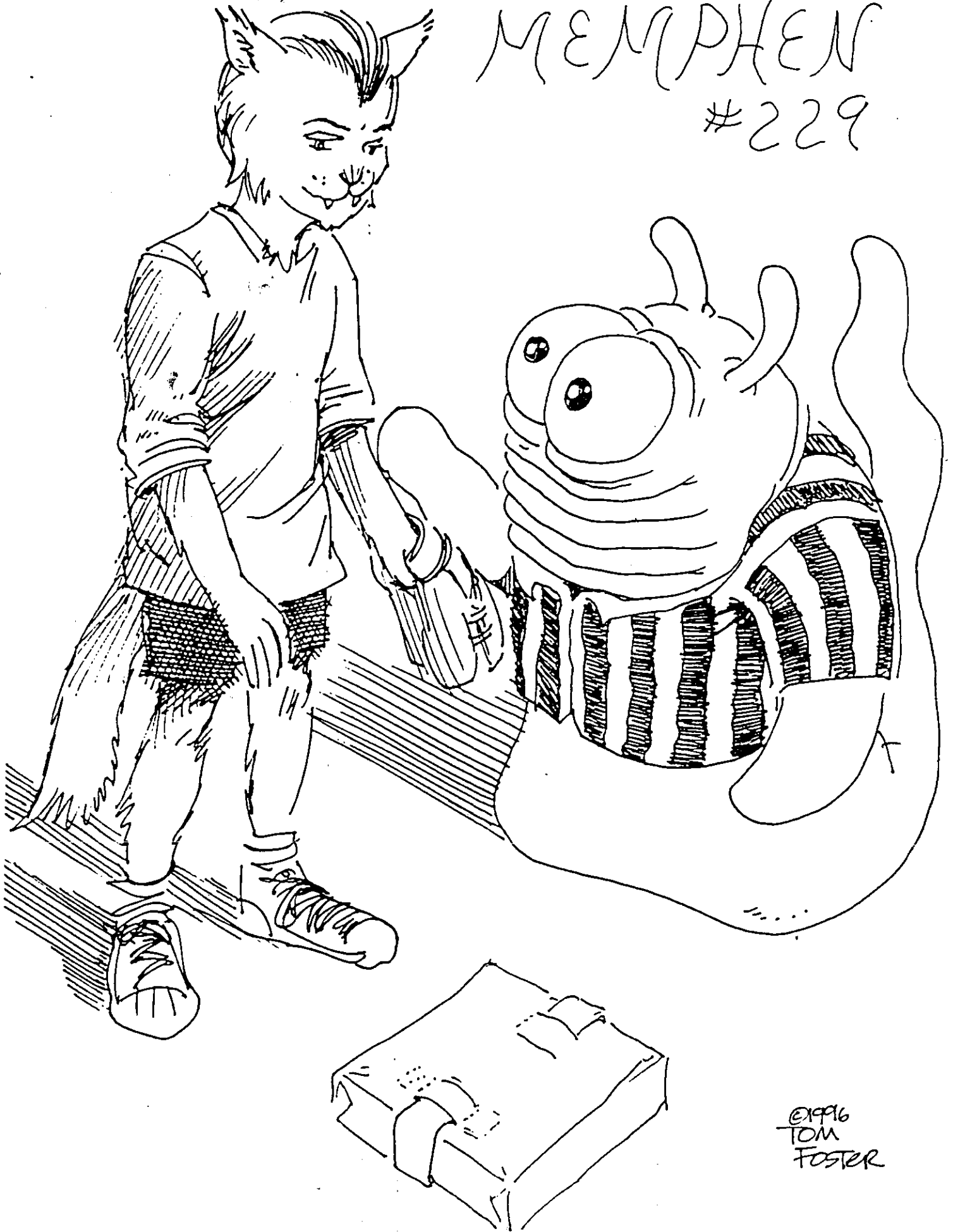


MEMPHEN

#229



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TOM  
FOSTER

**Upcoming Events:**

**Monday March 10 - 7pm MSFA Library Meeting** - main branch of the MSCPLIC library - Peabody & McLean. Program: SAARCON - German SF Convention report by Angela Bridges. Be there or be cubic (which is thrice worse than being square)!

