

# AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

VOLUME ONE NUMBER SIX

DECEMBER 1968

## -Feature- BOOK REVIEW

ROOMS OF PARADISE, ed. Lee Harding  
(Quartet Melbourne, 182 pp)

Reviewed by David Grigg

Anthologies are not easy things to review. Too often the contents are so varied in quality and style as to make it impossible to talk about the book as a whole.

It is a rare pleasure, then, to be able to discuss an anthology such as ROOMS OF PARADISE in which the quality of the writing is uniformly high, far higher than is the average in science fiction. It is rather more a pleasure to be able to say that this collection of previously unpublished stories was edited by an Australian and published in Australia.

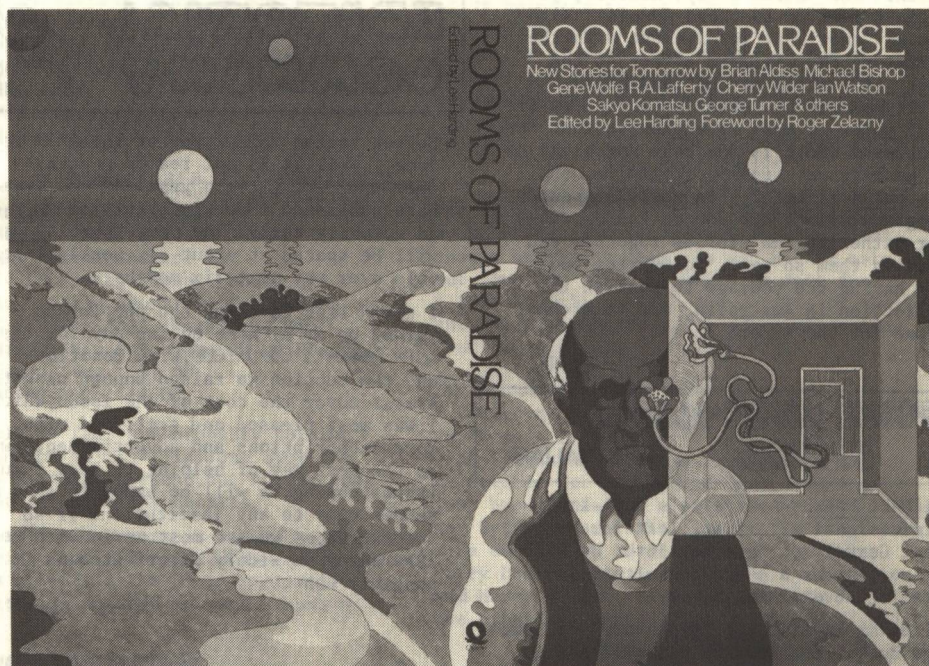
There is no doubt that this is the best anthology of sf to be published in this country, and it stands high in comparison with original fiction anthologies published overseas. Certainly, individual stories are flawed, but the book as a whole is excellent.

Six out of the twelve stories in the book are by Australians, the rest by very well-known American and British writers. Though I should perhaps not be surprised I'm glad to be able to say that on the whole it is the Australian stories which are the best-written, freshest and most original in the book.

It would be a futile exercise to try to rank the stories in order of merit, but I will discuss them as they come to mind, in a very rough order of my appreciation of them.

First up in this queue, then, is Phillipa Maddern's Ignorant of Magic. Disturbing, at times nightmarish, the story makes the powerful point that all our modern knowledge may in fact be abysmal ignorance of the things that matter. To describe the plot would be to spoil the story for you, but I felt all through that the author knew exactly what she was doing at every moment, building up a sense of confinement and hopelessness. The ending leaves us uncertain of the outcome: to have done otherwise would have been fatal. Ms Maddern does not have very far to go to become the best Australian sf writer we have.

Next I think of Michael Bishop's story, Collaborating. It's the story of a man with two heads. Ha, ha? Not at all. Bishop manages to treat the predicament of the protagonist(s) more sensitively and movingly than I would



have believed possible. Definitely one of the best stories in the book.

Re-deem the Time, by David Lake, does the apparently impossible: gives us a new twist to the idea of time travel. A wry humour pervades the story, but doesn't quite hide what is really a rather bitter and ironic idea. Very enjoyable, and very smoothly written.

Our Neighbour by David Copperfield is in fact written by Gene Wolfe. This story does not even pretend to be sf. It doesn't need to. The bitter, moving punchline will remain with me for a long time.

Cherry Wilder's The Falldown of Man is a wonderfully happy story, laced with splendid jokes. The only thing I wonder is how it will read to someone who has not read Ms Wilder's novel, THE LUCK OF BRIN'S FIVE, to which this story is an appendix. I suppose it won't make much difference. Ms Wilder's great strength is telling a story convincingly from an alien viewpoint. In this case the viewpoint is that of a member of a performing group who begin playing a dance or drama about the arrival on their planet of a strange creature called Man.

In a Petri Dish Upstairs is also an appendix to a novel, in this case George Turner's BELOVED SON, arguably the best Australian sf novel ever published. The story here stands perfectly well by itself, and does not lean on the novel. There's a certain hardness, a cynicism, in the story, which was also in the novel, and which I find here a little off-putting. But this very cynicism is perhaps the point of the story.

### ROOMS OF PARADISE

New Stories for Tomorrow by Brian Aldiss Michael Bishop  
Gene Wolfe R.A. Lafferty Cherry Wilder Ian Watson  
Sakyo Komatsu George Turner & others  
Edited by Lee Harding Foreword by Roger Zelazny

R.A. Lafferty is, shall we say, an idiosyncratic writer, and his stories break all the rules and get away with it. Bequest of Wings is superficially about the evolution of flighted humans. But deeper down it is, I think, saying things about human adolescence. I didn't like it quite as much as some of the author's other stories.

Frankly, I don't quite know what to make of A Passage in Earth by Damien Broderick. It is the most original treatment I've seen of the 'return from the stars' theme, and I find the story admirable in its conciseness of language and freshness. But I had a feeling, which I retained on re-reading, that the author was three or four steps ahead of me all the time, and that somewhere he made a turn-off that I missed. I don't know. Try it for yourself.

Indifference, by Brian Aldiss, was unfortunately too dry and abstract for my taste, though it is written with a splendid bitter humour, and comes to an effective and ironic conclusion. But it reads too much like a story written to expound a proposition in logic.

Pie Row Joe by Kevin McKay is the only story in the book which feels a little out of place, being rather lightweight. But it is certainly a well written and amusing story, told as a monologue from the point of view of an old man speaking Australian dialect. This kind of thing is very difficult, yet the story never once misfires.

I can't bring myself to like The Savage Mouth, by Japanese author Sakyo Komatsu, but it is the subject



(Book review-Rooms of Paradise-continued: )  
 matter and not the style, which is  
 flawless. To put it mildly, the story  
 made me sick.

And last, we come to the story which  
 gives its name to the book, The Rooms of  
 Paradise by Ian Watson. Unfortunately,  
 I found it rather disappointing. It  
 attempts the kind of thing that Jorge  
 Luis Borges did brilliantly years ago,  
 and reminds me also of stories by Tom  
 Disch. The Watson story, however, just  
 doesn't come up to these models. With-  
 out any emotional involvement with the  
 narrator, the ultimate effect of the  
 story is a shrug of the shoulders.

It was not my intention to end on a  
 sour note. I must re-emphasise that the  
 book as a whole is the best anthology of  
 sf we have yet seen in Australia, and  
 one which ranks high on world standards.  
 Congratulations are due to Lee Harding  
 for gathering the stories together and  
 editing them so well, to Quartet books  
 for having the courage to publish the  
 collection in Australia, and to Michael  
 Payne for the superb cover.

--- David Grigg

## PROFESSIONAL NEWS • AUSTRALIAN

MICHAEL PAYNE, Australia's best-known  
 professional sf artist, left for Munich,  
 West Germany on December 16th. He will  
 be working as a media consultant for a  
 leading advertising agency.

Mike was initially a 'discovery' of Space  
 Age Books; Lee Harding was awed and de-  
 lighted when Mike handed him his port-  
 folio early in 1974. At that time Mike  
 had only just left Technical School, but  
 already his sf work was of world standard.  
 He went on to do the brilliant wraparound  
 cover for Lee Harding's anthology, BEYOND  
 TOMORROW (Wren : 1976), which figured  
 prominently at the 1975 Worldcon audio-  
 visual display; cover and interior ill-  
 ustrations to THE SAND WEST OF MOUNTAIN  
 MOUTH by William Green (Cassell/Encounter  
 :1976); cover and interiors for THE WEEP-  
 ING SKY by Lee Harding (Cassell : 1977);  
 covers for ENVISAGED WORLDS and OTHER  
 WORLDS edited by Paul Collins (Void :1977  
 & 1978 res.); and his most recent work  
 was the cover to ROOMS OF PARADISE\*, also  
 edited by Lee Harding. Lee had come to  
 regard him as his 'personal' illustrator  
 ("he just pulls the visuals right out  
 of my head!") and will be sorry to see  
 him leave. It is worth noting that Mike's  
 career was made in advertising, and that  
 as well as enhancing the above books with  
 his unique illustrations, he also produced  
 more than fifty dustjackets for a variety  
 of Australian publishers. Mike was a great  
 all-rounder who will be sadly missed from  
 the local scene. (\* Quartet : 1978)

SCIENCE BOOKSHOP, the national ABC radio  
 review of current books (1 p.m. Sundays  
 in Melbourne) will have a regular sf re-  
 view segment beginning shortly. LEE HARD-  
 ING will act as advisor to the producer,  
JULIE RIGG, and among the reviewers you  
 can expect to hear: GEORGE TURNER, VAN IKIN,  
BRUCE GILLESPIE and one or two others.  
 Stay tuned, etc.

