

newsletter

The Bulletin of The Irish Science Fiction Association



October/November 1977

Number 14.

There's quite a lot coming up over the next two months so, before we take a look at the last three meetings, I'll give you details of what to look forward to.

+++++

+++ Sunday 30th October +++

+++ You poor devils! Robert Lane has something up his sleeve for this +++
+++ meeting. As you may well know, the season of ghoulies and ghosties +++
+++ is nearly upon us. Its bad enough being caught by the ghosties but, +++
+++ to be caught by(pardon me, I digress).....On the night before +++
+++ Hallow'een, crucifixes should definitely be in evidence. Needless +++
+++ to say, Robert will do his best to entertain and if the form isn't +++
+++ so good, there will be slides to assist. +++

+++ EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA +++

+++ SATURDAY 5th November +++

+++ The venue of this meeting will be Trinity College, Dublin University +++
+++ Gramophone Society are inviting the members of the ISFA to an +++
+++ interesting evening during which, David Lase will be talking about +++
+++ 'SF and Fantasy in Modern Music'. This promises to be most enjoy- +++
+++ able since, David is going to illustrate his talk with extracts +++
+++ from his fine collection of music on cassette. The talk will begin +++
+++ at 7.30pm in the Music School Recital Room which is on the left at +++
+++ the top of the stairs in No. 5. You will find No. 5 on the left as +++
+++ soon as you pass through college front porch. *right* +++

+++ Back to Sundays..... +++

+++ Sunday 20th November +++

+++ Continuing our policy of giving the members of the ISFA an item of +++
+++ interest at each of our meetings, on the second last Sunday in the +++
+++ month this time, we will be happy to introduce you to Garrett Hayes +++
+++ (a new face at the Falcon) - if you haven't met him already. Garrett +++
+++ is working with the Writers' Group and he has offered to speak to +++
+++ us about 'Science Fiction and the Future of Literature'. +++

+++ IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT +++

+++ Sunday 27th November - FILM NIGHT +++

+++ As you can see from the above paragraph, the monthly meeting is a +++
+++ week earlier than usual. This results from the fact that we can +++
+++ only see THE FILM on the 27th. There are only 35 seats available +++
+++ at £1.00 per head so, the first members to let Robert know before +++
+++ or during the meeting at the end of October, will be able to book +++
+++ a seat and be given details of how to get to the venue. We are very +++
+++ lucky to have this opportunity of seeing this movie which gives us +++
+++ a vivid picture of space travel in 24 years time as well as possible +++
+++ answers to man's past and future. We are sorry that the tickets +++
+++ must be sold on a first come first served basis. The tickets must +++
+++ also go to ISFA members first and to friends only if seats are left +++
+++ unfilled. Also, all seats must be paid for on the 30th October. +++

+++ Unless stated otherwise, the above meetings will be in the Falcon. +++

+++++

Recent Meetings.....

.....have been very interesting and well attended. On Sunday August 25th, Mr. Alun Llewellyn fascinated us with his informative talk about the complex nature of Time and the Universe. Mr. Llewellyn proved to be very popular with his fellow ISFA members and we look forward to hearing from him again in the not too distant future.

Ian McAulay - another ISFA member - gave us an informative and amusing introduction to the world of SF magazines and illustrated his talk with a set of colourful slides which showed us the progress in cover art from the early 'bug-eyed monster' days to modern trends.

Patron Harry Harrison could only come along to see us on October 2nd so, a special notice was posted to all members. As you may recall, Harry told us about a forth-coming book at our AGM in May and on the 2nd he produced the promised copies for the ISFA. After regaling us with the hysterical accounts of his book signing trials and tribulations and the difficulties he overcame on our behalf, to get the copies into the country, we finally got to see 'Great Balls of Fire' - and it was well worth waiting for. Nearly all of the copies were sold and signed on the spot by the author. Many thanks Harry for giving us such a good evening. We hope that both you and Joan will come and see us again soon - when you have a little time to spare.

To the above three gentlemen we extend our grateful thanks for the entertaining evenings they treated us to.

+++++

Royal Dublin Society.....

The ISFA have been asked if we would like to use a stand at the Science Exhibition which is coming up in November. The committee have accepted the offer from the point of view that it will make our existence known to a lot more potential members and hopefully make us a few more members as well. We have a few ideas for the stand but if any member feels that he would like to help, please come forward. The exhibition runs from Tuesday November 15th to Saturday 19th and, although a committee member will be present each day, we would also like a few volunteers from among the membership to help represent the Association. Anyone interested, please contact Paddy O'Connell.

+++++

Christmas/New Year Dinner.....

