

'T' H E W S F A J O U R N A L

The official organ of the Washington Science Fiction Association --- Issue Number Six
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BALTIMORE REPORT

*secretary's copy
for file*

For years members of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society have been regular attendees of WSFA meetings. Indeed, the Vice-President of WSFA, Mark Owings, is a Baltimorean. At the BSFS meeting of July 24 there was, for the first time, a visible turn-out from WSFA - seven or eight members, if my memory serves me correctly.

The occasion was a special meeting at the beautiful, spacious, fully air-conditioned Baltimore Holiday Inn Hotel, one of the prospective sites of the 1967 Balticon. If the other prospective Balticon sites are as nice as this one, the Balticon should be a memorable affair!

People started arriving at about 6:30 p.m. First to arrive was the host and supplier of liquid refreshments, Ron Bounds. After a few more persons had shown up, there was a brief session of Diplomacy. The business session began at about 8:00. After an opening "prayer" three new members were inducted, and several dollars in dues were collected.

The rest of the evening consisted of Diplomacy, card-playing, discussions of various and sundry things, "filk" songs, drinking, and swordplay. Everyone seemed to be having a wonderful time! The meeting/party concluded at about 3:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

Kim Weston

My wife, daughter, and I arrived at the Holiday Inn, in Baltimore, at about 8:00 p.m. The meeting room was excellent, having air-conditioning, four tables and a lectern. Ron Bounds, who supplied the meeting room, also supplied liquid refreshments, and we brought along a case of beer; candy was also available. Among the more-than-twenty attendees were several non-Baltimore WSFA members in addition to ourselves: Alan Huff, Alan Simons, Mary Kramer and friend, Kim Weston, and Elliott Norman and friends (escorted by a policeman).

The meeting itself seemed to be somewhat disorganized. It was chaired by Jack Chalker, the BSFS President. During the meeting several new members were admitted to membership. One thing which seemed rather odd was the club requirement that if a club officer missed three consecutive meetings, he was out of office. After the meeting a game of Diplomacy developed. Ron Bounds wandered over to the bar and I explored the streets of Baltimore looking for candy for my wife. We departed at about 1:00 a.m.

Bill Berg

LORD KALVAN OF OTHERWHEN by H. Beam Piper (Ace Books, 1965, 40 cents)
A Book Review, by Alexis A. Gilliland

The first 76/192 of this book appeared as the novelette, "Gunpowder God," in ANALOG, and concerns the fantastic rise of Calvin Morrison of the Pennsylvania State Police after he tangles with a paratime conveyor. Calvin - who becomes Lord Kalvan almost instantly - woos and wins a princess, is shadowed and observed by Verkan Vall of the Paratime Police, and captures a castle for his adopted fatherland, Hostigos. Good sport and rousing fun, a particularly nice touch being the way his hobby-knowledge is put to use for practical purposes, like world conquest. In the course of the proceedings Kalvan breaks the monopoly of the Church of Styphon on the manufacture of gunpowder.

The second part of the book is Lord Kalvan and Hostigos standing against the evil minions of the Church of Styphon, in a mileau featuring early gunpowder-type weapons and tactics. The Church seeks to destroy Kalvan by waging war against Hostigos, and personal assassination. Kalvan seeks to destroy the Church by the dissemination of the secret for making the "fireseed" (as gunpowder was referred to on thatwhen). He also has to fight off the Church-inspired and financed invasions of neighboring princes, and this leads to all sorts of action, battles, diplomacy and the like. The writing is good, except for the rather large number of strange names floating around, and the story is 99.44% thud and blunder with a little philosophy thrown in.

"Lord Kalvan of Otherwhen" is first-rate entertainment and it is recommended highly as such. I enjoyed it.

THE GALAXY PRIMES by E. E. Smith, PhD (Ace Books F-328, 1965, 40 cents)
A Book Review, by Alexis A. Gilliland

This is a strange book, neither flesh nor fowl, nor good red beet. The "story" revolves about a Psionic Ship and her Psionic Crew, and their travels and what they found. There are several levels to consider. The main "story" line involves two couples, Clee Garlock and Belle Bellamy, the Primes of Terra, and James "Jim" James the Ninth with Lola "Brownie" Montandon, their Operators or sidekicks.