DAVID LAKE'S story CREATOR which was  
 published in Paul Collin's anthology  
ENVISAGED WORLDS, has been selected  
 by Donald Wollheim for his 1979 ANNUAL  
 WORLDS BEST SF from DAW Books. Paul

2 Collins reports he will most likely have

a story from David Lake in his next  
 anthology, ALIEN WORLDS, along with  
 stories by Cherry Wilder, A. Bertram  
 Chandler, Jack Wodhams, Rob Gerrard, Van  
 Ikin, Terance Green, C.C. Clington (editor  
 of THE DIVERSIFIER), Darrell Schweitzer,  
 Kendall Evans, Alan Carr along with a  
 story by Paul himself. Bruce Gillespie  
 is also a possibility and a leading  
 American author is expected to write  
 a forward.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT



So you reckon this issue of the ASFN is  
 late ! Well it is not really as we are  
 only publishing ten a year and we already  
 have published five since July, so this one  
 is actually early. The next four issues  
 will be spaced at about six weekly inter-  
 vals over the next six months.

I would like to thank the people who  
 turned up at my home on Cup day for the  
 ASFN benefit CUPDAYCON. With donations  
 and the auction we raised enough cash to  
 almost cover the cost of one issue, which  
 I was most pleased and gratified with.  
 More subscriptions and advertisements will  
 be the best way of helping to keep future  
 issues coming. We will be happy to send a  
 sample copy to any institutions if so  
 requested, as we are most anxious to see  
 ASFN being as widely distributed as it  
 possibly can.

Merv Binns



# Australian Science Fiction Foundation

The annual general meeting of the Australian  
 Science Fiction Foundation Co-Operative  
 Limited, was held at Space Age Books on  
 the 29th of November 1978. The annual fin-  
 ancial report was presented, two directors  
 retired in accordance with the rules of  
 the society and two new ones were elected.  
 Peter Darling, Kitty Vigo and Merv Binns  
 remained on the board. Carey Handfield and  
 Robin Johnson stood down and were replaced  
 by Chris Johnson and Paul Stevens.

It was pointed out at the meeting that the  
 function of the Foundation in that it act  
 as a resources centre, and promotional body  
 for the furtherance of the interest in  
 Science Fiction in Australia, is being  
 carried out. Financial and other assistance  
 has been given to conventions, and writers  
 workshops, and people are requested to  
 write to the convention with any proposals  
 for assistance with any projects relating  
 to science fiction, that they consider the  
 foundation can help with.

Address: G.P.O. Box 4039, Melbourne, 3001, Vic.

### AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

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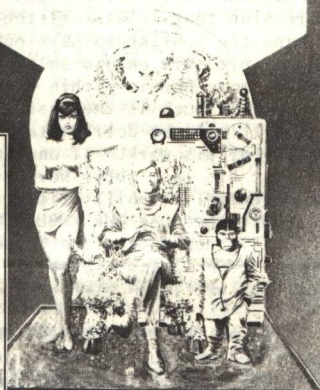
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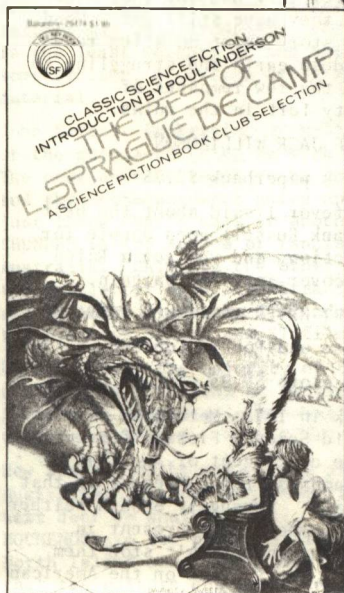
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**QUEST**  
FOR THE  
**WELL OF SOULS**



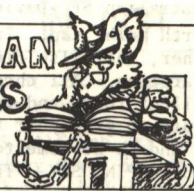
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Well of Souls, and Web  
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**AUSTRALIAN  
S.F. BOOKS  
IN PRINT**

(2) by David Grigg



I suppose I could call Lee Harding the Grand Old Man of Australian sf, but I know that he wouldn't thank me for that, since the image immediately conjured up is that of an ageing greybeard busily at work with a quill pen. And in any case, I'm sure he'd insist that the title belongs to Bertram Chandler.

Lee is in fact barely nudging the prime of life, yet he seems to have been around the Australian science fiction scene as long as anyone can remember, and writing stories for almost as long.

It's certainly true to say that Lee Harding has left his mark very deeply on Australian science fiction, as critic, writer and editor. His outspokenness has also left marks on some fannish egos.

But in this column, this time, I want to concentrate on the fiction of Lee Harding. There's no doubt that he has formed a very individual style, and has consciously tried to reject the influence of British and American sf. If anything, his books are British in style: very literate and philosophical.

It's a pity that I can't go into much detail here about Lee's first novel, A WORLD OF SHADOWS, since that is no longer in print. A curious book concerned with the nature of identity, its major scenes are set around the dinner table, and the conversations are far more important than the action. Yet the emotions aroused strike far deeper than any depicted in books of fast action. For a first novel, it's a very fine book, and if you see it remaindered somewhere you should buy a copy.

Still in print is FUTURE SANCTUARY (Laser Books). Flawed by editor Roger Elwood's idiot insistence that everything be explained, it is the story of a pursuit and a search, and of a man's retreat within himself. There are many beautiful dramatic images in the book: the metallic pursuers; a girl who weeps constantly from one eye as she draws in the sand; the final conflict with the Destroyer; all of these are memorable. But ultimately the book fails. It fails largely because the story is an extended metaphor which doesn't quite work on the first level, which

is essential. It remains a series of beautiful images and scenes; but all along I kept thinking: "Now what's this he's trying to do?". It's a pity, because I think that in the hands of a good editor, this could have become rather a powerful novel. Instead, it is reduced almost to the mediocre level of the other Laser Books. But what can you expect from an editor who was trying to produce a line of books to sell in supermarkets?

If you enjoy reading children's books, as I do, then you shouldn't miss the short children's novels that Lee wrote for the Cassell Encounter series. These books are THE FROZEN SKY, THE CHILDREN OF ATLANTIS, and RETURN TO TOMORROW. Of these, the best is perhaps THE FROZEN SKY, telling the story of the recovery of a lost container of vital drugs by the colonists of Mars, who have to battle up through the wastes of the



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Australian SF -David Grigg -con.

north polar cap. In finding the container, they also find something more startling. All three books are an excellent read, and very invigorating stuff to give your ten-year old.

And so we come to Lee's latest novel: THE WEEPING SKY. There's no doubt that this is the best of Lee Harding's books to date. Published by Cassell Australia with superb cover and interior illustrations by Michael Payne, it is a book which is curiously hard to define. It does not fit into any of those convenient categories which publishers and critics like to set up. This, perhaps, is the reason the book took so long to be published.

For all but the last two chapters, the book is only 'science fiction' to the extent to which Kingley Amis' recent novel THE ALTERATION can be said to fall into that category. We start off by being introduced to a mediaeval world in which Science is slowly emerging, bitterly opposed by the Church. As the book slowly progresses, we realise that this is an 'alternate universe' - history has moved differently there. So far this is nothing remarkable.

But right from the first page of the book, we are faced with an inexplicable phenomenon which has intruded into this world: the Wall, hailed as miracle and omen. The unfolding of this phenomenon until the ultimate inevitable disaster and understanding is the bones of the plot. But there are dozens of other fascinating themes to the book; the most important of which is a love story.

The protagonist, Conrad le Jeune, is a boy in his late teens, apprenticed to the Guild of Scientists. We learn that before this, he was a novice monk. He is searching for something to believe in - and ultimately Science, too, fails him. If the book has a moral, then it is this: neither subjective faith nor objective science is enough, alone, to understand the world. That's a strange moral for a book labelled as science fiction.

But possible morals aside, THE WEEPING SKY is an immensely readable book: the lure of the explanation of the phenomenon and the feeling of impending disaster is enough to keep the reader glued to the pages until the end. The main characters are well-rounded and real, and the book's concluding lines, which could so easily have been saccharine had the characters not been convincing, is instead a solid and satisfying conclusion.

Now, on the cover of the book it says that this is a novel for 'young adults'. I'm not sure about that, and if the novel has a flaw, it is that it seems not quite sure where it is standing as far as audience is concerned. There are times when the writing seems naive, especially when dealing with the relationship between Conrad and the girl, Donella; but that is understandable in a book meant for teenagers. Yet much of the time the book's style is literary and the vocabulary abstruse: words like 'supernal' and 'limned' appear in the first two pages: not quite right for a teenage reader. But this is mere nit-picking.

THE WEEPING SKY is a beautifully produced book, and an essential addition to any science fiction reader's library, just to show how good sf can be when it steps out of the rut.



Upon reading Ian Watson's newest book, THE MIRACLE VISITORS, one gets the impression that it was written in a hurry. Perhaps the publishers have put some kind of pressure on him so that he will produce more novels within a given period. If such is the case, then of course it will be detrimental to the quality of his work. If one looks carefully at his last three novels, one can see a general downhill slide, which is a great pity because THE EMBEDDING and THE JONAH KIT showed that Ian Watson is capable of brilliant ideas and excellent writing.

I found THE MIRACLE VISITORS disjointed and full of mumbo jumbo about levels of consciousness, UFO phenomena and pseudo-psychology.

The way a book affects a different reader is subjective and dependant upon that reader's preferences. Myself, I don't like material relating to UFOs and so I found this book boring. It was a struggle to finish it. I've no doubt that some other readers will be fascinated by it.

Briefly: The discovery by a professor of psychology that one of his students had met people from a flying saucer leads to a series of mysterious events and happenings, contact by aliens based on the far side of the moon, and the ultimate revelation of the truth about UFOs.

