

BRUM GROUP NEWS

April 1995

Issue 283

*The monthly newsletter of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group
(Honorary Presidents: Brian W Aldiss, Harry Harrison & Bob Shaw)*

GROUP CHAIRMAN - CAROL MORTON, SECRETARY - ANNE WOODFORD, NEWSLETTER EDITOR - MARTIN TUDOR,
TREASURER - STEVE JONES, PUBLICITY OFFICER - SARAH FREAKLEY, ORDINARY MEMBER - ALAN WOODFORD,
NOVACON 25 CHAIRMAN - TONY MORTON, NOVACON 26 CHAIRMAN - CAROL MORTON.

This month's guest is:

STORM CONSTANTINE

who will address the Group

on Friday 21st April 1995, 7.45 for 8.00pm

Admittance: Members £2.50 Visitors £3.75
(half-price for 14-18 year olds on production of proof of age).

Born in England on 12th October 1956, 'Storm Constantine' (initially a pseudonym, now used for all purposes) was educated at Stafford Girls' High School (1966-71) and Stafford Art College (1971-72), she has been a Finance Officer in Staffordshire since 1990. Her best known work to date is the 'Wraeththu' series, comprised of *THE ENCHANTMENTS OF FLESH AND SPIRIT* (1987), *THE BEWITCHMENTS OF LOVE AND HATE* (1988) and *THE FULFILMENTS OF FATE AND DESIRE* (1989). *THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SF* describes the Wraeththu series as following "the rise of a hermaphroditic race from men, who take possession of a post-holocaust Earth, devastated by war and pollution." Adding that the "books focus on the question of whether the Wraeththu mystically aware and symbolically balanced between male and female yet frequently fascinated by violence and destruction, will prove to be any better than the humans they replace." Her other work, which includes *THE MONSTROUS REGIMENT* (1990) and its sequel *ALEPH* (1991), *HERMETECH* (1991), *BURYING THE SHADOW* (1992) and *CALENTURE*, gives equal weight to science and pagan magic and is, as the *ENCYCLOPEDIA* says, "vigorous, erotic, highly visual, aesthetically informed by a late punk/Goth sensibility, and linguistically shaped by an unusual fusion of intensely contemporary slang and ritualistic 'High Style'". Storm's next novel, *STALKING TENDER PREY*, is due out from Penguin's new genre line Creed in November 1995.

The BSFG meets at 7.45pm on the 3rd Friday of every month (unless otherwise notified) in the upstairs Function Room of the Australian Bar, corner of Hurst Street and Bromsgrove Street in Birmingham city centre. The annual subscription rates (which include twelve copies of this newsletter and reduced price entry to meetings) are £10.00 per person, or £13.50 for 2 members at the same address. Cheques etc. should be made payable to "the Birmingham Science Fiction Group" and sent to the Treasurer, Steve Jones, c/o 121 Cape Hill, Smethwick, Warley, West Mids., B66 4SH. Book reviews, review copies and other contributions and enquiries regarding the Brum Group News to: Martin Tudor, Newsletter Editor, 845 Alum Rock Road, Birmingham, B8 2AG.

COLOPHON

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All text by Martin Tudor except where stated otherwise. This publication was printed on the CRITICAL WAVE photocopier. For details of WAVE's competitive prices contact: Martin Tudor, 845 Alum Rock Road, Ward End, Birmingham, B8 2AG.

Many thanks this issue to BERNIE EVANS for producing the address labels, RICHARD JAMES for his video reviews, STEVE GREEN, CRITICAL WAVE and WHAT'S ON for the news in the Jophan Report and Events listing and TONY BERRY for the use of his spare room.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

7-13 APRIL 1995: *THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION* adapted from the story by Stephen King, directed by Frank Darabont, starring Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman, Bob Gunton. At the Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry. Call 01203 524524.

10-11 APRIL 1995: *BLADERUNNER - THE DIRECTOR'S CUT* showing at the Castle, Wellingborough from 7.30pm, tickets £2.00. Contact: The Castle, Castle Way, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 1XA or phone the Box Office on 01933 270007.

14-17 APRIL 1995: *CONFABULATION* 46th UK National sf con at the Britannia International Hotel, London. GoHs Lois McMasters Bujold, Bob Shaw and Roger Robinson. Attending £25.00 was until 31 March 1995, lots more on the door. Contact: Confabulation, 3 York Street, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 9QH.

17 APRIL 1995: *ALIEN*, *ALIENS* and *ALIEN 3* showing at the Castle, Wellingborough from 2pm, tickets £2.00 per film or £5.00 for all three. Contact: The Castle, Castle Way,

Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 1XA or phone the Box Office on 01933 270007.

19 APRIL: CLIVE BARKER will be signing at Waterstones in Birmingham, from 1pm.

21 APRIL 1995: STORM CONSTANTINE author of the 'Wraeththu' series will be interviewed by Carol Morton at the Brum Group meeting, upstairs room at the Australian Bar, Hurst Street/Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, 7.45pm for 8.00pm.

28-30 APRIL 1995: *SHALLOW GRAVE* black comedy directed by Danny Boyle, starring Kerry Fox, Christopher Eccleston and Ewan McGregor. At the MAC Cinema, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham. Call 0121 440 3838.

24-27 APRIL 1995: *SILENT TONGUE* supernatural Western, directed by Sam Shepard and starring River Phoenix (the last film he completed), Richard Harris and Alan Bates. At the Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry. Call 01203 524524.

29 APRIL 1995: *COMIC MART* at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham. Opens noon. Contact: Golden Orbit, 9 Stratford Way, Huntington, York, YO3 9YW.

29-30 APRIL 1995: *BABCOM '95 BABYLON 5* event from Stargazer Productions (who organised the Generations event at the Albert Hall), NEC, Birmingham. Guests (all subject to work commitments) are Claudia Christian (Cmdr Ivanova), Peter Jurasik (Ambassador Londo), J Michael Straczynski (creator of B5) and OPTIC NERVE (make-up, sfx on B5). Att. PER DAY £8.50 standing, £15.00 rear arena, £20.00 middle arena, £25.00 front arena. Further information from 22 Reindeer Court, City Centre, Worcester, WR1 2DA, or credit card bookings on 01905-613005.

2-3 MAY 1995: *THE TEMPEST* a new print of this condensation of Shakespeare's text directed by Derek Jarman, starring Toyah Wilcox, Heathcote Williams, Karl Johnson. At the MAC Cinema, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham. Call 0121 440 3838.

