

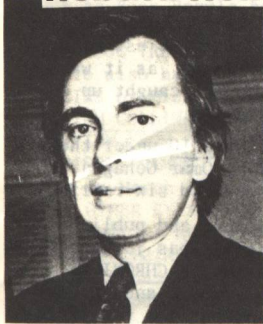
AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

VOLUME ONE:NUMBER EIGHT

MARCH 1979

Nebula Nominees

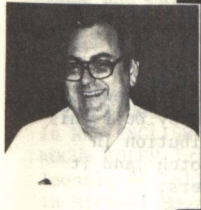
1979 NEBULA AWARD NOMINATIONS



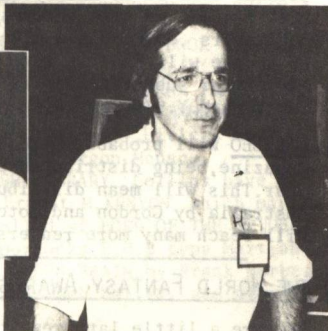
GORE VIDAL



C.J. CHERRYH



TOM REAMY



CHARLES L. GRANT



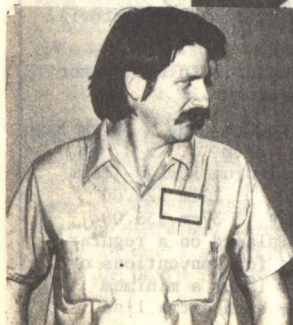
GARDNER DOZOIS



DEAN ING



GENE WOLFE



JOHN VARLEY

NOVEL

DREAMSNAKE by Vonda McIntyre (Houghton -Mifflin/Gollancz)
 STRANGERS By Gardner Dozois (Berkley/Putnam)
 THE FADED SUN: KESRITH by C.J. Cherryh (SFBC/DAW)
 KALKI by Gore Vidal (Random House/Ballantine)
 BLIND VOICES by Tom Reamy (Berkley/Putnam)

NOVELLA

THE PERSISTENCE OF VISION by John Varley (F&SF March 78)
 (Also in collection of this title in USA and in
 'Hall of the Martian Kings' from FUTURA
 SEVEN AMERICAN NIGHTS by Gene Wolfe (Orbit 20)

NOVELETTE

A GLOW OF CANDLES, A UNICORN'S EYE by Charles L. Grant
 (Graven Images)
 DEVIL YOU DON'T KNOW by Dean Ing (Analog-Jan 78)
 MIKAL'S SONGBIRD by Orsan Scott Card (Analog-May 78)

SHORT STORY

STONE by Edward Bryant (F and SF -Feb 78)
 A QUIET REVOLUTION FOR DEATH by Jack Dann (New Dimensions 8)
 CASSANDRA by C.J. Cherryh (F&SF Oct 78)

The Australian Professional Scene

HYLAND HOUSE will publish DISPLACED PERSON by LEE HARDING in July. The U.S.A. edition, published by Harper and Row in April, has been re-titled "MISPLACED PERSONS", so as not to be confused with another novel being published there at the same time. Lee is not happy with the change. He prefers his original title and would like to see local readers buying the Hyland House edition. This novel won the Alan Marshall Award for 1978.

NORSTRILIA PRESS will publish MOON IN THE GROUND by KEITH ANTILL in May. This novel won the Dame Mary Gilmore Prize. It represents Norstrilia's first venture into the field of the novel, having previously published two highly successful collections, THE ALTERED I (edited by Lee Harding) and VIEW FROM THE EDGE (edited by George Turner). They are very pleased to have acquired the rights to Antill's novel. The book will be in hardcover and have a wrap-around jacket in full-colour by STEPHEN CAMPBELL.

ROB GERRAND is currently editing an anthology of all-Australian sf to be called TRANSMUTATIONS. It will be published later this year as a joint venture between NORSTRILIA PRESS and OUTBACK PRESS.

DAVID LAKE's short novel, THE MAN WHO LOVED MORLOCKS, will be published early in 1980 by Quartet Books, Australia, who recently published ROOMS OF PARADISE (edited by Lee Harding). Lake's short novel was originally scheduled to appear as part of a three-novella collection to be published by Quartet, but the project was reluctantly abandoned by the editor, Lee

Harding, because he was unable to find two further stories of comparable quality. Says Lee: "There have been several stories written as 'sequels' to H.G. Wells' THE TIME MACHINE, but David's is by far the best. It is the only one that grapples with the same great issues that so obsessed the young Wells..." STEPHEN CAMPBELL has been engaged to do the jacket for this hardcover book, plus 12 black & white full-page interior illustrations and chapter-headings.

St. MARTIN'S PRESS will publish the U.S.A. edition of ROOMS OF PARADISE in hardcover later this year. Quartet will market the paperback rights separately. Guess who's pleased?

A number of the contributing authors to ROOMS OF PARADISE including Gene Wolfe and Damien Broderick, have donated the original manuscripts for the stories to DUFF. They will be auctioned at EASTERCON and there should be some spirited bidding for them.

The third collection of stories edited by Paul Collins is called ALIEN WORLDS. It will be published late April or May. Excerpts from A. Bertram Chandler's latest 'Grimes' novel will be included, plus a Jack Wodhams contribution indicating his critical view of STAR WARS. Van Ikin also is another contributor along with a number of newcomers.

A note from the assistant editor of GALAXY Ken Hedberg, advises that they have had a number of well written submissions from Australian and New Zealand authors. Most did not meet GALAXY's editorial needs, but he hopes they will keep in touch.

All photos courtesy
LOCUS

TERRY CARR COMMENTS ON AUSTRALIAN SF

The main thing that struck me was the "cultural cringe" that I ran into everywhere: "Oh,wer're just nobodies stuck out here on the edge of the known universe; no one wants to pay any attention to us..." I can understand the reaction,mainly in view of the inevitable mail delays Australian writers face in submitting to U.S. or British publishers,but aside from that time factor I really don't believe Australian writers are laboring under any handicap in the U.S.market

I also feel that Australian sf is currently at a high point.As I said when I spoke at Unicon V ,during 1978 Australian produced three-count-'em -three anthologies of original sf stories -- one of which, Lee Harding's Rooms of Paradise strikes me as totally first rate book.(And the quality is in the Australian entries as much as in those by overseas writers. In addition there's a major sf novel in George Turner's Beloved Son,and I hear Lee Harding has two novels to appear over here this year. It's not a record to be sneezed at... especially in conjunction with Bert Chandler's work, etc.(David Lake for instance. Ed)

I think the future of Australian sf will depend largely on Australia's bid for the 1983 worldcon.This is not just a matter of concern for fans ,but especially for professionals.Your last worldcon came before the HUGE boom in U.S. science fiction, so you-plural probably can't anticipate how much another Aussiecon can mean. Sales of sf are incredibly high here,writers of one or two years' experience are getting sums on the order of US\$50,000 for novels,and at the U.S. cons the publishers are pouring money into parties for sf writers and wining and dining them in an effort to persuade them to submit their work-- it's a seller's market .If/when Australia gets another Worldcon,in whichever city ,your're likely to find representatives from lots of U.S. publishers attending and looking around for writers:it cant't fail to advance the cause of Australian sf.

Terry Carr 16th Feb. '79

EDITORIAL COMMENT



Terry Carr's comments really hit home Science fiction publishing is slowly growing in Australia and the opportunities for writers to get their work published are never better.It is to be hoped that more of the established Australian publishers take note of the potential in not only Australian publication,but subsidiary sales to overseas sources.

The importance of an Australian bid for the World convention in 1983, also becomes more obvious from the point of view of Australian writers.We are going to get the World Con in 1983,but not without a lot of time and effort being put into it .Also no matter where it is held it will be an Australian convention ,so let's all get our efforts together .Think positive and don't let the knockers get under our skin. Rather accept this needling as a spur to be more determined than ever to win the bid for '83.

AUSSIECON was a great sucess and there is no reason why we cannot repeat the performance .Many American fans are looking forward to it ,but we must prove that our bid is a strong and concerted effort on all our parts . Don't let me hear anybody say if we win the World con in '83,because we are going to have the World Convention in Australia in 1983,so lets get on with it.

AUTHOR NOTES

ISAAC ASIMOV has just had his 200th book published;OPUS 200 was published last month by Houghton Mifflin,and includes excerpts from numerous other books.At the same time Doubleday published his autobiography;IN MEMORY YET GREEN.He and his books recieved a nine column write up in TIME.They report that no other author has written more books about more subjects than Asimov,although Barbara Cartland has written the most novels. He never ceases to amaze us.

