

newsletter



The Bulletin of The Irish Science Fiction Association

FEBRUARY 1977

NUMBER 8

THE NEXT MEMBERS' MEETING

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+++ The next meeting will be held on Sunday, February 27th at 7.30pm +++
+++ in the upstairs function room of the Falcon Inn, 25 Upper Camden +++
+++ Street. There is a SURPRISE activity in store for the members who +++
+++ come along. If you are coming, please make sure that you have some- +++
+++ thing to write with. Also, please don't be put off by this notice! +++
+++ The evening will be quite harmless really and there will be a prize +++
+++ to boot!! So, do come along and pit your wits. All you will require +++
+++ are a writing implement, one pair of ears (each) and a fair to +++
+++ middling memory on an aspect of SF. If any of you are dubious about +++
+++ coming along I will add that our little competition will in no way +++
+++ encroach upon chatting or drinking time!! +++
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+++ SEE YOU ON THE 27th. +++
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THE FALCON INN.....

The change of venue to the Falcon Inn seems to have been a good move. Over 50 members turned up at our last meeting - a sign (we hope) of better attendances to come at future 1977 meetings. Apart from our 'regulars', there were also a number of members who had never come to a Sunday gathering before. We hope that our more central location will be an added incentive. Remember, we have to leave the Falcon shortly after 10.00 pm so that leaves plenty of time for those who have to catch buses.

As the months pass, the I.S.F.A. continues to grow in popularity. Proving this, there were a number of prospective members at the January meeting including four who joined on the spot. A big welcome to these brave souls.

Since our first meeting in June last year, the I.S.F.A. has been forging ahead. At present, we have the grand total of 99 members!

VERY SPECIAL THANKS.....

...are due to our guest at the last meeting. Our patron James White was in Dublin for a short holiday and we were very pleased to welcome him into the Association properly. James delighted us by giving us an interesting and highly amusing account of his own indoctrination into the world of science fiction and 'behind the scenes' details of the trials and tribulations of a science fiction writer.

It was great meeting you James. Good luck with the new book!

A short biography on James White will be appearing in our next issue of STARGATE which, at present, is in preparation and we hope that this will tide members over until we have a chance to meet James again.

A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE APPEARS OVER THE PAGE.....

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The very last meeting of the first year of the I.S.F.A. will be held on the evening of Sunday May 29th. This meeting will be very important for a number of reasons and we hope that, with this advance warning, all members who could possibly attend will keep the evening free. The venue will be announced later.

First of all, the present committee will present their reports on the Association's activities over the year 1976/77.

Secondly, the members will be asked to approve the Association's constitution which will be circularised with the April newsletter. Any changes or suggestions will be discussed at the meeting.

Thirdly, the members will be requested to cast votes in the election of committee members for the year 1977/78. For this to be possible, it will be necessary for Association members to be proposed and seconded by fellow members who would like to see them take up office or continue in office for a further year. We are getting to know each other pretty well now so if you feel that someone you know would be a worthy committee member why not put his or her name forward. All that is necessary is that you write the name of the candidate, your own name and the seconder's name on a dated piece of paper and give it or post it to a current committee member. We are also giving you some time to think about this since it will be necessary to print a list of candidates and their manifestos in the April newsletter.

Remember, this is where you, the member, take a hand in the running of the Association so, it is of the utmost importance that you give it your fullest support.

For obvious reasons, the A.G.M. will be a private meeting which may only be attended by fully paid up members.

We hope that light refreshments will be available.

LIBRARY AND BOOK NEWS from P.J. Goode,....

We now have over 450 paperbacks in the library and a complete list will be published in our next journal. Once again, the rules for joining are as follows:- A donation of 5 books (or 50 pence) to join and then 10 pence per book borrowed afterwards. The maximum number of books that can be taken at any one time is now 5. The borrowing period remains one month.

ARROW are publishing the 5th and 6th in the Dumarest Saga series - THE JESTER AT SCAR and LALLIA. Good fantasy about the Earl of Dumarest - space wanderer, gladiator-for-hire, and seeker for man's forgotten home....or something! They will also reprint James Blish's FALLEN STAR. ++ CORGI publish NEW WRITINGS IN SF 27 - one of the few magazines prepared to publish unknown writers. They also reprint MUTANTS by Robert Silverberg. Also in print will be a collection of 20 short stories by Thomas N. Scortia CAUTION! INFLAMABLE! Scortia is co-author of THE GLASS INFERNO (subsequently filmed as THE TOWERING INFERNO) and his book contains a forward by Theodore Sturgeon. ++ Thomas Burnett Swann will be presenting WILL-O-THE-WISP for CORGI also. ++ CORONET have a series of new titles which include PRISONER OF FIRE by Edmund Cooper, set in a future where telepathy is the ultimate weapon in psychological warfare. And finally, the pick of the month's titles - the superb BORN WITH THE DEAD by Robert Silverberg, a collection of 3 novellas, with the title story surely the best Silverberg has ever done!!

P.J. has prepared a list of good sources for second hand SF books and bargains and this will be printed in the next newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE that all enquiries now should be addressed to Mr. Paddy O'Connell, 11 Templemore Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin 6. (SAE please.)