**Friday March 28 - Sunday March 30 ALL DAY** - MidSouthCon 16 - Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall, Robinsonville, Mississippi. Call Greg (274-7355) or Sylvia (761-7716) for more info.

**Sunday March 30 - 6pm** - MSFA House meeting and MidSouthCon 16 Dead Dog Party - 5376 Elmhurst Avenue, Memphis TN - the home of Barbara and Tim Gatewood. Call 375-1091 for directions. (This may start early and end early if we clear out of the hotel quickly enough.)

**Monday March 31** - deadline for *Memphen* 230. (Bring yr stuff to the Dead Dog/MSFA House meeting the day before or email it - just get it to us by this date, ok?)

*Memphen* is currently edited by Tim Gatewood (with Barbara Gatewood serving as Assistant Editor), who can be reached at 3125 South Mendenhall, #353, Memphis TN 38115-2808 (PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS as of Jan. 1997). Please send **EVERYTHING** that has anything to do with *Memphen* to this address - zines in trade, books or other items for review, articles, art, whatever. Send only your money to the MSFA address below.

You can contact the Editor of *Memphen* via email at: 72740.3445@compuserve.com. We gladly accept TEXT submissions via email. Call or email us if you'd like to get the electronic version of *Memphen*.

The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. If you send us something that you don't want included in *Memphen*, please tell us - otherwise, we may just edit and include it in a future issue. Call 901-375-1091 if you have questions about editorial policy (PLEASE NOTE NEW PHONE NUMBER as of Jan. '97). **The next deadline is MONDAY MARCH 31, 1997.**

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*Memphen* is the semi-official publication of the Memphis Science Fiction Association (MSFA). Send your money for dues or subscriptions to MSFA at PO Box 12534, Memphis TN 38182. For just \$10 per year, you can join MSFA or subscribe to *Memphen* or both.

MSFA meets twice most months (2nd Monday at the main library at 7pm; 4th Sunday at someone's

home at 6pm-ish). See above for details of the March meetings.

Current MSFA Officers: Angela Bridges (Chairbeing), Claude Saxon (Vice Chairman), Greg Bridges (Treasurer), Michael Kingsley (Secretary).

**Does anyone want to volunteer to do a Web Page for MSFA and/or Memphen? If so, let us know.**

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**Editorial Comments - by Tim Gatewood**

The Darrell Award Committee met Thurs. Feb 27th at our home. Angie was AWOL, but Sylvia and I went ahead anyway. We reached several decisions that will be presented to the members of MSFA for approval at the March meeting. Please be at the March 10th meeting to participate in the discussion and final voting on the Darrell Awards for 1996 and 1997. These will be presented at MidSouthCon 16 during the Masquerade intermission on Saturday night.

The deadline for the 1998 Darrell Award(s) is now set for February 1st, 1998. If you see any local SF or fantasy or horror novels or short stories published during 1997, please notify us and we'll send you a Nomination Form.

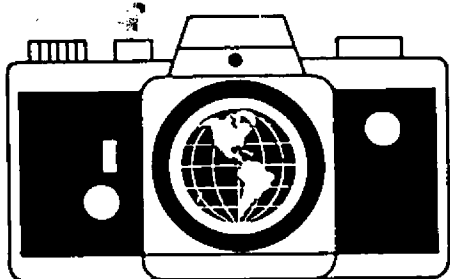
We would also like to add some more people to the Darrell Award Committee. If you are interested in serving to promote literacy in the MidSouth by recognizing good published works in our genre, and helping to let folks know about MSFA in the process, please tell Tim, Sylvia, or Angie.

We are pleased to present a wide variety of stuff this time. If you have any comments on this issue, please drop us a letter or email or phone call. (Be sure to let us know if you do NOT want your response to appear in a future issue.)

## Chair Angie's Report by Angela Bridges

At the March meeting I plan to do a SaarCon report, which is the German SF Con that was in Saarbruecken, Germany.

I was the only American there, but not the only English speaker, as there were several people from England and Scotland. There were also attendees from Russia, Croatia, Poland, and others. I have slides and photos of not only the Con but the rest of my trip. I may not show all of the stuff I have, a bit overwhelming, I know, but I will try to keep it interesting. I mean, Europe and in particular Germany, are very interesting places. I also have some SF books I bought there in their Dealer's room that are in German. One of particular interest is Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451.