6-7 MAY 1995: *MEMORABILIA '95* Roadshow and Fair in the Pavilion at the NEC, Birmingham. Comics, sf, film memorabilia. Call Made in Heaven on 01462 683965 for details.

7-9 MAY 1995: *BLADE RUNNER: THE DIRECTOR'S CUT* directed by Ridley Scott, starring Harrison Ford, James Olmos, Daryl Hannah. At the MAC Cinema, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham. Call 0121 440 3838.

19 MAY 1995: BOB SHAW, an honorary president of the BSFG, will speak to the group in the upstairs room at the Australian Bar, Hurst Street/Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, 7.45pm for 8.00pm.

23 MAY 1995: *THE NEMESIS THEORY* what killed the dinosaurs? The implications and consequences for the human race of living in an

uncontrollable cosmos - a lecture by Derek Behrens, 1pm at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham. Admission free, part of the Handford Science Lectures 1994-5. Call (0121) 236 3591.

31 MAY - 3 JUNE 1995: **RUDYARD KIPLING'S JUNGLE BOOK** a new live-action version of the classic tale directed by Stephen Sommers, starring Jason Scott Lee, Lena Headey, Cary Elwes, John Cleese. At the MAC Cinema, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham. Call 0121 440 3838.

16 JUNE 1995: **COLIN GREENLAND**, author of **TAKE BACK PLENTY** and the sequel **SEASONS OF PLENTY** (HarperCollins, £15.99), will speak to the Brum Group in the upstairs room at the Australian Bar, Hurst Street/Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, 7.45pm for 8.00pm. (To be confirmed.)

17 JUNE 1995: **COMIC MART** at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham. Opens noon. Contact: Golden Orbit, 9 Stratford Way, Huntington, York, YO3 9YW.

8-9 JULY 1995: **SPACESCAPES '95**. "Extravaganza" at the NEC, Birmingham. No further details available.

3 AUGUST - 7 SEPTEMBER 1995: **LORD OF THE FLIES** the world premiere of Nigel Williams stage adaptation of William Golding's classic tale, directed by Elijah Moshinsky. At The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon. Call: 01789 295623.

24-28 AUGUST 1995: **INTERSECTION**, 53rd world-con, Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow. Guests of honour Samuel R Delany, Gerry Anderson, Vint Clarke. Attending £80.00 until 18 April (then rising to £90.00 until 22 July after which advance memberships close and it will cost £100.00 on the door). Contact: Admail 336, Glasgow, G2 1BR, Scotland.

3-5 NOVEMBER 1995: **NOVACON 25** the Brum Group's own science fiction convention at a new venue - the Chamberlain Hotel, Alcester Street, Birmingham. Guests of Honour: Brian W Aldiss, Harry Harrison and Bob Shaw, with Special Guest Iain Banks. Attending membership is £25.00 until Easter 1995. Supporting membership costs £8.50. Progress Report #2 and hotel booking forms are available, deadline for hotel bookings is 20th July 1995. Contact **CAROL MORTON**, 14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 8SS, cheques should be made payable to "Novacon 25". Room rates are now only £17.50 per person per night in twin/double and £35.00 pppn in a single, prices include full English breakfast.

5-8 APRIL 1996: **EVOLUTION** 47th UK National Convention, the Radisson Edwardian Hotel at Heathrow. Guests of honour: Colin Greenland, Bryan Talbot, Jack Cohen. Attending £20.00,

supporting £12.00 until 18th April 1995. Contact: 13 Lindfield Gardens, Hampstead, London, NW3 6PX.

29 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER 1996: **LACON III** 54th World SF Convention, Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim Hilton and Towers and Anaheim Marriott, California, USA. Guests: James White, Roger Corman, Elsie Wollheim, Connie Willis (Toastmaster), Takumi and Sachiko Shibano (Fan Guests of Honour). Attending \$90.00 until 30 June 1995, then \$110.00. Supporting \$30.00, then \$35.00. Contact: c/o SCIFI, PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409, USA.

3-5 SEPTEMBER 1997: **LONESTARCON** 55th World SF Convention, San Antonio, Texas, USA. Attending was \$65.00. Contact: PO Box 27277, Austin, TX 78755-2277, USA.

27 DEC 1999 - 2 JAN 2000: **MILLENNIUM**. Venue to be announced, but definitely in Northern Europe (probably a BeNeLux country or UK), £3.00 (f10.00) per year, to be deducted from eventual membership fee (to be announced before 1997). Contact: Malcolm Reid, 186 Casewick Road, West Norwood, London, SE27 0SZ.

Although details are correct to the best of my knowledge, I advise readers to contact organizers prior to travelling. Always enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope when writing to any of the above contact addresses. Please mention the BRUM GROUP NEWS when replying to listings or advertisements. If you know of any events which you think may be of interest to members of the BSF& please send details to the Editor. If you have attended any events or seen any films or videos that you would like to recommend to other members (or warn them of) please feel free to write a report/review and send it to the editorial address.

VIDEO REVIEWS

ABRAXAS

Cert. 15

Reviewed by Richard James

Hmmm... got this one out of the video shop as I thought I had heard of it. After watching it, I didn't recall anyone telling me about this flick, so I tried the dictionary. The better read amongst you will be well ahead of mere mortals like me:

Abraxas n. a mystic word, or a gem engraved therewith, often bearing a mystical figure of combined human and animal form, used as a charm. Origin second century Egypt.

That is about the most interesting thing

to say about this film, but if you really want to know....

The plot, lone maverick future galactic cop is pursuing his former partner-turned-rogue, who is after ultimate power. ETPD ends up on Earth, the chase involving a mother and child and generally wreaks havoc upon a small American town.

It has its brief and infrequent moments, but the pace is generally slow, the dialogue laughable without being funny and the action sequences contain no real detail and take place to quickly. There is little drama, little tension and it doesn't even have spectacular stunts to fall back on.

Reviewer rating: not quite a turkey, but ultimately unsatisfying.

GHOST IN THE MACHINE

Cert 18

Reviewed by Richard James

Okay, this one is much better than ABRAXAS. It stars Karen Allen as a single parent who is being pursued by a serial killer, only this guy died in hospital but managed to get into the computer network.

