

Edited and produced by Archie Mercer for The British Science Fiction Association Limited. Proofread by Beryl Mercer. Distribution and Executive address: 10 Lower Church Lane, St. Michael's, Bristol BS2 8BA. E&OE

FISSION FOR A SECRETARY On the grounds that the Association Secretaryship, as it stood, was too onerous a job for one person, the Committee has decided that the time has come to split it up a bit.

For the time being, the split is being handled as follows. Doreen Parker is to resume the title of Company Secretary, but is to deal only with the legal side of things, including the matter of compliance with company law. Beryl Mercer, hitherto Secretary pure and simple, becomes Executive Secretary. Audrey Walton, who has agreed to take the "executive" title in a few months' time, meanwhile starts in as Social Secretary to handle such social-type work as is passed to her.

All correspondence should continue to be addressed to Beryl Mercer as Executive Secretary; she will pass matters to the correct department as she sees fit. And the result of all this? Better service possibly. A less harassed Secretary, most certainly.

A MEAN VECTOR ??? Provided that people can be found to help out, a bit of fission for VECTOR is in the offing as well. At present the editor is also responsible for production - and until recently was also responsible for mailing-out. The proposal now is that the duplication of V be separated from the editing. (The typing will probably be handled commercially.) The B.S.F.A. possesses its own electric Gestetner for V, and whoever has possession of this machine is of course entirely at liberty to use it also for his own purposes. If a volunteer can be found who is also prepared to mail at least a proportion of the year's output to the members (together with any "riders" such as Bulletins etc.), that will be even better.

Anybody interested?

THE BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION AWARD - A REPORT Way back before the B.S.F.A. Limited was born the B.S.F.A. instituted an award to be made to the 'best' book published in Britain for the first time in each year. Any title was admissible provided that it was published in Britain for the first time between 1 Jan and 31 Dec of the year under consideration. Prior publication as a magazine serial, or as a book in another country, did not eliminate it. Any BSFA member could nominate any title at any time in the year, with a limit of ten titles, and a short list consisting of the titles with the largest number of nominations was then passed to an adjudicating committee who made the final selection. The award was presented at the Easter Convention. This rather unhappy and laborious system was arrived at in an effort to satisfy the two main factions - one which was in favour of a straightforward 'popular' vote, and the other which felt that a popular vote would overlook any 'literary merit'.

Frankly, this system was unworkable. Oh, I tried, and just once it was effectively worked. On other occasions it limped to some sort of conclusion and awards were made. We were bedevilled with other troubles - like, man, someone swiped the 'shield' which was supposed to be passed on from year to year like one time when it turned out that one of the final selection committee had only read three of the ten titles he was supposed to decide between, and it was impossible for him to read the others in the time available.... like but why go on?

(award cont.) This year the selection is going to be on a simple 'popular vote'. I would like all members to select the three titles they consider to be the best of those eligible, and fill in the voting form that the B.S.F.A. Limited will provide (I trust) and mail it to the address given thereon. This to be done not later than February 14th 1970. Now, you cannot make the excuse that you do not know what books are eligible, because the BSFA has, through the hard work and good offices of Gerald Bishop, provided the information for you during the year. If you feel that some book which is eligible has been omitted from the list, then please write to Gerald (10 Marlborough Rd., Exeter, Devon, EX2 4TJ) and give your reasons. No one is infallible, and some omissions may have occurred.

At the same time I am asking certain professionals who may or may not be BSFA members to let me know which titles they feel are the 'best' from Britain's 1969 publications. This will have no effect on the 'popular vote' selection, but will have a useful purpose in guiding the BSFA Committee when it comes to draw up proper terms of reference for the future operation of the Awards.

There are a number of factors involved here; the simple ones are: 1) must the selection committee be members of the BSFA? 2) is or is not the best book the most popular book? 3) how do you select your selection committee?

I do not know if our editor will allow me space to enlarge on these. If this is the end of the story, you'll know he had not space to spare, so I will at this stage ask for your co-operation and indulgence in what is a very important and somewhat difficult matter.

--- Kenneth F. Slater

(In brief, Ken has the following points to make. Firstly, he prefers to use experts because they're experts, irrespective of their membership or otherwise in the Association. Secondly, "best" v. "most popular" is a never-ending argument. Thirdly: even "experts" are only people, and subject to possible bias. A panel comprising Messrs. Bulmer, Carnell and Harbottle, for instance, would be likely to make an entirely different choice from a panel comprising Messrs. Aldiss, Ballard and Moorcock; whilst a panel consisting of all six gentlemen would be liable to experience difficulty in arriving at any consensus of opinion, unless it was agreed to compromise on a universally inoffensive - but possibly mediocre - title.