## Report of the February MSFA Library Meeting By Tim Gatewood

Ten members and guests (not including the Secretary, who had informed us previously that he would be out of town for work) attended the February 10th meeting at the Main Branch of the Memphis and Shelby County Public Library and Information Center (Main Library), corner of Peabody and McLean, midtown Memphis.

Those there included: Angela Bridges (Chairbeing), Claude Saxon (Chairbeing in charge of Vice), Greg Bridges (Keeper of the Sacred Savings), George Holland (He Who Digs Caves), Elissa Hargraves (She Who Sometimes Brings Home-made Candy) and her son Bret (Well-Behaved Lad), Michael Casini (Dr. Mike), Dana Hager (Keeper of the Gregster), Sylvia Cox (Miss MidSouthCon), and Tim Gatewood (yr 'umble Editor).

By the time I arrived, they had more-or-less finished talking about the announced topic of Tigercon, the media con recently held at the University of Memphis. It seems the attendance at that first-time event was rather low and the publicity for it was less than it should have been. Otherwise, I don't know what was said about it.

Besides that, we just schmoozed and split.

*(Thanks to Angela for the list of attendees.)*

## Shtuff from the Memphen mail box

2-11-97

Dear Tim & Barbara & Greg:

Thanks and Welcome Back and Good-Bye and Sorry to Hear about Greg's mimeo TO ALL OF YOU!

Re: Howl-O-Ween. The dog dies! The dog always dies! Remember that beautiful German Shepherd in one of the "Creature from the Black Lagoon" movies, "Old Yeller," etc. I'm so tired of the dogs dying, also the basically good person who made a mistake and has to be sacrificed or the hero needs an excuse to kill lots of people. AND - oops, sorry! This isn't the "I Hate It When" message board... Well, if it's good AND not gruesome. (I'm tired of gruesome!)

Ancient Shores sounds good (and not gruesome). I think I'll put that one on my To Read List.

Appreciatively,  
Joy V. Smith  
3403 Providence Road  
Lakeland FL 33810

From: INTERNET:george\_laskowski@  
cc.cranbrook.edu  
16 Jan 1997 07:15:36 -0500

Dear Tim,

Well Happy New Year!

It's been hectic here for the two weeks we've been back to school. Final tests then preparations for exams. I have some breathing room right now, since the reviews are going well, and all my exams are written, copied, collated and put in a safe place until I give them on Wednesday next week.

Vacation was mostly relaxing, with some periods of hectic activity: last-minute shopping, traveling to and from Indiana for Christmas, and visits from my parents and family. Got a lot read, but I did not work on finishing the basement for my SF/F library. Got lots of time for that—maybe I can get started now, since I have some free time. <grin>

Thanks again for the shirt. I have been doing some work on the next Lan's Lantern, but it is slow going. And I have not mailed out all copies of the Hal Clement Special yet. I hope to rectify that soon.

Your house sounds nice. Having the space is nice. Kathy moved from over 5,000 square feet to just under 3,000 square feet. But everything we brought over fit in, with just a little crowding in the family room, but even that isn't too bad. We have an extra washer and dryer, but we'll sell that in a garage sale this spring, if Kathy's ex doesn't buy it from us when he moves from his apartment to a house.

My office is in the basement, along with a lot of my old stuff. That's where most of the excess things packed into closets and all the storage places of the old house went. The larger pieces (like the washer and dryer) are in the garage. It took a while to rearrange things so that we could get 2 cars in, but I managed that. It's tight, but we plan to get rid of a lot of stuff this spring in a garage sale.

Kathy's office is in the library, along with an extra desk which the kids use for the computer what their father owns. I suspect that Dan will take it with him when he heads off to law school in the fall. Tanya will start college at University of Michigan in the fall too, so Kathy and I will be alone in the house, and have all sorts of extra room!

Both of us had to drive further to work (but Kathy's found an easie way to get to work, which makes it better for her), but this house was affordable, and probably the best deal Kathy ever got. She likes it a lot better than the "mansion" she was living in before. The layout is better, and without a "great room" (with a cathedral ceiling), it is much easier and less costly to heat. The attic fan makes it easier to cool, and so we don't need to run the air-conditioner that much. It's a nice neighborhood.