I liked this film, the different scenes were nicely imagined and the tension maintained at a low level as you wondered what was going to happen next. Possibly not the sort of film to watch if you are at all paranoid about how much control computers have in the running of our day to day lives. If you are squeamish about domestic accidents, there are a couple of messy ones here: some good shots though of some of the hazards that you can find in the home.

I would rate this film as mildly spooky, with good pacing and action. The only thing I'm not sure of is why it gets an '18' certificate. There is no sex, less blood and violence than your average Bond film and precious little swearing. Could it be that computer and computer game companies didn't want young and valuable customers put off?

STOP PRESS

THE BIRMINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY invites everyone who is interested to their meeting on Tuesday 25 April entitled "The Aftermath of the Impact". This will be in Room 138 at Aston University, from 7.30pm. Call Andrew Huskinson on 0121 384 7541 for further details.

JOPHAN REPORT #84

Joyce Slater, who died following a heart attack on 27 February, was well known to British conventions as the partner of book dealer Ken Slater. I'm sure I speak for the Group as a whole in offering sympathy to Ken and his family.

TO BATHE IN LIGHTNING is the latest novel from Birmingham based author Anne Gay; to be published simultaneously in hardback and paperback by Orbit on 6 July.

LUNCHING WITH THE ANTICHRIST by Michael Moorcock is an exclusive new American collection from Mark Ziesing Books containing previously uncollected and/or revised stories. In trade hardcover or signed, limited, slip-cased editions, £15.00 and £36.00 respectively. Contact: D J Rowe, 18 Laurel Bank, Truss Hill Road, South Ascot, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 9AL.

Interested in DR WHO? Contact Roger Clark at 161 Dangerfield Lane, Darlaston, Wednesbury, Staffs., WS10 7RU. As from 5 May 1995 he will be holding meetings in the upstairs room of the Australian Bar on the first Friday of each month.

Jamie Hewlett and Alan Martin's popular DEADLINE comic strip "Tank Girl" reaches the big screen in May, starring Lori Petty in the title role as the post-apocalyptic virago with a yen for kangaroos (replacing Emily Lloyd, who quit shortly after filming began). Directed by Rachel Talalay, whose step-daughter's enthusiasm for the series sparked her own involvement, the MGM/UA film also features Ice T, Iggy Pop and Malcolm McDowell, with Hewlett's input as production designer.

Vertigo's comic adaptation of the TANK GIRL film is written by Pete Milligan and illustrated by newcomer Andy Pritchett, with a painted cover by John Bolton. The new TANK GIRL four-part series, "The Odyssey", written by Pete Milligan and illustrated by co-creator Jamie Hewlett will be released in April.

A new fanzine devoted to Douglas Adams, THE HITCH-HIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY and other sf comedy is currently being prepared. If you are interested in writing articles, doing artwork (preferably on the work of Adams), have a suitable "Douglas Adamsey" title to offer or any other feedback and/or ideas please contact: Steve Jones, 307 Gillott Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 0RT. Steve

would also like to hear from anyone who has a set of NME's "The Stars My Degradation" by Curt Vile (aka Alan Moore).

London-based comics publisher Knockabout plans to contest the seizure of 500 copies of Robert Crumb's MY TROUBLES WITH WOMEN by customs officials in January. As well as this collection by the creator of Fritz the Cat, originally released in the UK in 1990 without obstacle, officers also confiscated copies of an edition of ZAP and guides to growing marijuana.

Knockabout is no stranger to the courts. In 1984, owners Tony and Carol Bennett were prosecuted for importing drug-related books and comics; Duncan Campbell, Alan Moore, Steve Bell and Hunt Emerson were among those who contributed to a hardback anthology to raise funds for their defence.

The March edition of GQ featured "Ultra Girl and Catgirl", a short story by Jeff Noon set in the same society as his Clarke Award-winning debut novel VURT and its sequel, POLLEN (Ringpull Press).

Terry Pratchett's children's fantasy JOHNNY AND THE DEAD is being reissued in Corgi paperback on 6 April, to tie with a four-part adaptation on ITV. The novel, which was partially dramatised in 1993 when Pratchett was profiled in LWT's OPENING SHOT series, will also be released on audiotape, read by Tony Robinson.

Pratchett will be signing copies of SOUL MUSIC (Corgi, £4.99) and JOHNNY AND THE DEAD (Corgi, £3.99) from 1pm on 13 May at Forbidden Planet, 71 New Oxford Street, London, WC1A.

Veteran fanwriter Terry Jeeves has announced the demise of his quarterly fanzine ERG with issue 128, cover-dated January; it would have celebrated its thirty-sixth birthday in April. Jeeves blames lack of response, citing the seven letters received after #127: "I'm not gaffiating, just quitting a losing game."

The London-based mail order company Delectus Books moves into publishing this month with the release of Charles Nodier's LORD RUTHVEN AND THE VAMPIRES, translated from the 1820 edition by Paul Buck, and Alfred H Bill's THE WOLF IN THE GARDEN, a facsimile of the 1931 original. Both are appearing as £14.99 hardbacks, with cover photography by REDEEMER editor Nigel Wingrove.

LEVIATHAN is a new annual paperback anthology, to be distributed through independent bookstores and Barnes & Nobles superstores, with a projected initial circulation of 1500. Editors Jeff VanderMeer and Luke O'Grady will consider submissions for volume one, "Into the Grey", until 31 June.

The pair are seeking "journeys into the unknown", external or internal, length up to 10,000 words, with a flat rate of US\$100.00 upon acceptance; simultaneous submissions are acceptable, but not reprints. Further details can be obtained from PO Box 4248, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA (enclose IRCs for a reply); or via e-mail from jeffvan@freenet.fsu.edu.

POETRY NOW's Kerrie Pateman is collaborating with Pete "Cardinal" Cox (Peterborough-based sf fan and a member of genre band Sonic Energy Authority) on an anthology of science fiction poetry, with royalties donated to Talking Books for the Blind.

Meanwhile, the Authority is taking time from work on its next compilation cassette to celebrate its second fictional incarnation, as characters in Robert Rankin's RAIDERS OF THE LOST CAR PARK. "The worry is, though," confided keyboard player Paul Preston, "someone will do us in a masquerade at a con. And do us better than we can do ourselves."

For those who prefer the real thing, two tracks by Sonic Energy Authority appear on MAGGOTS IN MY EYES, the horror side of Andy Savage's sixteenth SUPER TROUPER anthology cassette; copies cost £2.50 from 41 Salmon Street, Sheffield, S11 8DD, which is also the address for contributions ("we use songs, poems, comedy sketches, short reviews and interviews").

