

newsletter



The Bulletin of The Irish Science Fiction Association

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THE NEXT MEMBER'S MEETING

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+++ We have really good news for I.S.F.A. members this month. Our
+++ guest at the next meeting will be our Belfast based patron, Mr.
+++ James White. Mr. White will be on a visit to Dublin and he is
+++ looking forward to meeting members of the I.S.F.A. We hope that
+++ James will be willing to talk to us about his books and style of
+++ science fiction. Professor Ian McAuley of the Physics Department
+++ of Trinity College will also be on hand to help make it a really
+++ interesting meeting so please, do come along and remember to
+++ bring along questions.
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+++ The last meeting in November went well but attendance was down to
+++ about 35 people. So, in order to make it easier for members to
+++ rendezvous, the next meeting will be held in the upstairs function
+++ room of the FALCON INN, 25 Upper Camden Street, Dublin 2. This
+++ location is more central than the Sportsman Inn so, we hope that
+++ it might prove more attractive to members. The next meeting will
+++ be on Sunday, January 30th at 7.30 pm. Please try and be on time.
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+++ YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!
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I.S.F.A. DINNER.....

The first annual dinner of the Irish Science Fiction Association was held in Annabel's Nite Club on the evening of January 7th. Amid sumptuous surroundings, twenty three members wined, dined and danced until 2.00 am. Despite the low attendance number, the night was thoroughly enjoyed by all who came and we hope that next year's dinner will be as good - if not better - than this years. (Sorry you couldn't make it Harry and Joan - hope the reason didn't turn out to be too serious.)

APOLOGIES.....

.....are due to all members for the lack of a newsletter last month. Due to circumstances totally beyond Robert Lane's control he was unable to prepare the newsletter and was also out of touch with the rest of the committee. Apologies are especially due to the members who turned up at the Sportsman.

FLASH.....

In order to make the committee more efficient, a new treasurer has been recruited from the ranks, He is Patrick O'Connell, one of our staunchest members.

Robert Lane, who so far has done mountains of typing for us all, now finds that other pressing obligations mean that his output will be dramatically reduced. So, as we mentioned at the last meeting, we need more people to

type or there may be no more newsletters (or journals - for that matter)! Please rally around. After all, this is YOUR Association. Remember, idle fingers are the Devil's instruments!

As usual we would like to have your written comments about any aspect of the I.S.F.A. - library, meetings, dinner, convention, etc. Do drop a line to any committee member of your own choice. We would all love to hear from you between meetings, you know.

I.S.F.A. LIBRARY NEWS from P.J. Goode,.....

The library got off to an encouraging start at our November meeting but, I would like to see more of our members making use of it. I would like to thank Paddy O'Connell for his help in setting up the library and for his massive donation of 140 books. Thanks are also due to member Mary Gallagher for her donation of 130 books. (Of course, I am not forgetting all the rest of you who have added to the shelves but, there is limited space in the newsletters for full credits.) As usual, the library will be in evidence at the next meeting and you will be welcome to browse among the titles after the guest part of the evening. Remember, its your library. Make the best of it!!

BOOK NEWS from Richard Gallagher.....

'Mysterious happenings in a Devon village recall events in Germany from a century and a half ago; and point to terrifying visitations from another world'.....thus the scene is set for the new novel from John Lymington, author of such delights as THE SCREAMING FACE and THE HOLE IN THE WORLD. The title of this, his latest offering, is THE LAXHAM HAUNTING (Published by Hodder and Stoughton price £3.25) Enjoyable enough if you like things that go 'bump in the night' and superior aliens+++Meanwhile back on the paperback scene (where most of the SF sales are): Futura publish a new novel from Harry Harrison and Gordon R. Dickson LIFEBOAT and two titles from Stanislaw Lem FUTUROLOGICAL CONGRESS and THE CYBERIAD. Highly amusing and penetrating 'fables'. They also offer FUTUREWORLD, a tie-in with the movie of the same name (reviewed in the last newsletter by Pearse Mooney)+++THE BEST OF FREDERICK POHL and two Michael Moorcock reprints THE OAK AND THE RAM and THE WARLORD OF THE AIR+++A new Perry Rhodan title, THE TERALL OF HYPNO; equally forgettable is THE NEW LENSMAN by William Ellern, the latter it seems is the result of the author's nostalgia upon realising that E.E. Smith would never write another Lensman story. So, quickly dashing off some material to 'Doc', Mr. Ellern gained permission to use Lensman characters thus ensuring the continuation of this series. William Ellern's gain is our loss I fear+++Finally from Futura comes THE ORBIT BOOK OF POSTERS. Price £2.50 but worth a glance.+++Panther will be bringing out Philip Jose Farmer's THE STONE GOD AWAKES+++Isaac Asimov's THE CAVES OF STEEL and THE REST OF THE ROBOTS (Asimov must be the most widely reprinted author. Early in the new year Panther will reprint Ray Bradbury's works which include THE ILLUSTRATED MAN, THE SILVER LOCUSTS and DANDELION WINE+++THE BEST OF MURRAY LEINSTER edited by Brian Davis is a Corgi original anthology featuring ten stories which were all written during the 50's and published in SF magazines+++A good first novel from Oscar Rossiter TETRASOMY TWO. Lots of malformed chromosomes floating around in a psychiatric residence leading to mutations and, wait for it - contact with another world.+++William Corliss brings us THE UNEXPLAINED - A SOURCEBOOK OF STRANGE PHENOMENA. Full of interesting like: 'Vulcan the intermercurial planet: at one time astronomers discovered it, named it, charted it and then it disappeared.+++Frederick and Carol Pohl have edited SCIENCE FICTION DISCOVERIES. The first anthology in the series has stories by Roger Zelazny, Doris Pischerchia and Scott Edelstein. Happy reading and A HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

All queries re the I.S.F.A. to be addressed to Richard Gallagher, 15A Strandville Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin 3. (SAE please).