(He also throws up for consideration the possibility of future awards being extended to include other categories such as artwork, films, "presentation" of books as distinct from fictional content, etc. How best these matters can be categorised is a major subject in itself. Members' views are earnestly solicited. To the Executive Secretary, please: Beryl Mercer, 10 Lower Church Lane, St. Michael's, Bristol BS2 8BA.)

CONVENTION REPORT News that a Science Fiction Convention was to be held in Leeds over the week-end beginning 1st November was received too late to be included in the previous Bulletin. Here, however, is a short report on what happened:

"Some 50/60 persons gathered in a private room at the Griffin Hotel for the minicon organised by the Leeds Science Fiction Club or the Yorkshire Fantasy Association or the British Amateur Fantasy Magazines Association - nobody seemed to know quite which. A good half of these people were concerned with fantasy COMICS which apparently has its own fandom with regular minicons all over the country, next one in Sheffield in a few weeks. They had their own sort of procedure and ranged from about 12 years old to 25. The programme was chaotic and consisted of films, an eternal auction of old comics sold by their owners on their own behalf, NOT for the Convention funds, and one panel discussion which I missed. The Leeds Society kept trying to fight this comic-fan takeover, but

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without success, and promises to keep them out of any future meetings. The Leeds (and Bradford) lads themselves meet at a pub each Monday evening. Two are Lovecraft fanatics and they want to do some publishing." (JMR)

CONVENTION EASTER 1970 If you have not yet received the second report issued by SCI-CON 70 (the Easter-in-London sf event), it's probably because you have not yet enrolled. Registration costs 10/--, payable to the SCI-CON 70's Treasurer, Bill Burns. The address: c/o "Dark They Were And Golden-Eyed", 28 Bedfordbury, London WC.2.

The drive to produce a "different" line-up proceeds apace. Panels mooted so far deal with such matters as the need for a "science ombudsman", the effect sf has on politics, (possibly even with a Member of Parliament speaking), and so on. Individuals who have agreed to speak, or who are likely to have their arms twisted, include Harvey Matusow (founder of the International Society for the Abolition of Data Processing Machines), author/scientist Perry Chapdelaine, several publishers, and mention is made also of a practising Scientologist who may be appearing.

The main hotel has now been settled as the Royal, Upper Woburn Place, London WC.2, though some attendees will probably have to sleep at an adjacent overflow hotel - the National, with identical room rates.

Approximately the same time as the Convention, the Portal Gallery will be giving what claims to be "the West End's first exhibition of science fiction painting". Artists "of professional standard" who are interested in exhibiting there are invited to contact Mrs. Margaret Goodfellow, 15 Charlwood Close, Elms Rd., Harrow Weald, Middlesex. (This is nothing to do with any art show that there may be at the Con itself.)

George Hay, Chairman of the Con, writes: "It has been suggested that we arrange items at SCI-CON 70 for younger people and children. Assuming that 'younger people' means around 12-15 year-olds, we shall be following up some ideas of our own here, but we shall of course be very willing to receive suggestions from others. As to really young children, we should again be glad to receive suggestions from parents. We think it might be a good idea to take the kiddies for a trip to a puppet theatre or perhaps the Planetarium. This would mean that we would need to know definitely in advance how many we were catering for, and we might need to hire a Mini-van, or whatever, and contributions would have to be made to the costs involved. We would need the help of one or two adults, but would try and get help from non-sf people, so that the parents would be able to concentrate on the Con.

"Anyway, let us know what you think. Letters please to the Secretary, SCI-CON 70, c/o "Dark They Were And Golden-Eyed", 28 Bedfordbury, London WC.2."

AN APPROPRIATE HOLE FOR A PLUG And what, you may be thinking, the hell is this "Dark They..." place that so kindly lends its address to SCI-CON 70? The answer is that it's the latest thing in sf/fantasy bookshops. The address, 28 Bedfordbury, is very close to Leicester Square underground station, and the shop welcomes personal callers as well as postal enquiries. The proprietor is B.S.F.A. member Derek Stokes, often nicknamed "Bram" because of a fancied resemblance between his surname and that of a certain late author. You'll be quite safe, though - it's against his policy to bite the customers.

HEIDELBERG CORNER Manfred Kage, Chairman of HEICON '70 (21-24 August 1970) writes: "Looking back on almost three years full of work, hope, and sometimes even doubts, the result of the St. Louis vote for Heidelberg in 1970 fills me with gratitude. But besides this, I feel that I need to say thank you very much to all our supporters abroad. I am fully aware of the fact that all our work would not have been sufficient to bring the 28th World Science

Fiction Convention to Heidelberg if all of you had not given us your support.