SET PIECE, Kate Orman's second novel in Virgin's "DR WHO: the New Adventures" series, ends with the departure of the timelord's companion Ace. To mark the occasion, there's an afterword by actress Sophie Aldred, who played Ace until the tv show's cancellation in 1990.

Hilary Bailey joined the sequel production line with her eleventh novel, FRANKENSTEIN'S BRIDE, published in January as a £12.99 Simon & Schuster hardback. Exploring the original plans of Mary Shelley's anti-hero to construct a female companion for his "monster", the book opens in 1826, 10 years after Shelley was inspired by nightmare to create her protagonists and at least three decades after the events she described.

For those who prefer the original novel, Leonard Wolf has revised his 1977 work THE ANNOTATED FRANKENSTEIN into THE ESSENTIAL

FRANKENSTEIN (Plume, £8.99), focussing upon the lesser-known 1818 edition. The revised 1831 edition, on the other hand, is reprinted in THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF FRANKENSTEIN (Robinson, £5.99), together with thematically linked fiction by Robert Bloch, Paul J McAuley, Ramsey Campbell, Karl Edward Wagner and others; it's edited by Stephen Jones, author of THE ILLUSTRATED FRANKENSTEIN MOVIE GUIDE (Titan).

DREDD LIVES! is a new fanzine for followers of Mega City One's stone-jawed lawman. For further details, send a reply-paid envelope to Matthew Webb at Littledown, Lower Sandy Down, Boldre, Hants, SO41 8PP.

Simon & Schuster marked the launch of the fourth STAR TREK tv series with VOYAGER, a novelization by L A Graf of the pilot episode, to be followed this month by an original ST:V novel written by Peter David. Meanwhile, with STAR TREK: GENERATIONS barely out, D M Flinn's sequel to the previous movie will be published in June, whilst the novelization of "All Good Things...", the feature-length NEXT GENERATION swansong, is due out in April, one month after K W Jeter's WARPED is honoured as the first DEEP SPACE NINE hardback release.

London-based fan Rob Hansen joins the ranks of those TransAtlantic Fan Fund winners who've actually published a report of their adventures with ON THE TAFF TRAIL, an account of his 1994 trip to Los Angeles; for further details, contact him at 144 Plashet Grove, East Ham, London, E6 1AB (e-mail: avedone@cix.compulink.co.uk). No word yet, though, from fellow Brit victors Kevin Smith (1982), Greg Pickersgill (1986) or Pam Wells (1992).

Alistair Peters' debut novel, GERONIMUS REX, was published as a £6.99 paperback by Janus in February. Set in the fantasy kingdom of Merrivale, the narrative follows a princess' quest to quell a dragon's fury in a time of war.

The Melbourne event Concinnity spent the closing months of 1994 compiling a resource book on sf fandom and the genre in general, to be distributed free to members in January and sold afterwards in aid of UNICEF. Further information can be obtained from Ali Kayn at GPO Box 972G, Melbourne, VIC 3001, Australia (e-mail: 70302.3271@compuserve.com).

The controversial comics series "Reverbstorm" continues in the ninth edition of LORD

HORROR (Savoy, £3.50); David Britton provides the script, John Coulthart and Monstero Guidio the graphics.

Tim Burton, director of BEETLEJUICE, EDWARD SCISSORHANDS and THE LAST NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS (the latter receiving its UK and Australian releases a full year after it played to US audiences), examines his own career in BURTON ON BURTON, released by Faber and Faber as a £14.99 hardback in February.

Des Lewis, Shaun Jeffrey and Rhys Hughes will be among the writers showcased in the seventh issue of Adam Bradley's BLACK TEARS (£1.75 from 28 Treaty Street, Islington, London, N1 0SY). Bradley's feeling justifiably pleased at the moment - Nicholas Royle's "Ronald Dole and the Art of the Short Story" and David Logan's "Thirteen and Deadly", which both appeared in BL#2, received honorable mentions in the 1993 volume of THE YEAR'S BEST FANTASY AND HORROR.

Underwood Miller, the American small press imprint founded by editors Tim Underwood and Chuck Miller, has been amicably dissolved. Two new companies take its place: Underwood Books, based in California, and a new publishing house under the name of Charles F Miller.

Damien Broderick's THE ARCHITECTURE OF BABEL: DISCOURSES OF LITERATURE AND SCIENCE has been published as a \$19.95 softback by Melbourne University Press. "Readers frightened of what timid folks call 'big words' might wish to avoid this one," Broderick told the Australasian newszine THYME, "which is chockablock with semiotic and poststructural discussions of the two cultures." More accessible may be READING BY STARLIGHT: POST-MODERN SCIENCE FICTION, scheduled for US/UK release by Routledge.

Broderick, who's received a \$30,000 one-year fellowship from the Australian government's Literature Board to fund his next novel ("God bless Mr Keating"), has meanwhile completed a radio play commission for ABC Audio Arts (which also commissioned a play from fellow author Lucy Sussex).

Copies of small press comics featuring work by artists Jeremy Dennis and Damian Cugley can be ordered through their own outlet, Alleged Literature, at 255B Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7HN. They also handle distribution of QZ, a quarterly update on fanzines/comics with a gay/feminist theme; £1.00 will cover a year's subscription.

In an effort to preserve past fanzines from the forces of nature and indifference, Greg Pickersgill has launched Memory Hole, redistributing copies back out to interested fans. A number of fanzines are already available, some dating back to the 1940s, with the sole charge being postage.

A continual stream of donations is vital to the project's success, with carriage paid or collection arranged as required. Enquiries should be forwarded to 3 Bethany Road, Narberth Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 2XG (01437-769671; fax 01437-769881).

John Clute and John Grant's fantasy fiction companion to Clute and Peter Nicholls' acclaimed ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION joins Gene Roddenberry's rejected storyline for the first STAR TREK movie and Shaun Hutson's latest thriller in the publishing schedules for 1995.

