

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

OF BULLETINS AND VECTORS As stated in the previous Bulletin, this issue was due to be distributed between Christmas 1969 and New Year 1970. Possibly it may still make it. However. This is being typed on December 25th. Yesterday, one parcel of VECTOR 54 was collected from the shop downstairs. One parcel, containing enough Vs for less than half the membership. So a somewhat agonising decision has had to be taken. Now that it is known that VECTOR is at least on the road, this Bulletin will be held up pending the arrival of further supplies. These, depending on the vagaries (seasonal and otherwise) of British Road Services, may possibly not turn up for another week or two. You'll know, when you get this, whether they were in time or not.

The VECTORial frequency has not, of late, been one of the better aspects of the Association's service to its members. This boils down, in the main, to its editor not having as much free time at his disposal as he'd originally hoped. In fact, for some time he has been ready to hand over to another editor should a suitable candidate be found. Now, barring accidents, one has been found. Also, equally barring accidents, a better method of production. Although nothing is quite in the signed-sealed-and-delivered stage as yet, there is every reason to suppose that 1970 will see (and about time too!) not only regular VECTORS but better-looking VECTORS - with the quality of the contents at least as high as standard.

CONVENTIONS 1970 If you look at Page 26 of VECTOR 54, you will see mention thereon of both the Easter (in London) and the August (in Heidelberg) events. Saves the Bulletin a couple of paragraphs, anyway.

Regarding travel to and from the Heidelberg World Convention, the response to the coach-trip scheme has been disappointing. It has not yet been definitely abandoned, but unless more applicants come forward very soon it will very likely have to be, leaving intending voyagers to make their own arrangements. However, an alternative scheme has come to light. American Express, the firm which is handling all hotel-booking in Heidelberg for the Convention, has come up with an itinerary for a flying visit. This would only cover the long week-end 20th-24th August, but would include night-flights both ways, four nights' hotel expenses at Heidelberg, and sundry expenses en route, at a total cost per person of £48. Individuals participating in this scheme would only require spending-money for food, drink, souvenirs etc. Two points to note, however. One: there is no time left over to see the European countryside. And two: at least 30 participants are required by American Express before it's "on".

Anybody interested should contact American Express Travel Division, 6 Haymarket, London SW.1, quoting reference JW/GS. (Letter to A.H. Mercer dated 19th December 1969.)

MATRIMONIAL NEWS (Or, lines from the married quarter.)

Phil Harbottle, B.S.F.A. member and VISION OF TOMORROW editor, confirms that he did indeed get married recently. To his secretary, in fact, name of Maureen. Blissful visions to the pair of them (and to their magazine), anyway.

American member Edmund Meskys should by now be another ex-bachelor, having been scheduled to marry one Nan(cy) Miles on December 20th. Ed is Thain (ie, head cook and bottle-washer) of the Tolkien Society of America, and Nan holds the subsidiary office of Postal Orc to the Society. Best to them both as well.

BACK TO HEIDELBERG Sorry, there's a bit more. Through the good offices of American Express aforementioned, all attendees can pay their hotel bills in advance to their local branch of American Express in the currency of their own country. Thus, British attendees can pay in sterling, and so on. This certainly helps to make the overseas travel allowance go further.

N3F SHORT STORY CONTEST WINNERS The National Fantasy Fan Federation (of America) has announced the names of the winners of the annual short story contest - in which B.S.F.A. members were, as usual, allowed to compete.

None of our members, as it happened, won prizes this time - holding their strength for the next one, perhaps? The winners are: 1st, Reg Barbieri; 2nd, Janet Fox; 3rd, Linda Eyster Bushyager. (Information courtesy of the newszine LOCUS: the N3F's own publications seem at present to be in an even worse mess than the B.S.F.A.'s.)

SOUTH AFRICAN CLUB Members may be interested to know of a newly-organised sf club in South Africa. A couple of newsbulletins have come this way recently, mainly concerned with the argument as to what the club is actually to be called. Despite this uncertainty, the club is an accomplished fact, and can be contacted through its international contact-man, long-time B.S.F.A. member Andre Ackerman/ZS6ACK, Box 6, Daggafontein, Transvaal, South Africa.

CORRESPONDENTS WANTED Stephen R. Compton (20), 6532 Estates Drive, Oakland, California 94611, U.S.A. Interests apart from sf/fantasy: serious writing, chess, "am an editorial asst. on Univ. of Calif. Berkeley literary magazine OCCIDENT". Desires correspondents in: U.K.