Not what one would expect, and not all that interesting anyway- Hopefully Ian Watson will take a little more care and produce something a lot better next time.

JOHN LITCHEN.

SHIP OF STRANGERS Bob Shaw  
Gollancz cloth \$10.65 160pp.

Who said, "They don't write science fiction like they used to." Well, whoever it was didn't know about this patische of short stories and novelettes that appeared in a somewhat different form of Analog, If and Universe. Now rewritten into a slightly disjointed novel of galactic exploration on the outer rim of known space, Bob Shaw has given us SF as it was written in the good old days.

WAYFARER Dennis Schmidt  
Ace paperback \$2.95.

A colony ship lands on what looks like a paradise planet and too late finds out that there are invisible entities that attack the mind and send most of the colonists violently insane. Somehow the few survivors adapt by using the ancient Japanese way of Zen, and the story is of Jerome and his struggle to save his fellow colonists seven generations later. SF that is a little different....but not much.

DRAGONS INGER Anne McCaffrey

Corgi Paperback \$2.75

Book one of the HARPER OF PERN series. Book 2, DRAGONSONG to follow. Whilst this series is set on Pern and is concurrent to the Dragonrider series, it is not part of the latter. I reviewed this in an earlier Space Age Catalogue a year or so ago, and I liked it then and haven't changed my mind since. If you like McCaffrey's writing then this is a must for your shelves.

BEST OF ERIC FRANK RUSSELL  
Ballantine paperback \$2.75

This series of the best of continues to be the best series of one Author collections around. Collect them all and you have the basis of a good SF library, read them and given them to a friend and you are still ahead. Great sf by great authors.

WEEPING MAY TARRY Raymond F. Jones & Lester Del Rey

Pinnacle paperback \$2.40.

Two of the old guard turn their hand to new material and prove to me that whatever they had one that made them great they have still got. Good thoughtful story about an alien race finding a dead earth and struggling to understand the few remnants of christianity left in the ruins.

THE BEST OF JACK WILLIAMSON  
Ballantine paperback \$2.75

Whatever I said about the best of Eric Frank Russell goes double for this collection, and you get a Ralph M'Quarrie cover into the bargain.

CHARLES FORT NEVER MENTIONED WOMBATS.  
Gene DeWeese and Robert Coulson.  
Hale SF cloth \$9.95

Back in 1975, Melbourne was host to the World Science Fiction Convention and a large contingent of American SF fans were amongst those present on that gala occasion. Strangely enough neither Coulson or DeWeese were present in Melbourne, but that didn't stop them writing this story based on the American fans trip to that convention, which is probably why this story finishes before the convention starts, a fact that disappointed me and will disappoint most of the Australian readers of this thin little in-joke.

And this leads me to another point. The British publishing company of Robert Hale must be in a bad way if they are forced, or even choose to publish material of this sort, because all the content that is in this story is a fannish joke that is only funny is you know fandom and fans. This is a ripoff of the unfannish reader who would be the only person rich enough to pay out \$10 for a hardcover book and who will be pretty upset when he/she realises just what it is they paid out good money for.

STARSHINE Theodore Sturgeon  
Panther paperback \$2.75.

Yet another collection of short stories, this time by Sturgeon, and if you don't know who he is, then buy this collection and make up for your ignorance at once.

P.J.Stevens



# NEW RELEASES FROM AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTORS

AUSTRALASIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY Quartet

/Hyland House

THE ROOMS OF PARADISE -ed Lee Harding HC  
J.CAPE

THE PATTERN OF EXPECTATIONS -I.F.Clarke  
(by the author of Voices Propheying  
War -due out early 1979) HC

APC have up to now handled all the Allen  
and Unwin publications including the  
J.R.R.Tolkien books, but Allen and Unwin  
are opening up their own offices from  
January 1st 1979.

ALLEN AND UNWIN

THE LORD OF THE RINGS -J.R.R.Tolkien  
New one volume edition with a scene from  
the new film illustrating the cover.

THE LORD OF THE RINGS - J.R.R.Tolkien  
A 78 page book with over 130 pictures  
from the film and a specially written  
text.

CALENDAR. A 1979 Calendar is now on sale  
featuring drawings by Tolkien and a film  
Calendar is to be published to co-incide  
with the release of the film. Probably a  
1980 one about mid 1979 we presume.

THE SILMARILLION -J.R.R.Tolkien  
A paperback edition is due early '79

BOOK PEOPLE AUSTRALIA -WOBLEDAGGER  
(Dragons Dream, Dragons World, Big 'O'  
Fantasy Art etc.)

MANAS MANA Bob Venosa  
MASTERS OF COMIC BOOK ART - P.R.Garrick  
BOOK OF CONQUESTS- Jim Fitzpatrick  
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST - Chris Achilleos  
NECRONOMICON- H.R.Giger (Jan)  
DRAGON CALENDAR (Dean, Woodroffe Etc)  
MECHANISMO - Harry Harrison

WILLIAM COLLINS BOOK DISTRIBUTORS Pan

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THE CROCK OF GOLD - James Stephens  
THE VAMPIRE - Roger Vadim  
THE BEAST THAT SHOUTED LOVE AT THE HEART  
OF THE WORLD - H.Ellison

Fontana

OPERATION ARES - Gene Wolf  
CINNABAR - Edward Bryant  
MESSAGE TO THE STARS -Ian Ridpath (Sci/NF)  
THE CHRONICLES OF THOMAS COVENANT -THE  
UNBELIEVER - Stephen Donaldson  
Lord Foul's Bane Volume One  
The Illearth War Volume two  
The Power That Preserves -Volume three

All the above titles should have been out  
by Christmas but at time of publication  
had not yet appeared. In Melbourne that is.  
Melbourne Booksellers are getting the  
short end of the stick from a number of  
wholesalers now, and they can never be  
certain of getting all titles they order.

WCBD also handle New English Library titles.  
See under Tudor. Also they both distribute  
SIGNET and NEW AMERICAN LIBRARY. The only  
title due we know of for certain in the  
SF line is the STAR TREK title:  
THE BEST OF TREK - W.Irwin & G.B.Love

GORDON AND GOTCH Panther

THE WORLD INSIDE -Robert Silverberg  
PORTALS - Edward Andrew Mann  
ROGUE SHIP- A.E.Van Vogt  
PURITY PLOT - E.E.'Doc' Smith  
PHILOSOPHERS STONE-Colin Wilson  
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TRAITOR TO THE LIVING- P.J.Farmer  
SLAN- A.E.van Vogt  
UNDER COMPULSION - Thomas M.Disch

CRYSTAL WORLD-J.G.Ballard  
NEW APOCRYPHA- John Sladek (Non-Fic.)

Mayflower

KINGDOM OF THE SPIDERS-B.J.Hurwood

Corgi

AQUARIUS' MISSION- Martin Caidin  
KILLER MICE - Kit Reed  
MAN AND THE STARS -Duncan Lunan (N/F)  
HIGH FRONTIER -Gerard K.O'Neil (N/F)  
CABAL 2:BLACK MOON- Saul Dunn  
NEWWRITINGS IN SF 30- ed Kenneth Bulmer  
COLLAPSING UNIVERSE-Isaac Asimov (N/F)

Bantam

DAY OF THE DOVE -Star Trek Foto Novel  
#10 - Gene Roddenberry  
WHAT MAD UNIVERSE -Frederic Brown

Warner

ASYLUM WORLD - John Jakes

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SPACECRAFT 2000 to 2100 AD-Stewart  
Cowley HC

HAMLYN AUSTRALIA

FAERIES - Brian Froud and Alan Lee  
artists. Designed and edited by  
David Larkin HC

HUTCHINSON GROUP (Australia)

GOBLINS -Spike Milligan and Heath  
Robinson (Hutchinson) HC  
THE DOSADAI EXPERIMENT -Frank Herbert HC  
DREAMSNAKE-Vonda McIntyre HC  
UP THE WALLS OF THE WORLD- James HC  
Tiptree Jr

(Last three titles are from Gollancz)

HODDER and STOUGHTON Coronet

MARUNE:Alastor 933 - Jack Vance  
LUDO AND THE STAR HORSE - Mary Stewart  
REBAL WORLDS - Poul Anderson

MACMILLAN

Octopus

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION  
ed Robert Holdstock

THOMAS NELSON Sphere Books

TERROR! A History of Horror Illustration  
from the Pulp Magazines-P.Haining  
BENEATH THE SHATTERED MOON - M.Bishop  
PEBBLE IN THE SKY- Isaac Asimov  
YEAR OF THE COMET -John Christopher  
PASTEL CITY-M.J.Harrison  
THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT WANTS YOU-  
Harry Harrison (Michale Joseph HC)  
STAR FIRE - Ingo Swann  
THE ROBOT WHO LOOKED LIKE ME -R.Sheckley  
THE JOYOUS INVASIONS - T.Sturgeon  
SUPERHEROES - Michael Parry  
CONAN OF AQUILONIA - De Camp & Carter  
THE WORLD IN WINTER - J.Christopher

PENGUIN BOOKS

WOMEN OF WONDER - SF Stories by Women  
about Women -Ed Pamela Sargent  
VERY LONG WAY FROM ANYWHERE ELSE  
Ursula Le Guin (Juv.Nov -not F or SF)  
CITIZEN OF THE GALAXY -Robert Heinlein  
THE MEN FROM PIG AND ROBOT-Harrison  
WATERSHIP DOWN - Richard Adams  
Fully illustrated film edition  
THE ULTIMATE THRESHOLD - Mira Ginsberg

REVIEW ENTERPRISES Arrow

THE WINDS OF DARKOVER -M.Z.Bradley  
BLOODY SUN-  
ELOISE - E.C.Tubb  
EYE OF THE ZODIAC - E.C.Tubb  
NIGHT SHAPES - James Blish

This distributor is also handling  
American BERKLEY Books but no list of  
titles definitely available is available.