This month's releases include: THE HAMMER OF GOD by Arthur C Clarke (Orbit, £5.99); TEMPORARY AGENCY by Rachel Pollack (Orbit, £4.99); LUCY'S CHILD by Shaun Hutson (Orbit, tbc); WHITE GHOST by Shaun Hutson (Orbit, tbc); DARKNESS, I by Tanith Lee (Orbit, tbc); THE ART OF STAR WARS, RETURN OF THE JEDI by Lawrence Kasdan, George Lucas, etc (Titan, £17.99); STAR TREK VI SEQUEL by D M Flinn (Simon & Schuster, £4.50); STAR TREK, VOYAGER £2 (Simon & Schuster, £4.50); STAR TREK DS9, VALHALLA by Nathan Archer (Simon & Schuster, £4.50); STAR FLEET ACADEMY DATA £2 by Michael Jan Friedman (Simon & Schuster, £2.99).

May releases include: LEFT TO HIS OWN DEVICES BY Mary Gentle (Orbit, £4.99); BATMAN, KNIGHTSEND by Doug Moench, Alan Grant, Dennis O'Neil, etc (Titan, £9.99); THE MAKING OF TANK GIRL by Frank Wynne (Titan, £7.99); STAR TREK TNG COMPANION by Larry Nemecek (Simon & Schuster, £12.99); STAR TREK TNG, DRAGON'S HONOUR by Kij Johnson (Simon & Schuster, £4.50).

June releases include: FEERSUM ENDJINN by Iain M Banks (Orbit, £6.99); THE SHIP WHO WON by Anne McCaffrey, Jody Lynn Nye (Orbit, £5.99); OTHER LANDS by Jonathan Wylie (Orbit, £14.99); OTHERNESS by David Brin (Orbit, £5.99); ENIGMA by Peter Milligan, Duncan Fegredo (Titan, £5.99); STAR TREK DS9, DEVIL IN THE SKY by Cox, Bentacourt (Simon & Schuster, £4.50); STAR TREK DS9, THE ARCADE by Diana Gallagher (Simon & Schuster, £2.99); STAR TREK TNG, CROSSOVER by Michael Jan Friedman (Simon & Schuster, £9.99);

July releases include: CHORUS SKATING by Alan Dean Foster (Orbit, £4.99); THE MAGIC ENGINEER by L E Modesitt Jr (Orbit, £5.99);

THE BLACK DRAGON by Chris Claremont, John Bolton (Titan, £8.99); STAR TREK TNG, Q-SQUARED by Peter David (Simon & Schuster, £4.99); STAR TREK, FIRST FRONTIER by Diane Carey (Simon & Schuster, £4.50).

August releases include: STAR TREK, 1996 CALENDAR (Simon & Schuster, £5.99); STAR TREK TNG, 1996 CALENDAR (Simon & Schuster, £5.99); STAR TREK DS9, 1996 CALENDAR (Simon & Schuster, £5.99); STAR TREK, VOYAGER, 1996 CALENDAR (Simon & Schuster, £5.99); STAR TREK DS9, FIELD TRIP by John Peel (Simon & Schuster, £2.99); STAR TREK TNG, INTO THE NEBULA by Gene DeWeese (Simon & Schuster, £4.50).

September releases include: THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FANTASY, edited by John Clute, John Grant (Orbit, £30.00); DJINN RUMMY by Tom Holt (Orbit, £14.99); ODDS AND GODS by Tom Holt (Orbit, £4.99); TO THE STARS by George Takei (Simon & Schuster, £4.99); STAR TREK DS9, STATION RAGE by Diane Carey (Simon & Schuster, £4.50); THE ART OF STAR TREK by Garfield and Judith Reeves-Stevens (Simon & Schuster, £9.99).

October releases include: RAMA REVEALED by Arthur Clarke (Orbit, £5.99); STAR TREK, CAPTAIN SULU (Simon & Schuster, £4.50); STAR TREK, VOYAGER £3 (Simon & Schuster, £4.50); STAR TREK TNG, BEHIND THE SCENES by Garfield and Judith Reeves-Stevens (Simon & Schuster, £tbc); STAR TREK DS9, CLIFFANGER (Simon & Schuster, £4.50); STARFLEET ACADEMY PICARD £1 (Simon & Schuster, £2.99).

November releases include: STAR TREK TNG, BLUEPRINTS by Rick Sternback (Simon & Schuster, £tba); STAR TREK TNG, THE LAST STAND by Brad Ferguson (Simon & Schuster, £4.50).

December releases include: STAR TREK, THE GOD THING by Gene Roddenberry (Simon & Schuster, £9.99); STAR TREK FEDERATION by Garfield and Judith Reeves-Stevens (Simon & Schuster, £4.99); STAR TREK DS9, THE LAERTIAN by Robert Shekley (Simon & Schuster, £4.50); STAR TREK, VOYAGER £4 (Simon & Schuster, £4.50); STAR FLEET ACADEMY PICARD £2 by Brad Strickland (Simon & Schuster, £2.99).

The H G Wells Society will host "The Time Machine: Past, Present and Future" at London's Imperial College on 26-29 July. Full details are available from Patrick Parrinder, 82 Hillside Avenue, London, N8 7DN.

Friends of the Conqueror is a new society aimed at fans of the authors Rich Parsons and Tony Keaveny, whose KRAP THE CONQUEROR continues the spoof fantasy universe introduced in last year's COLIN THE LIBRARIAN. For further information, write to

W Vicars, 167A High Street, Hull, North
Humberside, HU1 1NE.

This year's Clarion West Writers Workshop will be held on 18 June - 28 July, with Harold Waldrop, Gardner Dozois, Joan Vinge and John Crowley among the instructors. The deadline for applications is 1 April, to be forwarded to Suite 350, 340 15th Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112, USA.

Erebus Rising is a new vampire association launched by Donna Crow, erstwhile editor of the horror fanzine NECROSCOPE. Membership costs £8.00, which includes three issues of the group newsletter (sample copies are available at £3.00 each); full details from Highfield House, 27 Little Green Lane, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8TF.

Intersection's committee has dismissed rumours that a "STAR TREK orchestra" is being constructed for the opening ceremony, despite advertisements in STARBURST and on Teletext asking for volunteers. Co-chair Vince Docherty points out that the woman responsible is not even a member of the worldcon and has been politely instructed to curtail her endeavours.

Colin Baker, Elisabeth Sladen, Sophie Aldred and Nicholas Courtney are among the former DR WHO stars aiming to appear at Remembrance '95, styled as UNIT's "first galactic peace conference" (although the same group organized Remembrance '93) and scheduled for 25-26 March at Oldham's Periquito Hotel. Profits will be split between the BBC's Children in Need appeal, the NSPCC and Cot Death Research.