THEODORE STURGEON'S latest story which will appear in the January 'Hustler',is reported to be the most sexually explicit story he has attempted./TERRY CARR and MARTIN GREENBERG have sold an anthology of fantasy stories called 'A Treasury of Modern Fantasy " ,which they aim to be the fantasy equivalent of 'Adventures in Time and Space',the top sf anthology by Healy and McComas./

MAGAZINE NEWS

OMNI sales indicate that it will continue for the time being, although the publishers have been very quick to kill other mags that have not been up to scratch sales wise.

DESTINIES the new Ace Books periodical collection will go back to quarterly,after trying a more frequent schedule,because , as Jim Baen the editor states,there are not enough good stories to keep up a bi-monthly publication.

The first'all issue' edited by ANALOG's new editor Stanley Schmidt we estimate will be about the May issue ,as it was reported in January he has caught up on the backlog of submissions.

The first issue of FANTASTIC under the new management is edited by Omar Gohagen, and includes one new story and six reprints.

ANDREW PORTER , editor and publisher of STARSHIP (once Algol) ,has just published a new news magazine;SF CHRONICLE. The editor is Larry Carmody, and it contains detailed information from the professional side of sf mainly.General readers will find it of some interest,but writers publishers ,editors and other professional sf people will find it very useful. The address for subscriptions is P.O. Box 4175, New York,N.Y. 10017,U.S.A

GALILEO will probably become a newstand magazine,being distributed by Dell this year.This will mean distribution in Australia by Gordon and Gotch ,and it will reach many more readers.

THE WORLD FANTASY AWARDS

We are a little late reporting these,but better late than never.The World Fantasy Awards were presented last October but we think they are important enough to still let you know that : OUR LADY OF DARKNESS by Fritz Leiber was adjudged the BEST NOVEL,THE CHIMNEY by Ramsey Campbell -The BEST SHORT FICTION;MURGUNSTRUM AND OTHERS by Hugh Cave- The BEST ANTHOLOGY;Lee Brown Coyle BEST ARTIST;SPECIAL AWARDS went to E.F.Bleiler and Robert Weinberg as Pro. and Non-pro respectively.Frank Belknap Long recieved the LIFE ACHIEVMENT.

In the latest Star Trek Novel,TREK TO MAD WORLD,there is an introduction by David Gerrold.It finishes with:"David Gerrold, Sydney 1978." I was just wondering if any sf fans in Sydney knew that David Gerrold was in Sydney at some time last year!!!!

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

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NEW RELEASES FROM AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTORS

ALLEN & UNWIN Australia will be releasing the paperback edition of THE SILMARILLION by J.R.R.TOLKIEN in April (Un-confirmed price \$3.95) They will also have a special illustrated film edition of LORD OF THE RINGS.

WOBBLEDAGGER through their various suppliers such as Book People, have just released 21st CENTURY FOSS-The Art of Chris Foss, GREEN DOG TRUMPET by Ian Miller and Book People also have the BIG 'O' book THE FEELIES by Mick Farren.

WILLIAM COLLINS Book Distributors PAN THE VIEW FROM SERENDIP Arthur C. Clarke N/F CAPRICORN GAMES Robert SILVERBERG and Bob SHAW in March ;WHO GOES HERE? and OTHER DAYS OTHER EYES. Another Christopher PRIEST title with a new lease of life is also in PAN: INDOCTRINAIRE. John STEINBECK'S version of the Round Table stories THE ACTS OF KING ARTHUR AND HIS NOBLE KNIGHTS is also due at \$3.25

In FONTANA Collins announced T.H. WHITE'S final episode of the MERLIN stories after 'Once and Future King': THE BOOK OF MERLYN. \$3.50

Also in Pan Art series FRANK FRAZETTA BOOK 3 and in Piccolo THE TOMORROW PEOPLE in The Lost Gods ,Hitlers Last Secret, and The Thargon Menace In NEW ENGLISH LIBRARY Collins have ROGUE GOLEM Ernest M.KENYON which may loosely be called sf. LORD OF THE SPIDERS in Michael Moorcocks E.R.B type Martian series , and GREEN BRAIN by Frank Herbert, who has written much better, are also on the N.E.L. list.

GORDON AND GOTCH Panther list is led of by Philip K. Dick's A SCANNER DARKLY .A down beat novel with a lot to say. PHTHOR by Piers Anthony is a follow up to his 'Cthon'. The latter is \$2.95 and the former \$3.25. J.G. Ballards inevitable 'everything's hopeless' novel DISASTER AREA is again reissued at \$3.25. THE DEAD REMEMBER by Robert E. Howard is a fantasy collection at \$2.75 .

There are no CORGI releases in F&SF for March but in BANTAM is the new 'Star Trek novel VULCAN by Kathleen Sky and number: 11-The DEADLY YEARS and 12-AMOK TIME in 'Star Trek 'Foto Novel series at \$2.95 each. Vulcan is \$2.75

CORGI-CAROUSEL books published three titles this month in a series for young and remedial readers in a series called 'Tracker Books'. SKYJACKED and ROAD RACER by Stephen Leslie ,and MISSION TO PLANET L by Kenneth James and John Allen. Only the latter is SF ,but we thought they were all worth mentioning because of the 'game playing' concept of them. There are seven other titles in the series.

From THOMAS NELSON in Sphere books only a small lot in comparison to their massive February release; A WRINKLE IN THE SKIN by John CHRISTOPHER along with his DEATH OF GRASS. \$2.95 and \$2.75 respectively. Both good examples of the British disaster novel. THE HAB THEORY by Alan W. Eckhart is for a change an American disaster novel. For a bit of light relief L. Sprague De Camp's THE FALLIBLE FIEND is a light hearted sword and sorcery fantasy. \$2.75 Isaac Asimov's scientific mystery story WHIFF OF DEATH is also on the list again at \$2.75.

From PENGUIN we only have a story book for young readers, by Isaac Asimov and called THE HEAVENLY HOST. Oh! We almost missed the important reprint of Philip K. Dick's HUGO winning novel, THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE.

In the fantasy line Penguin released the illustrated film edition of WATERSHIP DOWN. Full page colour stills from the film make this an attractive souvenir of the film at \$7.95

REVIEW ENTERPRISES sent out last month a Superman book titled SUPERMAN :LAST SON OF KRYPTON, by Elliot S. MAGGIN. This has nothing to do with the movie Superman, the book of the film we believe will be published by another publisher soon.

RICAL ENTERPRISES are hard to tie down to a specific release. Our list last month covered everything released up to now. Due soon however : METHUEN/MAGNUM have Clifford Simak's ALL FLESH IS GRASS at \$3.50. From HAMLYN next month will be coming E. Paul Wilson's HEALER about a half human, half alien who alone has the power to save mankind. In the horror category Hamlyn are publishing the sequel to the cult film THE RETURN OF THE LIVING DEAD by John Russo. WYNDHAM have more Dr Who titles and Andre Norton new issues, which we will detail next month. Rical are also expecting a new shipment of ACE titles which we will detail next issue.

TUDOR/DOUBLEDAY Australia are not releasing any Futura sf titles this month but they do have a new edition of Robert E. HOWARD'S swords and sorcery collection, WORMS OF THE EARTH, and a non-fiction title of interest THE PEOPLE SHAPERS by Vance Packard. \$4.75 This ties in well because it deals with cloning, bionic manipulation and such , with a lead title from BALLANTINE: GLORYHITS by Bob Stickgold and Mark Noble at \$2.75. Also in Ballantine ; EMPIRE OF TIME by a new author to their list , Crawford Killian, who we are sure we will be seeing more of, and Robert Hoskin's sequel to 'Control the Stars' about the stargates, TO ESCAPE THE STARS . Both of these are \$2.75 . QUEST FOR WELL OF SOULS , the direct follow up to Jack Chalker's 'Exiles at the Well of Souls' is also due March at \$2.95 .