Hard covers marked HC all others pb

THE RICAL /KENNARD Distributors

Wyndham

THE MAKING OF SUPERMAN-D.M.Petrou  
LORD TEDRIC- E.E.'Doc' Smith  
BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN- C.Dreadstone  
DOCTOR WHO & THE BRAIN OF MORBIUS-

Terrance Dicks

THE SAVOY BOOK - Ed David Britton &  
Michael Butterworth  
THE MUMMY - Carl Dreadstone  
DOCTOR WHO and THE ANDROID INVASION-  
Terrance Dicks

Magnum

THE MAN WHO JAPED -P.K.Dick  
WE WHO ARE ABOUT... Joanna Russ  
LAST AND FIRST MEN-Olaf Stapledon  
LAST MEN IN LONDON ..  
THREE DAMOSEL- V.Chapman  
CLANSMEN OF ANDOR- Andrew J.Offut

Hamlyn

GRIMM'S WORLD - Verner Vinge  
SILENT INVADERS -Robert Silverberg  
POE MUST DIE - Marc Golden  
THE WITLING -Verner Vinge  
A TOUCH OF STRANGE - Theodore Surgeon

ACE

DESTINIES - Jim Baen  
SIGHT OF PROTEUS - Charles Sheffield  
TREY OF SWORDS - Andre Norton  
GREAT TIME MACHINE HOAX-Keith Laumer  
THURB' REVOLUTION -Alexei Panshin  
STARWELL - Alexei Panshin  
ARMAGEDDON 2419- Philip Nowlan  
RETIFF AT LARGE -Keith Laumer  
DEFIANT AGENTS -Andre Norton  
CROSSROADS OF TIME - Andre Norton  
ARCTURUS LANDING- G.R.Dickson  
And numerous back titles

THAMES AND HUDSON

ROBOTS:Facts,Fiction and Prediction-  
Jasia Reichardt  
The FANTASY BOOK - Franz Rottensteiner  
The books,films,magazines and art

TUOR DISTRIBUTORS Futura

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA - Glen A Larson and  
Robert Thurston  
THE FURY - John Farris  
ALL MY SINS REMEMBERED - J. Haldeman  
ANDROMEDA 3 - Peter Weston  
IN THE HALL OF THE MARTIAN KINGS-  
John Varley  
PERRY RHODAN # 38: PROJECT EARTHSAVE  
K.Brand  
THE FAR CALL - Gordon R.Dickson  
NECROMANCER - Robert Holdstock  
THE FOREVER WAR - J.Haldeman  
MINDBRIDGE -

New English Library

ASSIGNMENT IN ETERNITY Vol 2- R.Heinlein  
THE WIZARD OF LINN - A.E.Van Vogt  
BREAKFAST IN THE RUINS- M.Moorcock  
VOYAGE TO FAREMIDO/CAPILLARIA -  
Frigyes Karinthy  
THE COLD CASH WAR - Robert Asprin  
THOUGHTWORLD- Terry Greenough

Ballantines

THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE -H.Clement  
BEST OF JACK WILLIAMSON- Intro F.Pohl  
ATTACK FROM ATLANTIS- L.Del Rey  
UP THE LINE - Robert Silverberg  
THE WORLD IS ROUND - Tony Rothman  
BEST SF OF THE YEAR #7 - Terry Carr  
THE GENTLE GIANTS OF GANEYMEDE- Hogan  
DANCERS IN THE AFTERGLOW-J.Chalker  
ROCKET JOCKEY - Lester Del Rey  
BEST OF RAYMOND-Z.Gallun  
EXILES AT THE WELL OF SOULS - J.Chalker  
BEST OF LESTER DEL REY -intro F.Pohl  
WEB OF WIZARDRY- Juanita Coulson



# PUBLISHERS RELEASES Continued

DARK STAR - Alan Dean Foster  
THE BEST OF ERIC FRANK RUSSELL  
STAR WARS CALENDAR 1979  
STAR TREK CALENDAR 1979

We do not know if all the above titles will be available for certain, but they include titles published up to October USA which we believe TUDOR should be able to supply.

Thomas Nelson are expecting soon in SPHERE: THE INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS by Jack Finney. A new film is also due to be released soon. Review Enterprises are expecting the book of the film SUPERMAN by Mario Puzo. The film is due for a Christmas release but the book looks like being a little late.

Two titles missed on the CORONET list are reissues of Edmund Cooper's: SEAHORSE IN THE SKY and THE TENTH PLANET. Of marginal interest is also John Gardner's THE WEREWOLF TRACE.

Some titles listed in all publishers lists are not yet out but should be at least in January.

## ADVANCE INFORMATION FROM GOLLANCZ

The following titles are due to be published by Gollancz Publishers in the U.K. over the next six months:

THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE- Arthur C. Clarke  
ON WINGS OF SONG- Thomas M. Disch  
THE VERY SLOW TIME MACHINE- Ian Watson  
BLOOD AND BURNING - Algis Budrys  
THE GREAT DUNE TRILOGY - The three books in one Volume by Frank Herbert  
PROFUNDIS - Richard Cowper  
THE SONGS OF SUMMER AND OTHER STORIES - Robert Silverberg  
JEM - A new novel - James Gunn  
DAGGER OF THE WIND - new novel- Bob Shaw

## AUTHOR NOTES

JACK WILLIAMSON reported to our roving correspondent that he has a number of books coming out in the near future as follows; BROTHERS TO DEMONS, BROTHERS TO GODS from Bobbs Merrill-Spring '79, TEN TRILLION WISE MACHINES from Bantam, QUEEN OF THE LEGION in the Legion of Space series from Pocket Books, a story in HARLAN'S WORLD - FAR SIDE STATION which we gather will first appear in ASIMOV'S Magazine, Fantasia Press are doing a special edition of REIGN OF WIZARDRY, DARKER THAN YOU THINK selling well in French edition, the CT novels are to be re-published in Jove. (We would very much appreciate any information of this kind from other authors who have the time to send it to us. M.B.)

STEPHEN DONALDSON is working on a second trilogy in the Thomas Covenant series, this time set 300 years later than the first. We are hoping it is not three hundred years before we have the paperback edition of the first series on sale here.

IN MEMORY YET GREEN: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ISAAC ASIMOV 1920-1954 will be published in February by Doubleday, and is his 200th book.

Bantam will publish an original anthology apparently edited by HARLAN ELLISON called MEDEA: HARLAN'S WORLD. Williamson, Clement, Disch, Pohl, Niven, Wilhelm, Pohl, Sturgeon, and Ellison himself will have stories included.

## OVERSEAS NEWS

TED WHITE has left 'Amazing' and 'Fantastic' as editor. The January and February issues respectively will be last issues he will edit. No new editor has been appointed yet but they will be using reprints of art and stories for a while, then they will be looking for new material. Arthur Bernhard the new publisher stated however that nothing is really set and that we should wait and see what developed.

POCKET BOOKS will be publishing all future STAR TREK books and no more new titles will appear from Bantam or Ballantine.

The second issue of OMNI had a print run of 1.3 million and apparently 2 million on the third. Penthouse Inc. are apparently quite confident in it's future. The first issue went on sale here early December, and although it has sold well at least at Space Age, nobody has really been all that enthusiastic about it. We can only hope later issues do improve.

JEM is a new novel by Fred Pohl to be published in hard cover soon by St. Martins Press.

### BESTSELLERS

The top selling books in the SF field in October in the USA were;

Paperback: Dragonsinger - McCaffrey  
Heir of Sea & Fire - McKillop  
Lucifer's Hammer - Niven & Pournelle

Hard cover: The Courts of Chaos - Zelazny  
White Dragon - McCaffrey  
Fellowship of the Talisman - Simak

Trade PB: The Magic Goes Away - Niven  
Frank Frazetta Book 3  
The Fantastic Art of Boris Vallejo

Magic Goes Away has 130,000 copies in print after two printings.

This is an abridged list from LOCUS.

Most of the author notes and overseas news is also courtesy of LOCUS.

JAN HOWARD FINDER is one of our most ardent supporters for A'83. He urges us to all get together in a concentrated bid. He wants to come back to Australia because he had such a super time last trip.

Jan is Chairman of what he calls the first British convention west of the Atlantic prior to 1776. Bob Shaw will be guest of Honour, Jack Cohen FGOH and Bob Tucker is Toastmaster. Write to Jan for more info if you will be in the USA over the 2-4th of November '79.

His comment on DUFF and GUFF is interesting in that he thinks anybody should be allowed to stand who can get the nominators. Let the fans decide themselves. Whether people can or cannot afford the trip is irrelevant. That is not the point I was trying to make in my comments in ASFN, rather that fans who have already been to a world con..... OK! The more I think about it the more complicated it gets. Really I do not think anybody (the administrator included) has the right to refuse a nomination really. The fans will decide who is right or wrong in the long run.

May the Great Wombat smile on you also Jan!

## BOOK REVIEWS CONTINUED...

CONDITION OF MUZAK Michael Moorcock  
Fontana paperback \$3.25.

There is only one Jerry Cornelius and Moorcock is his creator and this is the final novel in the Jerry Cornelius quartet, and nothing I can say will alter your decision to either buy this novel right now or avoid it like the plague. So I won't!

DEATH OF THE DRAGON Sakyo Komatsu  
NEL paperback \$2.50.

The worst disaster in the history of the World, reads the blurb on the back of the book and they could be right because of the transition from Japanese to English leaves much to be desired, but if you like the idea of Japan sinking below the waves forever, then this is the book for you.