"HEICON '70 is a WorldCon now, and therefore will be a very good chance for quite a few Continental fandoms to show their activity and efficiency to an international audience. This possibility will certainly influence the activity of some or all Continental fandoms, and will enlarge them. I furthermore hope that HEICON '70 will develop International Fandom as much as possible too. And for all these opportunities to make our hobby even more interesting than it is already, let me say thank you again.

"For us, the committee, this St. Louis vote means furthermore a real obligation to do our very best to make HEICON '70 a success. Not only as far as the con itself and all items of the programme are concerned, but also as far as new aspects and developments of European and International Fandom are concerned. And therefore I look at this result as a definite mission given to us by quite a few fans from quite a few fandoms. And I will give of my best to fulfil this mission. I hope it will be sufficient.

"Well, let me finish now because I need all my time to work for HEICON '70. And I'm pretty certain that you'll agree, because if I waste my time I waste your money !"

Meanwhile back at the editorial desk of the B.S.F.A. Bulletin - which is also, as it happens, the desk of the British Agent for HEICON '70 - a few miscellaneous notes. Registration costs at present £1.1.0d, with a further 12/6d if you actually attend. However, owing to various financial matters which you have doubtless read about in the papers, it is not possible to hold these rates indefinitely. All registrations and attendance fees paid by 31st December this year, however, will be honoured at the above rates. Come January 1st, they will increase. The only reservation is that lower-rate memberships will not entitle members to have their newsletters etc. sent by air-mail, which is of no particular consequence to us in the British Isles in any case.

Your guineas, and your twelve-and-sixes, may be sent to me, A.H. Mercer, at 10 Lower Church Lane, St. Michael's, Bristol BS2 8BA. (Cheques etc. should be payable to "A.H. Mercer", please.)

And have you contacted Tony Walsh (61 Halsbury Rd., Redland, Bristol BS6 7ST) about the projected coach trip yet? There's still time, before the November 30th deposit-deadline.

Artwork for the art show held at HEICON '70 should be sent to yet another address, so watch carefully: Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Av., Surbiton, Surrey.

CORRESPONDENTS WANTED John A. Felton (22), Winscombe House, Crowborough, Sussex. Interests apart from sf/fantasy: Literature, esp. historical and Mil. Hist., Astronomy, Aviation, Swimming, Tennis, Music (classical), Golf, Polit. thought. Would prefer correspondents in: UK, USA or anywhere.

Alan Brown (17), Avalon, 63a Mason St., Coseley, Staffs. "I have no other permanent hobbies or interests". UK/USA.

Ian R. Williams (21), 50 Southport Rd., Ormskirk, Lancs. Fell walking, Animals, and (to a lesser degree) Films. UK/USA.

Anthony B. Collier (16), 49 Palatine Drive, Walmersley, Bury, Lancs. Astronomy, Naturalism, Football. UK/USA.

Clifford D. Occomore (27), 182 Kenmore Av., Kenton, Harrow, Mx, HA3 8PR. "Classical" music, Still & cine photography, "Natural History", Archaeology, History of Railways. UK/USA/Europe.

Raymond Morgan (18), 4 Wordsworth Rd., Weston super Mare, Som. Football. Anywhere.

(correspondents wanted, Cont.) Mrs. Christine Smith (27), 4 Lister Av., East Grinstead, Sussex. American space programme, driving, gardening, 2 young children. UK/USA. (Women only, please.)

Alan K. Hunnisett (13), 3 North View, Brookside Caravan Park, Bromham, Beds. Art, Cars, Photography, Astronomy, Birds, Animals, Aircraft. USA.

Miss J.E. Dawes (39), 13 Magnaville Rd., Bushey Heath, Herts. Professional interests (medical), Voluntary social welfare work, Fiat cars and driving, Ballroom dancing. UK/Europe.

David Wood (33), 5 The Paddock, Clevedon, Som. Photography, Jazz. UK/USA.

(Senora) Pilar Giralte (35), Diagonal 423, Barcelona, Spain. Languages, Travel, Poetry. UK/Europe.

Amendment to earlier entry: Steven C. Carrigan (15), 158 Sutton Common Rd., Sutton, Surrey. Chess, Writing, Pop and underground music, Polemics, Mathematics, Rugby. Preferably female. Anywhere.

TWO BY TWO THEY TIPTOE OFF... In the middle of typing this Bulletin, word reaches us that VECTOR editor Michael Kenward is now married. This, obviously, explains the recent dearth of VECTORS.