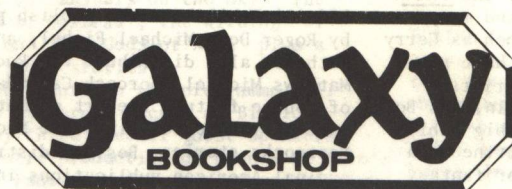
BOOKS DUE TO BE PUBLISHED IN BRITAIN IN JANUARY 1979

Jonathan Cape
THE PATTERN OF EXPECTATION: 1644-2001
I. F. Clarke
GOLLANZ
THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE Arthur C. CLARKE
PLANET OF EXILE Ursula LeGUIN

MARION BOYARS
THE EGGHEAD REPUBLIC Arno SCHMIDT
HODDER
JUPITER LAUGHS Edmund COOPER
HART DAVIS
THE ALPHA LIST Ted Allbeury
SIDGECOCK and JACKSON
FROSTWORLD AND DREAMFIRE John MORRISEY
SF SPECIAL # 31 Anon
ROBERT HALE
MIRKHEIM Poul ANDERSON
THE HOUNDS OF HEAVEN Eric BURGESS and
Anthony FRIGGINS

ALLEN LANE
PEAKE'S PROGRESS ed Maeve GILMORE
WILLIAM COLLINS
PASSENGER Thomas KENEALLY
MILLINGTON
ULTIMATE JUNGLE Micheal CONEY

PAPERBACKS
SPHERE
NEEDLE IN A TIME STACK and UP THE LINE
both Robert SILVERBERG
NEBULA MAKER Olaf STAPLEDON
THE SECRET GALACTICS - A. E. VAN VOGT
THE BEST OF ISAAC ASIMOV Ed Angus Wells
NEW ENGLISH LIBRARY
THE GREEN BRAIN Frank HERBERT
LORD OF THE SPIDERS M. MOORCOCK
FONTANA
THE LONG RESULT John BRUNNER
THE GRAND WHEEL Barrington J. Bayley
TARGET
THE HAND OF FEAR , TALONS OF WENG-CHIANG,
both Dr Who books - Terrance DICKS
THE SPACE WAR Malcolm Hulke
PANTHER
WELCOME TO THE MONKEY HOUSE K. VONNEGUT
INVADERS FROM EARTH Robert SILVERBERG
THE DISASTER AREA J. G. BALLARD
NIGHTFALL TWO Isaac ASIMOV
PAN
INDOCTRINAIRE Christopher Priest
WHO GOES HERE? Bob SHAW
OTHER DAYS, OTHER EYES Bob SHAW
PICCOLO
THE TOMORROW PEOPLE Roger Price
HODDER
THE SIRENS OF TITAN K. VONNEGUT
FUTURA
BATTLESTAR GALACTICA Thurston & Larsen
PROTECTOR, FLIGHT OF THE HORSE, A WORLD
OUT OF TIME all by LARRY NIVEN
METHUEN
ALL FLESH IS GRASS Clifford SIMAK
HAMLYN
THE OTHER LOG OF PHILEAS FOGG P. J. FARMER
LION GAMES James H. SCHMITZ
PUFFIN
HEAVENLY HOST Isaac ASIMOV



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SCIENCE FICTION

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A BRIEF SURVEY OF BOOKS AVAILABLE
by Merv Binns

From the earliest science fiction publishing (interior illustration as in Jules Verne's works, and covers as on the pulp magazines), art work has been an integral part of sf. My introduction to sf was through the 'Buck Roger's' comic strip in the weekly 'New Idea'. The lurid covers of the old pulps must have certainly enticed many a new reader inside.

Over the past few years an attempt has been made to salvage some of the art work in these old magazines, in publications such as THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOK edited by Franz Rottensteiner, PICTORIAL HISTORY OF SCIENCE FICTION by David Kyle, ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SCIENCE FICTION ILLUSTRATION ed by Leslie Frewin, and more recently TERROR by Peter Haining. Three books have been published of the work of the most popular pulp artist Virgil Finlay and a fourth is due to be published soon. Numerous other books have been done, which have featured the fantasy art of the book illustrators of the last hundred years or so. With the emphasis on the fantasy.

Ian and Betty Ballantine recognised this interest when they started Peacock Press, which has been responsible for the FRANK FRAZETTA books, LAND OF FROUD and many more. Other small publishers such as Gerry De La Ree and Donald M. Grant have published limited editions on artists such as George Barr, Alicia Austin, Hans Bok, Virgil Finlay, and others. The big publishers such as Bantam and Ballantine soon became aware of this demand for fantasy art, and Ballantines in particular have done some beautiful books.

One realises how big the field now is, and how much it has grown in such a very short time. More space than I can allow here is needed to do justice to the subject, but I will mention some of the most recent additions to this ever growing list.

Last year Harry Harrison put together a not very good, but interesting volume in GREAT BALLS OF FIRE. This was produced by Pierrot Press and published in Australia

by Penguins. A collection of artwork from various sources strung together to illustrate sex in sf art. It could have been done much better. Also early last year Frank Kelly Freas selected some of his best work, which was published by the Donning Company under the title of SCIENCE FICTION ART. A somewhat misleading title, seeing it was all by Freas, but certainly a nice production. It features full colour reproductions of his work and the background, and technical details.

A book that has created quite a sensation in the publishing field and virtually put a new publisher on the map, is Roger Dean's VIEWS. Dean made a name for himself with record album covers, based on fantasy and sf concepts. The publisher, DRAGON'S DREAM, is also publishing another book soon by Dean and others called FLIGHTS OF ICARUS, which depicts man's dream of being able to fly.

Already on sale here is GREEN DOG TRUMPET and OTHER STORIES by Ian Miller, which is five visual stories in full colour, by this highly original artist. This is also published by Dragon's Dream who are represented in Australia by Wobledagger, of Balgowlah, N.S.W. The highlight of their new list is without a doubt the collection of the work of Chris Foss. 21st CENTURY FOSS is a superb collection of the work of this artist, who is well known to all sf readers for his very original spaceships, robots, alien landscapes and other scientific marvels of grandiose dimensions. This book includes examples of all his various styles, plus second world war planes, ships and other weapons, which seen in context with his sf work, only go to prove how really good his sf work is.

MYTHOPOEIKIN by Patrick Woodroffe is a collection of the cover art of another British artist well known to sf and fantasy readers. This was published I believe in 1977 by DRAGON'S WORLD which is I believe connected with or was, with Dragon's Dream. Their most recent books were BEAUTY AND THE BEAST by Chris Archileos, who again is well known for his cover art, and THE BOOK OF CONQUEST by Jim Fitzpatrick. The book by Archilleos is filled with numerous brazen beauties in erotic poses, strange monsters, Dr Who, and sf covers such as 'Circus of Hells' the new Poul Anderson Sphere book. Jim Fitzpatrick has taken the legends of Celtic mythology and done a series of paintings in THE BOOK OF CONQUESTS surrounded by motifs of Celtic origin. A book no fantasy art fan or lover of heroic fantasy will want to miss.

BIG 'O' Publishers who publish posters by Roger Dean, Michael Fishel, and Rodney Mathews, also distribute the Rodney Mathews Michael Moorcock Calendars. They of course feature the art of Mathews, specially done to illustrate Michael Moorcock's stories. Besides distributing original American publications in the Fantasy art field such as OCCUPIED SPACES by Brad Johanssen, and GOD JOKES by Abdul Mati Klarwein, they have published items like Bob Venosa's MANAS MANNA. His work is highly original vaguely in the style of Max Ernst.

I cannot really do justice to the subject in the space available, but I must add a few more items of particular interest. Ariel Books have produced four issues of their paperback book/magazine ARIEL, which features stories illustrated by leading

sf and f artists in America. Full colour illustrations on gloss paper, add up to a beautiful book. They also published MASTERPIECES OF SCIENCE FICTION in the same format as Ariel and other books including SORCERERS, which is a showcase for the fantasy artists Jack Kirby, George Barr, James Steranko, Kenneth Smith and others. These are all published by Ballantine and distributed in Australia by Doubleday Australia. Ballantines themselves have published THE FANTASTIC ART OF BORIS VALLEJO among other things, and they have coming up THE ART OF THE BROTHERS HILDEBRANDT. Vallejo's work has been seen on book covers, calendars and posters. The Brothers Hildebrandt are best known for their paintings for the Ballantine Calendars of the 'Lord of the Rings', and Ballantine book covers.

FRANK FRAZETTA is probably the best known of the American fantasy artists, depicting mainly Conan like characters and situations. The third volume in the FANTASTIC ART OF FRANK FRAZETTA is being distributed in Pan Books by William Collins Book Distributors in April.


Another aspect of f and sf art is the comics or graphic story, and this is worth a book in itself. However we will just mention the HEAVY METAL publishers, who have reprinted mainly work of French authors such as Jean Claude Forest's BARABARELLA-MOONCHILD, ARZACH by Moebius and much more. A new trend is the illustrated versions of sf stories already established in their own right such as THE ILLUSTRATED ROGER ZELAZNY which was published by Baronet Books in the U.S.A. They are also doing Alfred Bester's TIGER, TIGER. Berkley publishers have also published what I consider the best fully graphic adaptation of a novel in Samuel Delany's EMPIRE. This book illustrated by Howard V. Chaykin is not only good art work, but a great 'Star Wars' type space-opera adventure.