Plans are now afoot to have a dinner before Christmas or early in the New Year. This will be a relatively informal affair in a city hotel. As well as an SF and Fantasy Menu, there will hopefully be entertainment to finish off the evening - in the form of an SF film which has not yet been seen in this country and which, from all accounts, is well worth seeing. Since, we will have to put a deposit on the room for the function, we would appreciate it if we could have an idea of the numbers of interested members and friends as soon as possible. Once again, Paddy is the man to contact.

+++++

Report on the progress of the Writers' Workshop..... - from Anita Woods.

On September 4th, our writers' workshop got under way with an attendance of nine. Basically, we discussed what we would like to achieve at our meetings. We made one rule - at Rita's suggestion - it is COMPULSORY FOR EVERYONE to write something for each meeting or, they will be barred. Much feverish writing was done two weeks later so that they could be granted admission that night.

Our main problem at the second meeting, was fewer people - due to examination commitments. However, it looks as if there will usually be around

(continued on page 12)

STAR TREK - LOG 5 by Alan Dean Foster.

The first question you will ask yourself while reading this three part collection is 'What the Black Hole are Kzinti doing here?' The second is 'Why does the lead-off character M'rese (is this a subtle contraction for mistress?) disappear forever on page 127?' It is suspected that the publishers hoped that if any knowledgeable SF fan were inane enough to actually pick it up, the first point might be the hook that would make you buy it. The second question is inexplicable.

But, about the stories themselves. First off, it should be mentioned that these three stories were adopted and adapted from the cartoon series based on the original TV series. Maybe this will mean that these won't be repetitions for you. (Though I'll confess to having seen two of them.) All three are well written, though the conflicts seem to be rather one-level. The McCoy-Spock give-and-take is faithful to the acted series' standards and some good subtlty is present here. In fact, the alien characterizations are somewhat better than one came to expect from the show.

The first story is based upon an aquatic civilization which has captured Spock and Kirk and changed their genes to make them water-breathers as well. The problem is of course to persuade the aliens to change them back. It is complicated by a deep prejudice against air-breathers (who were both enemies and ancestors of the water-dwellers in the distant past). But the surface dwellers were eventually wiped out by the planet's recurrent tectonic instability (ie: Atlantis-like propensities). The Enterprise's crew discovers that the sea-dwellers' major city is about to be wiped out by an earthquake, and in a gesture of good will they relocate the disturbance safely. The grateful people restore Kirk and Spock to their original condition through McCoy. Exeunt omnes magna cum felicitate.

In the second story, Spock and several of the crew contract a virus from which all recover almost immediately; however, it is revealed that Vulcan's will inevitably die without a rare medicine which has to be shipped quickly to a rendezvous point with the Enterprise. Just before the two ships are to meet, a pirate vessel of a heretofore friendly planet seize the cargo of the merchant vessel, taking the medicine with them. The Enterprise pursues the pirates, finally cornering them near an asteroid. Kirk agrees to let the pirates go if they give him the medicine but the aliens realize that if they don't die or destroy the Enterprise, the secret of their home's hostility to the Federation will be revealed. So, they try to talk Kirk into a position wherein they can destroy the Enterprise, incidently taking themselves with it. Thanks to the transporter, they fail miserably.

The third story is somewhat more involved than the previous two. A race called the Skorr are about to launch an holy war against the rest of the Galaxy because a powerful religious relic has been stolen. Through various machinations, a group of adventurers of a variety of races is assembled to look for the object on a rather inhospitable world. To make a long story short, by reading carefully the flow of near disasters and the agents of salvation, you will almost be able to guess the culprit before he or she is revealed. An exercise for the reader.....

Without a doubt this is all space opera stuff and merely entertainment. It is hard to describe my initial reaction to it but, I'll try - for some reason the reader gets almost no escapist thrill from the thing, no real sense of being part of the struggles that go on. My only conclusion is that it must be the fault of the writer but, having read IGERIGGER and BLOODHYPE, I know that he can do better. Its all a mystery.

John McCarthy.

A scintillating star-shell of a starter! If only Asimov --- sorry, I mean George Scithers, the guy that does the work of putting the mag. together --- keeps up this standard, or even stays within an ass's roar of it, I'll happily tell the world to subscribe.

This first issue is a neat and carefully balanced mix of big-timers and new names, all good professional work. After an introductory editorial by The Good Doctor himself we have a John Varley novella "Goodbye Robinson Crusoe" which is built around a variant of one of his earlier themes; the idea that a change of body can be even more refreshing than a change of clothes. He's probably right, at that.