Clee and Belle are a pair of cast-iron, copper-bottomed, hard-bitten bastards, and the running duel between them enlivens much of the book. Jim and Brownie are along to set them off.

In the course of their trip they encounter strange menaces made scarcely believable, races of humans guarded by Arpales and Arpalones for no good reason; the Dilipic, that eats worlds but doesn't bother people; and many others. There is some rather heavy-handed satire as well, as Belle cleans up a spy ring, violating the head spy's constitutional rights with mental telepathy.

Then there is the discovery of some seventy planets with two primes each, one male, one female, each bordering on the discovery of psionic spaceflight, and the attempt to organize a Galactic Patrol with a collection of spoiled supergenius types.

Finally, all these phenomena are explained by the newly-discovered "pregnant universe" theory. Sigh.

As E.E. Smith, this is not the best by any means. Nevertheless it is better than passable light entertainment, and the characterizations of Clee Garlock and Belle Bellamy are memorable. Resolve to take it with a dab of salt, as a pure romp, and

you may enjoy it. I didn't figure this out until half-way through, alas, and taking it straight was rather jarring. Not recommended except for E.E. Smith and Burroughs fans.

SHE: A HISTORY OF ADVENTURE by H. Rider Haggard (Seven Arts - Hammer Films - MGM)
A Movie Review, by Albert E. Gechter

(In Metrocolor and Panavision, with Ursula Andress as Ayesha, John Richardson as Leo Vincey, Peter Cushing as L. Horace Holley, Christopher Lee as Billali, and Rosenda Monteros as Ustane)

This is the fourth and latest movie version of the famous old classic novel of romance, adventure, immortality, and reincarnation in the unknown interior of Darkest Africa. As usual, the script doesn't follow the book exactly and faithfully all the way through.

This time Leo Vincey and Horace Holley are British officers released from service in Lord Allenby's army in Palestine after the Armistice in 1918. They get in a fight with some Arabs in a tavern in Jerusalem, and this results in a meeting between the handsome, dashing Leo and the beautiful, mysterious Ayesha, who is the queen of a lost city hidden deep in the unexplored wilderness beyond the Sahara and the Mountains of the Moon. She gives him a map and directions, then disappears. Infatuated, Leo persuades his friends to accompany him on the perilous journey to this country where the civilization of the ancient Egyptians is preserved intact by their present-day descendents, where black and brown people are oppressed slaves, where witchcraft and human-sacrifice prevail, where the queen's soldiers wear ancient Roman armor and fight with swords and spears in tremendous battles.

Ayesha, "She-who-waits," "She-who-must-be-obeyed," is young and beautiful in appearance, but She is actually over two thousand years old, her life prolonged by bathing in a magical volcanic fire. She has recognized Leo as the reincarnation of the Greek warrior-priest whom she loved and then murdered in a fit of jealous anger ages ago and whose eventual rebirth She has awaited down through the ages.

The arrival of the British explorers and the favor shown by Ayesha to Leo angers the wicked Egyptian high-priest, Leo's fondness for a young native girl angers Ayesha, the oppressions of their rulers anger the native tribes, and warfare results. Ayesha persuades Leo to follow her into the magic fire, but when She enters the flames again, She shrivels up with age and crumbles into dust.

Ursula Andress is gorgeously beautiful as Ayesha, newcomer John Richardson is blond and stalwart as Leo, Peter Cushing performs with "stiff-upper-lip" as Holley, and Christopher Lee is his usual sinister self.

Hammer Films has already signed Miss Andress to star in the sequel, "Ayesha: The Return of She," in which our heroine is reincarnated in a lost kingdom of ancient Greeks in an unexplored region of Tibet, where Leo finds her again. Hammer Films also plans to have Richardson star as a cave-man in a new remake of "One Million B.C." with special effects by Ray Harryhausen. Christopher Lee is now finishing two pictures at once for Hammer Films, "Dracula, Prince of Darkness" and a remake of "Rasputin, the Mad Monk." And they're also planning more movies for Cushing. So, Hammer's "stock company" of actors will be kept busy for many months to come.