Finally just to finish off this inadequate survey of the sf art field, which I must do in a much fuller version somewhere else, I must mention the Starlog magazine publication SPACE ART. The editor Ron Miller has selected the best available paintings of other planets, men in space, suns, moons and what have you, by Bob McCall, Chesley Bonestall, Luke Pasek, Don Dixon and others. True 'science fiction art'. One of the best collections of sf cover art is a collection published by Workman publishers in the U.S.A. and by Harper and Row in Australia, Masterpieces of Science Fiction Art - TOMORROW AND BEYOND edited by Ian Summers. A beautiful collection that any sf fan who appreciates the visions of fantastic futures, that good artists can create, just will not be able to pass up. And then of course I must mention Robert Sheckley's FUTUROPOLIS and

SPACE AGE BOOKS POSTER COMPETITION

A poster competition is being run by Space Age. Details can be obtained from them on request. It is hoped that the competition will close by April 7th and entries will be on display the week before and during EASTERCON, at Space Age in their 1st floor Art Gallery.

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The army researches biological warfare while the CIA secretly experiments with genetic engineering. The result? Ask Charlie and Ann Cotten when they have their baby . . . and discover the secret of GLORYHITS.

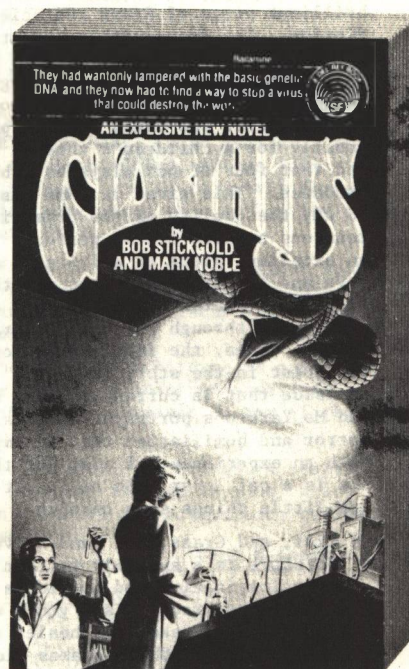
The authors, Stickgold and Noble, postdoctoral researchers working in the fields about which they write, create a prophetic thriller.

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—Clifford D. Simak

Complete with authors' afterword about the real and current research projects which make GLORYHITS a frightening possibility.

GLORYHITS (27226-9/\$1.95)
 by Bob Stickgold and Mark Noble



OTHER NEW AUSTRALIAN RELEASES FOR MARCH

QUEST FOR THE WELL OF SOULS Jack CHALKER
 EMPIRE OF STARS Crawford KILIAN
 TO ESCAPE THE STARS Robert HOSKINS

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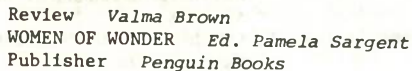
VANCE Jack EYES OF THE OVERWORLD Underwood HC
 VANCE Jack THE ASUTRA Ace PB #3
 VAN VOGT A.E. PENDULUM Daw PB
 VINCE Joan D. FIRESHIP Dell PB
 VINCE Joan D. OUTCASTS OF HEAVEN BELT Signet PB
 WAGNER Karl DEATH ANGEL'S SHADOW Warner PB
 WALTON Evangeline CHILDREN OF LLYR Ballantine PB #2
 WATSON Ian MIRACLE VISITORS Ace PB
 WHITE Ted & BISCHOFF Dave FORBIDDEN WORLD Pop.Lib. PB
 WOLLHEIM Donald A. WOLLHEIM'S WORLD'S BEST SF: Series Two Daw PB

JANUARY AMERICAN SF&F PUBLICATIONS

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 ANONYMOUS SUPERMAN CUT-OUTS Warner PB
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 BOVA Ben MAXWELL'S DEMONS Ace PB
 BOYD James THE GIRL WITH THE JADE GREEN EYES Penguin PB
 BOVA Ben ANALOG YEAR BOOK Ace PB
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 GASKELL Jane THE DRAGON Pocket PB
 GOLDIN Stephen TREK TO MAD WORLD Bantam PB
 HAILEY Arthur OVERLOAD Doubleday HC
 HOLDSTOCK Robert EYE AMONG THE BLIND Signet PB
 HOWARD Robert E. TOWER OF THE ELEPHANT PLUS THE GOD IN THE BOWL Grosset&Dunlap HC
 KAYE Marvin THE INCREDIBLE UMBRELLA Doubleday HC
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 LARSON Glen A & THURSTON Robert BATTLESTAR GALACTICA 2- THE CYLON DEATH MACHINE Berkley PB
 LEWIS Tony BEST OF ASTOUNDING Ace PB
 MATHESON Richard SHRINKING MAN Berkley PB
 MILLHISER Marlys THE MIRROR Putnam HC
 MOORCOCK Michael CITY OF THE BEAST OR WARRIORS OF MARS Daw PB
 NICHOLSON Sam CAPTAIN EMPIRICAL Ace PB
 NORTON Andre THE DEFIANT AGENTS Gregg Pr. HC #3
 NORTON Andre GALACTIC DERELICT Gregg Pr. HC #2
 KEY OUT OF TIME Gregg Pr. HC #4
 THE TIME TRADERS Gregg Pr. HC #1
 PRIEST Christopher THE PERFECT LOVER Dell PB
 REAMY Tom SAN DIEGO LIGHTFOOT SUE AND OTHER STORIES Heritage Pr/Atheneum HC
 RILEY Dick CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS. WRITERS & THEMES IN SCIENCE FICTION Ungar PB
 ROBENS Howard & WASSERMAN Jack HAMBRO'S ITCH D. Day HC
 ROBINETT Steven PROJECTIONS Ace PB
 SABERHAGAN Fred LOVE CONQUERS ALL Ace PB
 SHAW Bob COSMIC KALEIDOSCOPE Dell PB
 THE TWO TIMERS Ace PB
 SHECKLEY Robert THE TENTH VICTIM Ace PB
 SHIRLEY J. IMPALER IN LOVE Zebra PB
 SILVERBERG Robert NIGHTWINGS Avon PB
 STABLEFORD Brian BALANCE OF POWER Daw PB
 STEELE Addison F. BUCK ROGERS #2- That Man On Beta Dell PB
 SWERDLOW Joel CODE Z Putnam HC
 TIPTREE James Jr UP THE WALLS OF THE WORLD Berkley PB
 WALKER Hugh ARMY OF DARKNESS Daw PB



The Child Dreams Sonya Dorman
That Only a Mother Judith Merril
Contagion Katherine MacLean
The Wind People Marion Zimmer Bradley
The Ship Who Sang Anne McCaffrey
When I Was Miss Dow Sonya Dorman
The Food Farm Kit Reed
Baby, You Were Great Kate Wilhelm
Sex and/or Mr Morrison Carol Emshwiller
Vaster Than Empires and More Slow
Ursula K. Le Guin
False Dawn Chelsea Quinn Yarbrow
Nobody's Home Joanna Russ
Of Mist, and Grass, and Sand
Vonda N. McIntyre

Ms Sargent's selection of stories is well chosen. As can be expected, they vary in quality, however, they are all good stories and worth reading. Three stories which I feel excel are: The Wind People Marion Zimmer Bradley, False Dawn Chelsea Quinn Yarbro and Of Mist, and Grass, and Sand Vonda N. McIntyre. My reason for choosing these three are that they are all unique stories which have a very definite and different style that leaves the reader breathless.

The Wind People by Marion Zimmer Bradley is a piece of writing that has a very special mystical quality. It is about the ship's doctor, Helen, who having just given birth, chooses to remain alone on an alien planet. But, she is not alone and as the story flows on to its tragic ending, we get glimpses of the people who inhabit this world. The story is hauntingly beautiful and stays in the mind of the reader for it creates many lingering images. It is written with great tenderness, understanding and compassion and is a work of art.

I see books such as Women Of Wonder as a healthy sign for our understanding of ourselves. It is a book for people, not only women, for like all science fiction, it explores ideas as only science fiction can and I would recommend it for it is a good collection and one deserving a place on your bookshelf.

I have to say from the start that I was very disappointed by this novel. I understand that Mr Boyd has a reputation for producing well-written satires in the science fiction field (SEX AND THE HIGH COMMAND is the title that comes to mind) and I approached this book looking for the same kind of thing.

In fact, the first quarter of the novel seemed such a furious cliché and so filled with unbelievable dialogue that I kept waiting for the humour to arrive and tell me that I was in fact reading a satire. But it never came, and I slowly realised that I was meant to take the whole thing, if not seriously, then at least straight-faced.

That's not to say that there are not moments of genuine humour in the novel: for example when a CIA agent describes the impossible exploits of an even more impossible spy. The only trouble is that five pages later, everyone is taking the existence of the spy for granted. I don't know. If this was meant to be a satire, then it should have been funnier.

There's no doubt that the author intends us to take the feelings of the hero for the Beautiful Extraterrestrial Maiden as being very serious: he keeps hoping against hope that she won't get the uranium so she can stay here on Earth, marry him and live in a log cabin in the forest to raise a litter of green-haired kids. That idea should be hilarious, but somehow it's not treated as such.