I have not seen a NASFA Shuttle for a couple of months. I wonder what's gone awry. I'll have to contact Mike Kennedy.

Yes, keep in touch! :) I got the January MEMPHEN -- a bit sparse with news. I look forward to the February issue.

Best, Lan

~~~~~

21-Jan-97 10:20 CST  
Fm: INTERNET:howlowen@ix.netcom.com

I just wanted to drop a line to thank you and your group for inviting me to speak and share part of my new book. I enjoyed it very much and look forward to seeing you all at the MidSouthCon in March.

Thanks again. -- GLH

{Gary L. Holleman read from his work-in-progress at the January MSFA Library meeting.}



## Artists' Addresses

From time to time, we get some positive comments about the art that graces our pages. If you like the art, let us encourage you to write directly to the artists and tell them. Maybe that way, they will be inspired to keep sending and lending us their wonderful works.

Tom Foster  
55 South Alicia  
Memphis TN  
38112

(also write to Ken Fletcher c/o Tom Foster)

Ruth Thompson  
129 Vienna Avenue  
Niles OH 44446

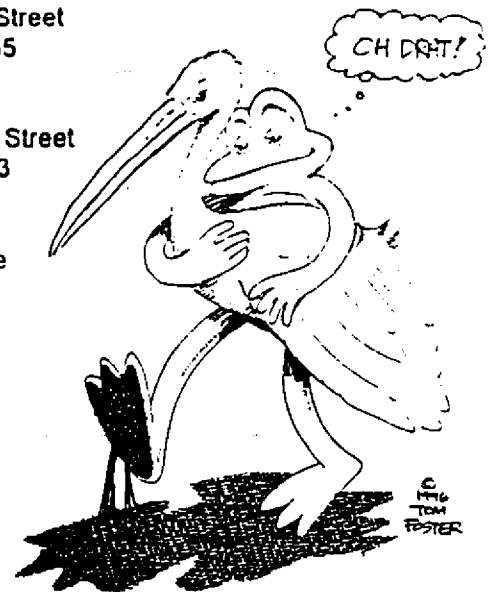
Peggy Ranson  
1435 Toledano  
New Orleans LA 70115

Bonnie Red Bird Feather / Bonnie Donovan  
5351 Breckenwood Drive  
Memphis TN 38127

Lore Ann Parent  
612 South Fourth Street  
Marquette MI 49855

Angela K. Scott  
4739 NE Flanders Street  
Portland OR 97213

Teddy Harvia  
701 Regency Drive  
Hurst TX 76054



## Movie Review of "The Whole Wide World" by Michael Kingsley

(Sony Classics, 1996, rated P.G., 105 minutes)

Last year, the World Science Fiction Society made some changes to their Constitution regarding eligibility for the Hugo Award in the category of Best Dramatic Presentation. Specifically, the qualification was re-worded from "any production in the medium of dramatized science fiction or fantasy" to "any

production in the medium of dramatized science fiction, fantasy, or related subjects."

[I've seen this referred to as the "Apollo 13 rule," since it was brought about by the large number of nominations for the movie Apollo 13, even though that wasn't strictly a science fiction movie.

In this context, I would say that "The Whole Wide World" is to 1996 what Apollo 13 was to 1995. I first saw this film mentioned on the web page\* of Hugo recommendations from members of NESFA (the New England Science Fiction Association). I had never heard of it before and had no idea what it was about.

While on work assignment in Dallas, I saw an ad in the Sunday paper that, next Friday, "The Whole Wide World" was coming to the Inwood Theatre near SMU. Again, no clue as to what it was about.

My curiosity was perked.

I viewed the movie on opening night, which happened to be Valentine's Day. Entirely appropriate, once I finally realized the subject matter. "The Whole Wide World" is a love story regarding Texan schoolteacher Novalyne Price and her relationship with local pulp fiction writer, Bob Howard (yes, that Bob Howard).

Her initial impression of this man is favorable, finding him charming if somewhat eccentric, especially when she overhears him at work, booming out his prose as he writes it, voluminously describing the sword and sorcery exploits of his characters.

During their first date, he describes his character Conan to her in a fervent manner, revealing some of the traits that cause the local townspeople to label him an odd duck, especially by 1933 Brownsville, Texas type of standards.

Vincent D'Onofrio plays the brawny, bombastic Robert E. Howard, bringing to life an egotistical persona that is almost as offbeat as the characters he created for *Weird Tales*. Renee Zellweger (who can also be seen in "Jerry Maguire") plays Novalyne, the woman who tried to bring a sense of normalcy and happiness to Robert's boorish life. Robert, however, gives her the good ol' "I'm too much of a free spirit to be anchored down by some dame" speech. The middle of the movie does seem a little drawn-out as you watch her patience and perseverance, until the scene at the restaurant where he loudly describes orgies with naked women chained to bloody altars, you're finally thinking, "Geez, lady, just dump the jerk already." To quote fellow Texan Hank Hill (of FOX-TV's animated *King of the Hill*), it's obvious that "that boy ain't right."

