

July 1968

Edited and produced by Archie Mercer for The British Science Fiction Association Limited. Proofread by Beryl Mercer. Publications Officer: Michael Kenward, Culham Laboratory, Culham, Abingdon, Berks. E&OE. (Note new address !)

EDITORIAL This stencil is being typed on June 19th. VECTOR 49, with the 17th Bulletin (dated April) reached here yesterday. Until it did, it was touch and go whether VECTOR 50 and this Bulletin would reach the membership first. It didn't - but the publication schedule's up the creek again anyway.

Have you ever considered, though, how much work actually goes into an issue of VECTOR? First of all, the material - including artwork - has to be assembled. Submissions must be accepted, rejected, or returned for alteration - all of which involves much letter-writing. Other material has to be commissioned from specific individuals, books allocated to reviewers, etc. (More letters.) Then everything has to be cut on to stencil, headings organised, artwork etc. sent away to be electro-stencilled, and patched in when it comes back. Then there's the duplicating to be done - and 350-odd copies of a 30 or 40 page magazine is no sinecure. The duplicated material has to be assembled into complete issues, stapled, collated with other material for distribution, and put into envelopes. The envelopes have to be addressed, stamped and mailed. And on top of all that lot, the Publications Officer has between whiles to make arrangements concerning other publications and participate in general committee work.

Despite the proud boast on handout-literature and such, VECTOR never has appeared eight times in any year. (A VECTOR year is, of course, Easter to Easter, because that's when the offices should normally change hands.) The nearest it came to it was in the year 1963/4, when seven VECTORS appeared plus one interVECTORal Newsletter. That year, however, the duplication and mailing was completely divorced from the editing and typing, which spread the work around a bit.

It would be rash to attempt to prophesy precisely how many VECTORS the year 1968/69 will see. If you see this, then probably at least two ..... AM

DEPT. OF SECOND THOUGHTS Despite all the palaver on pages 4 and 5 of the 17th Newsletter, the list of authors' names was not in fact issued. This is due to the realisation on the part of the executive committee that a complete list would be literally impossible, and anything less might be held prejudicial to the fairness of the ballot. So using their memories plus what references may be to hand, members will (it is earnestly hoped) send in their nominations for the top ten living British sf/fantasy authors before the deadline.

#### NEW AND REJOINED MEMBERS

- 597 David A. Kyle: RD # 4, Potsdam, N.Y. 13676, U.S.A.  
 898 David P. Jacob: 22 Eastfield Road, Bridlington, E. Yorks  
 899 Paul A. Dion: Students Union, University of Salford, Salford 5, Lancs  
 900 Frederick Oliphant: 25 Kinver House, Woodberry Down Estate, London N.4  
 901 Richard I. Barycz: 16 Musgrove Road, London SE.14

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MEMBERSHIP LISTS 1968

Pending the re-introduction of one annual date for expiry of membership, there will be no general membership list issued. This has been decided with reluctance because of the extreme clumsiness that would be entailed by a list (alphabetical), only parts of which would be valid at various dates. Amendments to addresses already published will continue to appear in the Bulletin as before. Roll on the return to a firmer basis !

B.S.F.A. 1969 CONVENTION The only definite addition so far to the news published in the 17th Bulletin is that John Brunner (1967 Guest of Honour) has been added to the organising committee. Look for more solid news once everybody's summer holidays are over.

B.S.F.A. 1970 CONVENTION If any member or group of members would be interested in organising the Convention at Easter 1970, or knows of a suitable hotel, or both, please get in touch with the Secretary.

CORRESPONDENTS WANTED David P. Jacob (15), 22 Eastfield Rd., Bridlington, E. Yorks. Other interests: table tennis, cricket, cats, dogs, clothes, youth club, choir. Correspondents preferably in UK.  
Paul A. Dion (20), Students Union, University of Salford, Salford 5, Lancs. Bridge, chess, photography, journalism. Anywhere including Mars.  
Frederick Oliphant (21), 25 Kinver House, Woodberry Down Estate, London N.4. Mythology, occultism, development of fantasy in the cinema. UK, USA, Commonwealth.  
Richard I. Barycz (17), 16 Musgrove Rd., London SE.14. Writing and artwork. UK, USA.