"Perchance to Dream" is author Sally A. Sellere's first sale, and gives us a new twist on immortality, with love and horror. This is a beautifully imagined piece, and I look forward to seeing more of Sally's work in print, hopefully very soon. George O. Smith's article "On Our Museum" gives a vivid picture of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, which appears to have just about everything from the Spirit of St. Louis via aeroplanes early and late, right up to Skylab, booster shuttles and all. He suggests taking a week to see it all properly, and I only wish we could.

"Air Raid" by Herb Boehm is one of these downbeat stories, in which everything (and everybody) is just plain falling apart. I really disliked this story, though it was competently done. Its just that I personally have had a surfeit of extrapolated futures in which an assortment of Yucks masquerade as 'Man's indomitable spirit' or some such crap. While the author claims to support the women's movement, he certainly takes care to give his heroines a more than sticky end, which makes one wonder a bit.

"Kindertotenlieder" by Jonathan Fast, also a bit on the black side of comedy, but this one comes off beautifully.....after reading this satire on your standard TV commercial, you'll never again look at another fig-rol with the same placid eye. A Gordon Dickson novella "Time Storm" is very unlike his usual style. If you also like Ballard, this is a must. There are also a number of short stories, a book column and an SF puzzle.

All this for one dollar is very good value for money. You'll pay \$1.25 for Analog, and get less in it more often than not. And yet, and yet..... comparing a first issue, carefully and professionally designed to allure the maximum number of readers, with a standard month's edition of a magazine like Analog, which, let's face it, has probably been around longer than most of us, is completely unfair, and basically somewhat meaningless. Any true SF addiot will undoubtedly do his/her/its best to get hold of both, which is after all the only sensible thing to do. So, let's keep our old friends while welcoming the new: IASFM - Hello - may you live forever!

Bobby MacLaughlin.

THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT SAVES THE WORLD by Harry Harrison. Faber & Faber

This is a typical Harry Harrison novel, rich in invention and humour, showcasing the return of Slippery Jim di Griz - the irrepressible Stainless Steel Rat. In the role of the mandatory villain is He, the ultimate megalomaniac.

He's quest for dominance over the universe involves tampering with the natural sequence of time. By interfering with the past, He causes the future to be eliminated.

The Special Corps are singled out as the initial target since, their resources make them the most potent threat to his scheme. One by one, they are dematerialized.

Hastily prepared measures to save the universe, as we know it, are put before Slippery Jim. It is urgent necessity rather than altruistic

idealism which compells him to accept, and he is dispatched to a distant planet called Earth, in the year 1975. His mission is to locate He and destroy him.

While our hero lives, the future is a part of his memory and so, it still exists (if only in an extremely impotent state).

Before the inevitable showdown, both protagonist and antagonist have rocketed through time in both directions. Slippery Jim's efforts to eliminate the menace posed by He are consequently foiled. Is the Stainless Steel Rat successful? Re-read the title.

The storyline and execution of the plot are simplistic. The exuberant and immensely readable copy is characteristic of Harry's mastery of free flowing dialogue and rapid, witty narration. The novel is almost uniform in imaginative fantasy entertainment except, for the closing stages, which, I feel, slide downwards to an unsatisfactory conclusion.

However, there are several fine moments in the novel which more than amply compensate. Especially enjoyable are the scenes on contemporary Earth. Here, Slippery Jim learns the native tongue from reluctant Hell's Angel biker - Slasher - and robs banks to buy equipment necessary for the construction of a time-helix. The subsequent chase scenes are excellent.

This is a fine example of unpretentious science fiction at its best. Like any other Harry Harrison novel, it is an enviable experience in sheer fantasy entertainment.

Jim Ivers.

THE STRANGE INVADERS by Alun Llewellyn. Originally published in 1934.
Reprinted in the SF Master Series, London: NEL 1977.

This novel is highly praised as an example of apocalyptic SF in Brian Aldiss' introduction written specially for this reprint edition and, having read the novel myself, I would tend to agree with him. (I would like to thank our Chairman, Robert Lane, for lending me his own copy of the novel, when all attempts to locate a copy of the original 1934 edition in Dublin libraries had failed.)

After Mr. Llewellyn's guest lecture at our meeting last August, he was kind enough to answer various questions I had prepared about the novel and its background. These details are freely used in the review, with the author's permission.

The novel uses the familiar theme of apocalyptic SF, that of the overthrow of civilization by man-made inventions, which had frequently appeared in the earlier novels of Conan Doyle and H.G. Wells, to name only two examples.

Mr. Llewellyn describes Earth in the grip of a new ice age in the remote future, caused by an atomic war between Russia and the other world powers. The use of these and other forms of mass destruction (described on pp. 39-44), caused a disturbance of the earth's magnetic poles, which resulted in the glaciers moving North and South, crushing the survivors of the atomic holocaust.

