

WINDING UP

A note for customers of Halliford House, members of ANZAPA and a few other people interested in the doings of John Bangsund (44 Hilton Street, Clifton Hill, Victoria 3068, Australia).

In the last Halliford House Newsletter I announced that I was terminating the business. Subsequently I was inundated with orders and enquiries, particularly from people who apparently did not know just how much money they could save by dealing with me. I gave the matter some thought and decided to continue. It was obvious, though, that my activities would have to be extended. I decided to launch a news magazine called SF NEWS, and to send this to about 500 people around Australia. I typed up six pages of it before the idiocy of the thing finally got through to me. Then I started getting vicious pains in my psychosomatics, which effectively put me out of action for a fortnight. Now I'm recovering, I have a vast pile of books to post to people who have been waiting for them for weeks, and I'm not doing any more. Well, hardly any.

Last time I was ill there were rumours getting around that I'd had a mental breakdown or something, so let's set the record straight on that. An electrocardiogram, a test by a neurologist and (last week) a barium meal and extensive x-rays all indicate that there's not a thing wrong with my physical body. Ugly, yes, but structurally sound. My GP (you won't believe me, but his name is Dr R. Clinton Gutch) decided that my trouble is psychosomatic. Diane said, So that means you're imagining things! No, I'm not. I really do get these crippling aches and pains but they are caused by my negative mental attitude or something. Being overweight and smoking too much doesn't help. But mainly I have too many worries.

So here's what I'm doing about it. From 1st March 1970 I won't be accepting any more Halliford House orders. I have a lot of things to sell yet, and if they aren't sold by about April I'll send out a list. Everything on hand will be on sale, vastly reduced, at the Easter Convention. After 1st March I will pass on any orders I get (apart from orders for things I have on hand or coming) to Mervyn Binns. I will be assisting him to produce regular booklists, and I recommend his services.

For the time being I remain agent for Advent books. Mervyn's publicity will advise you if and when I give this up. I also remain agent for SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW (6 for \$3), LOCUS (10 for \$3, airmail), ALGOL (5 for \$3), SCOTTISHE (4 for \$1.30) and HAVERINGS (6 for \$1).

Leigh Edmonds will be doing Scythrop 22, but it's anyone's guess when 23 will appear. I've had so little response to 21 that I'm tempted not to do any more. Let's just say that if I feel like doing it, and if I think you are interested, you will see further issues of Scythrop. But I'm not taking subscriptions.

Tomorrow (23rd February) I start a new job as proof-reader with the Leader Publishing Co at Northcote. I don't know what it will be like, but I think it will be more congenial than what I've been doing lately, and I'll be working with Wynne Whiteford, which I will enjoy. Please don't ring me at work: I'll be at home on Fridays, at weekends and most nights; ring me there if you must (488 778).

A few people have wondered why I've had nothing to say in AUSTRALIA IN '75? The reason is that I have nothing to add to what I said in Sydney, and the people I have written to overseas haven't responded.

To conclude: I have two dozen copies of Walt Willis's THE IMPROBABLE IRISH on the way from America. It's a great book, hilariously funny (of course) and with all kinds of allusions that only sf fans will understand, yet it gives a worthwhile view of the whole mixed-up business of Ireland. Do yourself a favour and order a copy. One ti-ny dol-lar per copy.

Cheers. JB