On hand for the next issue are reviews of the John Brunner novels, "The Repairmen of Cyclops" and "Enigma From Tantalus." Let's have some more, you readers! -- ed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The meeting of August 6 was informal because a quorum was not present. Since no business could be transacted, voting on the two proposed By-Law amendments was deferred until the next meeting (August 20).

Don Miller has been working on a revised Constitution and By-Laws for the club. I have appointed a Constitution and By-Laws Committee consisting of Phil Bridges (Chairman), Jay Haldeman, Don Miller, and Bob Pavlat, with myself as an ex-officio member, to consider the revised Constitution and By-Laws, and make a recommendation on this matter to the club at the meeting of August 20.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee met on the night of August 13, and reached essential agreement on the new Constitution and By-Laws.

Banks Mebane

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

On hand, 1 August	\$82.17	
Dues, old members	\$.50	
Dues, Associate member15	
Expenses: WSFA JOURNAL	\$4.00	
On hand, 15 August		\$78.82

Phil Bridges

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

At the unofficial meeting of Aug. 6, 24 persons were present: Phil Bridges, Jack Chalker, Elizabeth Cullen, Dick Eney, Albert Gechter, Fred Gottschalk, Delray Green, Alice Haldeman (who stopped by just for a moment), Jay Haldeman, Jerry Jacks, Mary Kramer, Don Lingrell (guest), Alan Luehrmann (the club's lone Associate member), Joe Mayhew, Banks Mebane, Don Miller, Roy Norman (guest), Mark Owings, Joel Sattel. (guest), Karen Summerfeldt (guest), Paul Taylor (guest), Michael Ward, Kim Weston, and Robert Weston.

The number of Regular WSFA members in good standing now stands at 36, which means 19 Regular members in good standing must be present at a meeting in order to transact business. The attendees at the meeting of August 6 included 15 Regular members in good standing (four short of a quorum), 3 Regular members whose dues are delinquent, one Associate member, and five guests.

Elizabeth C. Cullen

The next complete roster will be published in the October issue of the JOURNAL. Additions and corrections to the roster in issue number five are as follows:

- Clark, Frank E. - Change phone number to 354-9077.
- Gottschalk, Frederick - Change status from Inactive to Active Regular member.
- Rozman, Robert S., 3327 Courtleigh Drive, Baltimore, Md., 21207 - New Corresponding member.
- Walsted, Mark - Correction in spelling of last name.

ed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have received (second-hand) the following information concerning the Non-Con in Philadelphia during the Labor Day Weekend (at least, we think it is during the Labor Day Weekend): "NON-CON, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, September 7, 8, and 9, at the home of Steve and Harriett Kolchak, 2330 North Hancock St., Philadelphia, Pa., 19133 (Phone NE4-0252); Friday night - joint meeting of the New York, Baltimore, and Philadelphia Science Fiction groups; Saturday afternoon, softball game at 2 p.m. in a park near Harriett's; Saturday night - party; Sunday afternoon, picnic at Fairmount Park; Sunday afternoon - party; price \$1.50 per head."

We note that September 7, 8, and 9 are a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, respectively. Also, the program outlined above covers Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, but the days specified are Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. In addition, Labor Day Weekend could be considered as three days (Friday-Sunday, September 3-5), three days (Saturday-Monday, September 4-6), or four days (Friday-Monday, September 3-6). HELP, Harriett! Please clarify; we assume it covers the four-day weekend, with no program on Monday. Please send us (Don Miller, 12315 Judson Road, Glenmont, Wheaton, Md., 20906) full and correct details no later than the fourth Friday in August (August 27) for publication in the next issue of THE WSFA JOURNAL.

