

BRUM GROUP NEWS

July
1989

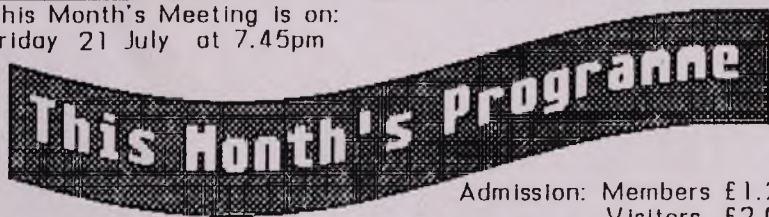
Issue
No.214

The monthly Newsletter of the
BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

(Honorary Presidents: Brian W. Aldiss and Harry Harrison)

1989 Committee: Chairman - Bernie Evans Secretary - Chris Murphy
Treasurer - Chris Chivers Newsletter Editor - Dave Hardy Reviews Editor -
Mick Evans Publicity Officer - Helena Bowles Novacon 19 - Martin Tudor

This Month's Meeting is on:
Friday 21 July at 7.45pm



Admission: Members £1.25
Visitors £2.00

This month's Programme Item is:

From Apollo to *Star Wars*
'Space' in Movie Special Effects

It was on 20 July 1969 that a nail-biting world heard Neil Armstrong's words: "The Eagle has landed!". In Britain it was already 21 July, as those of us who were around sat up all night; so this month's meeting falls exactly on the 20th Anniversary of that day when fiction became fact.

However, this meeting will not consist of dry reminiscing about that day. Using a specially compiled video, Dave Hardy starts by comparing highlights of the first 'serious' film about a Moon-landing, *Destination Moon*, with the real thing (with a musical soundtrack), then goes on to look at other favourite films - notably those made by the famous George Pal, but many others too, with the accent on the development of special effects. Plus an extra item...

The BSFG meets on the third Friday of every month (unless otherwise notified) at the PENGUIN (ex LADBROKE) HOTEL, New Street, Birmingham at 7.45 pm. Subscription rates: £6.00 per person (£9.00 for two members at same address)

Cheques etc. payable to the BSFG, via the Treasurer, c/o the Chairman (below). Book Reviews to Mick Evans at 7 Grove Avenue, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7UY (Telephone 021-707 6606), which is also the Chairman's address. Other contributions and enquiries to Dave Hardy, 99 Southam Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 0AB (telephone 021-777 1802, fax 021-777 2792)

Last Month

Booksellers' Forum

Chris Murphy took the chair (yes, he brought it back) for this unusual and well-attended meeting. First, he asked each member of the panel to say, briefly, how he got into book-selling. Malcolm Smith, of W.H. Smith, has been doing it (selling books) for 15 years. He joined WHS 'to get a chance to read some SF', and has been in Brum for about 18 months. Rog Peyton got into it 'purely by accident'; he had become bored by the building industry, helped people to find rare books, found his bedroom full of boxes - and founded Andromeda.

Simon Redgrave of Waterstone's 'drifted into it'. He was at university in London, and got homesick. Bill Hornby said that he was nearly the oldest and his remarks would be nearly the longest. He had worked for Penguin Books on publicity, for Hudson's and Pentos, and four years ago had opened his own bookshop over New Street Station.

Chris's next questions was 'Is there a particular type of person who buys SF?'; Rog commented that they got their fair share of nutters in the shop (it was uncertain whether he referred to customers or staff). But basically, no - SF readers went right across the board, from 14 to people in their 60's who remember *Amazing*. Bill agreed, adding that SF readers seem more restricted in their choice of reading matter than general fiction readers - they are seldom deflected. Simon has only one *Amazing* buff, and says that SF readers seem to know what they want (usually Eddings or Donaldson at present...). Malcolm commented that the older readers tend to stay with Clarke *et al* (oh, really?), to which Rog and Bill added that they *don't* sell much Clarke unless it is brand new.