David A. Austin (18), 21 Scot Hay Rd., Alsagers Bank, near Halmerend, Stoke on Trent, Staffs. Archaeology pre-Iron Age, folk music. (=Or does that mean "pre-Iron Age folk music? Man, that's really ethnic stuff! AM)=) UK, pref. Norfolk.

Keith A. Walker (31), Pupil Nurse Training School, Burnley General Hospital, Burnley. Witchcraft & Black Magic, horror, fantasy, poetry, U.F.O.s, "anything weird & wonderful". Anywhere.

ROUND ROBIN LETTERS The B.S.F.A. has had "round robin" letters in the past - you know the things. Each circulates between six or eight members, each time it reaches you you take out your existing contribution, attach a new one, and off it goes again. The reason we have none right now is that whoever was supposed to be organising them either never did, or else suddenly stopped.

Phil Muldowney, of 7 The Elms, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon, would like to start some going again. Please contact him if you want in.

CENTRAL CONTRIBUTORS' POOL Fanzines - amateur publications - sometimes have difficulty in obtaining suitable contents (stories, articles, verse, artwork, etc.). On the other hand, people who are in the habit of scribbling such things are not always in touch with an appropriate fanzine. The Central Contributors' Pool exists to bridge this gap. (Mixed metaphors, anybody?) If you have work that you think might be suitable for some fanzine, send it to Mary Reed. If you have a fanzine and want to fill it, ask Mary Reed. (5 Park Close, Longmeadow, Stevenage, Herts.) And thank you.

SMALL-ADS FREE TO MEMBERS

WANTED Science Fiction Book Club Choices Nos. 1 & 5.
Please contact R.A. Lanham, 1 Tyfield Rd., Sherborne St. John,
Basingstoke, Hants.

"YOU WILL NEVER BE THE SAME", pb collection of Cordwainer Smith stories, WANTED
by Archie & Beryl Mercer, 10 Lower Church Lane,
St. Michael's, Bristol BS2 8BA.

MATRIMONIAL ANNEXE At the last moment we learn of the engagement of Rob Hold-
stock and Jean Finney, both members of the Association.
Watch This Space !

SECRETARIAL SHUFFLE As from 1st January 1970, the Association's secretarial
chores are being handled as follows:

Doreen Parker, as Company Secretary, handles the legal side of things including
looking after the Association's position as a limited company;

Audrey Walton, as Executive Secretary, co-ordinates the various near-flung and
far-flung branches and departments of the organisation; and

Beryl Mercer, as Membership Secretary, ^{deals with} enrolments, renewals, and the like.
Addresses

Mrs. D.E. Parker (Company Secretary); 76 Old Brumby St., Scunthorpe, Lincs

Mrs. E.A. Walton (Executive Secretary); 25 Yewdale (res.), Coventry, Warks, CV2 2FF

Mrs. B.M. Mercer (Membership Secretary); 10 Lower Church Lane, St. Michael's,

Bristol BS2 8BA. Which is still the correct address to send your subscrip-
tion renewals to, please ! See form enclosed.

NEW VECTOR EDITOR It can now be confirmed that VECTOR 56 will be edited by
Bob Parkinson. Bob is a long-established member of the

Association who, amongst his accomplishments, has had several stories published
in the sf prozines. You should also recall his name as that of a sporadic and
intelligent contributor to VECTOR.

VECTOR 56 is also scheduled to appear in an entirely new and attractive
format. If things are not too far along to make the adjustment, VECTOR 55
(still edited by Michael Kenward) should appear in the new format as well.

LET IT BE mentioned in conclusion that the Management Council and the Committee
wish all members of the Association a happy and prosperous new year.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

243 Terence A. Bull: now 60 Manfield Rd., Northampton

285 Philip Harbottle: now 32 Tynedale Av., Wallsend, Northumberland

206 Brian A. Rolls: now 67 Avalon Rd., Earley, Reading, Berks, RG6 2NR

809 Tony Sudbery: now 12 Kirklee Terrace, Glasgow W.2, Scotland

1005 Ian Williams: now 6 Greta Terrace, Chester Rd., Sunderland, Co. Durham

POSTCODE

614 David A. Piper: please add postcode HA4 9SD