Membership costs .£32.00 (£19.00 for under-14s), with room rates set at £35.00 per room per night (excluding breakfast); full details are available from Hyde Fundraisers at 31 Richmond Street, Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancs., OL7 0AR.

Marlon Brando is reported close to joining the cast of the third version of H G Wells' THE ISLAND OF DOCTOR MOREAU, to be directed by Richard Stanley (HARDWARE, DUST DEVIL).

Small press publishers Craig Ledbetter and Tom Weisser (responsible for the acclaimed EUROPEAN TRASH CINEMA and the spin-off title ASIAN TRASH CINEMA) are extending their collaboration into film-related music releases, beginning with a CD compilation culled from five Jean Rollin movies and the

first release on CD of Claudio Simonetti's score for Michele Soavi's thriller STAGEFRIGHT. For full details, contact Ledbetter at Post Office Box 5367, Kingswood, TX 77325, USA (e-mail: 74563.1756@compuserve).

Sky has bought the new STAR TREK spin-off, VOYAGER, for screening in October. Meanwhile, both its predecessor, DEEP SPACE NINE, and BABYLON 5 are suffering low ratings, the former despite a guest appearance from Jonathan Frakes as Will Riker.

No such problems for the second season of THE X-FILES, with Mulder and Scully reunited following actress Gillian Anderson's short break due to pregnancy. Sponsors are hot for the show after demographics indicated it was especially popular with "high-spending intellectuals", a key target group.

Roland Emmerich's von Danikenesque epic STARGATE broke US box office records by taking nearly US\$17M during its first weekend. Discussions are already underway on two sequels; Emmerich, who collaborated on the screenplay with co-producer Dean Devlin, has indicated he always saw the US\$60M project as the first instalment in a trilogy.

John Dahl has apparently shelved MELTDOWN, an sf thriller slated to star Dolph Lundgren and originally scheduled to start filming in Vienna in the new year.

TIMECOP, the futuristic thriller starring UNIVERSAL SOLDIER's Jean-Claude Van Damme and directed by Peter Hyams (OUTLAND, 2010), grossed more than US\$12M during its opening weekend in September. Adapted from Mike Richardson's and Mark Verheiden's comics series, with EVIL DEAD director Sam Raimi one of the three co-producers, the movie received its UK release in January.

The success of INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE must bode well for the planned adaptation of Anne Rice's THE MUMMY: RAMSES THE DAMNED. Although her initial dissatisfaction with Neil Jordan's film was widely reported, much of it concerning the casting of Tom Cruise as Lestat, Rice has since voiced her approval.

Allen Harbinson, whose novel INCEPTION (first in the "Projekt Saucer" tetralogy) was published by New English Library in November, has reportedly been consulted by two television companies making documentaries concerning the "Roswell Incident", an alleged crash landing in 1947 by extraterrestrials.

A tv movie on the same topic was screened in the US last year, starring Martin Sheen, Kylie MacLachlan and Dwight Yoakham, whilst Steven Spielberg's production company

has scheduled its own entry to mark the fiftieth anniversary in 1997.

RED DWARF VI won the award for best BBC situation comedy at the British Comedy Awards on 4 December.

Congratulations to Warrior's Gate, the four-man team culled from members of the Peterborough Science Fiction Club, which took the title of 1994 Telly Addicts of the Year in the BBC show hosted by Noel Edmunds.

Barry R Levin, the Californian bookdealer who recently announced he was selling a copy of Poppy Z Brite's LOST SOULS imbued with the stench of a self-immolated arsonist, has named Anne Rice his firm's "most collectable author" of 1994 and the Ziesing edition of Stephen King's INSOMNIA "most collectable book". In this seventh annual listing, Jack Chalker received a lifetime award for his "important contributions to the collectability of fantastic literature as author and bibliographer", which must have proven a bugger to squeeze onto the plaque.

Donald Flessance, who died in February aged 75, starred in a wide variety of sf and horror movies, including FANTASTIC VOYAGE (1966), YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE (1967), DEATH LINE (1972), TALES THAT WITNESS MADNESS and FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE (both 1973), THE DEVIL'S MEN (1976), DRACULA (1978), as well as three appearances in HALLOWEEN (1978) and its sequels. His genre debut was the 1955 television adaptation of George Orwell's 1984, opposite Peter Cushing's Winston Smith, and he entered THE TWILIGHT ZONE for "The Changing of the Guard" in 1962.

Jack Clayton, director of THE INNOCENTS (1961) and SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES, died on 25 February, four days before his seventy-fourth birthday; the former was adapted from Henry James' THE TURN OF THE SCREW, the latter from Ray Bradbury's novel (although, like his 1974 version of THE GREAT GATSBY, it was significantly re-edited by the studio).

James Clavell, the bestselling author of such historical epics as SHOGUN and KING RAT, died in Switzerland in September, aged in his early 70s. Born in Australia, his screen-writing credits included the original version of THE FLY.

Doug McClure died in February, aged 59. As well as a cameo appearance in THE TWILIGHT ZONE's third episode, "Mr Denton on Doomsday", his genre work included THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT (1974), AT THE EARTH'S CORE (1976),

THE PEOPLE THAT TIME FORGOT (cameo, 1977), WARLORDS OF ATLANTIS (1978) and HUMANOIDS FROM THE DEEP (1980). In the late 1980s, he joined the supporting cast of the lacklustre sf sitcom OUT OF THIS WORLD, and appeared in last year's MAVERICK.

Ken Hill, who wrote the original stage musical of Gaston Laroux's PHANTOM OF THE OPERA and later adapted H G Wells' THE INVISIBLE MAN, died on 24 January, aged 57. His latest work, ZORRO: THE MUSICAL, was in rehearsal and premiered less than a fortnight afterwards.

Roy Ashton, chief makeup artist at Hammer during 1959-66, has died aged 85. His work included effects for THE MUMMY (1959), THE CURSE OF THE WEREWOLF (1960), PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (1962) and THE PLAGUE OF THE ZOMBIES (1966).

Patrick McGrath, former physician superintendent at Broadmoor Hospital, died on 18 October at the age of 78. His son, also called Patrick, echoes childhood memories of the site in his surreal short story collection BLOOD AND WATER (Penguin Originals, 1989).

BOOK REVIEWS

NOCTURNE by Mark Chadbourne

Reviewed by Phil Noyes.