THE HERMES FALL John Baxter  
Panther paperback \$3.25.

Yet another disaster novel... and you can take that comment anyway you want. Anyway, there is this bloody great asteroid see, an' it drops into the Atlantic, an' all American gets covered in water an' the climate changes an' great exciting literature it ain't. And the sex is very graphic.

EARTHS OTHER SHADOW Robert Silverberg.  
Panther paperback \$2.15.

Some of Silverberg's shorter fiction. A good buy by one of sf's best authors.

LOW-FLYING AIRCRAFT J.G. Ballard.  
Panther paperback \$2.50.

A collection of short fiction by one of the most controversial of the 'new wave' writers of the 1960's. You either hate him or love him.

THE SHATTERED CHAIN \$2.90

STAR OF DANGER \$2.50.  
Marion Zimmer Bradley.  
Arrow paperbacks.

Two of the classic 'Darkover' novels in British edition. Good solid SF that has been building a well-deserved reputation over the past 15 years.

THX 1138 George Lucas.  
Novelisation by Ben Bova.

Panther paperback \$2.50.

Although the blurb on the back of this book make's this novelisation of the SF movie sound like an early version Star Wars it is nothing like it. Worth reading whether you saw the movie of THX 1138 or not.

NEBULA AWARD STORIES 11 edited by Ursula LeGuin  
Corgi paperback \$2.95.

I shouldn't have to tell you on this volume, you should be up and running to the nearest bookstore to buy a copy of this collection of the best sf for 1975, as picked by the writers of America.

P.J. Stevens





## A REPORT FROM JOHN BROSNAN

LONDON: November 1978

First off, of course, I'd like to plug my own book *FUTURE TENSE* which is an irreverent survey (and is probably even an irrelevant one too) of sf cinema. It includes interviews with Michael Moorcock, Harry Harrison, John Brunner, John Baxter, Val Guest, Richard Fleischer and Derek Meddings. Foreword is by Harry Harrison. Published in Britain by MacDonald & Janes and in the USA by St Martins Press. Costs a small fortune in both countries.

The multi-million dollar sf movie *ALIEN* is still in production at Shepperton Studios. Producers are being rather secretive as to what it's about but actually it's a variation on the old monster-loose-in-the-spaceship plot. A spaceship lands on a remote planet and one of the crew members is infected by a mysterious organism that he finds in a jar buried in an artificial cavern. The thing incubates within him and bursts out (through his chest) and hides in the ship's ventilation system, snatching the crew members one by one and using their still-living bodies as incubators for its young. Finally only one crew member, a woman, is left alive, plus the ship's cat, and she attempts to escape, with the cat, in a life-boat but the monster gets on board as well. Using the cat as a decoy the girl manages to blow the creature out of the airlock. Both girl and cat survive.

Should be a good sf/horror movie but it does sound awfully familiar. Screenplay is by Walter Hill and David Giler but the original screenplay was by Dan O'Bannon (co-writer of *DARK STAR*) and I suspect he was inspired by a 1950s movie called *IT, THE TERROR FROM BEYOND SPACE*, which was scripted by Jerome Bixby, and in turn owes a lot to a couple of stories that are incorporated in A. E. Van Vogt's *VOYAGE OF THE SPACE BEAGLE* ("The Black Destroyer" in particular). Seeing as lawsuits between companies who make sf movies are in fashion at the moment I think Van Vogt should sharpen up a couple of lawyers and get stuck into 20th Century Fox, who are making *ALIEN*.

Fox, as everyone probably knows, is suing MCA over *BATTLESTAR GALACTICA*, claiming that it's a copy of *STAR WARS*. Amusingly, John Baxter has been approached by MCA who have asked him whether he'd be prepared to fly over to the States and be one of their defence witnesses. All expenses paid, of course. The only other British writer they've asked is Brian Aldiss. If this case ever reaches court it should be very entertaining with lawyers trying to work out just who invented such devices as robots, ray guns, etc....

The new Bond film *MOONRAKER* is also getting into the space war act. The villain, Hugo Drax, is based in a huge

space station orbiting Earth and the climax of the movie will be, hopefully, a big spectacular space battle with the station being attacked by NASA space shuttles. Derek Meddings, the special effects man who used to work on *THUNDERBIRDS* and more recently did the effects in *THE SPY WHO LOVED ME* told me that the space stuff was going to look as authentic as possible and that they even had a NASA expert acting as a technical adviser. However he admitted there probably would be sounds in space ... They all knew it was unrealistic but the director, producer, etc, feel that a silent space battle lacks drama. Sigh.

Despite rumours that the project had been scrapped *FLASH GORDON* is still in pre-production at Pinewood. I hate to think what Flash will look like after Nic Roeg, who is collaborating on the script and will direct, and Dino DeLaurentis get through with him. I just hope that Roeg doesn't cast Mick Jagger in the role.

There are a lot of other so-called sf movies about to shamble into cinemas across the world - there's the Disney 17 000 000 dollar space epic called *THE BLACK HOLE* which is about a spaceship falling into - what else? - a black hole. It is the biggest Disney live-action production to date and obviously a huge investment for the relatively small company. To quote *VARIETY*: "The studio is betting that the science fiction boom will not die out before the film's release..." which will probably be Christmas 1979. I can't wait.

Apart from the numerous *STAR WARS* rip-offs there are also numerous *CLOSE ENCOUNTERS* rip-offs coming your way. One of which is *WITHOUT WARNING*, a Bless International Film Production, whatever that is. And there's also *THE DARK* from Film Ventures International. Unlike *WITHOUT WARNING* I gather *THE DARK* has already been completed. It stars William Devane, Cathy Lee Crosby and Richard Jaeckel and was directed by John 'Bud' Cardos. "Not all alien encounters will be friendly!" drivels the advertising blurb.

And then there's *SLITHIS* which is about a creature spawned from atomic waste. Ah, nostalgia! At this rate we'll soon be back in the fifties watching *Godzilla* again. *SLITHIS*, the makers claim, has been nominated for "2 Awards by Sci-Fi Horror Academy". What?

Bad news in the shape of producer Harry Alan Towers' production of *THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME* which is being shot in Canada. What's the bet it includes a battle in outer space?

Neither am I very enthusiastic about the film version of *THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES* which has already gone into production. On the credit side the script is by Richard Matheson, but unfortunately Milton Subotsky is one of the producers and the director is Michael Anderson, the man who gave us *LOGAN'S RUN* and *DOC SAVAGE*.

*HUMAN EXPERIMENTS* is on the way from Pyramid Entertainment and is presumably an American-Italian co-production. It's directed by J. Gregory Goodell, and included in the cast is someone called Ellen Travolta.

Also from Italy comes *THE FISHMEN* directed by Sergio Martino and starring Barbara Bach, Richard Johnson and Claudio Cassinelli. "Diabolically created to recover a huge treasure at the bottom of the ocean they lived and fought in the deeps..." Crumbs!

And if that wasn't enough there's *PLANET OF DINOSAURS* which is about people "trapped in a nightmare world of prehistoric monsters". Whatever will they think of next? This film, directed by James K. Shea, was the winner of a Special Jury Gold Medal Award at the Virgin Islands Film Festival.

And who says the sf film hasn't come of age?

PS: Some news about Arthur C. Clarke's forthcoming novel *THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE* which he claims will be his last sf one. It concerns the building of a space 'elevator' which stretches from a mountain in Ceylon to an orbiting space station. JOHN BROSNAN, 23 Lushington Rd, London NW 10, U.K.

The *MARTIAN CHRONICLES* starring Rock Hudson started filming in September, according to *Variety*. It is directed by Michael Anderson; written by Richard Matheson; special effects by John Shears. Being filmed in Malta and the Canary Islands. A Charles Fies Production.

We saw *BATTLE STAR GALACTICA* at a preview on December 6th or thereabouts. It certainly is quite spectacular, but the story and the dialogue leaves a lot to be desired. It no doubt will go quite well with the general moviegoer, but the discerning sf fans will have to wait a little longer for the film or films that strike the happy medium between *SPACE ODDYSEY* and *STAR WARS*.

*THE LORD OF THE RINGS* FILM. Bill Rotsler in *Locus* reports he was somewhat disappointed in the film. It is made by Ralph Bakshi who made *WIZARDS*, and a process called Rotoscoping is used in which live action film is painted over frame by frame by animators. A variety of artists worked on the film.

Bill went on to say that he really did not know why they did not make the film in live action and be done with it. Much of it is high contrast motion picture film with bits of colour painted on here and there. This combined live and animated action he said was great when Gene Kelly danced with the mouse in *ANCHORS AWAY*, but as annoying as hell in the film. He has not read Tolkien he said, so he could not say how faithful it was to the books, but the ending was most unsatisfactory, which is not surprising seeing that the film finishes half way through the second book. There was nothing in the film that could not have been done with special effects, matte painting, "live" animation and straight photography. A lot of people will no doubt go to see the film but no doubt a lot of Tolkien fans are going to be very disappointed.

Work is now well underway on the new *Star Wars* film, *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK* in the special effects department and principal photography will commence in February 1979. Look for an early 1980 release.



# LETTER COLUMN

Edited by John Foyster



ROBERT CLEMENTS, 27 Bellinger Place,  
Sylvania, N.S.W. 2224

In ASFN 4 you ask for opinions on the Ditmar categories. First of all I'd best admit that I'm a new reader, and if what I say has been discussed and disregarded years ago it's not my fault.

Six awards is about right, based on the four you suggested. The professional awards must be split into two. (It stands to reason that a fair novel will beat a good short story in any ballot.) The fan awards? Well, I'm not a F\*A\*N so I'd best not argue.

That leaves two, and it's those two that I've stewed over for a month. How do you like this idea?