Another report, as yet unconfirmed, is to the effect that VISION OF TOMORROW editor Phil Harbottle has also recently got married.

Needless to say, the Association expresses its best wishes and congratulations to the various Kenwards and Harbottles involved.

DEPT. OF BITTEN DUST Roy Gray reports: "The bookshops idea did not catch on. One reply only and that from Plus Books. So I'll forget that idea." (Think of another one please, Roy - we like ideas! Shame that this one floundered.)

THIRD SON OF LOCAL GROUPS Herts, also neighbouring parts of adjacent counties. Meetings frequently. Contact Mary Reed, 5 Park Close, Longmeadow, Stevenage, Herts. (Incidentally, much of the former Bristol group seems to have settled in and around Herts now. We can recommend Hertsford, Oxford. Contact Rosemary Nicholls, 32 Coniston Av., Headington, Oxford OX3 0AN. (We're not sure who else is in this - but if Rosemary's running it, we can recommend it.)

Cambridge. The Cambridge University SF Society meets in the "Fountain", St. Andrew's St., Cambridge, every Thursday at 20.30. Anyone who can make it is welcome. For details write to Roger I. Gilbert, 29 Haig Rd., Cambridge CB4 1DB or phone Cambridge 56093 after 18.00. (We can recommend those we know of the Cambridge group, too.)

Leeds. Contact Eric G. Chapman, 33 Gledhow St., Armley, Leeds LS12, Yorks. (For further particulars see P.2 of this Bulletin. They're patently a group that does things.)

BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED FOR REVIEW, shortly to be available from the Library:

Flesh, by Philip Jose Farmer. (Rapp & Whiting)
The Goblin Reservation, by Clifford D. Simak. (Rapp & Whiting)
Pebble in the Sky, by Isaac Asimov. (Sphere pb)
Picnic on Paradise, by Joanna Russ. (Macdonald)
The Demon Breed, by James H. Schmitz. ("The Tuvela".) (Macdonald)
Cradle of the Sun, by Brian Stableford. (Sidgwick & Jackson)
Report on Probability A, by Brian W. Aldiss. (Sphere pb)
The Left Hand of Darkness, by Ursula K. Leguin. (Macdonald)
Thorns, by Robert Silverberg. (Rapp & Whiting)
Science Fiction Oddities, 2nd Series, ed. Groff Conklin. (Rapp & Whiting)
The Man in the Maze, by Robert Silverberg. (Sidgwick & Jackson)

LIBRARY LISTS The new fiction list of authors A-G is now available, and is being sent with this Bulletin to all those members who have asked for it. Work proceeds on the remainder of the alphabet - Volume "H to O", affectionately termed the Water Volume, should be ready before long. This and subsequent volumes will be sent automatically to those who have asked for "A to G", so there is no need to ask again.

Also available now is the main revised magazine list. This will only be sent to those who ask for it specially - but by return, without waiting for a Bulletin to ride with. Apply to the Executive Secretary (Beryl Mercer) please. Happy reading!

SMALL-ADS FREE TO MEMBERS

WIDE RANGE of science fiction and fantasy paperbacks, magazines and hardcovers, indices and bibliographies for sale. Many out-of-print items, all American publications. I am also buying/exchanging U.S.A. hardcovers for my own collection. Send for free list to:

Mike Sandow, 2 Victoria Park Rd., Hackney, London E.9

GERALD BISHOP is still looking for the following Analogs:

1965 Jan Feb March November

1966 November 1969 Jan March

10 Marlborough Rd., Exeter Devon EX2 4TJ

WANTED A copy of the L.P. of the Original Cast Recording of "I Can Get It For You Wholesale". Stereo preferred but mono OK. Will pay, within reason, any asking price.

John Marshall, 158 Crownfield Rd., Leyton, London E.15

LIST OF SFN & FANTASY MAGS FOR SALE

Weird Tales Jan 1937, Feb 1937

Maxin 96 (USA) Occult Mags (2) Jan & Mar 1946

Fantasy Book (USA) 1948

Weird Tales (2) 1950 → Ditto Nov 1950

Marvel Stories Nov 1950 Amazing Stories Feb 1951

Astounding Stories Mar 1953

19 'DOUBTS' (pub. by Fortean Socy) Nos. 13/31

Harold Chibbatt, 4 Palace Rd., Bowes Park, London N.11

(The Bulletin-editor apologises for this slight contretemps !)

