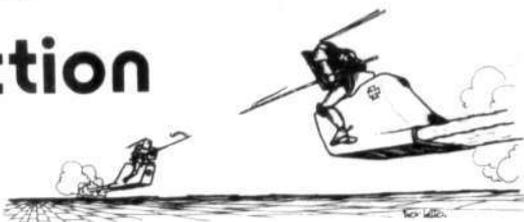


Birmingham Science Fiction Group

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



The Birmingham Science Fiction Group meets every month on the third Friday of each month. Meetings commence at 8pm. This newsletter produced by Rog Peyton.

NEWSLETTER 94

JUNE 1979

Hang on! you might say - surely that heading above looks a bit brief...where do we meet?... who is the Treasurer?...and how come Rog Peyton is doing the newsletter again? All very good questions but it seems pointless repeating our normal information heading as we are shortly moving our meeting venue, the Treasurer is in the middle of moving house, the membership rates change this month and the newsletter editor has resigned. But all that is merely normal running problems and we'll deal with each of the above points later in this newsletter. Meanwhile, on to the whole point of this newsletter which is to remind each and every one of you about this month's programme and to whet your appetite for the goodies coming in future months.

Friday 15th June - at the New Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, (off New Street), Birmingham (see hotel foyer notice board for which room its in)

ROBERT LIONEL FANTHORPE

Yes, after two cancellations, it seems to be definitely on this month. Our speaker has to be in Birmingham on Saturday for a family wedding so it is highly unlikely that anything will go wrong this time (But what if the bride suddenly decides....oh SHUT UP...think positive). Many of you have asked the all important question about our world-famous guest speaker..."Who is he?". Always something of a mystery man in the science fiction world, his career started in the late 50s when he started ~~starting out~~ writing novels for that unique paperback house Badger books (unobtainable in all reputable bookshops but heavily stocked in all dingy back-street newsagents). His fame from such unforgettable novels as....er....er....and...oh...well, I'm sure you remember, grew alarmingly. So much so that he started writing under the pseudonym Pel Torro. So unique was his literary efforts that his cover-up was blown. He changed to Lionel Roberts, a couple by Bron Fane, a couple of dozen novels as John E Muller...but no, all SF fans knew that behind these names the brilliantly devious mind of Robert Lionel Fanthorpe lurked, spewing forth these literary gems. 6 months and 57 novels later, Badger books started their Supernatural series...novels and collections of short stories by such great and diverse names as Bron Fane, Pel Torro, Lionel Roberts, John E Muller and Karl Zeigfried. (Who was Karl Zeigfried everyone wondered...could Badger books have found a new literary genius?) Alas, or fortunately (especially if you happened to be Fanthorpe's bank manager), the Zeigfried pen-name was discovered too - yet another by-line of the prolific Robert Lionel Fanthorpe - yet another three pounds, sixteen shillings and eleven pence per novel. Unfortunately in the mid-sixties, after writing all 118 of the Badger SF series and all 109 of the Supernatural series, his pen ran out of ink. Only then did he realise that it had cost him more to write the novels than he was getting paid by his publishers! Frustrated, penniless and unable to buy an ink refill, Robert Lionel Fanthorpe gave up writing...his bank notified him of his £5000 overdraft and he disappeared forever....Until now, that is, when he breaks

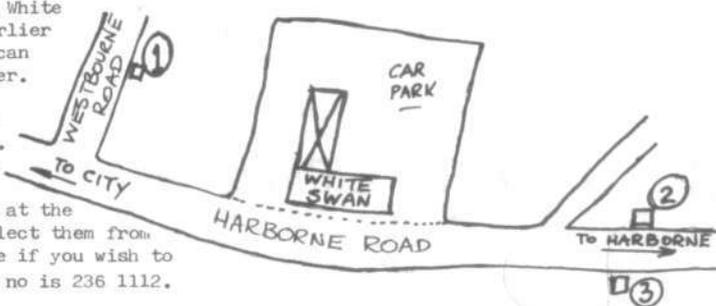
his 15 year silence to come and speak to the Birmingham SF Group. Don't miss this historic event when all the true facts about Badger Books and Robert Lionel Fanthorpe will be revealed...he might even show us all the scars from the manacles - proof of his years chained in the basement by his publishers, being forced to write one unreadable novel after another while they, raking in all the profits lived in luxury riding around on their brand-new second-hand bikes! Remember....THIS FRIDAY....Robert Lionel Fanthorpe at the Brun Group!

On Thursday 28th June there will be a special meeting - a Beer & Skittles evening at the White Swan/Dirty Duck, Harborne. Cost is £2 per head which includes the cost of the buffet. Tickets only - tickets available from the Treasurer, Dave Holmes, c/o ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP, 57 Summer Row, Birmingham B3 1JJ. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return of your tickets. They will be available at the Fanthorpe meeting on Friday.