We have received a post card containing the following information concerning the BOSKONE '65 to be held (we assume) in Boston over the weekend of September 10-12: "On your way back from London - or even (and maybe especially) if you can't make it to England - drop in at BOSKONE '65, sponsored by the Boston Science Fiction Society; Theme: 'The Science in Science Fiction'; Guest of Honor: Hal Clement; Dates: September 10, 11, and 12; Membership Fee: \$2.00; Two-day program; Free Refreshments; For membership or further information write: Dave Vanderwerf, P.O. Box 5, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02141."

We were originally told Ike Asimov would be a guest; we assume he is still coming, although not as guest of honor. We would like to know more details, Dave (or anyone with the information), for publication in the next issue of THE JOURNAL, such as which two days will have the program, what sleeping accommodations are available, where the convention is to be held, and the like. Please send us (address above in the Non-Con announcement) full details no later than the fourth Friday in August (August 27).

Remember the LONCON II (23rd World Science Fiction Convention), London, England, August 27-30; attendees, \$3.00; non-attendees, \$2.00; U.S. agent William Evans, P.O. Box 1015, Langley Park, Maryland, 20787.

We have received word that the Deep South Con was a bit of a flop, with only 19 attendees. The Con was held in Birmingham, Alabama, on the weekend of August 6. The only area attendee was Ron Bounds, from whom we hope to receive a more complete report no later than August 27 (are you there, Ron?). There was no formal program.

We also hope to receive a report from Ron Bounds (yes, you again!) on the Ashe-Heap, which he attended over the weekend of August 13 in Ithaca, New York. And you people who attend the LONCON II - a report is needed (it may be just an informal paragraph or two) from each of you no later than September 10. Attendees at Non-Con - reports needed by September 10, if possible; BOSKONE attendees - reports needed by Sept. 24.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Surprise! A bi-weekly JOURNAL! We will put out bi-weekly issues whenever the material on hand warrants it - so you people out there see that we always have plenty of material on hand if you want the bi-weekly schedule to continue. We need con reports, announcements of cons and other fannish news, book reviews, movie reviews, etc. Whenever you read a book, magazine, or fanzine; see a movie, play, or TV show; etc, in which you think the other members might be interested, write it up, while it's still fresh in your mind, and send it to the WSFA JOURNAL, so others may share in your experience.

The JOURNAL is reducing its mailing list; T. Haughey, D. Harvey, G. Tullis, J. Vetter, and A. Wubnig, please note - if we don't hear from you by August 27, you will be removed from the mailing list. Five more names will appear in the next issue; this procedure will be followed until all persons who have not expressed a desire to continue receiving the JOURNAL are removed from the mailing list.

Corrections to last issue (#5) - Remove Fred Lerner and Duncan McFarland from the roster of attendees listed in the Secretary's report for the meeting of July 16; In Jack Chalker's Picnic report, change "Volua Johnson" to "Volica Johnson." Remember to send corrections to the membership roster (phone numbers, zip codes, etc) which appeared in issue number five of the JOURNAL to me by August 27. We have noted another Disclave report in THISTLE #3 (Duncan McFarland, 1242 Grace Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45208). Issue number one of the first WSFA publication, QUANTA, is still urgently needed!

August/September Calendar -

WSFA Meetings - August 20; September 3, 17 (at home of Miss E. Cullen, 7961 West Beach Drive, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20012; phone RA3-7107).
The Gamesmen - August 27; September 10, 24 (at home of D. Miller, 12315 Judson Road, Glenmont, Wheaton, Md., 20906; phone 933-5417; call before coming).
The Baltimore Science Fiction Society - August 28; September 11, 25 (call Jack Chalker or write him for info - 5111 Liberty Heights Ave., Baltimore, Md., 21207; phone 367-0685). Check with him also re BSFS meeting at the NON-CON.
Other events - Joe Haldeman/Gay Potter wedding and reception (August 21; see THE WSFA JOURNAL #5 or call me for details); LONCON II (August 27-30); NON-CON (Labor Day weekend); BOSKONE '65 (Sept. 10-12). Details on the LONCON, NON-CON, and BOSKONE are given within this issue of the JOURNAL.

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