

newsletter



The Bulletin of The Irish Science Fiction Association

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As a result of Harry Harrison's highly successful Science Fiction Writers' Conference at the end of last month, we held our usual monthly meeting on Sunday October 3rd at our informal location - the Sportsman Inn. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, we moved downstairs to a smaller lounge which proved to be a good tactic. The number of members present increased and we had several interested new-comers. One down-point was the unfortunate fact that Professor Willis McNelly had to return to the States before having a chance to meet our members. However, Harry Harrison intends holding his conference annually so, with any luck, we will be able to entertain Professor McNelly in the not-too-distant future.

Anne McCaffrey paid us a visit (complete with knitting) and kindly gave us her impressions of the Conference. The attendance of the first conference was encouraging - even though CIE tried to thwart it - and the number of delegates at future Irish SF Conferences can only increase since those who attended this year were so pleased by the whole affair. Congratulations to Harry Harrison for acting as father mother and mid-wife over the whole proceedings.

On Sunday 31st we shall descend once again on the Sportsman and hope that even more of our happy band will drop by. Do any of you think that the Sportsman is too 'out-of-the-way' to get to on a Sunday evening? If you have any criticisms of our locale or any problems getting there, please let us know and we'll see what we can do about it to help.

At the last meeting, we had a short discussion as to what should take place at our informal Sunday meetings as distinct from the occasional formal lecture which we hope to organise from time to time. The suggestion was put forward on the 3rd that sometime during an informal get-together a general SF topic should be raised and thrown open to the floor for either total participation with members chipping in their views on the particular topic or else discussing it among yourselves in the small groups which tend to form on these occasions. Most of us at the meeting thought the focal topic was good idea so, now over to the members who thought so. If you have any ideas for quiet discussion please let Richard Gallagher know so that the ball can be set rolling. WE NEED MORE MEMBER PARTICIPATION!

ANNE McCAFFREY.....

.....has moved house to the wilds of County Wicklow and for the present her open evening on the first Friday of every month has been suspended. We wish Anne good luck with the house and hope she will visit us from time to time.

I.S.F.A. LIBRARY.....

Committee member F.J. Goode has been working hard on the preparation of our proposed member library and the method which could be best applied to its operation. Several possible methods are under review at present and as soon as the Committee reach a decision, you will

all be informed. At the moment, the important thing is the books which will form the basis of this library. Already, several members have come forward with offers of books (paperbacks for the moment) and these will shortly be moved to our library shelves on an extended loan basis if any kind member doesn't wish to donate book or books all together. If any others of you have one or two or 'n' books which are cluttering up your bookshelves, why not lend them to our Library so that your fellow members might enjoy them? Once established the library (or a selected part of it) will be brought along to the Sportsman. Complete book lists will be published in future issues of STARGATE with 'addition' notices appearing in the Newsletter every month. Library users will be able to borrow books at our Sunday meetings and if there is a book which you would particularly like to borrow then a note to P.J. will have the desired effect of reserving it for you, providing the book is available. To those of you who would like to lend or donate books to the Library then there are several ways of getting them to P.J. You may bring them along to one of the Sunday meetings or deliver them to P.J.'s home; the address appears below. If neither of these methods proves practical then P.J. will arrange to have them collected from you. You can find P.J. at 45 Grosvenor Square, Rathmines, Dublin 6. We must stress that P.J. is organizing the Library for our Sunday evenings and will not be able to entertain Library users at his home.

BOOK NEWS from P.J. Goode.....

Good news for Asimov fans: "TODAY AND TOMORROW" - a collection of science fact first published in various magazines and newspapers between 1969-72 are now together in a paperback published by Coronet Also from Coronet - "SWAMPWORLD WEST" by Perry A. Chapdelaine, (includes aliens called - wait for it - 'Splurges') All yours!! Also Book III of the saga of Steeleye by Saul Dunn called "WATERSPACE" (A sort of 'Superman' story with a dash of sex!)

New from Arrow. "THE QUINCUNX OF TIME" by James Blish - first published in 1954 as a short story called 'Beep' - now expanded to novel length for the fans of the late Blish.

Corgi have an original from Irish-born Bob Shaw. "GROUND ZERO MAN" is the story of a mathematician who discovers a calculation that could ultimately lead to the exploding of every nuclear device on earth. There is also a collection of 12 short stories from Frederick Pohl under the title of "IN THE PROBLEM PIT AND OTHER STORIES" Panther: Fans of Philip K. Dick will be delighted to hear of reprints of 5 of his novels this month - "FLOW MY TEARS THE POLICEMAN SAID", "OUR FRIENDS FROM FROLIX 8", "NOW WAIT FOR LAST YEAR", "CLANS OF THE ALPHANE MOON" and "THE ZAP GUN".

Futura are bringing us "EVIL EARTHS" an anthology by Brian Aldiss and "GALACTIC EMPIRES" 1 and 2 also from Aldiss.

MEETING REGISTRATION.....

From now on at our meetings we will have a registration book and we hope that every member will sign in as he/she arrives - your number and signature are sufficient. If you have a telephone number maybe you would also include it so that we can reach you if we have urgent news. Visitors will be expected to give full name and address so that we can stimulate them into joining.

All queries etc., to Richard Gallagher, 15A Strandville Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin 3. (SAE please).

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