Those who live on in an area of southern Russia, have reverted to a neo-feudal society, dominated by a priestly caste of Fathers and their armed retainers, known as Swords.

By a masterful stroke of satire, the author represents these people as still following the Faith of the 3 holy prophets, Marx, Lenin and Stalin - the latter having debased the true Communist beliefs by his worship of the machine (p. 44).

Thus the true faith has been debased to a primitive superstitious cult, against which only a few men and women can preserve their individuality namely, the hero Adam Bayatan, and his rival Kerasin, the Captain of the Swords.

They are threatened in their existence by the arrival of giant lizards (the 'Strange Invaders') (pp.68-9), which have migrated from tropical jungles and crossed the dried up seas in search of food. Only after suffering heavy losses in combat, do the tribesmen discover that the lizards start to hibernate in winter and hence, can be killed easily.

The novel ends with the survivors determined to build a new society, freed from the debased and perverted doctrines of Stalin, in which all classes - priests, soldiers, workers and aliens such as the Tartars, will share equal rights.

The novel was written as a fictional sequel to Mr. Llewellyn's book of satirical essays on contemporary politics entitled 'Confound their Politics' (being a quotation from a little known verse of the British National Anthem). Also published in 1934, this work castigates the twin evils of Nazi-Fascist and Communist dictatorships and predicted a possible future World War.

The author had himself visited Stalin's Russia in the early 1930's and had passed through the town of Stalingrad, on the river Volga, where most of the novel's events take place, although the name is not specifically mentioned. This helped to give a convincing flavour of authentic Russian atmosphere, combined with the author's highly evocative, sensitive style, which creates a vivid portrait of a world dominated by the threat of encroaching glaciers from the North; and by the danger of destruction from the giant lizards - reptiles mutated by the atomic war - arriving from the South in search of food.

These creatures were based on the then recent scientific discovery in the 1930's, of the Komodo dragon on the Indonesian Islands, which was thought to have been extinct from pre-historic times.

Similar remains of lizards were discovered in Russia during the same period; hence, the author has been able to blend together an excellent combination of factual details, with plausible extrapolations into a distant future, which is one of the essential elements of all successful SF writing.

I would strongly recommend all ISFA members to read this novel, as soon as a copy is donated to our library.

David Lass.

CHILDREN OF DUNE by Frank Herbert. Berkley Medallion (paperback).

Those of you who have read both DUNE and DUNE MESSIAH will be somewhat surprised by this latest work. It is obviously an exploitive extension of the first masterpiece; nevertheless, this book is considerably better than the second book in the trilogy.

There are the inevitable weak points of a trilogy: there are far too many characters for a work that is considerably shorter than the original. This is to tie up loose ends to a large extent. Nevertheless, the plot is fairly finely honed. There is no sense of urgency, however, and the reader has to work very hard to accomplish the three important tasks of reading a good novel:

- a) reading beyond page 19.
- b) understanding what is going on, and
- c) knowing the good guys from the bad.

Coupled with almost constant *dei ex machina*, this lends the work a not undeserved air of mediocrity.

The characters - there are a few new ones added just for fun as if, resurrections were not enough for the plot.

The setting - a fairly reasonable extrapolation from DUNE.

The conflict - tell me when you've figured it out, I'd like to know!

The important points - this book is only marginally readable, though it is a vast improvement on DUNE MESSIAH. The craftsmanship of Herbert seems to have from an apparent overdose of success. It is not possible,

unfortunately, for your reviewer to recommend the book on its own merits either as entertainment or as a necessary part of the larger saga of the House of Atreides or of Arrakis.

John McCarthy.

SCIENCE FICTION DISCOVERIES edited by Carol and Fred Pohl.

This is a collection of original SF stories, each of which had to please both editors to qualify for entry. Mostly they show a series of very carefully detailed future societies, in which the individual characters are a lot less important than the environment round about, which is given further depth and dimension by their actions within it. At times this makes the story read like a saga --- the end being implicit in its beginning.

One society (pictured in 'Starlady' by George R.R. Martin) shows us survival in a red-light district on an anarchic asteroid called Thierock. Nice imaginative language and credible people/unpeople. I suppose that apart from the gadgetry and fashions life there wouldn't be so very different from earthly dookside doings but, its a lively tale, with an enjoyable sting to it.

Others include a real-life TV western; utopian suicides; marital difficulties on a history drive (as opposed to an archaeological dig); living on in a home for the dying; and some juvenile attempts to be God. Can't say any more without giving away vital bits of the stories. Read the book and see for yourselves, its well worth your time.

Bobby MacLaughlin.