Novalyne is too intelligent to put up with this after this point, and eventually does start seeing other beaus.

During a date to the local picture show to watch the pirate movie, "Captain Blood," they're glimpsed by Robert, who naturally suspects treachery and ridicule, and further continues on his downward spiral.

Eventually, they come together in an emotional, tender moment, where Novalyne tells what changes are expected of him if he does wish to keep seeing her.

This viewpoint of Robert E. Howard is based on Novalyne Price's memoir, "One Who Walked Alone," which views him through the eyes of his sweetheart, and was written in defense of scholarly descriptions of him as a borderline psycho-case. Michael Scott Myer's script contains a fine sprinkling of humor within its mix of emotions. The movie is compassionate but uncompromising, deferential yet unflinching, being constrained by biographical facts to present a small glimpse at a talented misfit that hopefully received some satisfaction and stability from Novalyne during his short life (Robert E. Howard died at the age of 30.).

Personally, I would much rather see an entertaining, finely-acted story like this make it on the Hugo ballot than a mindless, special effects extravaganza like "Independence Day" (but with one billion dollars of combined box office and videotape grosses, what are the chances of that?) . Hopefully, it will receive enough nominations to at least make Honorable Mention, and I plan on doing my small part to make it so.

Upon returning to Memphis, I noticed that the movie was showing at Cinema Showcase 12, but I don't know how well advertised it was. Chances are that by the time this issue of *Memphen* reaches its readers, the movie will have long left that theater. If you got the chance to see it, congratulations. If not, hopefully you'll get the chance to see it on video at home or in the video room of a science fiction convention. This movie is definitely worth the effort of those people who prefer good stories and fine acting to zapping lasers and big screen explosions. Filmed biographies of science fiction and fantasy writers are a rarity, and one of this caliber is deserving of your attention. Robert E. Howard was one of the giants of the pulp genre, and quite possibly actually was the greatest pulp fiction writer in the whole wide world.

\* Interested parties may find NESFA's list of 1996 Hugo recommendations and suggested reading on the Internet at <http://www.panix.com/NESFA/hugos96.html>.

## A Review of ChattaCon : January 17-19

by John McGill

I had lost my ChattaCon flyer so I was using the instructions posted on the internet to find the hotel. Bad idea! Those instructions directed me to take a non-existent exit. After spending an extra half hour on the road and crossing the Tennessee River two more times I was ready to kill the person in charge of the ChattaCon web site.

When I arrived at the hotel it was only to be greeted with more of the same. Parking was impossible. Hotel check in had a long line. The crowd in the lobby made standing in line even worse. When I asked a security staffer if something could be done about crowd control I was informed security was tied up handling a problem with the elevators. One elevator was closed for renovations and security was making sure nobody exceeded the six person limit on the only other elevator. The next day I was in that elevator when the limit was exceeded. It jumped slightly and stuck between floors.

I made it through the convention registration without a hitch (Kudos for ChattaCon registration staff), and went straight to the dealer's room. It was a good size room with a nice variety of selections. The book sellers included both Glen Cook and Larry Smith. I scoured Glen's table and found a couple Harry Turtledove hardbacks for half price. Since Harry was the Guest of Honor I scooped them up. I shopped at Larry's table later, but I always give writers my business first.

The art show, like every art show, was in a perpetual state of flux. It was a large art show and it was a good art show. It seemed to be run by people who knew what they were doing. I only wish I had been able to make those last minute bids I was thinking about.