This book is an intriguing mix of horror and classic jazz (well, some might argue they are close in nature) and transforms a fairly routine tale into one which involves and interests the reader.

David Easter wakes up in New Orleans having no memory of how he spent the last four weeks and got to America. He is haunted by hazy recollections of an enigmatic woman, Fernay Gray, he seems to have been in love with during his "missing" weeks. His suitcase presents another, more chilling puzzle, amongst the usual travel items it contains a blood-soaked shirt. Easter is determined to unravel this mystery.

Shortly after taking a job in a bar he becomes uncomfortably aware that he can see the ghosts of the dead (notably Buffalo Marsayle, a horn player of some note who had died in the 1920s, after working on a record of which only one pressing was made). Easter's memory slowly returns and he stumbles onto a fresh lead to Fernay, but with this progress comes contact with a

sinister "Krewe" (one of the carnival organising groups) and an occult creature that the krewe apparently controls. The closer he gets to Fermay the more he attracts the attention of the many ghosts who haunt the streets of New Orleans.

Chadbourne has created a readable yarn with some skill, but the whole is less than the sum of its parts. The features that work are offset by others that detract: the ease with which Easter finds a job in the USA; the disappointing "creature"; the unrealistically linear recovery of his memory. Still, an "okay" novel.

THE TREKMASTER by David McCandless
Boxtree, £4.99, 426pp, p/b

Reviewed by Dave Cox.

THE TREKMASTER is a *TREK* trivia quiz book containing 2,000 graded questions split between ten chapters. Questions are graded as 'Ensign', 'Captain' and 'Admiral'. 'Ensign' is aimed at ordinary mortals who have watched most *STAR TREK* and offshoot episodes and the films perhaps once. 'Captain' is aimed at aficionados who have seen each episode and film several times. 'Admiral' is aimed at anoraks who watch each episode or film many times, probably using the pause button and taking notes.

The book is not designed to be read at one sitting but is suitable for dipping into from time to time by *STAR TREK* fans. It would provide ready made source material for a pub or con quizmaster. I did not find any mistakes during my review but did find that there is an incredible amount about *STAR TREK* that I don't know. Recommended for closet trekkies and aspiring quizmasters.

BLOOD by Michael Moorcock
Millennium, £9.99, 247pp

Reviewed by Tony Morton.

A complex story based in a parallel universe where "the white races have fallen into decadence the other races have risen to build a more dynamic civilisation". Moorcock tells the tale of two pairs of lovers who are renowned gamblers (known as "jugadors") and their involvement in the multiverse - in particular the "Second Ether". The initial section reveals conditions in the southern states of the USA, where a new type of energy from "colour spots" has got out of control to create a fault, warping reality. Further, the local social structure is presented and where

the jugadors fit into this hierarchy; their influence and gaming skills shown to illustrate the chance element now ruling the world.

The main theme involves the first pair of lovers, Jack Karaquazian and Colinda Dovero, both considered jugadors of the highest calibre and the envy of their peers. Their adventure culminates at a "colour" where they are separated. This is followed by the second pair, Sam Oakenhurst and a mystery woman known as "the Rose" whose adventure, while similar to the first, takes a different perspective. Karaquazian joins up with them in search of Colinda Dovero and the three break through the "scales" into other parts of the multiverse, coming at last to the Second Ether.

It is in this section we finally meet the inhabitants of the Second Ether, whose epic battles filter through the multiverse to become pulp fiction in the reality of the main protagonists. These beings, demigods that fight for Singularity or Chaos to gain supremacy of the multiverse, absorb the experience, luck and memories of players to the "Game of Time" (such as our lovers become) to further their ends. However, the players can influence the Game and implement moves to alter reality, thus making their own existence more secure.

Basically a love story mixed with an adventure that gives a complicated plot a thread to grasp through the changing themes. Moorcock's intricate manipulation of the characters and their reactive responses prove fatalist outlook that deceives the reader into mistaken assumptions, as the plot develops to its climax. Exuberantly written and (again) classic Moorcock. Revealed as first of a trilogy, I look forward to the next.

[Michael Moorcock is interviewed in *CRITICAL WAVE* #40, which also features Stephen Baxter on *HG Wells*; Graham Joyce on *Mars*, shop-signings and the drawbacks of being an author; mini-interviews with Gerry Anderson and Les Edwards. This, the April 1995 issue of *WAVE*, is available from Martin Tudor at the editorial on the cover for just £1.95 inclusive of postage and packing. End of plug!]

GUN, WITH OCCASIONAL MUSIC by Jonathan Lethem
NEEL, £4.99, 262pp, p/b

Reviewed by Martin Tudor.

If you have ever enjoyed a hard-boiled detective film or novel you have got to read this book; I have yet to read a more bizarre and wonderful mixture of the sf and detective genres.

In a future where genetically evolved animals fight off prejudice and their own insecurity complexes, "Babyheads" (enhanced intellects trapped inside three year-old bodies) drown their vast intelligences with cheap whisky in derelict bars and mind-altering drugs are free to all, but only licensed operators can ask questions, Conrad Metcalf, Private Inquisitor, struggles to scrape a living. A seemingly innocuous case of an errant wife swiftly leads to Metcalf's karma card being almost emptied ("karma" being gained by doing "good deeds" and lost by bending or breaking the law; when your karma has run out, you go to jail) and its owner in deep shit with the Inquisitor's Office.

This is a world stranger than anything created by even Philip K Dick, but realistic for all that, making for a wonderfully entertaining - and above all *different* - novel. Read and enjoy.

MOTHER OF STORMS by John Barnes,
Millennium, £5.99, 455pp, p/b

Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.

MOTHER OF STORMS is one of the books that has been nominated for the Arthur C Clarke award for 1995. It is a good contender.

It is 2028. The USA is in decline as a world power but the UN is in ascendent. Europe has expelled all those of Afro-Caribbean extraction and Siberia is the major potential aggressor. Much of the world's population hook in to XV for their entertainment. This is a virtual reality set-up which enables you to actually participate with the characters, feeling and seeing exactly what they do. Then a sequence of events causes a vast amount of methane to be released into the atmosphere. As this is a greenhouse gas, the resultant global warming raises the temperature of the sea sufficiently to increase the zones in which hurricanes are spawned. Clem is a monster one and instead of expending its energy and dying it continues to rampage to and fro across the Pacific causing widespread havoc and cloning lots more just like it. The problem is that there is not much you can do against a freak of nature and the giant wave surges it produces.