HORROR AND FANTASY IN THE CINEMA by Tom Hutchinson. Studio Vista (Hard)

Tom Hutchinson's analysis of supernatural and science fiction elements in motion pictures is superbly illustrated by almost 250 colour and monochrome stills, lobby cards and posters. There is a wealth of interesting photographic material covering the entire spectrum of the genre from 'A Trip to the Moon', 'The Golem' and 'Nosferatu' through 'Dracula', 'Frankenstein' and 'King Kong' to 'Psycho', '2001: A Space Odyssey' and 'The Exorcist'.

Unfortunately, the volume appears to be essentially tailored to suit the tastes of the occasional viewer of SF and fantasy films. Hutchinson's text, consequently, is little more than the stringing together of capsule comments on various films in the genre, bonded together with unconvincing attempts to justify his psychological insights into the various sub-genres. Indicative of this failing is his disappointing chapter on 'Creature Symbols', in which, instead of making concrete deductions, he throws out several random points as he goes along.

In direct contrast to this is his laudable treatment of the vampire film. He illustrates the sexual significance of vampirism excellently, drawing upon the films of Buñuel, Polanski and Vadim in addition to Hammer's Dracula cycle - noteworthy for their explicit sexual element. In his chapter, his reference to representative films is well worked out and he successfully substantiates his case.

The final chapter is also highly recommended. Released from his confining fetters, the author uses this section to write about those screen characters who impress him most. These actors include Boris Karloff and Vincent Price; he also lavishes much praise on the seldom applauded but deserving Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing.

Despite its shortcomings, this volume is very much worthwhile. While it is indispensable to the occasional viewer, the book will prove itself of interest to the fanatic of fantasy and SF films. And, the brief foreward

by Vincent Price might appeal to fans of the elegant portrayer of many a nightmarish and warped intelligence.

Jim Ivers.

THE TESTAMENT OF ANDROS: Best SF Stories of James Blish. London. Arrow Books, 1977.

This book contains an anthology of some of the author's best SF stories written between 1964-70. James Blish is one of the most versatile SF writers on the Anglo-American scene, being able to switch from 'Space-Opera' to hard technological SF, as in 'Jack of Eagles' (1952) and the 'Cities in Flight' series (1956-58).

He is also talented as a TV scriptwriter for the 'Star Trek' series, and is also celebrated as the author of a quartet of science-fantasy novels, (1958-70), DR. MIRABILIS, A CASE OF CONSCIENCE, BLACK EASTER and THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT.

All these novels seek to reinterpret the themes of supernatural good and evil, expressed through the worshippers of God and Satan, in terms of extrapolation into future worlds in distant galaxies, or on Earth itself in later centuries.

My own preference is for this particular group of novels but, nevertheless, I would not hesitate to recommend THE TESTAMENT OF ANDROS as a stimulating introduction to James Blish, for those ISFA members who have not yet read any of his works.

It will also provide a refreshing reminder of the author's skills in the various genres of SF, to those members who are already familiar with his works, both in novel and short story form.

David Lass.

CYGNUS.....(fanzine) from:- Dave Patterson, 4 Copeland Drive, Comber, Co. Down, Northern Ireland.

CYGNUS is the brainchild of David Patterson (Founder of the North Down SF Group), who not only writes 90% of the articles and stories himself but, also does all of the artwork and the printing etc. For a fanzine, it is well produced and put together although, not quite up to STARGATE standard.

The main problem is, that it is too disjointed and the stories are too short for any real enjoyment. But, they do show evidence that there is a real talent lurking somewhere is the background trying to show itself. I think Dave will have to include more stories and articles by other fans if CYGNUS is to remain fresh and alive. What I did like about Cygnus was the feedback from the fans, of which there was plenty - not all favourable - and it would be nice to see a section like this in the next issue of STARGATE. (There would be such a feature, Tony, if we got that feedback. R.) All in all, CYGNUS deserves to survive and hopefully, it will get better as time goes on.

Tony Cafolla.

(Copies of CYGNUS 2 & 3 are available from the ISFA Library. P.J.)

Tony has settled down successfully in the U.S. of A. and greetings have been sent to ISFA members via Ian McAulay.

Greetings have also been received from David Norman who is putting down roots in Germany.

RUMOUR....

There is absolutely no foundation to the rumour spreading among the members of the ISFA that the committee have instituted a contract with a well known firm of optical appliance manufacturers, for the sales of special magnifying glasses whereby they may comfortably read the new-style Newsletters. (We are, in fact, negotiating with a totally unknown firm of optical appliance manufacturers!)

VORTEX - SCIENCE FICTION FANTASY (Magazine)....Volume One, Numbers 1-4.

