainment or information.

HARRY WARNER, Jr.: It's such a relief to see an Australian fanzine that can write cheerfully about sf just like those in the U.S. and Great Britain. For so many years, during the chronic sf famine down there, I felt guilty every time I read an Australian publication - like a surfeited glutton in the midst of starvation.

ANSON McTAGGART: After two issues of relative vacuity I note with pleasure that ASFR has entered the field of political and social pontification. Where you tell those lousy heatniks to get lost is real good. I mean that part where you say that sf is indiscriminately classed with "long hair, modern music, non-representational art, anti-war demonstrations and other deplorable idiocies." I certainly agree with you about long hair. I hate the sight of all those ugly women with their long hair.

ROGER ZELAZNY: I think you've got a very good thing going there is ASFR. I do want to write something for you, and I will.

URSULA K. LeGUIN: Seeing what donkeys offended authors make of themselves, I promised myself long ago never to react at all to any reviews of my own stuff. Now I am breaking my promise. Your reviews were so kind, and so discerning (I trust), and gave me so much pleasure, that it would be merely mean not to thank you. You have an awfully good magazine going.

BRIAN ALDISS: You may not realize it, but you have established ASFR already as the sort of magazine in which one likes to say something.

JOHN BANGSUND: If it's so bloody good, why am I steadily going bankrupt for lack of subscriptions? No, it's not quite as bad as that really, but I do need a lot more people paying hard cash for ASFR if it's to keep going. And if you think I've deliberately picked out nice quotes about the magazine - you're quite right. You'll have to subscribe to see the others. There is plenty of adverse criticism: ASFR has something for everyone - something to like and something to disapprove. Join the club!