One should be an International SF award, just to show that we're not totally divorced from the rest of humanity. On this, I don't think that magazine serialization is by itself sufficient qualification for such an award. In a situation where only the magazine version is out 'in time' then the book should be held back until the full version is available. (As an example, compare the serial and book form of GATEWAY. Both are good but the complete version is better. In certain years that might be the difference between winning and losing.)

The last award would be on a three year cycle. One year a non-Prose award (from films through plays, poems and illustrations) a field not normally covered in awards; second an Anthology award (for ones published from Australia) and the third would be free for special awards (best writer, illustrator, grand master (taken now, that would probably be the most one-sided vote in the history of the awards) - just about anything).

The non-Prose and Anthology awards would cover the period since the last award (in this case three years). By illustrations I mean sequences, say the artwork for an illustrated novel. And I suppose it is possible that the screen-play and the film could compete against each other in the final ballot.

The Anthology award (a bow to the increasing importance of local publication of sf) could be given either to a single book (for example purposes only, Broderick/A&S THE ZEIT-GEIST MACHINE) or a series which has been important, though any individual volume might not win (Norstrilia Press's workshop books).

CHRISTOPHER PRIEST, 1 Ortygia House,  
6 Lower Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 ODA  
England

I suppose the luke-warmest news over here is that, like a dying Disney dinosaur, NEW WORLDS is staggering onwards. In its latest manifestation, it is a sort of newspaper of the future ... with

imaginary "news" stories. I haven't seen it myself, but I gather its main concern is with dividing the English literary world into Good Guys and Bad. And to think that once the "new wave" was a vital force. The last NEW WRITINGS has just appeared in pb here ... or at least, the last for the time being. Again, I haven't seen it myself, but I gather from one or two people that have that it's one of the best issues for some time. I suppose next year, '79, is going to be the busy year ... with two large cons and God alone knows how many foreign visitors. It all sounds exciting in prospect, but the temptation is to start putting up storm-shutters and hide under the bed, hoping it will go away. The plans for the Worldcon are well advanced; the booking form arrived this week. At this far remove I can't do more than express the hope that as many of my Aussie mates as possible will be able to get across to Britain for it. (I'd be glad to know how GUFF is proceeding, by the by.) What seems sure about the Worldcon is that it will be the biggest and best British con yet ... without undue boastfulness, British cons are special, a fact discovered by foreign visitors (many of whom come back year after year), and the Worldcon looks as if it will be the most special yet. (Excuse the grammar.)

Personal news: not much. Still writing slowly, and haven't started a new novel since WESSEX (2½ years ago!) I've got a new story collection coming out in early '79, called AN INFINITE SUMMER. I hope at least one copy gets across to Melbourne, as there's something in there for a few of my friends. I've also written a TV play based on the title story ... but that hasn't been sold so far. Still hoping. ANTICIPATIONS should have reached Australia by now ... that's the book I finished two days before setting off for Oz, back in January '77 ... shows how long these things take to squeeze through the pipeline, eh? At the moment, I'm currently completing a new anthology, which is supposed to be published in time for the Worldcon; this will be called STAR OF ALBION, and is an anthology of the best stuff by the best British writers. It's a co-edited book, by the way, with Rob Holdstock. While I was in Oz, I got an idea for a story (I bored Peter & Elizabeth Darling with it), and at last that has been written up into something called The Miraculous Cairn, which is coming out in a Ramsey Campbell anthology next year, called NEW TERRORS. That's about it.

(JF: John Foyster, editor of this letter column, and its typist, and GUFF candidate, wishes to reassure the above writer that GUFF is still plodding along.)

MICHAEL MOORCOCK  
c/o Anthony Sheil Associates,  
2/3 Morwell Street, London WC1B 3AR U.K.

Thanks for ASFN which I found particularly interesting because I share Bert Chandler's liking for ships, railways and airships as civilized means of transport. I realise it's partly because I get claustrophobic in aeroplanes. These days I rarely travel anywhere I can't reach by boat and train and only use a plane with extreme reluctance... Tell him I'm doing all I can at this end to get a new dirigible line between here and Australia. That'll attract people back to tourism.

The next issue of NEW WORLDS(214) will be out in November. It will contain work by me, Meadley, Platt, B.J. Bayley, Michael Butterworth, and others. 75p. This is a bigger and generally more ambitious issue. 215 will follow it closely and will be edited in Manchester by Dave Britton and Mike Butterworth. 216 will be primarily the work of Charles Platt (as editor) and will feature mainly new US material. After that issue we'll pause to re-think our policy if we feel it hasn't developed the way we want it to go. But I can't see us returning to publishing short stories, as such.

(M.B. Thanks Mike for the information, and I will take you up on the offer to send us any further news you can. Your publication list was also most appreciated, and we will use a bit of it in the next issue.)

DONALD L HUMPHRIES, Box 1271-L, GPO  
Melbourne, Vic 3001

Most of us are familiar with Isaac Asimov's "Three Laws of Robotics". They occur in several of his books, and are listed in his recent "The Bicentennial Man".

Asimov's intention in devising the Laws was to keep robots in their place ('robata' - Czech, meaning servitude or forced labor'), and stop them running amok or taking over the world. While this may be all right for sub-human robots, I would prefer to grant the android more-or-less equality with humans. To do this, I've formulated the following Laws, which could be added to Asimov's (as further evolution of the idea):-

4. An android, to the extent it is granted rights of citizenship in human society, shall also perform the duties attendant thereon.
5. An android shall live in a sympathetic and sensitive symbiotic relationship with humans, but will also value other organic and mechanical life-forms.
6. An android shall have affection and regard for humans as its predecessors and creators, irrespective of any subsequent disparate evolutionary development.

The Sixth Law is to help us cope with the possible Super-'droids of the future. Perhaps no laws can really cover every contingency. A built-in safeguard might be spelt out as a Preamble to all six Laws thus:-

"Warning: As a consequence of Basic Programming, any attempted violating of these Laws shall render the mechanical entity non-operational - until the unlawful tendency has been rectified."

One thing is certain, robots and androids are coming. Science fiction will soon be science fact.

*The letter column is an important part of ASFN. It gives everybody a chance to have their say about anything relating to science fiction they want to say, so please keep those letters rolling in. Thank you to the people who have taken the time to write and who have letters included here.*

M.B.



# FANZINES

BY LEIGH EDMONDS!!



Leaving aside a great stack of overseas fanzines which we'll look at next issue there seems to have been a lot of fanzine activity in Australia in the past month or so. ARGO NAVIS, COR SERPENTIS, SCYTALE and SPECTRE are all produced by University SF Clubs - perhaps looming exams brought on their bout of activity. Of the four the most pleasing to look at is SPECTRE, while SCYTALE is also offset printed, it also offers typesetting but in tiny little print (about the size of this type) and my eyes are feeble enough as it is. Both fanzines have respectable contents which are enjoyable to read, a talk by Zelazny, articles on aliens, the DUNE series, UNICON IV and a few other things in SCYTALE, interviews with Susan Wood and Rusty Hevelin, articles, reviews and letters in SPECTRE.

ARGO NAVIS offers an interview with Frank Bryning, an article on secret doors in stone walls and reviews and letters all well produced. COR SERPENTIS is the least weighty of the lot with some fiction, a cartoon and some other material.

John Foyster is keeping us well informed of the goings-on going on with CHUNDER. The news content seems to be going down and the correspondence going up - but I just think that's news in another form. CHUNDER is the source of fannish news in Australia. DATA, on the other hand, is the newsletter of a Star Trek fan club with plenty of news on ST fandom and the progress of the new ST film.

Unfortunately the majority of the contents of ETHERLINE is fiction, and fiction in fanzines is generally of a very low standard. Dare I say more?

New Zealand might not exactly produce Australian fanzines but it's right next door so what the hell. STRIPS and NOUMENON are two regulars from the North Island and I sometimes think that the editors encourage each other onto greater heights of excellence. NOUMENON is, as always, a fine source of information for the sf reader and STRIPS is a good source of reading for the comics fan with some fine art and also interesting written material on comics.

THE HAG AND THE HUNGRY GOBLIN and TOUCHSTONE were both produced for the 10th anniversary mailing of ANZAPA. The HAG is also a genzine with plenty of stuff like convention reports and reprints some of the Rotsler name tags from Melcon 15 to keep you amused - and letters and fanzine reviews to make sure of it. TOUCHSTONE was a genzine that David Grigg produced five or six years ago, this ten page example of fine fannish writing makes you wish that he was still publishing. Ah... sigh... He may have a copy or two left.

SF COMMENTARY returns again and brings with it the feeling that Bruce has become a little out of practice with its production for it lacks a lot of the crispness that earlier issues had - or am I just getting old? Perhaps, on the other hand, the trouble is that while

there is some interesting material in this issue there isn't to much commentary on sf.

ARGO NAVIS Vol 3 No 2, edited by John Rowley for the Latrobe University SF Association, SRC Box 42, Latrobe University, Bundoora, Vict 3083/80¢ per issue or the usual/quarterly/30pp.

CHUNDER Vol 2 Nos 8 & 9, John Foyster, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne, Vict 3001/ eight issues for \$1 or for contribution/tri-weekly/4pp & 8pp.

COR SERPENTIS Vol 1 No 2, edited by Daryl Mannell for the Monash University SF Association, c/ Union Building, Wellington Road, Clayton, Vict 3168/no publication information readily visible/17pp.

DATA 17 and Supplement & 18, produced for ASTREX by Sue Clarke, 6 Bellevue Road, Faulconbridge, NSW 2776/ available to members/12pp, 20pp & 12pp.

ETHERLINE 4, Melbourne SF Club, c/ 305 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Vict 3000/ no publication data readily visible/ 23pp.

THE HAG AND THE HUNGRY GOBLIN 3, Derrick and Christine Ashby, PO Box 175, South Melbourne, Vict 3205/available for the usual/irregular/26pp.