The Condition of Muzak, by Michael Moorcock (Fontana; 272 pp; \$3.25).
Reviewed by Bruce Gillespie.

Paul Stevens must be an optimistic bookseller. He gave me a copy of *The Condition of Muzak* to review and said something about 'moving some copies' from the shelves at Space Age. That's optimism for you, as nothing I say about this book will sell copies of it. In fact, I've put off reviewing the book for months because I can find nothing good to say about it. Well, hardly anything.

The Condition of Muzak is the fourth in the Jerry Cornelius series of books. The Cornelius chronicles form just one of the many series that Moorcock writes and he is best known for his heroic fantasy sagas. Jerry Cornelius is a more interesting 'hero' than Elic, but he has not worn as well. He is an immortal, anarchistic, debauched, murderous soldier-of-fortune and agent of

BOOK REVIEWS Continued

ill omen, and his stage set is Armageddon. How bad are things likely to get during the next few years throughout the world? Only Jerry Cornelius knows, since only he survives being fire-bombed, shot at, plague-ridden, etc.

Not a bad idea in the first place. Presumably, Moorcock invented Cornelius with the ironic intention of showing just how bad things will get, and how unlikely we are to survive the 1980s unless something is done about present dangers. This is the notion which can be found in the first two books in the series, *The Final Programme* and *A Cure for Cancer*. The third book in the series, *The English Assassin*, showed that Moorcock had lost track of his own intentions. And the last book, *The Condition of Muzak*, makes one suspect that Moorcock has forgotten his own original character and intention.

The Cornelius books never added up to 'popular entertainment'. In each book, the plot jumps around confusingly from one scene to the next and characters seem to be introduced at random. But in the first two books the general effect was more impressive than the bits. In *The Condition of Muzak* I can find no general effect at all.

The impression I get from the first two Cornelius books is that they began as warnings. The Vietnam War was at its depths; the Cuban Crisis was not too long in the past; July 1978 was happening in Paris. Anarchy was in the air: would it lead to freedom or just another excuse for US troops to stomp all over your country?

But in *The Condition of Muzak* there is no sense of crisis left at all. True, there is some sort of global war which forms the background to most of the events, but it is so much in the background that we are never quite told what is happening. The fierce Cornelius of the 1960s has become a wan waif of the 1970s. The liveliest characters are now the gang of shysters who are always trying to thwart Jerry: Miss Brunner, the Bishop, and Mrs Cornelius. But note that now they threaten only Jerry, and not the world itself. Also they dominate the book and not the state of the world - but they are not really characters at all.

Everything, in fact, is reduced to a pale satire of 'Englishness'. Even the global war is somehow a British colonial war. That would be okay if Moorcock managed to say anything about the English that hadn't been said before in any two episodes of *The Goon Show*. But he does not. What Moorcock has done is to set up an Aunt Sally England, and knock it down for page after page. No wonder he sounds self-congratulatory: there is really not too much hard work in *The Condition of Muzak*.

Having said that, I must add that much of the writing is splendid and vivid. All that finely crafted prose - adding up to nothing much.

Bruce Gillespie

We thank all the publishers who have sent us books for review and hope they will continue to do so. It is not possible for us to review them all, but acknowledgement will be made. Ed

THE JOYOUS INVASION by Theodore Sturgeon. Re-released by Sphere Books. 1978.

A collection of three stories, TO MARRY MEDUSAS, a shorter version of the novel *The Cosmic Rape* by Pocket books, THE COMEDIANS CHILDREN & THE (WIDGET), THE (WADGET) AND BOFF. Both available only in an old Avon titles, Aliens Four. These stories lead on to subtle forms of invasion, more often than not of the mind. No Death Stars Allowed.

Of the three, I would suggest locating a copy of the novel, *THE COSMIC RAPE* to gain a fuller understanding of the Medusas.

The Comedians Children is a nice little interlude about an invasion stemming from a strange corner of the galaxy.

And finally, *The W.W.&B.A* story where Sturgeon is more at home, where he can mould his characters, both terrestrial and E.T.

Glen Mathews

AQUARIUS MISSION by Martin Caidin. Corgi Books PB \$2.75.

This is a story of undersea adventure and a lost race, and fine for wasting a few hours with your brain in neutral. However, don't expect anything from this SF thriller. The science is plausible the plot pretty good, but the characters are out of the mainstream thriller/movie mould, neatly labelled and as predictable as a politician at election time - (Idealistic Pacificist Independent & (yet Basically Feminine) Female Scientists meets Dedicated Realistic Tough Intelligent Emotionally Scarred Heroic Captain). Caidin always describes his machinery very well (his subs are fascinating), but it's a shame he can't tell machines and people apart.

If you like Moorcock's fantasies or Vance's Dying Earth, you'll probably like *THE PASTEL CITY* by M. John Harrison (Sphere \$2.75). It's high class fantasy, and very pretty writing. The plot's no more complicated than it should be. The Empire is invaded by barbarians with irresistible weapons, and our heroes quest for a solution. Most of the interest is provided by the setting. (An Earthman used up by vanished industrial civilizations) and characters (a fine bunch of rogues, heroes & villains). It's an enjoyable book, and worth the money.

Whatever else he is or is not, Isaac Asimov is a craftsman and he proves it again with *PEBBLES IN THE SKY* (Sphere \$1.90). It's not spectacular, but a well crafted, not too detail entertainment about a very displaced person, who finds himself in the far future, with a chance to influence the fate of humanity - and not too sure whose side he's on. Not a masterpiece, but a pleasant read, nevertheless.

REVIEWS by W. Moon.

BENEATH THE SHATTERED MOONS Michael Bishop Sphere PB \$2.95.

This volume contains two stories for the price of one, the very moving and readable title story and a novella entitled *THE WHITE OTTERS OF CHILDHOOD*, that come highly recommended. Michael

Bishop must be read to be appreciated and this is some of his best work.

VULCAN! Kathleen Sky Bantam PB \$2.95. A New Star Trek Novel

Star Trek would have to be the most amazing publishing phenomena of the last 10 years. Originally three seasons of hour long TV science fiction, Star Trek started off by getting James Bligh to 'flesh out' the tv scripts for paperback publication, and now with the publication last month (December 1978) of 'MUDDS ANGELS', the entire tv series has been packaged and sold to an ever-hungry public and a large and loyal band of fans. This is not all. A season of animated kiddie Star Trek has also been 'fleshed-out', this time by Alan Dean Foster in the STAR TREK LOG series, and this has been followed by a series of stories written outside the tv series in both short and novel form. Kathleen Sky's *VULCAN!* is the latest and it is by no means the least. The story focuses on the ever popular Spock as the main protagonist in a tale of an alien planet, and a pretty young female scientist who hates Vulcans on sight. The TREKKIES will love it, and if the reader is looking for a light read, then this will be just what you are after.

THE MAKING OF SUPERMAN THE MOVIE David Michael Petrou Star PB \$3.50

A book on the unbelievable task of putting together the (2) Superman movie(s). You can learn about the special effects, the trouble with directors, the stars, the problems with Valerie Perrienne's nipples and how to produce electric kryptonite.

SUPERHEROES edited by Michael Parry. Sphere PB \$2.75.

A collection of stories on the theme of Superman, makes interesting reading, but what really makes this volume worth shekels is the marvellous essay by Larry Niven on Superman's sex life. It's a howl and yet frightenly logical. A must.

Reviews by Paul Stevens

OTHER BOOKS RECIEVED
Star Ship Troopers by Robert Heinlein
 A new edition of the classic. NEL \$2.50
Sign of the Unicorn by Roger Zelazny
 The third of the Amber series in a British edition finally. Sphere \$2.95
The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch by Philip K. Dick. A new edition of one of this cult authors most important titles Was Penguin, now in Panther \$2.95
The Possessors by John Christopher
 New edition of classic alien 'takeover' novel. Sphere \$2.95
The Syndic by C.M. Kornbluth is a satire of the first order. A new edition from Sphere \$2.75
A Circus of Hells by Poul Anderson is the first British publication of this Dominic Flandry novel. Sphere \$2.95
The Road to Science Fiction: From Gilgamesh to Wells. Edited by James Gunn. The first volume of a collection tracing the roots of SF. Mentor PB \$3.25

All prices shown are the publishers recommended price only, and booksellers are under no obligation to sell them at these prices.

Transit of Cassidy, by George Turner
(Nelson; 259 pp; \$9.95)

reviewed by Bruce Gillespie.

Transit of Cassidy is not a science fiction novel, but it should interest readers who have enjoyed George Turner's science fiction novel, *Beloved Son*, or his critical articles in various magazines and books. In fact, I enjoyed *Transit of Cassidy* more than I enjoyed *Beloved Son*, but you might not agree with me.

