

Edited and produced by Archie Mercer for The British Science Fiction Association Limited. Proofread by Beryl Mercer. Distribution address: 10 Lower Church Lane, St. Michael's, Bristol BS2 8BA. E&OE

NOTES FROM THE SCI-CON 70, the annual British sf convention held over Easter just gone, was well-attended by professionals and fans alike. James Blish was Guest of Honour, and the programme was varied with most items drawing packed audiences. Probably the most dramatic item was an impromptu public confrontation between a practising Scientologist and one of his audience who claimed to have known that movement's founder (of whom you must surely have heard?) fairly intimately in days of yore - and was agin' the motion. This confrontation so fascinated those present that even when the item had over-run its allotted time by several minutes the audience was reluctant for it to make way for the next item. The hotel chosen came in for a certain amount of criticism - though come to think of it, which convention hotel (with the possible exception of the dear old "George" at Kettering) has not?

The revived British Science Fiction Award for 1969 was presented to John Brunner for his "non-novel" "Stand on Zanzibar". (You should recall that it was your votes, as B.S.F.A. members, that singled this work and author out for the distinction.) Our very own Vice Chairman (and ex-officio Chairman of the Committee), Michael Rosenblum, officiating at the award-giving, was surprised to find himself the recipient of the "Doc" Weir Memorial Award - given annually for unspecified services by vote of those registered for the convention. To both of these winners the Association extends its heartiest congratulations.

To anticipate the official Minutes, five members of the Management Council retired under the rotation system: Brian Aldiss, S.R. Dalton, Archie Mercer, Beryl Mercer, and the Chairman, Bruce ("Edmund Crispin") Montgomery. Three of these five (Aldiss, Beryl Mercer, and Montgomery) did not wish to stand for re-election. The other two, Dalton and Archie Mercer (speaking!) were re-elected. Also elected to the Council were E.J. Carnell, the well-known editor, and Roger Peyton, one-time editor of VECTOR who has rejoined the Association and been given specific responsibility for publicity.

The astute amongst you will have deduced from the above that the Association no longer has a Chairman. This post is filled by the Council from among its own number, and the new Chairman's name will be announced shortly.

For the first time in living memory (so to speak), there were three parties interested in staging next year's convention. A group from the Manchester area (which ran the 1968 convention at Buxton, Derbyshire) wanted to hold it in either Blackpool or Southport, depending on what terms they could get from various hotels, whilst a "loner" from Bournemouth had a specific hotel lined up in Swanage, Dorset. The vote, however, went to a group from Birmingham who thus have the go-ahead to arrange next Easter's sf convention either within or without that city, again depending on what terms they can get from various hotels.

And the retiring Chairman, Bruce Montgomery, was voted by the meeting into a Life Membership in the Association.

1971 EASTER As mentioned above, the British sf convention for 1971 is to be CONVENTION organised from Birmingham - at a precise location yet to be determined. 10/- registration fee to Pete Weston, 31 Pinewall Av., Masshouse Lane, Birmingham 30, ensures receipt of full details when available. One detail is already available, indeed; this is the identity of the Guest of Honour, who is to be Brian Aldiss. (Did I hear somebody say "and about time too"?!)

HEIDELBERG

IN AUGUST

- or August in Heidelberg, either of which could well be a schmaltzy song title. After overmuch delay at the printer's, Progress Report No. 1 is at last out, giving all - or practically all - you need to know about HEICON '70. One thing it does not give is the sterling membership rate, so I haste to remedy that omission here and now. Basic registration - what in a world of convention is technically termed "supporting membership" - costs in sterling £1.11.6d. "Attending membership" costs £2.5.0d. This leaves a differential of 13/6d, which can be paid either in advance or "at the door" (in West German currency) as you wish. Sterling should be paid to the British agent, Archie Mercer, 10 Lower Church Lane, St. Michael's, Bristol BS2 8BA, cheques and postal orders being made payable to "A.H. Mercer". That's £1.11.6d for "supporting membership" (ie, registration) and a further 13/6d to bring it up to full "attending membership" of £2.5.0. And the dates - 21st to 24th August 1970. (Copies of Progress Report No. 1 will, of course, be supplied to all who join while stocks last.)

WHAT - ANOTHER

RESHUFFLE ???

Attention please, all members of the Association. By the time you read this, Beryl Mercer will have ceased to be Membership Secretary. Those of you who pay close attention to these Bulletins will have gathered that she is gradually throwing off the shackles of office one by one. This was the last of any size, and she is now shuffling out from under it.