Of the above, Messrs. Dion, Oliphant and Barycz would be interested in hearing more about and/or seeing amateur magazines connected with fantasy and sf.

FOR SALE - in addition to the items advertised in the 17th Bulletin, the complete run of SPACEFLIGHT (12 issues) for 1967. Also numerous back numbers of VECTOR, including some of the earliest issues. All in mint condition. Reasonable offers to: Bert Lewis, 47 Queensway, Ashton on Ribble, Preston, Lancs.

LONDON MINI-CON 1968 A "Mini-Con" is a miniature convention, ie, a one-day affair, and one is again being organised by the Science Fiction Club of London this autumn/winter. Saturday November 23rd to be precise, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. to be even preciser. Location: the main hall of William Dunbar House, Albert Road, London NW.6. (Two minutes' stroll from Queens Park underground station.) Admission: £1 including lunch and tea, 15/- including tea only. Cash with order for lunch-orders, and preferably also for tea-only orders. Contact Keith Otter, 34 The Albany, 69 Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. Oh yes. James White is to be Guest of Honour.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

847 Bridges, Jill (Mrs.) (FORMERLY MASON) } now 26 Bournewood Road,  
846 Bridges, Keith R. } Plumstead, London SE.18

(And heartiest congratulations to the above couple)

845 Holdstock, Robert: now 31 Chilton Way, River, Dover, Kent

402 Underwood, Anthony: now c/o 41 Harbord Rd., Waterloo, Liverpool 22.

(NOTE: Parental address. New service address to follow in due course)

684 Kenward, Michael: now, Culham Laboratory, Culham, Abingdon, Berks.

(NOTE: the above is the new Publications Officer. The address shown for him in VECTOR 49 is already out of date. You Have Been Warned !)

636 Dawson, Peter L.: now 57 Clough Hall Rd., Kidsgrove, Stoke on Trent, Staffs

NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION STORY CONTEST

As usual, the N3F (which is the nearest transatlantic equivalent to the B.S.F.A.) is throwing its annual Story Contest open to B.S.F.A. members equally with its own. Those interested may obtain entry forms from the B.S.F.A. Secretary, Doreen Parker, 38 Millfield Road, Deeping St. James, Peterborough.

The conditions of entry are summarised below. Please note, however, **three** important differences between the B.S.F.A. and N3F procedures:

- (a) Stories from B.S.F.A. members should not be submitted to the address shown on the entry form, but to the B.S.F.A. Secretary. (Address above.) There will then be some eliminating done on this side of the water, to save on transatlantic postage;
- (b) Since MSS will ~~cross~~ the Atlantic in bulk, there is no need to include return overseas postage. A stamped addressed envelope for use within this country should, however, be included.
- (c) In order to give time for elimination and ocean-hopping, the deadline for stories to reach the Secretary is 30th September this year.

Now the rules, then:

- 1. The Contest is open to all amateur writers in this field. We define an amateur as one who has sold no more than two stories to the professional science-fiction and fantasy publications.
- 2. Stories must be the original unpublished work of the entrant, must be less than 5,000 words in length, and must come within the field of science-fiction and/or fantasy in the opinion of the final judge, who for 1968 is Frederik

Pohl, editor of Galaxy, If, and International SF.

3. Stories should be typed on 8½"x11" white paper, double spaced, with the title on every page but the name of the author omitted to assure impartiality.  
(NOTE: This size is both longer and wider than standard British paper, but should be obtainable - at any rate on order - from any good stationer.)
4. Contestants may enter any number of stories. Each entry should be accompanied by an entry blank. No fee is required from B.S.F.A. members.
5. Contestants are expected to retain one or more copies of each story entered. The N3F (not to mention the B.S.F.A.) undertakes to use all possible care, but cannot, of course, guarantee against accidental loss in the mail.
6. First prize is £15; second prize is £10; third prize is £5. Other prizes may be awarded if in the opinion of the final judge any other stories merit them.
7. Final judging begins November 1st 1968. (See note overleaf.)
8. Results of this Contest are to be announced to the winners as soon as the judging is completed, and announced to the B.S.F.A. membership early in 1969.

It may be observed here that B.S.F.A. members have been responsible for several prizewinning entries in recent years. We hope that there will be many more. So get scribbling.