The Editorial to the fourth issue of this glossy British magazine begins with the following statement:

'It has always been assumed that the Writer writes to serve the Reader and must write to the Reader's demands. Is it not time that the Writer was accepted as the Expert Dreamer whose creations should be taken as they are presented to those who are unable to dream for themselves?'

An interesting philosophical point. The editor of this mag goes on to try to answer the question in the affirmative. The reasons why this editorial was written become quite clear when one has read the previous three issues: no one was buying the damn thing because its all too clear that readers resent having crap rammed down their throats to satisfy the fragile egos of sub-standard writers.

Those who have attempted to read these magazines no doubt will say your reviewer is being too generous. But, there should be no doubt that the works contained in these publications are not worth reading either for entertainment or even out of masochism. The editor went on to say in the editorial mentioned above that he hoped to continue to publish speculative fiction. It quickly becomes obvious that the speculation involved was confined to a (low) estimation of the sense of discrimination of the consuming public.

John McCarthy.

Perhaps John McCarthy is being a little more than harsh in his criticism of this mag. (One of the few British mags currently available.) It contains the excellent, if somewhat wordy, serialisation of Moorcock's THE END OF ALL SONGS as well as an interview with the author; the cover illustrations by Rodney Matthews are first class and though the stories are below par generally, the layout is colourful and fresh and, best of all, where can you get a professional mag anywhere now for under 50p?

P.J. Goode.

VORTEX Number One is available from the ISFA Library.

THE EVIL OF FRANKENSTEIN.....a review

The Cast:- Baron Frankenstein.....Peter Cushing.
Zoltan.....Peter Woodthorpe.
Chief of Police.....Duncan Lamont.
Hans.....Sandor Eles.
Burgomeister.....David Hutcheson.
The Creature.....Mimi Kingston.

Produced by Anthony Hinds and directed by Freddie Francis, this is one of the least satisfying films of the Frankenstein cycle. However, John Elder's sub-standard screenplay featured all the elements of the classic monster film. (Elder was in actual fact the pen name used by Hinds. R.)

Baron Frankenstein returns to the village of Karlstaad, from which he had been banished for acts against God and man. With his faithful adherent, Hans, he recovers the creature from a glacier. A carnival

hypnotist, Zoltan the Mystic, is enlisted to cure the monster whose damaged brain is insensitive. The evil hypnotist, however, gains control of the monster and uses him as the instrument of his revenge. The Burgomaster and Chief of Police are his victims. The monster then turns on his tormentor.

Finding a convenient case of booze - the good baron always came prepared - the creature gets drunk, and sets the chateau on fire. Baron Frankenstein apparently shares the monster's fate. The mandatory posse of villagers are thus spectators to the fire they're usually responsible for.

Fire acts as a dual symbol. As an image of destruction it represents the doom of an act against fate; and fire is a purifier, cleansing the chateau of evil.

The monster was a total washout. In his soggy make-up, he looked like a drunkard with a cornflakes box on his head, and never raised an iota of excitement.

The photography, overseen by John Wilcox; the excellent atmospheric lighting and the vividness of the colour more than made up for the inadequacies of the make-up department.

The triumph of the film, however, was the usual distinguished performance of Peter Cushing as Baron Frankenstein. Cushing's realisation of the passionate but dignified man of science, amid a scenario of squalid fear and entrenched religious convictions, surpasses the limitations of the trite script.

Who else could exclaim, 'He has a good brain and excellent eyes!' without losing his equanimity?

Jim Ivers.

BOOK NEWS courtesy of Aardvark House.....

HARDCOVER: Faber: A DREAM OF WESSEX, Christopher Priest. Gollancz: A SCANNER DARKLY, Philip K. Dick; OF MEN AND MONSTERS, William Tenn; AFTER THE FESTIVAL, George R.R. Martin; BEST SCIENCE FICTION OF THE YEAR No. 6., ed Terry Carr. Cape: SHALL WE TELL THE PRESIDENT? Jeffrey Archer. Nel: IN SEARCH OF FRANKENSTEIN, Radu Florescu. Pierrot: BROTHERS OF THE HEAD, Brian W. Aldiss. Millington: FLUX AND THE TIN ANGEL, Ron Goulart. W.M. Allen: ENGLAND INVADED, ed Michael Moorcock; DOORWAYS IN THE SAND, Roger Zelazny; A QUESTION OF LIFE, Maud Willis. Severn House: ENSIGN FLANDRY, Poul Anderson. Hodder: STARSEED ON EYE MOOR, John Lylington. Allison and Dusby: THE KNIGHTS OF THE LIMITS, Barrington J. Bayley; THE KNIGHT OF THE SWORDS, Michael Moorcock. Weidenfeld and N: THE VIRILITY FACTOR, Robert Merle. Hale: DESTINED TO SURVIVE, Peter Bentley; THE FAR TRAVELLER, A. Bertram Chandler; THE SHORES OF KANSAS, Robert Chilson; THE STONE AGE ADVENTURE, L.P. Reeves. Souvenir: STAR WARS, George Lucas. Dobson: UNORTHODOX ENGINEERS, Colin Kapp.