Transit of Cassidy is the story of a boxer named Cassidy Edwards, and the remarkable way his life becomes entwined with others', even when he tries to avoid them. One person he has not met for many years is his son, Mike, who travels from Sydney to Melbourne to try to find his long-lost father. This quest causes more trouble for everybody than could ever be guessed.

Cassidy Edwards is, or was, one of those great, failed boxers who crop up in sporting legends from time to time. For instance, Mike knows about him only through legend. In fact, Cassidy turns out to be a legendary, fantasy figure to everyone who thinks he or she knows him.

Mike meets many people who knew Cassidy when he was one of the great hopes of Australian boxing. Few of these people - the reporter, the promoter, or Mike's new-found uncle - want to remember Cassidy. When they relate stories about him, it seems that each knew a different man. Cassidy's ferocity and carelessness are revealed. He had astonishing potential as a boxer. Why did his career end?

In the end, Mike's search leads him to a man who is both less and more than expected. He is less than expected, because Mike has yet to learn how much violence a person can show towards somebody loved. Cassidy is his own worst enemy, always, but often he takes out that aggression on people who mean him least harm. Mike sets off the trigger. Cassidy is more than expected, because he still means so much to so many people. Mike is caught up in the strong emotions which begin to swirl when Cassidy's name is mentioned. All the other characters have different reasons for being attracted to, and hurt by, Cassidy. The tragedy of the book is that none of these people can see under the surface of the mirror image of Cassidy; nobody sees him as he really is, and Cassidy has no self-knowledge.

But there is one character with no fantasies built between him and his beloved: that is, the huge dog, Caesar. Caesar really does love Cassidy Edwards and is perhaps the only character to mourn him at the end. For each of the other characters, Cassidy has been a kind of fantasy bogey-man.

So *Transit of Cassidy* resembles a science fiction novel more closely than even its author might suspect. Cassidy is definitely the dumb superman character of Van Vogt and others - but George Turner shows how such a character really gets along in the world. Also, *Transit of Cassidy* has just that tightness and clarity of style and strength

of structure which can be found in the best science fiction. (Its structure is that of the mystery story.) The main difference between *Transit of Cassidy* and most science fiction is that George Turner's characters are individual, vivid, believable, and complex. So it is a fine book indeed.

More Books recieved for review.

Captive Universe by Harry Harrison is a new edition of one of Harrison's best novels from Sphere PB \$2.95

Plague from Space by Harrison is another reissue of one of his best. Sphere \$2.75
Long After Midnight by Ray Bradbury is a new collection of stories. His first for quite a few years. Panther \$2.75
Dangerous Visions Volumes One, Two and Three edited by Harlan Ellison, have been reissued by Sphere at \$2.95 each.

The Ultimate Threshold edited by Mira Ginsberg, is a collection of science fiction by Russian authors from Penguin \$2.95

PROFESSIONAL NEWS • AMERICAN

A lot of changes have been taking place in the American publishing scene, due I perceive largely to the change of ownership and the resulting change of policy of the various publishers. Science Fiction is now big business, to make the understatement of the year, but at the same time there is still good and bad SF obviously. Therefore it is obvious that publishers are going to employ the best editors they can, so that they can beat the opposition to the best new titles. Ultimately the changes that are taking place at the moment are going to work for the benefit of the readers in the long run.

One of the most significant moves recently was David G. Hartwell who has been with BERKLEY, which has over the last few years done extremely well with it's SF, to POCKET BOOKS. It is interesting to note that he was keen on George Turner's *BELOVED SON* while at Berkley, but it was bought by POCKET BOOKS before he changed over. David is also the editor of the Gregg Press SF list, and has interests in other small publishing ventures such as Dragon Press.

Berkley publishers intend to carry on with a full SF program. They will have two senior editors for sf. John Silbersack was editor with David Hartwell and Victoria

Schochet comes from Bantam with ten years experience. Mark Hurst at Berkley is editing a rare collection of P.K. Dick stories not previously in book form.



THE INCREDIBLE HULK TV series

Reviewed by Bruce Barnes
David (Whatever happened to Robert?) Bruce Banner... scientist --, cool, intellectual, intelligent. The Hulk... brute strength, no brain, ruled totally by emotion (but clean emotions -- nothing to get the show rated 'R'.) The basic concept of each episode -- judging by what I have seen so far -- appears to be that while planning and intelligence can't solve problems, mindless brute strength can.

The Incredible Hulk is yet another of T.V.'s innumerable versions of The Fugitive -- complete with relentless pursuer. Banner gets a new job each week just as easily as Kimble did, and gets new clothes even more easily. The Hulk is a little more believable than his comic-book counterpart -- not as unbelievably strong, less invulnerable (but heals fast.)

Banner is on the run by choice, not necessity. Having entered an identity crisis (understandable) he wanders around the U.S.A. looking for himself.

The show has some basic flaws, like "where does all that weight and mass come from when Banner 'Hulks out'?" But if you don't let things like that bother you, this show has potential. They can do some fascinating things if they just avoid the formula plotting I fear the series is falling into. If only the producers can realise the Hulk is not a new form of bionics...

Worth seeing at least, especially if you have a colour set.

We have little to report on screen sf at the moment, except that SUPERMAN is still running here, and we believe breaking all the box office records set by Star Wars. *WATERSHIP DOWN* the animated film starts soon. *MORK AND MINDY*, the American sf comedy series started this month.



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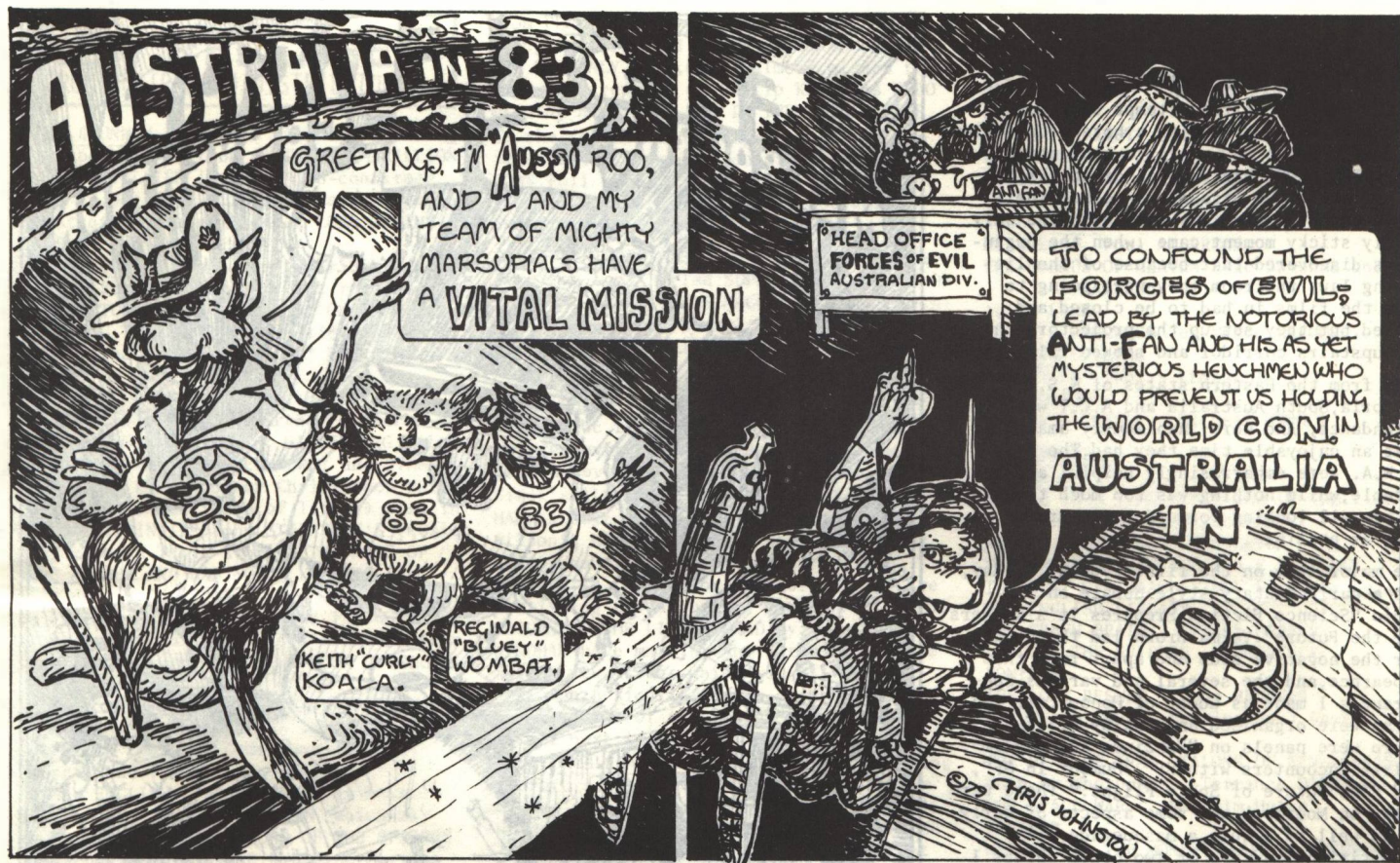
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CONVENTIONS

PREVIEWS AND REPORTS

THE STAR TREK CONVENTION with Guest of Honour GEORGE TAKEI, was held over the March 10th and 11th weekend. We hope to have a comprehensive report of this first big 'Star Trek' con next issue.