The procedure in future is to be as follows. Applications for information will be attended to by Audrey Walton, Executive Secretary. Members will be inducted direct by the Treasurer, Jill Adams, to whom all money should now be sent. Addresses:

Mrs. E.A. Walton, Executive Secretary: 25 Yewdale Crescent, Coventry, Warks,
CV2 2FF

Mrs. G.T. Adams, Treasurer: 54 Cobden Av., Bitterne Park, Southampton
SO2 4FT

The Company Secretary, dealing with legal matters, remains as before:
Mrs. D.E. Parker, 76 Old Brunby St., Scunthorpe, Lincs.

PUBLICATIONS

VECTOR 55 you see before you. VECTOR 56 and subsequent issues are to be the same size and general format - though we have been promised a better typeface, and Bob Parkinson will be the editor.

The S.F. Writer's Bulletin is also to appear (hooray !) again - under, this time, the editorship of sf author Dan Morgan.

Gerald Bishop's "Yellow Pages", listing sf and fantasy titles published in Britain during the year (with those eligible for the British S.F. Award specially marked), are also due to reappear shortly - though probably in a different colour, to save the possibility of their being confused with the 1969 yellow pages.

Plus INFO, and the B.S.F.A. Bulletin, and anything else that seems indicated.

The Association's addressing-machine is now being readied for use, and once the plates have been cut, it will start to perform. It is to be located in London together with the Association's duplicator, and future mailings should therefore be distributed from London instead of from Bristol. (Can't you just see this happy grin on my face ?) The result will, it is hoped, bring the members an even better service.

ADDRESSES

Talking about the addressing-machine reminds me; once addresses no longer have to be written by hand, it will not be so easy to catch the seasonal-migration syndrome, and tailor a student's address according to whether it happens to be term-time or vacation. Therefore, if any student-member (or other seasonal migrant) has not given us his home address to use on his plate, on his own studious head be it. You Have, as the saying says, Been Warned !

SPECULATION CONFERENCE Not to be confused with next year's Easter Convention is the "Speculation" Conference being held at the Midland Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, on June 14th 1970. Taking part will (it says here) be Brian Aldiss, Ken Bulmer, James Elish, Philip Strick of the British Film Institute, and Professor Willis McNelly of California, whom we had the pleasure of meeting at the Easter convention just gone. The programme commences at 11.00 in the morning and lasts till approx. 9.00 p.m. Tickets 10/- (8/- for Midlands Arts Centre members) from Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham 12. (If you don't have a ticket, you'll be very unlikely to find a seat left.)

TOLKIEN SOCIETY The Bulletin is asked to state that, despite the information that it printed (in good faith) in its previous issue, the Treasurer of the Tolkien Society is Mr. P. Ansley-Watson, 372A Bowes Rd., New Southgate, London N.11. Annual dues (10/- for an individual, 7/6d for a member of a local "snial") should be sent to him. Incidentally, the Tolkien Society's magazine is to be edited by B.S.F.A. member Dr. W. Darroll Pardoe.

CONGRATULATIONS And equally incidentally, the above-mentioned Dr. W. Darroll Pardoe has just married another B.S.F.A. member, the former Miss Rosenary Nicholls. To the happy couple go the Association's heartiest congratulations.

LIBRARIOUS NEWS The "author" catalogue of fiction, A to Z, is now complete and copies may be had on request to Archie & Beryl Mercer, 10 Lower Church Lane, St. Michael's, Bristol BS2 8BA. Sections covering anthologies, "double" volumes, and non-fiction are to follow as soon as possible.

The following books have been received for review, and should be available from the library shortly: "The Freak Show" ed. Peter Haining (Rapp & Whiting); "Night Walk" by Bob Shaw (N.E.L. pb); "Nine by Laumer" by Keith Laumer (Sphere pb); "The Blind Worm" by Brian Stableford (Sidgwick & Jackson); "The City Dwellers" by Charles Platt (Sidgwick & Jackson). A copy of John Brunner's award-winning "Stand on Zanzibar" is also understood to be available.

FANZINE DISTRIBUTION DEPT. This Department is now in the custody of Phillip C. Spencer, 65 Southdown Rd., Portslade, Brighton,

Sussex, BN4 2HL. Any recently-joined member who has enquired about fanzines but not yet received any should get in touch with him; any member who issues his own fanzine and who passes a few spare copies to Phillip will be doing the Association (and possibly, in the long run, himself) a favour.