As the evening wound down I decided to do what I had been putting off, and check out the con suite. I've been known to describe ChattaCon as a huge frat party with the occasional interesting guest. Their con suite is largely responsible for that description. This year they held the frat party across the street crammed into a tiny function space underneath the parking garage. That tiny space was shared with the video room and gaming. Many people told me they planned to avoid going to the con suite at all.

Saturday I filled my time going to autograph signings and panels. Available for autographs were Harry turtledove, Esther Friesner, James P. Hogan, Charles L. Grant, Wendy Webb and a few others if you knew where to locate them. Esther was the other guest of honor. She did a reading at one panel of a short story she's recently had published. Tom Kidd was the artist Guest of Honor. He did a slide show which covered his art career, but mostly dwelt on his recent

"Gnemo" project. Afterwards the room filled with people wanting to buy a copy of his sketchbook and get an autograph. Programming had forgot to plan an autograph session for the artist GOH.

Unfortunately I missed both the art auction and the masquerade. However, I was lucky enough to see a lot of great costumes. A tv crew were interviewing everybody who came by in costume. Many people put on their costumes and paraded through the lobby for them. Thanks to Esther Friesner being a guest, there were a lot of "Chicks in Chainmail" outfits. Even several Arabian costumes honoring another of her books.

Later that evening I met with Uncle Timmy and he asked me to join them for dinner. "Them" included Uncle Timmy, Marcia McCoy, J.P. Hogan & sons, plus several other good fen. Excellent company and an excellent meal seemed to top off the whole weekend.



### We also heard from:

From the Del Rey Internet Newsletter (DRIN), comes word that BARBARA HAMBLY, who was a Guest of Honor at MidSouthCon a few years ago, is writing Icefalcons Geas, the next adventure in the world of The Darwath Trilogy, to which she returned with Mother of Winter, her 10/96 hardcover.

We also received word that Joy Smith has three stories on the recently-released "audiobook" entitled Audio Version Science Fiction Stories, Volume 1. There are seven stories in all on two tapes in this "book;" these fill about three hours. For further info, write to Audio Version, Inc., PO Box 551, Hawthorne NJ 07507-0551. (The price is \$17.00 plus \$2.50 s/h.)

I meant to mention this last issue - also received was the new paperback edition of Battlefield Earth by L. Ron Hubbard and the Battlefield Earth interactive CD-Rom (mostly for Windows 95 but with some Windows 3.x stuff on it too). Look for reviews of those in a future issue. Thanks to John Goodwin, VP of Public Affairs, Bridge Publications, Inc., 4751 Fountain Ave, Los Angeles CA 90029, for these goodies.

## JOHN DeCHANCIE BIBLIOGRAPHY

For the past few months, I have been trying to my hands on a complete bibliography of John DeChancie, the author Guest of Honor for MidSouthCon 16, which will be held at Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall the last weekend of March 1997 (this month!). The convention sponsors (MSFC, Inc.) recently received the following from the man himself. So, here it is -- just in time to rush out and complete your collections before the convention!

### NOVELS:

Starrigger. Berkley/Ace Books, 1983.  
Red Limit Freeway. Berkley/Ace Books, 1984.  
Paradox Alley. Berkley/Ace Books, 1986.  
Crooked House (with Thomas F. Monteleone). Tor Books, 1987.  
Castle Perilous. Berkley/Ace Books, 1988.  
Castle For Rent. Berkley/Ace Books, 1989.  
Castle War! Berkley/Ace Books, 1990.  
Castle Murders. Berkley/Ace, 1991.  
Castle Dreams. Berkley/Ace, 1992.  
Castle Spellbound. Berkley/Ace, 1992.  
The Kruton Interface. Berkley/Ace, 1993.  
Magicnet. Avon/William Morrow, 1993.  
Dr. Dimension. Penguin/Roc Books, 1993.  
Dr. Dimension: Masters of Spacetime. Penguin/Roc Books, 1994.  
Bride Of The Castle. Berkley/Ace, 1994.  
Living With Aliens. Berkley/Ace, 1995.  
From Prussia With Love. Prima/Proteus, 1996.  
(A Castle Falkenstein novel)  
Masterminds Of Falkenstein. Prima/Proteus, 1996.  
(A Castle Falkenstein novel)  