THE EASTERCON 1979 will be held at the SHERATON HOTEL, 13 Spring Street, Melbourne over the Friday 13- Monday 16th weekend. The Guest of Honour is A. BERTRAM CHANDLER and the Fan Guest is Keith CURTIS. Bert is well known to all sf readers as the Sydney based originator of the 'Grimes -Hornblower of the Spaceways series', and numerous sf novels and stories. And to make it a Sydney double the fan guest Keith Curtis is the Chairman of the 'A83 bidding committee, and has been actively involved in conventions, particularly as auctioneer. He is one of our leading authority of rare books in the fantasy and sf line, and was a very close friend, confidant and helper of Ron Graham.

The programme will include the inevitable Paul Stevens show, panels and talks including 'Feminism in SF', 'Soft Science Fiction', and 'How to construct your own sf movie.' Interview guests and speakers will include, John Bangsund, David Grigg, Lee Harding and Dick 'Ditmar' Jensen!!!! There will be a film programme but details are not available yet. We are sure you will 'avagood-weekend', if you come along.

The organisers are Christine and Derek Ashby, helped by such illustrious personalities as Leigh Edmonds, Chris Johnson, Valma Brown, Paul Stevens, Peter and Elizabeth Darling, Adrienne Losin and wait for it... Merv Binns. Memberships \$10.00. Supporting \$5.00. to P.O. Box 175 South Melbourne, 3205, Victoria. Room rates \$29.00 twin and \$25.00 single. Book with the hotel direct as soon as you receive your membership

card, which insure your receive the cheap rate. For further details if required ring Christine or Derek (03) 699-3347

QUASARCON is the name of this year's con in ADELAIDE over the Queen's Birthday weekend, June 16th to 18th. The rather illustrious theme of the con is 'The Multi-Dimensional Images of Science Fiction' The chairman is Allan Bray who brought you the last two or three successful Adelaide conventions, helped by Jeff Harris, Paul Anderson, Margaret Sanders, Mark Benbow, and others. Details on the sight are still a bit vague but it is described as a suburban Theatre-Cinema which can seat 400 people. Accommodation will be in a nearby Flag Motel, The JASPER INN. Rooms have colour TV and the works. Singles nightly \$18.00 Double \$22.00 Share- up to five people. \$10.00 each.

The Guest of Honour is the noted Australian Author from Queensland, DAVID J. LAKE. He is the author of 'Walkers on the Sky', 'The Right Hand of Dextraa', 'The Wildings of Westron', and 'The Gods of Xuma' plus a number of short stories. Some unique events on the programme will include: The Different Facets of Bionic Hamsters by three special guest speakers; A Live Theatre production of Ursula Le Guin's INFRACOM; A Fantasy Multi-screen presentation from France; Kinetic Visual Art forms display; Min-Computer Games Terminals; and all the other usual features including auctions, panels, and lots of films. Food will be available at very reasonable prices on the spot.

For more information contact Paul Anderson 21 Mulga Road, Hawthorndene, S.A. 5051 or Black Hole Bookshop, 11 Chesser Street, Adelaide 223-3406.

Memberships till April 30th \$10.00
May 31st \$12.50
From then till con \$15.00
Room bookings through Con-com.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW

Few magazines that consistently review F & SF reach the standard of SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW edited by Richard Geis. It has reviews of books, short fiction, and films, plus articles and interviews with leading authors. The current January/February issue has interviews with John Brunner, Michael Moorcock and Hank Stine, with reviews by Orson Scott Card, Darrel Schweitzer, Bill Warren and others. A subscription is well worth while via the Australian agents SPACE AGE BOOKS \$7.50 one year \$15.00 two years. Single copies \$1.95. Back issues - some in stock others available on order.

FAN NEWS

ELAINE COCHRANE and BRUCE GILLESPIE surprised Melbourne fandom by announcing that they were married on the 3rd of March. Our congratulations to them both. A celebration is being held at John and Sally Bangsund's home on the 17th of March. Bruce edits SF COMMENTARY and is a partner in NORSTRILIA PRESS

PAUL STEVENS and MERV BINNS wish to make it known now, that they will be bidding for the AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SF CONVENTION, to be held at Easter in 1981.

THE AUSTRALIAN COMIC-CON is being held June 15-17 1979, at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Enquiries to Joseph Italiano 27 Percy St, Mitcham, 3132 Tel. 874 7475/Moris Sztajer 11 Verndell Crescent, Templestowe Tel. 848 7623

WAYCON 79

A REPORT by Leigh EDMONDS

WAYCON was the first attempt that W.A. fans have made at holding a hotel convention - it was a great success. As a convention hotel THR OZONE had several drawbacks, but on the whole the organisers worked their way around the problems with ease. The only really sticky moment came, when the organisers discovered that because of the licensing laws the room they were going to show the films in had to be closed and locked, but they set up the projectors in the upstairs corridor and showed films there.

Fans from the Eastern states of N.S.W, Victoria, South Australia and A.C.T were in attendance, and were unanimously amazed at what an enjoyable time they had. The fans in W.A. were embarrassingly helpful and hospitable, while nothing was too much trouble. We are all looking forward to returning as soon as possible.

The major item on the first evening, Friday, was a parliamentary style debate on the topic "Science Fiction Prepares It's Readers For the Future". Valma Brown led the debate for the negative side and apart from that appearance, and the several and various appearances I made as Guest of Honour, all the items were organised and run by W.A. fans. There were panels on "Fanzines and Fandom", "First Encounters with SF", "Humour in SF", and "The Future of Space Flight." There were talks on Moorcock, and some aspects of early SF as well as a quiz, a masquerade, silly competitions and one or two other things I may have forgotten. Upstairs in the lounge were a couple of computers which would play a whole range of games, a display of fanzines, photos, art, posters and models, as well as lots of space for lounging around. The hot weather which lasted the duration of the convention led to heavy patronisation of the bar, although most fans seemed to prefer coke.

Towards the end of the convention the prospects of a bid from Perth for the 1980 National convention began to take shape. I would support such a bid whole heartedly - especially if 100 or so fans from the Eastern states can all be convinced to go over by train - thus adding three days to the beginning and another three days to the end of the convention. Even if this didn't eventuate the W.A. fans showed with WAYCON that they know how to organise conventions of a high standard, and that they are ready to take an equal part in the active fandom in Australia.

PERTH IN '80

(100 fans on a train - the mind boggles! That was basically my idea for a New Zealand con by bus, but the N.Z. idea seems to have been shelved for the moment. I think a con in Perth sounds like a great idea. Ed)

Balance JANUARY F&SF PUBLICATIONS /U.S.A

WALTON Evangeline SONG OF RHIANNON
Ballantine PB

WEINBAUM Stanley G. BEST OF STANLEY G.
WEINBAUM Ballantine PB

YARBRO Chelsea Quinn HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA
Signet PB.



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EASTERCON 79 MELBOURNE SF CONVENTION

WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

FROM APRIL FRIDAY 13th TO 16th 1979 AT
THE MELBOURNE SHERATON HOTEL **

TO FIND OUT, CONTACT : EASTERCON 7, PO. BOX 175,
MEMBERSHIP : \$10-00 SOUTH MELB., VIC. 3205. **
PHONE : 699 3347

ONE MAN'S 'SCIENCE FICTION' DREAM

A recent article in the Melbourne 'SUN' told about the vision of an Australian engineer, LAURIE HOGAN. His ideas to build a mountain range dividing the Australian continent in half, reversing the flow of rivers on the Eastern coast, and other associated schemes, will all be detailed in a book to be published soon called MAN MADE MOUNTAIN. The publishers are Charter Books, of Gordon, Sydney. Mr Hogans wonderful ideas are full of merit but it is doubtful that governments will ever accept them. It would take 200 years for the plans to be fulfilled. As an sf fan I immediately thought of the endless plot possibilities for writers. Certainly an idea that would have done credit to any sf writer that would have thought of it.

OBITUARIES

Denis Dobson, publisher, died late last year. His firm has been a constant if not prolific publisher of sf for many years. Robert Bruce Montgomery, who wrote, edited and reviewed under the name of "Edmund Crispin" died recently at the age of 58. His BEST OF collections are well known, but as far as we know he wrote little or no sf himself. He was however a very highly regarded mystery writer.