PAPERBACK: Sphere: A MARTIAN ODYSSEY, Stanley G. Weinbaum; THE FOOD OF THE GODS; MEN LIKE GODS, H.G. Wells; SUPERSONIC, Basil Jackson; A WHIFF OF DEATH, Isaac Asimov; TYRANOPOLIS, A.E. van Vogt; INCONSTANT MOON, Larry Niven; TO OPEN THE SKY, Robert Silverberg; THE BULL CHIEF, Chris Carlsen. Orbit: INTERFACE; VOLTEFACE; MULTIFACE, Mark Adlard; BLACK HOLES, Jerry Pournelle; THE NOTE IN GOD'S EYE, Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle. NEL: DUNE, Frank Herbert; THE SILKIE, A.E. van Vogt; MAXWELL'S DEMON, Martin Sherwood; THE NOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS; ASSIGNMENT IN ETERNITY, Robert A. Heinlein. Fontana: NO DIRECTION HOME, Norman Spinrad; THREADS OF TIME, ed Robert Silverberg. Hodder: SEED OF LIGHT; ALL FOOL'S DAY; WHO NEEDS MEN? Edmund Cooper; THE ANOME; THE BRAVE FREE MEN; THE ASTURA, Jack Vance. Magnum: OFF CENTRE, Damon Knight. Corgi: DEMON SEED, Dean R. Koontz; THE PRIZE OF THE PHOENIX, Sondra Marsak and Myrna Culbreath. Pan: APPROACHING OBLIVION, Harlan Ellison; THE PRESERVING MACHINE, Philip K. Dick; FRANK FRAZETTA BOOK 2, ed Betty Ballantine.

Target: THE DR WHO BOOK 2, ed Anon; DR WHO & THE DEADLY ASSASSIN, Terrance Dicks. Panther; THROUGH THE EYE OF TIME, Trevor Hoyle; FIRST LENS MAN, E.E. Smith; JOSHUA, SON OF NONE, Nancy Freedman. Mayflower: CHAMPION OF GARATHORM, Michael Moorcock.

LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE ISFA LIBRARY.....

from P.J. Goode.

ALDISS (Brian W.)	The Penguin SF Omnibus.
ANDERSON (Poul)	The Corridors of Time; The Byworlder; After Doomsday.
ASIMOV (Isaac)	Asimov's Mysteries; The Hugo Winners; Tomorrows Children; Isaac Asimov's SF Magazine.
van ARNAM (Dave)	Greyland..
BERLITZ (Charles)	Mysteries from Forgotten Worlds.
BRUNNEN (John)	Out of My Mind.
BURROUGHS (E.R.)	A Princess of Mars.
BRACKETT (Leigh)	The Big Jump.
CONKLIN (Groff)	17 x Infinity (ed)
CLEMENT (Hal)	Circle of Fire.
CLARKE (Arthur C.)	Tales of Ten Worlds; The Wind from the Sun; Reach for Tomorrow.
CARR (Terry)	Universe 3 (ed)
CONY (Michael)	Mirror Image.
DAVIS (Brian)	The Best of Murray Leinster (ed)
DICK (Philip K.)	Martian Time Slip; Ubik; Now Wait for Last Year.
DELANEY (S.R.)	The Fall of the Towers.
von DANIEN (Eric)	Chariots of the Gods; Return to the Stars.
EDDISON (E.R.)	The Worm Auroboros; Mistress of Mistresses; The Mezentian Gate; A Fish Dinner in Memison.
FAIRFAX (John)	Frontier of Coins.
FARMER (P.J.)	Maker of Universes.
FARREN (Mick)	Synaptic Manhunt.
GESTON (Mark)	Lords of the Starship.
HEINLEIN (Robert)	Farmer in the Sky; Red Planet; Between Planets; Assignment in Eternity; Rocketship Galileo; Double Star; Space Family Stone; Farnham's Freehold.
HOYLE (Fred & Geoffrey)	Rockets in Urza Major; Fifth Planet.
HERBERT (Frank)	Children of Dune.
KNIGHT (Damon)	100 Years of SF.
KAPP (Colin)	The Wizard of Anharitte.
LINDSAY (David)	A Voyage to Arcturus.
LICATA (Tony)	Great Science Fiction (ed)
LEWIS (C.S.)	A Voyage to Venus (Perelandra)
MOORCOCK (Michael)	Behold the Man; The Hollow Lands; New Worlds 5; The Rituals of Infinity; The Singing Citadel.
MOSCOVITZ (Sam)	The Vortex Blasters
MAINE (Charles)	The Man who owned the World.
MCDONALD (George)	Lilith.
MCCAFFREY (Anne)	The Ship Who Sang.
PHILLIPS (Mark)	Brain Twister.
POHL (Fred)	SF Discoveries.
RUSSELL (E.F.)	Three to Conquer; Somewhere a Voice.
RUSS (Joanna)	Pionio on Paradise.
ROSSITER (O.)	Tetrasomy Two.
SIMAK (C.)	Ring around the Sun.
SHECKLEY (R.)	Citizen in Space; The People Trap.
SILVERBERG (R.)	Regans Planet; The Time Hoppers; Up the Line.
SMITH (E.E. 'Doc')	Space-bounds of I.P.C.
SHAW (Bob)	One Million Tomorrows.
SPINRAD (Norman)	The Solarians.
STEINHAUSER (G.)	Jesus Christ, Heir to the Astronauts.
TIMLETT (P.V.)	Power of the Serpent.
TUBB (E.C.)	Jondelle; Mayenne.
VANCE (Jack)	Le Nankh; Le Dirdir.
van-VOGT (A.E.)	Quest for the Future.