Innerverse. Avon Books, 1996.

### ANTHOLOGY:

Castle Fantastic, edited by John DeChancie. DAW Books, 1996.

### NONFICTION BOOKS:

Juan Peron. Chelsea House Publishers, 1987.  
Gamel Abdel Nasser. Chelsea House Publishers, 1987.

### SHORT STORIES

"The Grass of Remembrance" appeared in The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, May, 1984.

"The Soul is Dead That Slumbers" was published in The Pittsburgh Quarterly, Vol. 1, No. 1, Winter 1991.

"Murder On-Line" appeared in Whatdunnits, Mike Resnick, ed., DAW Books, 1992.

"Death and Transfiguration" first appeared under the title "Hitler Clone in Argentina Plots Falklands Reprise" in Alien Pregnant by Elvis, Esther Friesner, ed., DAW Books, 1994.

"Oracle," appeared in Parsec, No. 1. 1994.

"The Vig" is from Wheel of Fortune, Roger Zelazny, ed., Avon Books, 1995.

"Tu Quoque" first saw print in Superheroes, John Varley, ed.; Ace Books, 1995.

"The Richmond Enigma" appeared in Sherlock Holmes in Orbit, DAW Books, 1995.

"Broomworms and Nosewigs" by John DeChancie was published in Castle Fantastic, John DeChancie, ed., DAW Books, 1996.

"Getting Real" was published under the by-line "Raul Cabeza de Vaca" in Castle Fantastic, John DeChancie, ed., DAW Books, 1996.

"O the Tangled Web" appeared in Future Net, Larry Segriff and Martin H. Greenberg, eds., DAW Books, 1996.

"The Dark and the Damp" saw print in 100 Astounding Little Alien Stories, Martin H. Greenberg, ed., Barnes and Noble books, 1996.

"The Limits to Gross" was first published in Free Space, Brad Linaweaver, ed., Tor Books, 1997.

"Elf Help" initially saw print in Elf Fantastic, Larry Segriff and Martin H. Greenberg, Eds., DAW Books, 1997.

"Forage" and "The Seepage Factor" were originally published in First Contact, Larry Segriff, Ed., DAW Books, 1997.

"Spellchucker" appeared in Wizard Fantastic, Martin H. Greenberg, Ed., DAW Books, 1997.

### VERSE:

"Writer's Lament," "When You're SF," and "Villanelle on Casting the SFWA Membership Reform Ballot," first appeared in the SFWA Bulletin, Winter 1993.

### ARTICLES:

"By My Bootstraps," appeared in Filmmaker's Newsletter, June 1974.

"The Dark Side of Cyberspace" was published in Penthouse, November 1994.

**The Chronicles Of Scar** by Ron Sarti  
(AvoNova, © 1996, 190 pages with map, \$5.50)  
Reviewed by George "Lan" Laskowski

The author, Ron Sarti, gave me a copy of this book over a year ago at the local convention CONFUSION. When I saw him this past CONFUSION, I was chagrined to tell him that I had not yet read it. I have since then, and wished I had read it earlier.

600 years prior to the opening of the novel the United States was hit with two Earthquakes within 4 months of each other, which unleashed diseases and genetic experiments from sealed laboratories, and disrupted communications, social life and the land mass forever. The setting of THE CHRONICLES OF SCAR is the kingdom of Kenessee, which is on the new shoreline of what's left of the North American continent.

Arn is a street beggar and waif, but is found to be the

son of the King, and he is taken in to be educated as the second in line to the throne. All of this is related in the first hundred or so pages of the novel, and the life of Prince Arn, how he acquired the name of Prince Scar, and his ascension to the throne, is chronicled in the rest of the book.

This is mostly a fantasy novel with wars and intrigue, magic and remnants of the old sciences. But Sarti has put a lot of thought into the background so the novel is open for more books in the same setting. Prince Scar is an likeable and interesting character whose comments and inner thought processes are most interesting. The sarcastic comments he makes to himself remind me of the characters in Tanya Huff's novels.

I would like to find out more of what happens to Prince Scar, particularly the effects of the final war he fights in an attempt to save Kenessee from outside invaders. It's a novel mixed with humor, warmth, bloodshed, and tough choices, and worthy of your perusal.

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Art Credit: Cover - Tom Foster ; page 3 - right - Tom Foster; Back cover - Tom Foster; otherwise, Dover clip art.

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