From the audience, Chris Morgan asked how a general bookshop can hope to compete with a specialist. There seemed to be general agreement that even the bigger shops cannot - and don't try to - compete with Andromeda's imports. They get casual shoppers, mother and sisters buying presents, etc. - people who have never heard of Andromeda. In the case of WHS they can buy wrapping paper etc. at the same time. On the question

of who buys SF, Bill does better with 'science fantasy' - Pratchett, Eddings - which he says is a growth market, and goes to a public who are not fans of Clarke, Asimov and Heinlein. Young women tend to go for historical/romantic 'Merlin stuff', and don't move across to hard SF with robots etc. Simon sells a lot of Dragonlance books; Moorcock was taken away from the SF shelves and put into general fiction - it was 'too good'!!! Rog said that he can't sell Penguin books: they publish some superb stuff and then ruin it with horrible covers complete with an orange penguin... *Replay* was his best seller for four years - but it was remaindered elsewhere. This shows the value of personal recommendation - as many of us know to our cost!

Do publishers take any notice of booksellers? Bill: 'None!'



(c) New Scientist

NEWSFILE

News and Gossip from the world of SF, including Martin Tudor's celebrated JOPHAN REPORT. If you have any information, don't keep it to yourself - send it in. (This does mean YOU) (Yes - YOU!)

NEWS FROM BRIAN ALDISS

Shooting began on 19 June in Milan on the movie version of Brian Aldiss's 1973 novel *Frankenstein Unbound*. Its Director is Roger Corman, making it the first film he has directed for some 20 years, during which he has been producing for his own companies. It is produced by the Mount Company and distributed worldwide by Warner Brothers. Producer is Thom Mount, one of Corman's proteges.

Corman says that Brian's novel gave him the fresh approach he wanted to make a Frankenstein film - a long-standing ambition. John Hurt plays the time-travelling Joe Buchanan, and the movie is scheduled to be premiered at the 1990 Cannes Film Festival.

Most Brum Group members will agree that it is about time that one of Brian's novels was brought to the big screen. It won't be the last, though: Stanley Kubrick is working on an Aldiss story, and Brian is also writing a six-part series for the British small screen. He is also discussing with Corman plans for a follow up: *Dracula Unbound*..

The publication rights to *Frankenstein Unbound* were available, but have now been bought by NEL in the UK; US rights are being auctioned.

GALE GROANS AND GARGLES

Or something! Kathy Gale, SF Editor at Pan, has landed herself the job of editing their new newsletter, *The Pan Galactic Gargle Blaster*; intended to build up our excitement over their new SF, fantasy and horror list, to reach fever pitch in time for its launch early in 1990.

Among the treats in store are: a trio of major collaborative novels written by genre giants Isaac Asimov and Robert Silverberg, based on Asimov's most popular and enduring short stories (end of quote); Diane Duane's US bestseller *Spock's World*; a major (and very expensive) five-part fantasy series - a dragon saga entitled *Dragon Prince* by newcomer Melanie Rawn, of whom Anne McCaffrey apparently approves; a 'different kind of vampire novel' (no, not *Dracula Unbound*) - Brian Stableford's *Empire of Fear*; a fantasy spoof, *Jason Cosma*, by Dan McGirt; etc., etc.

Kathy says we're welcome to buy her a drink at any of the cons she plans to attend (you can't miss her: she's glamorous, petite, attractive and incredibly dynamic, she says) and hear her talk about the virtues of Pan. Meanwhile, if anyone

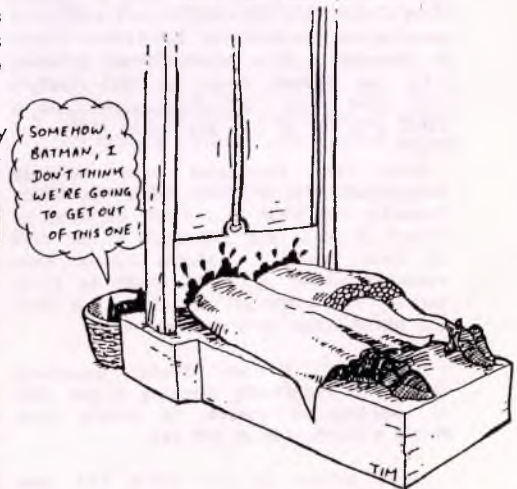
wants to know more, I'll try to remember to bring the *PGGB* to the BSFG next time, and you can read it, if you buy me a drink (?).

