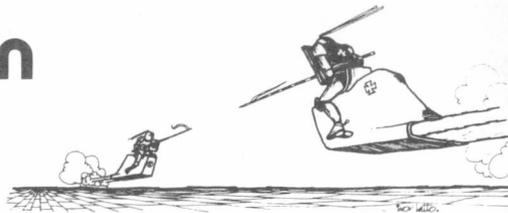


Birmingham Science Fiction Group

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



The Birmingham Science Fiction Group meets on the third Friday of every month at 8 p.m. in the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street. Membership is £1.50 per annum, payable to Dave Cox at 2, Allard, Glascote, Tamworth, Staffs, at the beginning of each year. Non-members are always welcome to attend meetings.

Editor for this issue: Steven J. Green, 33, Scott Road, Olton, Solihull, Warwickshire, B92 7LQ.

Newsletter 88

December 1978

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Brian Lewis, one of Britain's top sf/fantasy artists. Brian died from a heart attack on December 4 after being ill with pleurisy.

Brian's career started in the 1950s when he began doing line work for the interiors of NEW WORLDS and SCIENCE FANTASY. He soon received promotion to doing full colour covers and for several years was the only artist used on those magazines. When John Carnell dropped artwork in the early 1960s, Brian disappeared from the field. He reappeared in the mid-1970s when he was commissioned to do the covers of the film magazine HOUSE OF HORROR.

His work was appearing on several paperback covers, and it is rather ironic that only ten days before his death, a publisher had agreed to bring out a book of his work.

Brian will be sadly missed by his many friends and the art field will be much the poorer for the loss.

Our sympathies to his wife and family.



Future Programme

December 15 looks like being the social highpoint of the year: the Group's christmas party! We'll be screening LOGAN'S RUN, starring Michael York and Jenny Agutter, (in Cinemascope, no less!) and a couple of Tex Avery cartoons, one of which will definitely be "The Cat That Hated People".

For those of you more concerned with nourishment than animation, we can promise you the best buffet to date at a BSPG party -- solid refreshment to help you survive the rest of the evening.

We'll also be raffling off the cover proof of Vincent diFate's artwork for Colin Kapp's CHAOS WEAPON (Ballantine edition), donated to the Group by Colin when he visited us in September, so get to the room early before the mad rush for tickets.

The hotel are also quoting a special rate for BSPG members wishing to stay overnight after the party. The charge is £5 plus VAT, and anyone wishing to use the rate should contact Rog Peyton on 021-236-1112 as soon as possible, to give us some indication of how many members will be staying over.

Tickets are selling fast, so make sure of your seat now by sending £1.30 to Rog at Andromeda, 57, Summer Row, Birmingham, B3 1JJ, immediately!

Renewals

Ordering your christmas party tickets also gives you the opportunity to renew your BSPG membership for next year, which the Group has managed to keep down to £1.50, payable to BSPG treasurer David Cox (address overpage). In this month's mailing you should also find our new re-application forms, which we're using to keep tabs on our rapidly increasing membership -- after all, the more we know about your personal tastes, the easier it is for us to organise meetings we can be sure you'll enjoy...

BSPG Cassette Library

Want to listen to sf authors such as Anne McCaffrey, Joe Haldeman or Fred Pohl in the comfort of your own armchair? The BSPG has taped records of many of this year's best talks available for its members to listen to now, with even more tapes currently being edited for inclusion in our cassette library. For full details write to Steven Green at 33, Scott Road, Olton, Solihull, enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

1979 Committee

Nominations are now being taken for next year's BSPG committee, in advance of our annual general meeting and elections in January. Remember, this is your chance to take an active hand in deciding who runs the BSPG, so don't waste it. Positions open for election or re-election are: chairman, secretary, publicity officer, treasurer and newsletter editor. Nominations should be sent to present BSPG secretary Arline Peyton at 19, Eves Croft, Bartley Green, Birmingham - to arrive no later than December 31.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

January 25 books from Futura: BATTLESTAR GALACTICA (adapted from tv pilot) by Glen A. Larson & Robert Thurston; GATEWAY by Frederik Pohl; THE FUZZY PAPERS (LITTLE FUZZY and FUZZY SAFIENS in one volume) by H. Beam Piper; AYESHA: THE RETURN OF SHE and WISDOM'S DAUGHTER by H. Rider Haggard; and in one new Larry Niven reprint: PROTECTOR, A WORLD OUT OF TIME, THE FLIGHT OF THE HORSE (short story collection), TALES OF KNOWN SPACE (another collection) and THE LONG ARM OF GIL HAMILTON...the first three Niven books all have Peter Jones covers, and BATTLESTAR GALACTICA has eight pages of photos from the tv series...

The new STAR TREK movie is now well underway, with all the original crew back on board the Enterprise, now joined by alien Ilia (PERSIS KHAMBATTA) and Cmdr. Willard Decker (STEPHEN COLLINS, star of the new film "THE PROMISE")...