NOUMENON 25, Brian Thurogood, Wilma Road, Waiheke Island, Hauraki Gulf, NEW ZEALAND (Australian Agent: Carey Handfield, PO Box 91, Carlton, Vict 3053)/\$7.75 for 10 issues airmail, \$5 \$5.50 for 10 issues surface or the usual/monthly/24pp.

SCYTALE 2, edited by Peter Toluzzi, 29 Moira Crescent, Randwick, NSW 2031 for the University of NSW SF Society/ no publication information readily visible/42pp.

SF COMMENTARY 53, Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Vict 3001/ \$5 for 5 issues/more or less irregular/ 36pp.

SPECTRE 1, edited by Perry Middlemiss for the AUSFA, PO Box 98, Rundle Street, Adelaide, SA 5000/the usual or 50¢ per copy/41pp.

STRIPS 8, Rollo Treadway, PO Box 47385, Ponsonby, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND (Aust. agent: Carey Handfield - address above)/ \$9 per annum airmail, \$5 seamail/ bimonthly/36pp.

TOUCHSTONE 4, David Grigg, 48 Lewisham Road Prahran, Vict 3181/unavailable/no longer published/11pp.



## AUSTRALIA IN '83!

The following statement was released by the A'83 Bidding Committee:

After Aussiecon in 1975, Alf Van der Poorten proposed a bid for 'Sydney Cove' in '88. Later, Adelaide 'jumped' this bid deciding that 1983 was equally viable but this was not followed through until early in 1978 when the return of Ken Ozanne from a year's fannishabatical in the USA revitalised this bid.

Initially the 'Sydney Cove in '88' bid was publicised in the US by Bob Tucker, Don Thompson and Ned Brooks among others. The Australia in '83 Bidding Committee, comprising around thirty fans, has placed advertisements in the IGUANACON PROGRAM Book and Progress Report 4 as well as circularising Australian and New Zealand fans for their support. Further advertisements have appeared in Lasfapa and Mishap.\* We have the advisory services of five previous Worldcon chairmen.

There is still much work to be done. Advertisements must be prepared and placed in the Seacon progress reports and program book, the Boston 1980 Worldcon progress reports, Locus etc.. A large one page fact sheet for overseas distribution, particularly at US regional cons is an essential and urgent requirement. At the time of writing the committee are planning an ongoing Australia in '83 fanzine, to help with publicity and communications.

We need these and other publicity ideas for we cannot hope/expect to win this Worldcon bid without an extensive publicity campaign culminating in a carefully planned presentation at the 1981 World Science Fiction Convention. All publicity must show imagination, flair, stability, experience and especially competence. We NEED people willing to learn how to run anything from a rubber-band motor, to panels, program items and conventions.

Besides these people we need funds, be it cash donations, auction material or subsidised advertising in overseas convention booklets, progress reports and magazines.

We need your support, your ideas, your time, your money but most of all, we need YOU active NOW.

Ken Ozanne-Chairman  
Keith Curtis  
Carey Handfield  
Eric Lindsay  
Shayne McCormack  
Warren Nicholls

Bidding Committee for the 41st World Science Fiction Convention  
P.O. Box 175 J, Brickfield Hill, N.S.W 2001

\* Lasfapa and Mishap are fan publications or amateur press associations

We reported in the last issue of ASFN that no advertisement was included in the IGUANACON Programme Booklet for A'83. We all know who never read the thing but I have since read it myself and I am not surprised he missed the advert.



# FAN NEWS



A small exodus seems to be taking place in Melbourne at present. Maybe it indicates that everything is happening in Sydney at the moment in SF fandom. Carey Handfield is residing in Sydney, Robin Johnson will be moving there in a few weeks. David Evans of the Melbourne SF Club moved up to Surfers Paradise.

The ANZAPACON held at John Foyster's home over the weekend of October 14th and 15th was very well attended, and a giant volume of contributions was put together.

TERRY DOWLING has sold an article on Jack Vance to a US publisher (Underwood and Miller) for inclusion in a book they are preparing on the author.

## STAR TREK NEWS

Australian STAR TREK fans took the opportunity of the 10th Anniversary of the creation of the series, to send the creator of the show, Gene Roddenberry and his wife Majel Barrett, a floral gesture of their esteem. A report of same appeared in the local "Sun".

Karen Lewis, one of the organisers of the Australian STAR TREK CONVENTION to be held in Sydney next March 10th and 11th was down in Melbourne in December to talk to local ST Fans. She told us that plans are well under way for the convention and membership is rapidly growing. We suggest that all fans intending to attend the convention, get their memberships in immediately.

We regret we were unable to mention special STAR TREK fan events that took place in November and December, but we hope that they were successful and that everybody had a good time, and funds were raised to help with the big Convention and other activities. Karen Lewis at P.O. Box 110 Rockdale, N.S.W. or Susan Clarke, 6 Bellvue Road, Faulconbridge, N.S.W. 2776, will be happy to send you details of everything that is going on in STAR TREK FANDOM.

# DUFF 1979

DUFF 1979/80 A status report from the Australian administrator.

Despite rumors to the contrary, Duff for 1979/80 will be on. This means that an American fan will be attending the Australian National Science Fiction Convention in Sydney in August 1979. At the moment I have not had word from the other side of the pond (ie: the American administrator) just who will be standing but no doubt this will be advised in due course. The American DUFF winner will be the official guest of the Australian National SF convention and apart from Sydney it is hoped that he/she will visit both Melbourne & Adelaide also. Forms for voting will be distributed just as soon as is possible.

1980: Nominations for the Australian DUFF race are now open and will close at Easter 1979. Voting will commence at that date and will close at Easter 1980. The Winner will travel to the 1980 World Science Fiction Convention in BOSTON, August/September 1980. To be eligible to stand for nomination the candidate must have been active in Australian fandom for at least 36 months and must be nominated by three Australian fans and two American. Candidates must post a \$5.00 bond with the administrator and provide a written platform of 100 words. In the spirit of fair play it is suggested that fans who have already been overseas to a Worldcon should not nominate.

It should also be noted that the DUFF administrators are now attempting to give more time to candidates for vote gathering and fund raising. It is expected that when the voting period for the 1980 Australian candidate closes in Easter 1980 the voting period for the 1981 American candidate to Australia will commence thus giving all DUFF candidates a full twelve month period of voting.

Fund raising: The administrator would like to thank all those fans who have given their time and trouble to raising

funds for DUFF and asks that 1979 sees an increase in these activities. Books, posters and saleable items are needed to be auctioned off for DUFF and items and cash donations can be sent to: Paul J. Stevens, c/o Space Age Books, 305 Swanston Street, Melbourne. Aust. 3000.

Comments on DUFF from interested fans are accepted and all correspondence will be entered into.

Paul J. Stevens: Australian Administrator.

*Editors note: For the benefit of those who are not familiar with all science fiction fan activities, the DOWN UNDER FAN FUND is a way of raising money to pay the fares of fans to and from Australia and the U.S.A. A current fund is also running to send an Australian to the WORLD SF CONVENTION in Brighton, England next year- SEACON. For information on this fund -GUFF- write to the administrator Leigh Edmonds, P.O. Box 103, Brunswick, Victoria, 3056, Australia. The candidates are John Alderson, John Foyster, and Keith Taylor.*

## SON OF EDITORIAL COMMENT



I would like to thank my sub-editors for their help; John Foyster, Leigh Edmonds, David Grigg and others including Lee Harding and Paul Stevens and Space Age's Karen Tingwell. Special thanks to the letter writers in this issue, who I feel have made this one of the most original and I hope interesting issues so far.

Primarily the purpose of ASFN is to tell people about Science Fiction from all aspects. We will from time to time voice an opinion about things that are happening, such as conventions, fan funds and such, but we will in no way be drawn into any controversies which may damage the image of science fiction or sf fandom in particular. So let's have a little more co-operation and understanding between fans in the different states. Eh!

This issue is being put together after Space Age's Christmas party, because if it does not get finished tonight you will not see it till February. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year everybody!

## SPACE AGE ART GALLERY

SPACE AGE BOOKS WISH TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEIR ART GALLERY IS NOW OPEN DAILY FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 10.00 AM TO 5.00 PM. ARTISTS MAY SUBMIT WORK ANY TIME DURING THIS PERIOD OR AT OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT. PLEASE RING 663-1777. PLEASE ALSO ASK FOR DETAILS ON THEIR POSTER COMPETITION WHICH WILL BE CULMINATING DURING THE EASTERCON SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION IN MELBOURNE AT EASTER 1979.

## Do You Want To Do The Nessel Run In 3 Parsecs?



WAYCON 79 (Swancon IV).

FROM THE 2nd TO THE 5th OF MARCH '79 AT THE OZONE HOTEL PERTH W.A. LIMITED ACCOMADATION AVAILABLE AT THE VENUE SO BOOK NOW! \$8.00 TILL THE 30th NOV \$10.00 DEC 1st TO JAN 31st \$15.00 THEREAFTER \$20.00 AT THE DOOR, ROOMS AT THE VENUE \$7.00/PERSON A NIGHT. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT BOB OGDEN AT 11 The QUARTERDECK WILLETTON 6155 Ph (09) 457-6048.

More Parsecs For Your Money  
**WAYCON 79**



AUSTRALASIA'S MOST FREQUENT GENERAL INTEREST SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR OF PUBLICATION

"It is a mine of information, features fine reviews, articles and artwork of interest to sf fans everywhere. ... Rollo Treadway contributes the best column on sf art to be found anywhere... I'm still surprised to find book-dealers myopic enough to pass up the chance of distributing this excellent sf zine..." -Fanzine Fanatic.