HAS ANYONE GOT Corgi (paperback) editions of "New Writings in SF" 4, 9, 10 ?
Wanted to complete collection. State your own price ≤ Original Price.
Contact F. Fahey, 510 Butts Rd., Sholing, Southampton SO2 8DJ

FANZINE New fanzine, coming your way soon, is in DESPERATE need of material:- articles, reviews, poetry, cover artwork, etc. We need you so send now. All contributions to be sent to:

J. Carrigan, 158 Sutton Common Rd., Sutton, Surrey. HURRY, NOW.

SF BOUGHT AND SOLD Many sf/fantasy/crime etc. titles available. Typed list available on request. Hardbacks and paperbacks, prices slashed $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$. Also: WANTED. Any Analogs dated before February 1969. Bought or exchanged. Old copies of New Worlds also wanted. High prices paid for old Astoundings. Send or write to: Steve Carrigan, address above.

STILL AVAILABLE . . . Copies of COSMOS 3, the unfortunately short-lived sf/fantasy news-&-reviewzine, are still available from the Executive Secretary (Beryl Mercer, 10 Lower Church Lane, St. Michael's, Bristol BS2 8BA) for a 4d stamp.

Also available from Beryl Mercer is "Vision of Tomorrow" No. 1, for 5/6d including postage.

WHICH REMINDS ME Word reaches us that "Vision of Tomorrow" has, owing to printing troubles, found itself temporarily in the wrong order. That is, Issue No. 3 is being distributed before Issue No. 2. The latter issue is being re-dated in order (mot juste ?) to confuse the issue (mot juste No. 2 ?) further...

Roll on the next issue, anyway, whichever it may be !

NEW & REJOINED MEMBERS

- 387 Latto, Ivor R.S.: 16 Merryton Av., Glasgow W.5, Scotland
- 583 Muldowney, Philip G.: 7 The Elms, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon
- 1001 Ritchie, Nicholas: 6 Mildura Court, Church Lane, Hornsey, London N.8
- 1002 Occomore, Clifford D.: 182 Kenmore Av., Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 8PR
- 1003 Morgan, Raymond: 4 Wordsworth Rd., Weston super Mare, Som
- 1004 Collier, Anthony B.: 49 Palatine Drive, Walmersley, Bury, Lancs
- 1005 Williams, Ian R.: 50 Southport Rd., Ormskirk, Lancs
- 1006 Brown, Alan: Avalon, 63a Mason St., Coseley, Staffs
- 1007 Felton, John A.: Winscombe House, Crowborough, Sussex /Herts
- 1008 Daves, J.E. (Miss, S.R.N., O.H.N.C.): 13 Magnaville Rd., Bushey Heath, /
- 1009 Smith, Christine (Mrs.): 4 List er Av., East Grinstead, Sussex
- 1010 Hunnisett, Alan K.: 3 North View, Brookside Caravan Park, Bromham, Beds
- 1011 Wood, Martyn D.: 70 Lockers Park Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts
- 1012 Sandow, Michael G.E.: 2 Victoria Park Rd., Hackney, London E.9
- 1013 Wood, David H.: 5 The Paddock, Kennaway, Clevedon, Som
- 1014 Giralt, Pilar (Senora) (pp C.L.A.): Apartado de Correos 1573, Barcelona, Spain. (NOTE - this is the club address. The address given under "Correspondents Wanted" is her private address. Or possibly vice versa - but at any rate, that's why they differ.)
- 1015 Jackson, John R.: 30 Cherry Tree Lane, Romiley, Stockport, Ches SK6 4ER

AND FOR MY NEXT TRICK... The next issue of the B.S.F.A. Bulletin, No. 29, is due to be mailed some time between Christmas 1969 and New Year 1970. I'm not rash enough to make promises where other people are involved, but there will probably be a VECTOR with it.

In the mean time, anything that reaches this household up to and including Christmas Day 1969 can reckon on being in time for inclusion where appropriate.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 882 Michael J. Freeman: now 38 Sandford Rd., Weston super Mare, Som
 877 Anne Gill: now SN3 A. Gill, Trenchard Block, R.A.F. Hospital, Ely, Cambs
 684 Michael Kenward (and VECTOR): now Richard Bertram House, Danehill, Sussex
 817 Carlo Pagetti: now Trifoglieto, 53040 Cetona, (Siena), Italy
 737 Robert J.M. Rickard: now Flat 2, 19 Charlotte Rd., Edgbaston, Birmingham 15
 980 Derek ("Bram") Stokes: now c/o "Dark They Were And Golden-Eyed",
 28 Bedfordbury, London WC.2

The listings above and overleaf constitute the fourth authorised amendment-list to the 1969 membership list.