ANOTHER MEMBER MAKES A SALE

Steve Jones and Ray Girvan have sold a short story, 'Lord of the Files', to David V. Barrett for the anthology *Digital Dreams*, to be published by Hodder & Stoughton. Who's next?


There is an exhibition entitled 'FROM MOON TO MARS' at Dudley Museum & Art Gallery, St. James's Road, running until 12 August, and of course commemorating the 20th Anniversary of Apollo 11. It's well worth seeing (even if it does contain some work by yours truly).

NEWSFILE is continued over, with THE JOPHAN REPORT >>>>>



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Thanks to Tim Groome for artwork (above), to Martin for his Jophan Report, and to all book reviewers.



THE JOPHAN REPORT #28

Robert Adams, the author of the *Horsecrans* novels, is suffering from lymphatic cancer. He is currently being treated in a hospice in Northern Florida, his position is grave and unlikely to improve. *Science Fiction Chronicle's* sources indicate that "in all probability he has only a few months to live". His medical cover has already been exhausted and his finances have been severely strained by the cost of his medical treatment. As the continuing costs could prove ruinous for both his wife and mother, friends and associates in the SF field are rallying to his aid with auctions and a fund based on voluntary contributions. Donations of cash from concerned fans should be made payable to Robert or Pamela Adams and sent to Michael Banks, PO Box 312, Milford, OH 45150, USA.

THE DARK HALF, the first book in Stephen King's four book contract with Viking, will have a first printing of 1.5 million copies in November. This record (first) printing will be second only to Bill Cosby's nonfiction work *TIME FLIES*, which had a first printing of 1.75 million in 1987.

Book Club Associates have recently bought *KNIGHTS OF DARK RENOWN* by David Gemmell; *THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS* by Robert Heinlein and *STRANGERS & THE MASK* by Dean Koontz. Leisure Circle have recently picked up *NIGHT FEARS* by Clive Barker, *THE WINDS OF ALTAIR* by Ben Bova and *DEATH DREAM* by Graham Masterton.

Macmillan's Collier Books paperback imprint is reportedly starting a new line of reprints of classic SF novels with Philip K Dick's *EYE IN THE SKY*.

Legal action by C.S. Lewis Ltd. has forced the Episcopal Radio-TV Foundation of Atlanta to give up their exclusive film, game and other rights to the Narnia series. Which forced them to cease sales and distribution of their board and computer games. Curtis Brown in London now controls all performing rights to the Narnia books.

PLAN NINE FROM OUTER SPACE will shortly be appearing as a graphic novel from Eternity Comics; I can hardly wait. *Science Fiction Chronicle's* film columnist Ed Naha has recently inflicted a novellization of *GHOSTBUSTERS II* on an unsuspecting public as well as co-writing a Disney film *HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS*, some people have no shame. Universal have several SF/fantasy films in the pipeline, including an animated film of *THE JETSONS* (with pop star Tiffany supplying Janet Jetson's voice). While Jim Belushi and Danny De Vito have been approached to play Fred and Barney in a live action version of *THE FLINTSTONES*.

On the sequel front we have *PSYCHO IV* for television; *EXORCIST: 1990* with George C. Scott as Lt. Kinderman (originally played by the late Lee J. Cobb) and Jason Miller reprises his role as Father Karras (despite the fact he was killed in the original movie); *LOVE AT SECOND BITE* George Hamilton bites again; *HALLOWEEN 5*; *TRANCERS II* and, of course, *FRIDAY THE 13TH, PART VII: JASON IN NEW YORK.....*



Artwork by Roy Barclay, who is about to leave school. More of his work later.