The evening promises to be a great social event - we have the use of the alley from 7pm so anyone who wishes to turn up early can have a practice until we start bowling for real at 8pm. Don't worry if you haven't bowled before - all you have to do is to throw a ruddy great wooden ball down an alley and try and hit some wooden pins. If you succeed, you then have to walk down the alley and stand them up again so that the next player can knock them down. I'm told it can be quite fun! Unless you're a wooden pin, that is.

The bowling alley (marked with an X) is at the rear of the pub. Anyone travelling by bus can catch the following...Nos 3,10,12,22,23. All stop at the stop marked '1' and all except the No 10 continue on past the White Swan/Dirty Duck to stop at bus stop '2'. The bus stop marked '3' is the one for getting the return bus to the city centre afterwards - all buses return to the city centre.

Please try to get to the White Swan before 8pm - the earlier the better - so that we can sort out teams or whatever. There is a limit to the number of people allowed in the alley - 60 people. Tickets are selling fast so to make sure of your tickets, either get them at the meeting on Friday or collect them from Dave at ANDROMEDA - phone if you wish to reserve them - the phone no is 236 1112.



On Friday 20th July we have another special meeting - this is the date of the 10th Anniversary of the First Moon Landing. We've invited Philip Strick, author of SCIENCE FICTION MOVIES, to come along with a special programme of SF films to celebrate this event. We've arranged to hold the meeting at the New Imperial Hotel, Temple Street in the Connaught Room at the rear of the hotel. This is the very large room and we hope to get 200 people attending. Many members of the Birmingham Astronomical Society have already expressed interest and we're advertising it in the EVENING MAIL. Again it will be Ticket Only - tickets again available from the Treasurer Dave Holmes. All notes above about tickets for the Beer & Skittles evening apply equally to this special film night. Don't be disappointed - get your ticket early! 75p to members - £1 non-members.

Then in August we move our meeting venue to the Ivy Bush, Edgbaston...but more of that in next month's newsletter.

NEW MEMBERSHIP RATES

As in previous years we are once again reducing membership rates at this half-way stage through the year. As of now, anyone wishing to become a member of the BSFG has to pay only £1.00 for the balance of 1979. A second person at the same address wishing to share a newsletter has to pay only an extra 50p. As mentioned previously, our Treasurer is currently in the process of moving so any mail should be addressed to: BSFG Treasurer, Dave Holmes, c/o ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP, 57 Summer Row, Birmingham B3 1JJ. Cheques/Postal

Orders should be made payable to THE BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP.

RESIGNATION OF NEWSLETTER EDITOR

As mentioned previously, our newsletter Editor Steve Green has resigned. In his letter of resignation he explained that he found the position too restricting and he wanted more freedom with the newsletter - something the rest of the committee felt was wrong. A basic difference of outlook was the root of the problem and in order to keep a harmonious committee, Steve resigned.

NEW EDITOR WANTED

Steve's resignation leaves us with a vacancy on the committee. Is there anyone in the group who would be interested in taking on the job of newsletter editor?

Being able to type (and having access to a typewriter) are obviously essential. Being able to spell good and rite proper help considerably.



The Newsletter editor's job is to gather news, get someone to write reviews, include information, news, etc as provided by the rest of the committee. Help in laying out, letrasetting and preparing for printing can obtained from the rest of the committee if necessary. The envelopes are typed by the Secretary every month and the newsletter editor is then responsible for folding and putting in envelopes and posting. Not a small job by any means - with one evening a month for attending committee meetings and 2 or 3 other evenings at least needed for doing the newsletter, it can be a time consuming job. If necessary, more than one person can be responsible for the newsletter. Last year, if you remember, I was newsletter editor and Steve Green was my assistant. One person can be responsible for getting the information together - the other for typing, layouts, etc. THINK ABOUT IT. If anyone is interested, see David Hardy, our Chairman, at the Fanthorpe meeting, or give him a ring on 777 1802.

1979 NEBULA AWARDS

The winners for 1979 were:

- Best Novel: DREAMSNAKE by Vonda McIntyre (availale in Gollancz)
- Best Novella: "The Persistence of Vision" by John Varley (F&SF Mar 78)
- Best Novlette: "A Glow of Candles, A Unicorn's Eye" by Charles Grant (GRAVEN IMAGES)
- Best short Story: "Stone" by Edward Bryant (F&SF Feb 78)

In addition L Sprague De Camp was elected a Grand Master, joining previous Grand Masters Robert Heinlein, Jack Williamson and Clifford D Simak.