Stephen Takacs, 63, died on January 16th. He was bookseller of longstanding in New York, who I am sure was well known to Ron Graham whom I heard mention a number of times.

Brian Lewis, the British sf artist well known for his work in the fifties, in such magazines as 'New Worlds' and 'Science Fantasy', died of a heart attack December last.

LETTER COLUMN



Irwin Hirsch
279 Domain Rd.,
South Yarra,
Victoria 3141

The latest issue of ASFN arrived two weeks ago, as I trust you expected. And reading through Robert Clement's letter started me really thinking about "Ditmars", enough to want to write this letter.

Now it seems to me (I could be wrong though) that the categories which will eventually be decided upon is working itself out pretty well, but there is one thing which doesn't seem to be working itself out and that is the design of the award.

I feel that the award should be a work of art, something it's recipients can be proud to have on his/her mantle as a work of art, as well as for what it means. For instance, the awards given out at last years Unicon IV, (Some people haven't even got them yet but at least they are on the list. Ed) were to my eye, not the most impressive looking award.

Now I know there are a lot of things to be considered, in respect to the design of the award, things like cost, quite obviously, among other things, but with the proper investigation those problems should be able to be ironed out, so that we have an award which we can be proud of - a work of art as well as an award which means something.

I know I would prefer to see an improvement on the design of last year's award, and I don't think it is beyond our abilities to make it an enormous improvement.

I entirely agree with you Irwin and I hear the current awards committee have the problem in hand. As a matter of fact I do have my own definite ideas on the matter, and I am anxious to see what they come up with. The subject may be discussed at the EASTERCON I hope. Ed.

Jan Howard Finder
P.O. Box 428
Latham, N.Y. 12110, U.S.A

Thanx for the note. Sorry it has taken me so long to reply. Eric Lindsay dropped me a note on the DUFF snafu. It takes the shape of a letter to fen in general. I'm sending it around. Actually with the Worldcon being held in the UK, there will be few BNF not going, who can possibly scrape up the money. It is rather bad form to hold a major con roughly the same weekend as the world con. I don't see why the Australian National cons aren't held in December or January. It would make a hell of a lot more sense. Pick a three day weekend and go at it. This is one of the reasons that the Worldcon has fallen on the Labourday weekend. I think the first couple fell on the 4th of July weekend.

Hmmm, as to the '83 Worldcon, may I suggest either 4-7 August or 25-28 August as the dates. This would allow us upovers to have 2-3 weeks either before or after the con. I would opt for the earlier date. In this way the fan from up over could go visit with his new found friend after the con and see some of the country as well. I had had the advantage of corresponding with several

of you before I came down. (For Aussiecon) This was not the case with many on the trip. After the con we only had about ten days. For some the days before the con were fun, but could have been more so.

I recently received a note from Carey Handfield. I do hope that Sydney and Adelaide will get their bit together and settle on one city. The critical factor being the hotel. My guess is that AUSSIECON II would draw about 1200-1500 fen. You'd need a hotel 300-500 rooms. Does Adelaide have a hotel of this size with con facilities? Besides the Hilton in Sydney, are there any there? The hotel, with it also being close to cheaper rooms and cheap food, is the critical factor. I am willing to do almost anything to help further the bid. Hell, I'm already planning on what I'm going to do when I get down there in '83. There is so much that I want to see, that I didn't last time. Hmm, do you think there might be a chance for me to run for DUFF in '83 and win? Please do keep me posted on the events surrounding both the DUFF and AUSTRALIA in '83!

Well Jan you certainly have some very pertinent comments to make about some of the current fan issues out here. I am sure that your ideas will be discussed in full by us all. Briefly I will add that there is two weeks between SYNCON '79 and SEACON, but no doubt another week would have been for the better. A 4-7 August date will I am pretty certain be adopted for '83. Our Australia day weekend would be a good time for the National cons, at the end of Jan. It has been used a few times, but the cities that have held cons now seem to be settling for the same weekend each year. I have little doubt in my mind where the '83 con will be held if we get it, but I would guess at this moment that the decision will not be made until either EASTERCON or SYNCON '79. It is simply a matter of who gets the main support from us here in Melbourne and the rest of fandom. Keith Curtis and Carey Handfield by the way are now co-chairmen of the '83 bidding committee. Robin Johnson is also living in Sydney and is likely to be involved.

P.J.S has some comments to make on DUFF, but since he wrote the following he has received word of three nominations, and possibly a fourth for DUFF, so with that sort of response I have no doubt that it will be a very successful fund.

Merv Binns

Dear Jan

Merv left your letter lying around and I sneaked a look at it and thought I might answer it whilst his back was turned. (A typical Anti-Fan dirty trick. Ed) One point I would like to set straight is that despite certain mutterings, there was no DUFF snafu!

Discussions were held both here in Australia and at Phoenix, on the basis that DUFF was to be in limbo for this year, however on my return to Australia I was informed that SYNCON '79 expected to have the now-cancelled DUFF, winner as fan Goh. I immediately reversed the decision in order not to disappoint the SYNCON committee's plans, and wrote off to Bill Rotsler as U.S. administrator to start things going. Fate in the form of the U.S. Post Office intervened and several letters were lost or delayed, thus effectively halting plans for nominations in the U.S.A./Canada. Eric Lindsay heard of this and wrote off to about 40 U.S. fans asking them to help

get things started. So far I have a double nomination from Minneapolis and several letters suggesting that we shouldn't hold DUFF this year, and quoting all my original reasons for not running DUFF in 1979.

We had decided that due to the fact that SEACON would be more of a drawcard with the American fen than Australia, and that GUFF was also drawing away funds, that it might be a good idea to hold up DUFF for this year, whilst we straightened out nominations and voting procedures, and built up funds for 1980.

As it turns out GUFF has not taken away, funds and the DUFF fund is reasonably healthy thank you.

I agree with you about Australia "getting it's bit together" and settling on one city for '83. As a Melbournian, I have already survived one local Worldcon and I am not interested in another one yet, so I am neutral to a certain degree. So far neither city has impressed me enough to want to throw my support behind them, and it looks like I'll have to wait until EASTERCON here in Melbourne, and the scheduled discussion on '83 before deciding finally. I may yet throw my support behind Philly, and make myself really popular.

Paul J. Stevens

(What else would you expect from Anti-Fan at any rate. He and John Foyster are really trying to stir things up. The traitors! Ed.)

Donald L. Humphries,
Box 1271 L
G.P.O Melbourne 3001

In response to to Judith M. Houston's letter published in the last issue of ASFN, the following information concerning DR WHO may be of use:-

The Australian Dr Who Fan Club
C/O Tony Howe,
P.O. Box 191, Gordon, N.S.W 2072

The Dr Who Appreciation Society
38 Melrose Ave., Wimbledon Park,
LONDON SW19 8BY England

The Friends of Tom Baker
45 Durham Road, Blackhill, Consett,
County Durham, DH8 8RS England

"DR Who" - c/o BBC TV,
35 Marylebone High St.,
London W1M 4AA England

Controller of Television Programmes,
Australian Broadcasting Commission,
Box 487, G.P.O Sydney, N.S.W 2001

Concerning Tom Baker's visit to Australia, he did meet some fans apparently, since he was greeted at Sydney airport by Sydney University SF Fans ("Age" 3rd Feb). I assume that Antony Howe (see above) was present. Antony Howe does/did publish a fanzine called "Zerina", but appears to be having problems of production, etc, latterly.

There is nothing to stop Melbournites from forming a local branch of the A/sian Dr Who Fan Club, or a broader concept group (i.e. time travel in general), if they so wish.

Regards

Donald L. Humphries

Thanks Don. I had forgotten about Tony Howe. Space Age usually stock his magazine ZERINA by the way, when he remembers to send it down to us. Maybe Tony will let me know what the current situation is. Ed

Gollanez

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Just Published

Coming Shortly

SF

**ARTHUR C.
CLARKE**

THE FOUNTAINS
OF PARADISE

SF

SF

SF

SF

SF

SF

SF

SF

SF

SF

SF

SF

**ALGIS
BUDRYS**

BLOOD & BURNING

**RICHARD
COWPER**

PROFUNDIS

**THOMAS M.
DISCH**

ON WINGS OF SONG

**FRANK
HERBERT**

THE GREAT DUNE TRILOGY

**ROBERT
SILVERBERG**

THE SONGS OF SUMMER
AND OTHER STORIES

**ARKADY & BORIS
STRUGATSKY**

PRISONERS OF POWER

**JAMES
TIPTREE Jr**

UP THE WALLS OF
THE WORLD

**IAN
WATSON**

THE VERY SLOW
TIME MACHINE

SF

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