The Moon: 20 Years On

This month we celebrate the 20th year since the first Moon-landing. Perhaps a wake would be more in order? In 1950, Wernher von Braun and a team of writers and artists which included Chesley Bonestell produced a series of articles for *Collier's* magazine, showing how, first, a space station would be placed in Earth-orbit using ferries or shuttlecraft, then ships would be built in orbit to reach the Moon. Also in 1950 the film *Destination Moon* was released. With a script by Robert Heinlein (based very loosely on his *Rocketship Galileo*), this featured a sleek, streamlined, nuclear-powered spaceship and astronomical backgrounds by Chesley Bonestell. For more on this and other space and SF movies do come along to this month's meeting.

The intention was always that, having reached the Moon, we would stay there, building bases and colonies and using it as a stepping-stone to the planets and, eventually, the stars. But we haven't even visited the Moon for 17 years. What happened? One reason for our non-return is of course cost. Each launch cost, in today's terms, a billion dollars, and no country could keep that up. But if NASA had been allowed to pursue its 1970 plans, the cost of a trip to the Moon today could have been less than a Shuttle flight to low orbit. Instead, it even had to allow Skylab, which should have formed the basis for the first US space station, to crash into Australia!

Apollo showed that the Moon can provide oxygen, minerals and metals. Future industry in orbit will get its resources from the Moon, not Earth. But when? Obviously no-one can say, but our best hope may be *Mars*. Some scientists see a base on the Moon, exploiting its resources, as the best way of setting up an expedition to Mars. (Others, Carl Sagan among them, don't, and want to go straight to Mars.) Either way, the US *Freedom* Space Station is the next stage, and Lunar Base should build upon its technologies and support vehicles. Ideally, any Moon or Mars projects should be international.

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

Did you enjoy last month's blank page? Did you even notice it? It was in fact 'Your Page', for which I've been requesting contributions for months (at least). One member did promise me 'something a bit controversial' last month but then chickened out.

Anyway, the point is that this is supposed to be YOUR Newsletter, and I do have more urgent things to fill my time than writing this: I'm supposed to edit, which implies contributions from others. Last year I did manage to get a correspondence page going for a while. We had more pages then, and if there are a lot of reviews there is not always room for extra items; even so, I would like to have material from YOU.

Announcements, complaints, congratulations; reviews of films, TV, videos or books which you have enjoyed (or hated) but weren't provided as a review copy; conreps; reviews of meetings of other societies; even advertisements for items you no longer require but which might interest other members, or wants

Otherwise - expect more blank pages!

Here are this month's contributions:



All books reviewed in these pages by members have been provided by the publishers, who will receive a copy of this Newsletter. Members may keep books reviewed by them (or may donate them as Raffle Prizes, or Auction Items, if feeling generous...) Please keep reviews to under 150 words, unless instructed otherwise. Deadline for reviews: at least 2 weeks before next meeting

THE NEW ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION Ed by James Gunn; Viking; 524 pp; £17.95 H/b. Reviewed by Bernie Evans.

Clearly modelled on Peter Nicholls' Encyclopedia, and acknowledging the debt owed to that publication, this volume unfortunately does not achieve the same high standard. Whilst I could find no obvious errors (apart from the listing of contributors having one page missing and one duplicated), there are several outstanding omissions for a book which effectively purports to take on the task of updating the Nicholls work. British writers Banks, Langford and Evans are not there, in fact the whole work appears to have been written for the US market. Despite these flaws, it is well written and interesting, with separate essays on major topics, which are listed near the front. For the TV/Film buff, there is also a list in the back of entries relating to that area. If you already have the Nicholls, this volume would prove a worthy addition to your reference shelf, if not, then my advice would be to buy that instead of this.

WOMEN AS DEMONS by Tanith Lee; The Womens Press; 272 pages; £4.95 paperback. Reviewed by Steve Jones.

This book has one of the worst covers I have ever seen. After I picked it up and said "Ah! Tanith Lee", three other people who had already passed it over screamed and tried to grab it off me. It is a collection of science fiction, fantasy and horror short stories. In most of them, nasty things happen to people, some of whom even deserve it. Highly recommended.