Besides the above books (and many more, listed previously), the library also contains many monthly magazines including the complete set of SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY, the complete first volume of WORLDS OF IF from the 1950's many copies of SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES also from the '50s and, of course, GALAXY, ANALOG and MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION etc.

FINALLY, may I regretfully announce that overdue books are beginning to cause a problem for the library. Many have not been returned in over six months. A very selfish type of behaviour to a library which depends on the honesty of its members.

The revised library rules are now available at each meeting. Please read them and try to make the librarian's job a little easier.

+++++

(Report on the progress of the Writers' Workshop..... - from page 2)

/ten or twelve at most meetings. Barring one new member, everyone wrote something and we eagerly await further chapters at our next meeting. Our new member, Arthur O'Duffy, astounded everyone with the quality of his artwork and is already in demand for future editions of STARGATE.

Anyone interested in getting writer's cramp, please contact Anita Woods at 960685. Don't be put off by the fact that you may not have written before - a lot of our members haven't but, they are still producing some fantastic ideas.

I would like to make an urgent appeal for playwrights. Certain people are impatiently awaiting results so, SF plays are a wanted commodity. We have no problems getting good directors, theatres, actors, etc., if the results are good enough.

Patrons beware! We aim to worry you with our marvellous work and our own illustrator is already booked for our book covers.

+++++

Mastermind,....

On Wednesday September 6th, one of the competitors from Northern Ireland chose science fiction as his subject. Brendan Ryder taped the program and has kindly transcribed the questions. How many can you answer?

- 1) Which epic novel begins with this sentence: "2,000,000,000 years or so ago two galaxies were colliding"?
- 2) Which story ends with mass panic at the appearance of the stars?
- 3) What was the wild talent of Wilson Tucker's Paul Breen?
- 4) Which SF periodical appeared for the first time on April 5th 1926?
- 5) Hal Clements' imagined planet, Mesclin, had a gravity of 3G at the equator. What was its gravity at the poles?
- 6) In H.P. Lovecraft's books who or what waits dreaming in his house beneath the sea at R'lyeh?
- 7) In Orwell's "1984", what does it mean if a girl is wearing a scarlet sache?
- 8) Which author created the magician-detective pair, Lord D'Aroy and Sean O'Cloughlin? (The spelling might be wrong here. R.)
- 9) Who wrote "L'autre monde ou les états et empires de la lune"?
- 10) In whose stories would you find earth infested by erbs, derdains, pelgrains and groves?
- 11) What was the name of Olaf Stapledon's super-intelligent dog?
- 12) Of which epic are the robot-constructors Trurl and Klappaucius the heroes?
- 13) How would you go about making a triffid temporarily safe?
- 14) What did Icastahl do to people?
- 15) In Vonnegut's "Cat's Cradle", who wrote: "All of the true things I'm about to tell you, are shameless lies"?
- 16) What is the uniquely valuable product of Cordwainer Smith's imagined planet 'Norstrilia'?

(Answers: next issue)

All enquiries regarding the ISFA should be addressed c/o the Secretary, * Paddy O'Connell, 11 Templemore Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin 6. (SAE please).*