1979 HUGO AWARD NOMINATIONS

These will be presented at the World Science Fiction Convention in Brighton, England in August. Nominations are:-

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|--------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <u>NOVEL</u> | DREAMSNAKE by Vonda McIntyre | BLIND VOICES by Tom Reamy |
| | THE FADED SUN: KESRITH by C J Cherryh | THE WHITE DRAGON by Anne McCaffrey |
| | UP THE WALLS OF THE WORLD by James Tiptree Jr. | |

- NOVELLA
- "Enemies of the System" by Brian Aldiss (F&SF Jun 78)
 - "Fireship" by Joan D Vinge (ANALOG Dec 78)
 - "The Persistence of Vision" by John Varley (F&SF Mar 78)
 - *"Seven American Nights" by Gene Wolfe (ORBIT 20)
 - "The Watched" by Christopher Priest (F&SF Apr 78)

- NOVELETTE
- "The Barbie Murders" by John Varley (ISAAC ASIMOV'S SF MAG Jan/Feb 78)
 - "The Devil You Don't Know" by Dean Ing (ANALOG Jan 78)
 - "Hunter's Moon" by Poul Anderson (ANALOG Nov 78)
 - "The Man Who Had No Idea" by Thomas M Disch (F&SF Oct 78)
 - "Hikal's Songbird" by Orson Scott Card (ANALOG May 78)

SHORT STORY "Cassandra" by C J Cherryh (F&SF Oct 78)
"Count the Clock That Tells the Time" by Harlan Ellison (OMNI Dec 78)
"Stone" by Edward Bryant (F&SF Feb 78)
"The Very Slow Time Machine" by Ian Watson (ANTICIPATIONS)
"View From a Height" by Joan D Vinge (ANALOG Jun 78)

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST Vincent Di Fate Stephen Fabian David Hardy
Boris Vallejo Michael Whelan

Normally we only give details of fiction nominations but that last category contains one name that we couldn't refuse to print. I'm sure we'd all like to congratulate our very own Chairman on getting his first Hugo nomination.

WANTED - PHOTOGRAPHS

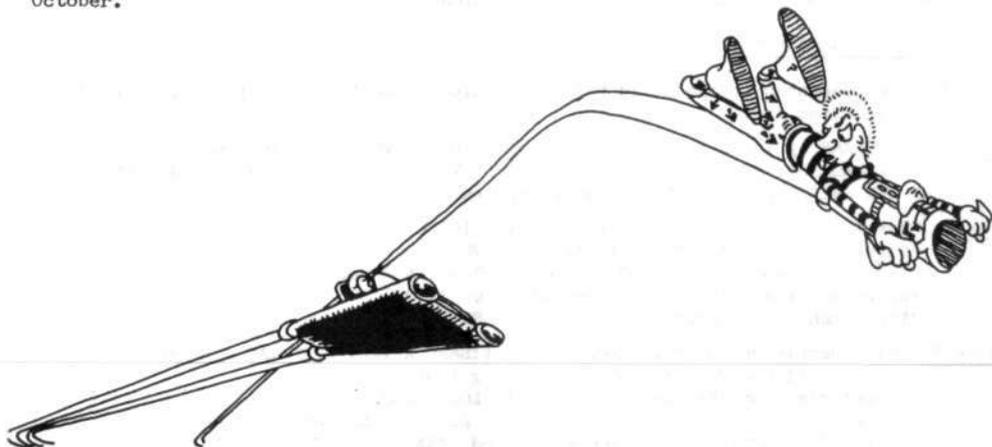
Have you got any old photographs either taken at Brum Group meetings, at Novacons or of Brum Group members. If so please bring them along to a meeting and show them to the committee. They may be the photos we're looking for. If they are, we'd like to borrow them to get a copy taken. Some of you (particularly you Vernon) have lots of photos. Please may we see them.

NOVACON 9

This year's NOVACON will be held at the Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham over the weekend 2/3/4th November. Guest of Honour is Christopher Priest, author of the recently broadcast THE SPACE MACHINE and the soon-to-be-a-movie A DREAM OF WESSEX. His new book, a collection of shorts titled AN INFINITE SUMMER, is published by Faber this month. Anyone in the Group who wishes to attend NOVACON 9 should register now, even if you don't intend staying at the Royal Angus. If you attend NOVACON 9 it will cost you £4 whether you stay overnight or not. You may as well pay the £2 registration now and make sure you get all pre-convention details in the form of the Progress Reports. There will be the usual films, talks, book room, etc.

NEWS

The ancient ones among you might remember the 3 BBC serials about Professor Quatermass shown on the old gas-driven black & white sets with the gigantic 12" screens in the late '50s. The younger ones among you might have come across the name Quatermass by seeing the 3 movies that were made some time after the serials. Nigel Kneale has now completed a 4th Quatermass serial to be shown on BBC-TV this Autumn. The budget was over a million pounds and its to be shown in 4 parts. There will be a novelisation by Kneale in hardcover in August and in paperback in September. The paperback is from Arrow books who will be reissuing the original 3 Quatermass scripts (complete with stills) in October.



Illustrations on pgs 3 & 4 by Euan Smith.