THE BRIDGE by Iain Banks; Futura; 288 pages; £4.99 paperback. Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.

All of the superlative words available have been used up in describing Iain Banks' earlier works leaving a problem - how to find adequate ways to describe this book. It is an interweaving of the girders of an endless bridge, of lives, of dreams with reality. There are two principal strands; a first person narrator on the bridge who cannot remember his past and who is being treated by dream therapy, and a third person exploration of the relationships of a Scottish engineer. Yet this novel is far more intricate and it is probably impossible to appreciate its complexity in one reading. *The Bridge* is not just a fantasy, it is also literature of the highest quality and demonstrates only a small portion of the breadth of this author's imagination. Each of his books is vibrantly different from his last.

EIASCO by Stanislaw Lem; Orbit; 322 pages; £4.99 paperback. Reviewed by Peter Day.

I found this book rather heavy going. An Earth expedition travels to the alien planet Quinto, which has been putting out radio signals. Upon arrival, however, the Quintans resist all attempts at communication, the Earthmen's efforts to establish contact gradually intensify and the resulting struggle escalates horrendously. Despite this promising scenario the book never really takes off. There is a painfully slow-moving opening chapter, long intrusive passages of background explanation bog down the action, and there are far too many sequences featuring one and two dimensional characters orating lengthily at each other. I thought we'd seen the last of this sort of thing years ago. A fairly powerful story does eventually seep to the surface, with a ferociously ironic climax, but by then it's too late. One for the truly dedicated enthusiasts only, I think.

WIZARD AT LARGE by Terry Brooks; Orbit; 291 pages; £4.99 paperback. Reviewed by Carol Morton.

Ben Holiday is once more ruling Landover peacefully and well. But Questor Thews the non-too-skilled Wizard finally convinces Ben that he can return Abernathy, the court scribe, to his human form, after years earlier accidentally putting him into the body of a dog. The only problem is that to make this spell work, Abernathy will need to wear Ben's medallion which is the symbol of his power. Of course Abernathy disappears with Ben's medallion so they must get him and the medallion back quickly. Unfortunately Abernathy has been transported to Earth and to the castle of the Son of the last Lord of Landover. The son was in cahoots with Meeks to sell Landover to unsuitable clients thus making fortunes for themselves. This should be the last Landover novel and it has proved to be an entertaining trilogy. The stories have been good, the characterization excellent, and on the whole highly recommended.

DREAMS OF STONE by Jonathon Wylie; Corgi; 363 pages; £2.99 paperback.

Reviewed by Carol Morton.

This story takes place fourteen years after the upheaval caused by the defeat of Alzedo by Ferragamo and the Wizards. Such forces were released that many people were killed and there was widespread destruction caused by tidal waves, earthquakes and hurricanes. Now the people fear magic and distrust magic users so much so that there is open hostility towards them, with the result that magic has fallen into disuse. A whole new continent was discovered in the south after these changes, it seems to have a strange effect on those sensitive to magic, it calls them to it. Gemma believes that magic still exists in that land and so journeys there. As with their previous trilogy this first book is a bit slow to start, and is a bit wordy in places. Probably only for those who read the first trilogy.

TRADERS WORLD by Charles Sheffield; N.E.L.; 279 pages; £2.99 paperback.

Reviewed by Dave Hardy.

I had a sense of *déjà vu* as soon as I picked up this book. For the March 1987 issue of *Analog* I did a cover for a short story by Charles Sheffield, 'Traders Cross'. Surely this novel must be developed from that? I thought. But the publisher's credits don't say 'Parts of this book appeared in such-and-such', as one sometimes sees. I don't know whether they are required to do so by law or not, but I do think they have a right to warn readers... The novel itself is episodic, so one does get the impression it is a series of linked stories. The one in *Analog* (there may well be more) starts in chapter 14, on page 194. However, this is excellent SF, with good science, reasonable characterization and some exciting adventures. It takes place in a post-nuclear Earth, where Traders negotiate and act as intermediaries between remaining nations, and follows one young Trader from training school to maturity. Recommended - if you're not an *Analog* reader.

