

HONORARY PRESIDENTS -  
BRIAN ALOISS & HARRY HARRISON,

THE BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION  
GROUP NEWSLETTER \*\*\* 171 \*\*\*

DECEMBER 1985.

The BSFG meets on the third Friday of each month in the New Imperial Hotel, Temple Street in the City Centre of Birmingham.

Membership of the BSFG costs a mere £5.00 per year for one person (or £7.50 for two people at the same address) or £2.50 for six months (£3.75 for two people at the same address). All cheques and postal orders payable to the BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP, should be sent to the BSFG Treasurer - CHRIS CHIVERS, 51 BOUNDARY ROAD, STREETLY, SUTTON COLDFIELD, WEST MIDLANDS.

This Newsletter has been produced by MARTIN TUPOR, 121 CAFE HILL, SMETHWICK WARLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, B66 4SH. On his brand new Amstrad 256k Personal Computer Word Processor...which although very useful and exceptionally user friendly still takes quite some getting used to when all you've ever used before was a very old and battered Olivetti Tekne 3 typewriter. Which is just another way of apologising for the measly 4 page newsletter you are currently reading...y'see before I'd learnt the basics of this bloody machine my deadline was yet again on top of me!

THE DECEMBER MEETING

== IS THIS YEARS BSFG CHRISMAS PARTY!!

The Christmas Party will be at the *Bacchos* Italian Restaurant in Marston Green on FRIDAY THE 20TH OF DECEMBER. Everyone who has bought their tickets and wishes to be taken to the restaurant by the BSFG BUS should meet outside ANDRONEDA BOOKSHOP at 7.30. PLEASE NOTE THE BUS WILL LEAVE AT 7.45PM no later. We intend to leave the restaurant at about 12pm - and drop people off as near as possible to their homes after the party.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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BOOK REVIEW

THE ICE SCHOONER BY MICHAEL MOORCOCK. (GRAFTON, £1.95, 237 pages.)

REVIEW BY DAVE HARDY.

First, a confession. I read a Michael Moorcock book once. It was many years ago, and perhaps it was the wrong one (I can't even remember the title), but THE ICE SCHOONER is the first I have read since. I must admit that I enjoyed it, so perhaps I've missed a lot - he writes well. Trouble is, I tend to steer away from series, and Moorcock does seem to go for long lists of titles like 'Hawkmoon' or 'Elric'. Anyway this seems to be a one-off.

THE ICE SCHOONER reminded me at first of Alan Dean Foster's ICE RIGGER. But this story is set on a far future Earth gripped by an Ice Age. It was first serialised in 'SF IMPULSE' in 1966, but has been revised in 1977 and 1985, so brings in the Nuclear Winter (or Nuclear Night, as the author calls it) as an explanation. There is plenty of good action, reasonable characterisation, a fair amount of gore and violence in the whaling scenes ('land whales'), some love interest, religion and mysticism. Moorcock has clearly done a lot of research into the rigging and handling of sailing ships: sometimes he goes into a little too much detail and the story gets becalmed. But I found that I was quite engrossed until the last few pages, where the story seems to have been tied off rather hastily - perhaps in the revision. A good read, though.

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ANDROMEDA TOP TEN

- 1) THE LEARY ESTABLISHMENT by DAVID LANGFORD.
- DR. WHO AND THE KROTONS BY TERENCE DICKS.
- 2) JOB BY ROBERT HEINLEIN.
- 3) FIRE PATTERN BY BOB SHAW.
- 4) CROSS THE STARS BY DAVID DRAKE.
- 5) STAIRLESS STEEL RAT IS BORN BY HARRY HARRISON.
- 6) DRAGON'S OF SPRING RISING BY MARGARET REIS & TRACEY HICKMAN.
- 7) REVOLT OF THE GALAXY BY E. E. 'DOC' SMITH.
- 8) MASTER OF THE FIVE MAGICS BY LYNDON HARDY.
- 9) BACK TO THE FUTURE BY GEORGE GIPE.

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PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BSEF PARTY T-SHIRT IS STILL AVAILABLE FROM DAVE HARDY PRICE £4.00. THE SHIRT HAS THE PARTY ILLO PRINTED ON IT IN GREEN AND THE SLEEVES ARE 100% POLYESTER - NOT NYLON, SO THEY WON'T CRACK OR FADE.