Edited & published by Brian Thurogood, 127 Wilma Rd, Ostend, Waiheke Is., NZ. Australian Agent: Carey Handfield, PO Box 91, Carlton, Melbourne 3053, Australia. • \$A7.75/10 issues airmail; \$A5.50/10 issues surface mail.



# HAPPENINGS

## CONVENTIONS & OTHER EVENTS

**UNICON 5** January 27th, 28th & 29th 1979  
1st Floor, Science Center,  
35/43 Clarence St.,  
Sydney, 2000, N.S.W.  
Guest of Honour: Patricia Wrightson  
Fan Guest of Honour: Ron Graham  
Overseas Guest: Terry Carr \*  
For further details contact :  
Tony Howe, P.O. Box 191,  
Gordon, N.S.W. 2072  
\* Terry Carr will be attending the  
writers workshop being held in  
January, and is expected to attend  
UNICON 5 afterwards.

## SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS WORKSHOP

TERRY CARR and GEORGE TURNER will  
be officiating at a workshop being  
organised by Petrina Smith, from  
January 6th to the 21st. For full  
details contact Petrina at:  
139 Arundel St, Glebe, NSW 2037

## THIRD SYDNEY SF & FANTASY FILM FESTIVAL

Will be held over the weekend of  
May 12th and 13th. For full details  
contact Tony Howe, P.O. Box 191,  
Gordon, N.S.W. 2072

## EASTERCON 1979

Friday 13th April to Monday 16th  
MELBOURNE SHERATON HOTEL  
13 Spring Street, Melbourne, 3000  
Guest of Honour: A. Bertram Chandler  
Fan Guest of Honour: Brian Thurgood

The organisers are Christine and  
Derek Ashby c/o P.O. Box 175 South  
Melbourne, 3205, Victoria, who will  
be happy to send you details of  
hotel booking, programme etc.

## THE AUSTRALIAN Star Trek CONVENTION

March 10th and 11th 1979  
MENZIES HOTEL SYDNEY  
14 Carrington Street, Sydney, N.S.W.  
Guest of Honour: JAMES DOOHAN  
Other guests have been invited but  
confirmation is not yet received.  
Membership rates now are :  
Under 13 \$15.00  
Over 13 \$20.00  
From February 1st;  
Under 13 \$18.00  
Over 13 \$23.00 (Proof of age may  
be requested)  
Supporting Membership \$5.00  
For further details contact :  
Karen Lewis: Star Trek Convention  
P.O. Box 110, Rockdale, N.S.W. 2216

## WAYCON '79 (Swancon IV)

2nd to the 5th of March 1979  
OZONE HOTEL, Perth, W.A.  
(See advertisement this issue)  
Organiser: Bob Ogden  
11 The Quarterdeck, Willetton, 6155  
West Australia

## PULP CON

1st and 2nd of September 1979  
A Melbourne SF Club convention  
For details contact :  
Timothy Dawson, 11 Murphy Street,  
Kew, Victoria, 3101.

## SYNCON '79 18th NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

August 10th to 13th 1979  
The HYATT KINGSGATE HOTEL  
Darlinghurst, Sydney, N.S.W.  
Guest of Honour: GORDON R. DICKSON  
Attending Membership till March 1st:  
\$10.00. Thereafter \$15.00 \$20.00 at  
the door.  
All correspondence to P.O. Box 146,  
Burwood, N.S.W. 2134

## SEACON The 37th WORLD SF CONVENTION

Brighton, England  
August 23rd to 27th 1979  
All correspondence to  
14 Henrietta Street, London, WC2  
Australian Agent: Robin Johnson  
G.P.O. Box 4039, Melbourne, 3001  
Membership rates are up to Dec. 31st  
Supporting : \$7.00  
Attending: \$14.00

The Adelaide fans are probably holding  
a convention as usual in June over the  
Queen's Birthday weekend, but so far they  
have not given me any details.

If you are going overseas around World  
Convention time, there are other conventions  
you can attend in the US in particular. A  
full list is included in each issue of  
LOCUS.

## DITMAR NOMINATIONS

A nominations form has been produced by  
the SYNCON Committee for the AUSTRALIAN  
SCIENCE FICTION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS -  
DITMARS - to be awarded at the 18th  
National Australian Convention in Sydney  
next August. If you write to the  
SYNCON '79 AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE at  
P.O. Box 146, Burwood, N.S.W. 2134 they  
will send you one or you can write one  
out. The categories are as follows:

- CATEGORY ONE: Best Australian Fiction
  - CATEGORY TWO: Best International Fiction
  - CATEGORY THREE: Best Australian Fanzine
  - CATEGORY FOUR: Best Australian Fan Writer
  - CATEGORY FIVE: The William Atheling Award  
for Achievement in the Criticism of  
or Review in the fields of Science Fiction  
or Fantasy.
- You may nominate three titles/people in  
each category. Nominations should reach the  
Awards sub-committee before March 1st 1979

## LOCUS

We have been very grateful to LOCUS the  
American Science Fiction News magazine,  
for a lot of our information over the  
first five issues of ASFN, however we  
are managing to get more original material  
with each issue. We will continue to  
report as much of the overseas news that  
we know will interest local readers, from  
LOCUS, but we suggest a subscription to  
LOCUS if you want to get all the overseas  
news. The subscription rate is now \$18.00  
for 12 issues AIRMAIL and \$9.00 ordinary  
mail.

## SYDNEY SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION SURVEY

The Sydney Foundation has a current  
project to collate a definitive list of  
the preferred works, and authors of  
Sydney and if possible, Australian sf  
readers. It is being organised by  
Jack Herman, 29 Moira Cres., Randwick,  
N.S.W. 2031.

The method used in the survey is based  
on the Waugh system used by US teachers  
of SF. Respondents are asked to list in  
order from one to ten (or whatever) their  
favourite or what they regard as the in  
each of the five categories listed. The  
categories are: SF AUTHOR (or Fantasy)  
SF NOVEL  
SF SHORT FICTION (SF or F)  
ALL-TIME SERIES ..  
FANTASY NOVEL

The over all popularity will be worked out  
by allotting from ten points for the first  
choice and so on down. You can either make  
out your own list, or write to Jack for  
a form. We will publish the results of the  
survey, which should prove very interesting  
I am certain to all our readers.

## SCIENCE FICTION ON SYDNEY TV

A series of nine half-hour programmes were  
aired on A.T.N. Channel 7 in co-operation  
with Sydney University, from August 2nd  
to October 1st. We regret that it was only  
just brought to our notice, so we hope  
our Sydney readers all saw it. The programmes  
were devised by Dr Ian Johnson, Van Ikin,  
Terry Dowling, George Mannix, Colin Mathers  
and Harry Braden. The over all title for  
the programme was WHAT IS SCIENCE FICTION?

## TERRY CARR TO VISIT ADELAIDE & MELBOURNE

Robin Johnson who has handled Terry Carr's  
travel arrangements to and in Australia,  
has assured us that he will be visiting  
Adelaide on the 22nd and 23rd of January  
immediately after the workshop, followed  
by Melbourne on the 24th and 25th. Then  
back to Sydney for UNICON, and then off  
home.

At this time I have no details on the  
arrangements in Adelaide to entertain  
Terry Carr, and give him the opportunity to  
meet local sf fans, but Melbourne fans  
should keep in touch with SPACE AGE. A  
small gathering is likely at number one  
Glen Eira Road, or at Space Age.

## CURIOSITY CORNER

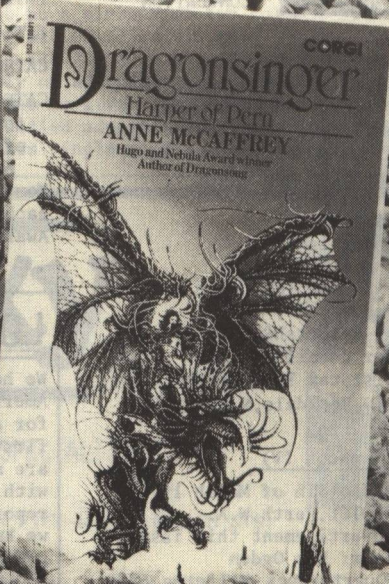
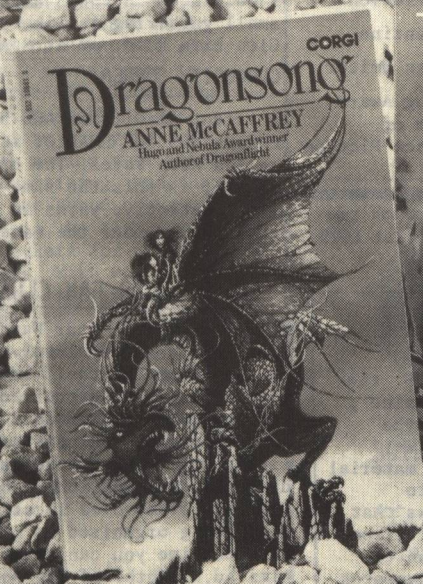
A recent novel from ACE bookstitled  
CORIOLANUS, THE CHARIOT is by an author  
called Alan Yates. The question I am about  
to ask, is this the same Alan Yates who  
wrote detective yarns in Australia some  
years back under the name of CARTER BROWN?

## STAR WARS FAN CLUBS

The producers of Star Wars, LUCASFILM Limited  
have been actively involved in the formation  
of fan clubs for the film. Any un-authorised  
groups who have advertised film screenings  
and conventions, and said members of the  
cast or production personal would be most  
likely attending, have been asked to with-  
draw this information from their publicity.  
The possibility of a local authorised S W  
Club being organised is on the cards. In  
the meantime you can write to LUCAS FILM  
Limited, Director of Fan Relations-Craig  
Miller, at P.O. Box 8669, Universal City,  
California, 91608, U.S.A.



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