Although I am not sure that the effects of the methane release would become apparent quite so quickly, the details of the hurricanes' development and effects seems horribly plausible. There are a large number of characters introduced at the start of the

book, some of which are there solely to be washed away by the weather conditions, others to carry the plot forward. Since there are a limited number of ways that you can die in a hurricane, the bulk of the plot involves the political and financial machinations of various members of the cast and some of them inevitably get mislaid for part of the time or seem to have no relevance at the start. It is however intricately worked out. Although it is an engrossing read to begin with despite the large chunks of scientific exposition and rationalisation it gets a bit wearing after a time and the pace slows down. The book would have been improved by pruning the last third by half to maintain momentum.

ONE KING'S WAY by Harry Harrison and John Holm Legend, £15.99, 426pp, h/b

Reviewed by Martin Tudor.

Despite the strange marketing policy - which seems to indicate that this excellent novel is written by Harry Harrison alone (there is no mention of "Holm" on the spine of the book, the spine/cover of the book jacket or, indeed, in the accompanying sheet of publishers' blurb) - this is a jointly written project, Harrison's collaborator allegedly being a pseudonym of distinguished academic Tom Shippey.

ONE KING'S WAY continues the story, begun in the superb **THE HAMMER AND THE CROSS**, of Shef Sigvarhsson, the serf who became king. When reading the opening chapters of the first volume of the trilogy, it would have been easy to believe you were reading an historical novel set in the Viking era in the tradition of Henry Treece, but even those whose knowledge of the period is as sketchy as mine would have swiftly realised it is in fact a beautifully researched and authentically realized alternate world history.

Briefly, the first volume details the fascinating series of events which lead to what would in our time-line have been the England of Alfred the Great being amicably split between the victorious Alfred (here known as "the Gracious"), a Christian king, and Shef, a follower of "the Way" (this is the faith followed by the less barbaric Norse, a religion for those, mainly artisans, interested in the pursuit of knowledge). Having allied himself with these non-Christians, Alfred has brought about a split with Rome several centuries earlier than happened in our history.

Shef, the hero of the story, appears to be the "son" of the lesser-known Norse god

Rig; sponsored by his supernatural "father", Shef has used the technological advances he has pioneered to defeat both the Christian Frankish knights and the more violent Vikings. As the second volume opens, Shef and Alfred are beginning to consolidate their two kingdoms, mainly through the construction of a joint fleet with which they intend to not only defend their coastlines from the Vikings, but to take the battle back to the Viking pirates' lairs. However, Shef has not taken into account the actions of the Norse deities whose schemes he has upset. Having alienated the All-Father Othin, Shef's only protection is Rig - but Rig does not seem to have Shef's best interests at heart, having plans of his own.

ONE KING'S WAY sees Shef stranded in the far north and battling his way through Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland (accidentally following "the route of the one king") to return home. An excellent novel, with fascinating insights into Viking history, Norse mythology and the Christianity of the Dark Ages, this is an entertaining and clever mix of fantasy, history and alternate-history. I highly recommend it.

THE FRANKENSTEIN OMNIBUS ed. Peter Haining, Orion £5.99, 734pp, p/b

Reviewed by Chris Morgan.

This is undoubtedly the most important sf reprint anthology of the year. (The year is, actually, 1994, when the hardcover appeared, but never mind.) Why so important? Because it contains many rare stories and novel extracts on the Frankenstein's monster theme, and a good deal of information, both fascinating and little known, on the development of the theme through stories, plays and films. And because, in case you had forgotten, Mary Shelley's *FRANKENSTEIN* (1818) was the first true sf novel, according to Brian Aldiss in his ever so scholarly *BILLION YEAR SPREE*.

But I don't want you to get the idea that this anthology is solely for historians of sf. In fact it's a lot of fun, with just a one-page essay prefacing each of 32 Frankenstein-related pieces of fiction written over the last 160 years. Some of the earliest, by Jane Webb, Villiers De L'Isle Adam and Fred T.Jane, are extremely difficult to obtain in any form. There's a section of play, film and tv versions (books of the film, or stories upon which tv episodes were based) including a very rare Fritz Leiber story. The final section contains modern usages of the

theme, including good contributions by Brian Aldiss and Harry Harrison. Once again, the stories are mostly unfamiliar, rarely reprinted.

On the whole, Haining's scholarship seems to be good. (It should be, as he has written two previous books on the subject, the highly illustrated *THE FRANKENSTEIN FILE* (1977) and *THE MAN WHO WAS FRANKENSTEIN* (1979) about the professor's real-life model, Andrew Crosse. In a few cases, though, Haining hasn't brought his research up to date. While he mentions the latest (Kenneth Brannagh) film of Frankenstein, released in late 1994, he misses the deaths of Robert Bloch (late 1994), Fritz Leiber (1992) and even Theodore Sturgeon (1985). Despite such problems and the inclusion of a few almost unreadable stories that might have been better forgotten, this anthology is of such importance that no true lover of sf should be without a copy.

FIVE DR WHO PRINTS by Ian Scoones
Spacescapes, £29.99 each (signed and numbered)
Reviewed by David A Hardy.

Something a bit different here, aimed mainly at DR WHO fans. Ian Scoones worked at the famous Hammer Studios from 1960, then moved to work on THUNDERBIRDS with Derek Meddings, and in 1970 joined the BBC Visual Effects Unit, working with other sf wizards like Mat Irvine on such DR WHO episodes as "The Invisible Enemy", "City of Death" and "The Curse of Peladon". In 1980, Scoones moved back to Hammer, making both films and tv productions, and is now freelance.

These five prints, 17½"×21" on good quality art paper, are from the above '70s episodes, plus "The Great One" (the monstrous queen spider from "The Planet of the Spiders"). They are dated (curiously, for 1994), signed and numbered from a run of 2,000; each is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity, signed by the artist, and sent in a strong tube. Anyone buying four can have the fifth print free.

These are not the type of tight, highly-detailed art we are used to seeing on modern sf book covers, but show all the hallmarks of being production art, painted under the time and budgetary constraints of a 1970s tv production. As such, they must be collectors' items for dedicated DR WHO fans, though it is, perhaps, a pity that there is no sign in them of the good Doctor, or artifacts such as the Tardis - or even a Dalek!

[For further details, write to Spacescapes at 158 Windmill Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 5PE.]