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- AUG 22-26 AUSSIECON II. The 43rd World SF Convention will be held at the Southern Cross Hotel, Melbourne, Australia. GoH Gene Wolfe, Fan GoH Ted White. Attending membership ~~A~~ 50. Full details from British agents Joseph Nicholas and Judith Hanna at 22 Denbigh St., Pimlico, London.
- AUG 23-26 ENTERPRISE 1. Star Trek convention in Liverpool. Details from Sharon Rowe. 24 Haywards Close, Clevedon, Avon.
- AUG 30- SEPT 2 NASFIC 85. Or The First Occasional Lone Star SF Con and Chili Cook-Off. The National US SF Con to be held in the Hyatt Regency Austin & Palmer Auditorium, Austin, Texas. GoH Jack Vance. Membership ~~#~~15 supporting, ~~#~~45 attending. Details- NASFIC, Box 9612, Austin TX, 78766, USA.
- SEP 13-15 CAMCON: UNICON 6. New Hall College, Cambridge. Attending membership £7.00 to CAMCON, c/o Neil Taylor, Perspective Design Ltd., Top Floor, 9 Pembroke St., Cambridge, CB2 3QY. Rooms £16.50 per person per night including breakfast and VAT. 'A weekend extravaganza including late bar, bookroom and a program of talks, films, panels, games & much more.'
- SEP 6-8 FANTASYCON X; The Tenth Anniversary British Fantasy Conference. To be held in Birmingham with Charles L. Grant as Master of Ceremonies. For information try writing to Steven Jones & Jo Fletcher at 130 Park View, Wembley, Middx., HA9 6JU.
- OCT 26-27 BENELUXCON 1985. Hotel Nieuw Minerva, Leiden, The Netherlands. Rooms circa f40 per person. Membership f30. GoH Annemarie van Ewyck. Limited to 150 members. Information c/o Roelof Goudriaan, Postbus 1189, 8200 BD Lelystad, The Netherlands.

1986

- FEB MEXICON II. Possibly to be held in Birmingham. Membership £9.00 to Pam Wells, 24A Beech Road, Bowes Park, London, N11.
- AUG 28- SEP 1 CONFEDERATION. 44th World SF Convention, Atlanta GA. GoH Ray Bradbury. Fan GoH Terry Carr, Toastmaster Bob Shaw. Membership - supporting and attending both due to go up from 1st of Jan 1985. Contact CONFEDERATION, 2500 N. Atlanta St., #1986, Smyrna GA 30080, USA.

Convention information collated from ANSIBLE (5 issues for £2.00 from Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks., RG1 5AU.); SMALL MAMMAL (SAE from Martin Easterbrook, 5 Bosworth Rd., Grange Park, Swindon, SN5 6AL.); SPACE VOYAGER (£1.50 from 'any good newsagent'.); SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE (European subscription 1 year ~~#~~27.00 from Andy Porter, PO Box 4175, New York, NY 10163-4175 USA.) and LOCUS (Contact British subscription agent Fantast (Medway) Ltd., PO Box 23, Upwell, Wisbech, CAMBS, PE14 9BU. Also available at Andromeda.)

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DAVE LANGFORD



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ROG IN ACTION



ROBERT P. ER.....  
WARRIS NAME



CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS

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CONVENTION LISTINGS

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1985

- JAN 27 - DRAGONCON 3. The convention will run from 10am to 10pm at The Bull, East Sheen, with guests Anne McCaffrey, Jack Cohen & Peter Morwood. Registration is £7.00 to Richard or Marion van der Voort, AT THE SIGN OF THE DRAGON, 131 Sheen Lane, London, SW14 3AE. All profits to the Church of England Children's Society.
- FEB 15-18 SILICLONE. Scotland's first primarily fannish convention. Venue the Doric Hotel, Edinburgh. Three days of silly games, panels, quizzes, pool, competitions, discos, ceilidhs and the odd serious spot. Registration £4.00 payable to SILICLONE and sent to Jeremy Johnson, 191 Easter Road, Edinburgh, EH6 3LF.
- FEB 1-4 CORFLU 2. Guest of Honour attending member chosen at random. Venue Napa Valley Holiday Inn, Napa CA., USA. \$55 single/double. Memb. supporting \$9.92, attending \$32.12 (incl. banquet). Details from CORFLU, Box 590712, San Francisco CA 94159-0712.
- MAR 22-24 THE DENTON CONVENTION. Rocky Horror con at the Royal Angus, Birmingham. All profits going to the Save the Children Fund. Membership £15.00 to Tony Chester, 28 Balcaskie Rd., Eltham, London.
- MAR 23-24 RISING SUNS. In Manchester. Details from Eric Letherman, 196 Woodlands Road, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, M8 7QH.
- APR 5-8 YORCON III. 36th Annual British Easter SF Convention in Leeds. Attending membership £10.00 (or £12.00 on the door). Hotels the Queens and the Dragonara - rooms £18.00 sng, £15.50 per person twin/double. Fan Guest of Honour Linda Pickersgill, Guest of Honour Greg Benford. Further details from Mike Ford, 45 Harold Mount, Leeds, LS6 1PW.
- APR 17-23 4TH SEMAINE DE LA SF ET L'IMAGINAIRE. In Roanne, France. Details from - Rhone-Alpes SF., Centre Pierre Mendes-France, 12 Avenue de Paris, 42 300 Roanne, France.
- MAY 23-26 ITALCON XI. In Fanano, Italy. Details from Bruno Valle, Via San Pietro 5, I-41035, Rapallo, Italy.
- MAY 25-27 LAZLAR LYRICON 85. Hitch Hiker's con now apparently to be held in Brum at the Strathallan Hotel. Membership £16.50 cheques made payable to zz9 Plural z Alpha and sent to Robert Cogger, 10 Bourne Parade, Bourne Road, Bexley Kent, DA5 1LQ.
- MAY 3-6 SOL 3 85. Star Trek convention in Liverpool. Information from 39 Dersingham Avenue, Manor Park, London, E12 5QF.
- JULY 6-7 NASACON VI. Fannish convention in Stockholm, Sweden, with the theme - Bad Movies. Full details from Lottie Eriksson, Maskinistgatan 9 ob, S-117 47 Stockholm, Sweden.
- JUL 19-22 ALBACON 85. Glasgow's 10th SF convention. Guest of Honours (or even Guests of Honour) Harlan Ellison and Anne McCaffrey. Attending membership £8.00 to Albacon 85, c/o Vincent J. Docherty, 20 Hillington Gdns., Cardonald, Glasgow, G52 2TP.
- JUL 26-28 BECCON 85. GoH Richard Cowper. Membership £8.00 but hotel now fully booked. Details from 191 The Heights, Northolt, Middx.
- AUG 3-4 LEISURE LIVE 2. DR. WHO convention in Swindon. Full details from Tony Cherrington, 2 Domestic Quarters, Bryanston School, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 0PX. (Do not phone.)
- AUG 15-18 SWECON 85. In Stockholm, Sweden. GoH's Chris Priest & Lisa Tuttle. Membership £1.00 supporting, £13.00 attending. Details from Ahrvid Engholm, Maskinistgatan 9 ob, S-117 47 Stockholm Sweden.