TIME LAPSE by David Nighbert; Headline; 294 pages; £3.50 paperback.

Reviewed by Andy Wright.

Anton Stryker is an assassin in a universe where the rich and powerful can have their consciousness transferred into new modified clone bodies. He is seeking a revolutionary called Tessarian to kill him before he can transfer himself into the body of a warrior clone. Anton also wants revenge, believing Tessarian is responsible for his mother's death. This is pretty run of the mill space opera, with a superhuman hero overcoming all obstacles by guile and brute force. The time machine which gives the book its title doesn't actually appear until the end of the book and serves no real purpose in the plot other than to introduce a rather unoriginal time paradox. Worth a light read if borrowed from a library, but not really worth buying.

A DIFFICULTY WITH DWARVES by Craig Shaw Gardner; Headline; £2.99 paperback.

Reviewed by Carol Morton.

The Demon Guxx Unfufadoo was defeated by Ebenezum in the last trilogy, and exiled from the Netherhells. In revenge, he casts the spell that when using magic Ebenezum will be cursed with sneezes, unfortunately the curse is contagious. Eventually all of the magic users in the city of Vushta contract this curse and Wuntvor, Ebenezum's apprentice, must travel to the Eastern Kingdoms to gain the help of its ruler, Mother Duck. Along the way he meets up with the seven (eight really) 'other' dwarves who were left out of the fairy story. Josh Kirby seems to have the franchise for producing covers for humorous fantasy novels, this one is excellent. The novel however does not reach the same standard, it is pedestrian, unamusing and seems to try to imitate the Master, so I would advise you to stick to the best in Terry Pratchett's novels.

VEIWARE by Rudy Rucker; N.E.L.; 182 pages; £2.50 paperback.

Reviewed by Chris Morgan.

There is a lot of quirky fun to be had from this high-tech cyberpunk novel - if you can work your way through the jargon. What this N.E.L. edition carefully doesn't tell you is that it's a sequel to *Software*, published in the U.K. by Penguin. But don't be put off, you don't need to have read *Software* in order to understand (and enjoy) *Veivare*. The plot is kind of complicated. In 2030 some superintelligent robots living on the Moon build a new kind of human and plant it in the womb of a young woman, Della Taze, whose remarkable baby grows (and grows up) extraordinarily quickly. The whole thing is fast moving with plenty of originality. Being a scientist, Rucker usually hints at how his myriads of technological gimmicks might work.

INFANTA by Louise Cooper; Unwin Hyman; 318 pages; £3.50 paperback.

Reviewed by Carol Morton.

Indigo has killed one demon and journeys in search of the next, her lodestone indicates she must travel to Sihara, her mother's birthplace. As she approaches the city she finds the Takhina and the baby Infanta of Sihara at an oasis. The city has been conquered by the troops of Augon Munnamek. They are captured by a patrol and taken back to Sihara where Indigo becomes the Infanta Jessanin's tutor and friend. Indigo is convinced that Augon Munnamek is the demon but cannot find any evidence to back this up, so she waits. This is by far the best of the books so far published in this saga. The previous two novels were a bit of a slog, but this one has a crisp well-written plot line and Indigo's character is developing apace, one can now feel some sympathy her situation. Highly recommended, but you will have to read volumes one and two first.

HUNTERS MOON by Garry Kilworth; Unwin Hyman; 330 pages; £12.95 hardback.

Reviewed by Tony Morton.

A story of foxes telling the tale of one vixen's life in a changing environment, from woodland to town suburb. O-ha the vixen in question goes through several tragedies - a near fatal fox hunt, losing her mate, her cubs killed, the fear of the vicious dog Sabre; but finds new hope, new friends, a new mate (Canio, an American red fox escapee from a zoo) and a new life. The mythos of fox lore and learning is well worked out, as are the 'characters' in the story and the interaction of different species - in particular the attitude of man to the wildlife (and the environment). Kilworth has portrayed a vivid, realistic picture of a foxes existence - the bleakness as well as the euphoria - and, while not SF, an enjoyable read.