Phillip, we hear, has just been involved in a car-smash. The car is a write-off, and Phillip is at home recovering. We wish him a speedy convalescence.

CORRESPONDENTS WANTED Mrs. Patricia P. Tahil (39), 10 Mercier Rd., London SW.15. "Other" interests: "The very old and the very new" - archaeology, mythology, new gadgets, discoveries, inventions, exotic cooking. Would prefer to correspond with: U.S.A. & Europe.

Stuart Smith (17), Victoria Hotel, Boldon Lane, South Shields, Co. Durham. Films and playing chess. U.K. & U.S.A.

HELICON: DRIVER WANTS PASSENGERS Len Musgrave, 10 Thorntree Gdns., Middleton St. George, near Darlington, Co. Durham, is driving to Heidelberg for the Convention (August 21-24th) and - somewhat later - back, and could take a passenger or two by mutual arrangement. He writes: "Anyone with driving experience (especially on the Continent) will be more than welcome of course but this is not absolutely necessary." Anybody interested is requested to get in touch with him.

IT'S THOSE LOCAL GROUPS AGAIN ... The very sane ones, too.
Herts and adjacent parts: Contact the group's secretary, Mary Reed, 5 Park Close, Longmeadow, Stevenage, Herts, to find out when and where the group next meets.

Cambridge: The Cambridge University SF Society meets in the "MAYPOLE", Cambridge every Thursday in the Lounge Bar at 8.30. For details, phone R.I. Gilbert, Cam 56093 after 18.30.

SMALL-ADS FREE TO MEMBERS

NEW WORLDS Nos. 118, 122, 148, 152, 159, 168, 2/6 each. 181, 186, 187, 188, 191, 192, 5/- each. 193, 194, 197, 198, 3/6 each. May have others later, please enquire. ANALOG Oct 1968 5/-. ALL prices include postage. Also some SF & fantasy paperbacks. G. Cowie, Kara House, 29 Harboro Rd., Sale, Cheshire. (=This is a Sale sale ? AM=)

SCOTTISHE 55 is a special issue of what must be Britain's senior fanzine, having now been in existence for 15 years. Over 70 pages of contents, including articles by John Brunner, E.C. Tubb, Kenneth Bulner and Bob Shaw amongst many others, illustrated throughout by "ATom" and others. 3/- from its editor, Ethel Lindsay, Courage House 6 Langley Av., Surbiton, Surrey.

FOR SALE: American paperbacks, hardcovers, magazines, bibliographies, indices; i.e., ACE, BERKLEY, BALLANTINE etc., F.P.C.I., GNOME, DOUBLEDAY etc., ASTOUNDING, STUNTLING, F&SF, etc., Don Day's 1926-1950 INDEX, UNKNOWN INDEX, IN SEARCH OF WONDER etc. etc. etc. Lots of out of print items. Send for a free catalogue to: Mike Sandow, 2 Victoria Park Rd., Hackney, London E.9.

TRAVEL TO HEIDELBERG A reminder that American Express Travel Division, 6 Haymarket, London SW.1, Phone 01-930-4411, would be glad to help you with your travel problems in connection with HEICON. Their rates are generally agreed to be pretty fair.

VISION OF TOMORROW By special arrangement with the Ronald E. Graham Group, to which we are greatly obliged, you should find in this mailing a brand-new copy of the magazine "Vision of Tomorrow".

AN OMISSION The Bulletin's proofreader has pointed out that the brief report of the Convention on P.1 does not give the names of the prizewinners for the Fandress competition. Since neither she nor I has the slightest idea as to their identity, however, it's too late for this issue; but if the information is forthcoming as a result of this notice, the Bulletin will be glad to run it in a subsequent issue. (Mercer, 10 Lower Church Lane, St. Michael's, Bristol BS2 8M)

AND A SUGGESTION It has been suggested that there might be a call for yet another D.S.F.A. periodical. This would be a sort of "lesser vector" - its contents would be analogous to those of VECTOR but the emphasis would be on membership-participation rather than on quality-for-quality's-sake.

The idea is strictly tentative at present. In order to go ahead, the Committee would have to agree that the Association can afford it on top of the other things it's been affording recently; and also an energetic editor would have to be found for it. This notice is simply to sound out the reactions of the membership. Would you be interested in writing for it? (Mainly articles, reviews and such of course.) Or, even, would you simply be interested in reading it when it appeared?

If the response is favourable, then the idea can possibly be taken further. (And thank you Vic Hallett for the suggestion.)