PAGE THREE

GROUP NEWS

BOB VERNON, a member of the BSFG for sometime now, will shortly be leaving the Birmingham area, the Committee, on behalf of the Group, wish him the best of luck in his new post. (Oh and Bob don't forget that article you promised me for my fanzine - anytime before February will do!)

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS for 1986 are now invited *in writing*. The post of Newsletter Editor is vacant; all other members of the Committee are standing for re-election. Nominations, with the names of a proposer and seconder, should be sent to the Chairman ROG PEYTON, c/o ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP, 84 SUFFOLK STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1TA by JANUARY 1ST 1986, or handed to Rog at the Christmas Party.

BERNIE EVANS would like to hear from anyone who has a VHS copy of the sixth episode of *THE PLANETS* TV programme. She can be contacted during the evenings at 707 6606 or at the Christmas Party.

THE JANUARY MEETING will be held at the New Imperial Hotel on Friday the 17th and will of course be free of charge, it will also be the AGM, followed, as usual, by one of Mr. Peyton's infamous auctions so it is vitally important that you **BRING BOOKS, FANZINES, MAGAZINES, TAPES, PROGRAMME BOOKS, OR ANY OTHER OLD JUNK** that Rog can sell to raise money for the Group!!!

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OTHER NEWS

1985 WORLD FANTASY AWARDS

The 1985 World Fantasy Awards were given out at the WFA banquet held November 3rd in Tucson. The winners were picked by a panel of judges - Suzy McKee Charnas, Jo Fletcher, George R.R. Martin, Baird Searles, and Terri Windling. All the judges except Searles were present at the convention. The Awards were clearly dominated by the British (as can be seen below) and Steve Jones and Jo Fletcher were unofficially given the 1988 World Fantasy Convention which will be held in conjunction with FANTASYCON the British Fantasy Convention.

**LIFE ACHIEVEMENT** - THODORR STURGEON

**BEST NOVEL (tie)** - ROBERT HOLDSTOCK'S *MYTHAGO WOOD* AND BARRY HUGHART'S *BRIDGE OF BIRDS*.

**BEST NOVELLA** - GEOFF RYMAN'S *THE UNCONQUERED COUNTRY*.

**BEST SHORT STORY (tie)** - SCOTT BAKER'S *STILL LIFE WITH SCORPION* AND ALAN RYAN'S *THE BONES WIZARD*.

**BEST COLLECTION/ANTHOLOGY** - CLIVE BARKER'S *BOOKS OF BLOOD*, VOL. 1-3.

**BEST ARTIST** - EDWARD GOREY. (All the above info is reproduced from the Dec. 1985 issue of Charlie Brown's excellent *LOCUS* - available from ANDROMEDA for £2.50.)

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Our committee has attended many hundreds of cons and worked, at all levels including the top, on scores. And the usual services of the ship include most of what would be gopher work, allowing a smaller committee to more easily give you everything we, and you, want.

\$20 Pre-supporting

\$3 Pre-opposing

For further information, please write:

The 49th Ward Regular Science Fiction Organization  
P. O. Box 268526  
Chicago, IL. 60626

Committee: Neil Rest, Captain; Alexia Hebel, Executive Officer; Hillarie Riley, Human Resources; Jim Huttner, Seth Breidbart, Rose Carlson, Hugh Daniel, Genie DiModica, Yale Edeiken, Mike Farinelli, Bob E. Felske, Mike Glicksohn, Ken Keller, Ken Moore, Ross Pavlac, Peggy Rae Pavlat, Joni Stopa.