BARE BONES: Conversations on Terror with Stephen King edited by Tim Underwood and Chuck Miller;

N.E.L.; 217 pp; £10.95 h/b.

Reviewed by Chris Morgan.

It's difficult to think of a contemporary author other than Stephen King with sufficient popular appeal and strong enough views to make a collection of interviews worth publishing. There are extracts here from 27 interviews, conducted by various people (none of them the editors!) between 1979 and 1986. Unfortunately, there's only about sixty pages of good, reprintable material; the rest is duplication or rubbish. For example, King's reactions to the film versions of *Carrie* and *The Shining* are given more times than I bothered to count, while in the section where King and his sometime collaborator, Peter Straub, are interviewed together, King comes across like a 14 year old. Despite all the defects there is some fascinating material, most of it from a 1983 *Playboy* interview. King fans will quickly discover that his interview answers are less grabbing than his fiction. This is clearly a volume for the completist to buy - and then leave unread.

THE BROKEN CITADEL by Joyce Ballou Gregorian; Futura Orbit; 331 pp; £4.99 p/back.

Reviewed by Chris Morgan.

With so many awful fantasy trilogies being published it's a great relief to find one that's well written and worth reading. Sibby is an 11 year old girl in contemporary Massachusetts who is magically transported to another world (at about a Renaissance level of technology) where Tredana is at war with freclere. She quickly meets Prince Leron of Tredana and is soon embroiled in the political and armed struggle. Not only is this first volume very stylishly written, it is exceedingly complex (lots of characters, lots of events) and set against a very convincing background. There is a feeling of historical romance about all of this, with plenty of drama (reversals of fortune occur in every chapter). At the same time, there is symbolic depth, with clever use made of a set of tarot-type cards. A list of characters and a decent map would have been helpful.

THE GOLD COAST by Kim Stanley Robinson; Futura; 389 pages; £6.99 If paperback.

Reviewed by Wendell Wagner Jr.

This fascinating novel is set mostly in Orange County (just south of Los Angeles) around the year 2050 and concerns the activities of unscrupulous military contractors and urban terrorists. The characters are all sharply drawn, and it's clear that Robinson has done his research well in the workings of defence contractors. What this isn't though is a reasonable projection of the future. Southern California can't get this crowded, even with electric cars, because the entire ecological system would collapse first, and the defence establishment in the US can't get this large, the American economy would collapse. I suspect that Robinson wanted to make a lot of (very valid) points about the futility of the Strategic Defence Initiative Programme (Star Wars) and knew he could only get it published as a novel. Still, this book is well worth reading.

AIRSHOW by Philip Castle; Paper Tiger; 141 pages; £8.95 softcover.

Reviewed by Dave Hardy.

This is a large format Art book - a sequel to *Airflow* which came out in 1990. Strictly speaking, it doesn't have much to do with science fiction; Castle is an airbrush wizard, and his illustrations are of beautiful women, old cars, futuristic cars, aircraft (also old and new), Churchill, Hitler, Maggie Thatcher... But the style is certainly appropriate, and it is perhaps surprising that he has not done more 'real' science fiction work (there is the odd robot and spaceship, and Castle is of course famous for his 'Spock ears' poster for Heineken). A must for art-lovers.

THE MEN IN THE JUNGLE by Norman Spinrad; Grafton; 316 pages; £3.50 paperback.

Reviewed by Tony Morton.

Blood, gore, cannibalism, lots of killing, torture, oh, and a story. The story revolves around three characters escaping from a 'take over' to pastures new. They chose Sangre. This is a planet having no contact with the rest of humanity for the past two hundred years (and so easier to populate?). On landing Faden, Sophia and Vanderling create a revolution to take over and become the new leaders - but it ain't that easy; back to the blood, gore, cannibalism, etc... There's possibly a good story in here (?) but while this isn't it, the easy use of 'lost planet' as basis spoils what characterisation there is. Avoid unless you like blood, gore, cannibalism, lots of killing, etc, etc....