

SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL

WSFA JOURNAL Supplement: News/Book Reviews - - - 2nd April, 1971 issue (#19)

In This Issue --

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| IN THIS ISSUE: IN BRIEF (Misc. notes); COLOPHON | pg 1 |
| THE BOOKSHELF: New Releases (Ace, Ballantine, Doubleday SFBC) | pg 2 |
| MAGAZINARAMA: Contents of Recent Proazines (F&SF 4/71, 5/71; GALAXY 3/71, 4/71) | pg 3 |
| THE STEADY STREAM....: Books Recently Received | pg 4-6 |
| THE CLUB CIRCUIT: News & Minutes (ESFA) | pg 6 |
| S. F. PARADE: Book Reviews, by JAMES R. NEWTON: <u>The Sun Grows Cold</u> , by Howard Berk (pg 7); <u>Alchemy & Academia</u> , ed. Anne McCaffrey (pg 8); <u>Ice</u> , by Anna Kavan (pp 8,9); <u>Transit of Earth</u> , from PLAYBOY (pg 9); TED PAULS: <u>Uncharted Stars</u> , by Andre Norton (pp 7,8); <u>Deeper Than the Darkness</u> , by Greg Benford (pg 9); DAVE HALTERMAN: <u>Spacepaw</u> , by Gordon Dickson (pg 8) | pg 7-9 |
| THE FOREIGN SCENE: News from Australia, Great Britain | pg 10 |

In Brief --

Since SOTWJ is now bi-weekly, we didn't try to cram everything into this issue; there's plenty more club news, foreign news, publishing news, book reviews, etc. for the next (1st May) issue, which will be out shortly after this one (we're gradually getting caught up....).

Last call for material for DISCLAVE Special (#76) -- deadline, 1 May (receipt). Back-issues going rapidly, so better send for list (6¢ stamp) right away....

Remember WSFA Annual Meeting on May 7 (Election of Officers and other business), at home of the Berg's (2131 Keating St., Hillcrest Heights, Md., 20031; phone 894-8048). For directions, or map, call or write Bill immediately.

Slate of candidates submitted by Nominating Committee: For President, Jay Haldeman; for Vice-President, Dave Halterman; for Treasurer, Bill Berg; for Secretary, Karen Townley; for Trustees, Ron Bounds, Alexis Gilliland, Ted Pauls. Further nominations will be accepted from the floor.

April 30 (Fifth Friday) Party at Ron Bounds'; May 21 Meeting at the Harpers'.

The DISCLAVE is rapidly approaching: May 28-31, at the Shoreham Hotel, Conn. Ave. & Calvert St., N.W., Wash., D.C. GoH: Terry Carr. Advance membership \$2.50. For info, hotel reservation cards, etc.: Jay Haldeman, 405 Southway, Baltimore, Md., 21218. We'll pass on more detailed information as soon as we get some.

SOTWJ is approx. bi-weekly. Subs (via 1st-class mail): 20¢ ea., 6/\$1, 12/\$1.75. Free to contributors, traders, & to WSFA members if picked up at WSFA meetings. Also avail. as part of pkg. incl. THE WSFA JOURNAL, in bi-monthly Mailings at 75¢/Mailing, 4/\$2.50, 8/\$4.50 (UK: 30p ea., 4/112½p, 8/200p). TWJ also avail. w/o SOTWJ (write ed. for rates). Lone TWJ's & Mailings sent 3rd-class. For names & addresses of Overseas Agents, Air-mail rates, & Address Code meaning, write the ed. (see SOTWJ-16 for Code meaning). (Note that K: Something of yours mentioned/reviewed herein, N: You are mentioned herein.) Receipt d-line for #20: 30 April.

-- DLM

THE WSFA JOURNAL (Supplement)

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THE BOOKSHELF -- New Releases

ACE BOOKS, 1120 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y., 10036 (April, 1971) --

The Left Hand of Darkness, by Ursula K. LeGuin (Ace S.F. Special; #47800; 95¢; winner of both the Hugo & Nebula awards for Best Novel) -- "An exotic adventure on the planet Winter where people are completely human but for one thing; they are all of the same sex! . . ."

Time for the Stars, by Robert A. Heinlein (#81125; 95¢) -- "No trip to the stars is more breathtaking and exciting than this 70-year voyage of the space ship Lewis and Clark to colonize new worlds for overpopulated Earth. . ."

The Green Brain, by Frank Herbert (#17261; \$1.25) -- "The International Ecological Organization was trying to clear the jungles from all insects...until huge human-like insects took over! . . ."

King Kobold, by Christopher Stasheff (#44485; 75¢) -- "Rod Gallowglass, agent for DDT, must save the espers from the primitive Gramaryans, a whacky bunch of paranoids. A mixture of fun, swords, sorcery and science!"

Recoil, by Claude & Rhoda Nunes (#71082; 75¢) . . . and

Lallia, by E.C. Tubbs -- "Recoil is the fascinating story of conflict between two different forms of life on another planet. Lallia is a sexy adventuress who falls for a nomad Earthling. . ."

Caravan of the Occult, by John Macklin (#09143; 60¢) -- "Bone-chilling stories of the 'Citizens of Other Dimensions' . . . true tales of strange people and events."

Plus Ace "Gothics": Sleep in the Woods, by Dorothy Eden (#76971; 75¢); The Brides of Bellenmore, by Anne Maybury; The Man Who Died Twice, by Lois Paxton (#51903; 75¢); Unholy Sanctuary, by Margaret Higgins (#84560; 75¢); and April's Grave, by Susan Howatch (#02681; 75¢). (Oops! The Maybury book is #07947; 75¢.)

BALLANTINE BOOKS, 101 Fifth Ave., N.Y., N.Y., 10003 (March 22, 1971) --

Red Moon and Black Mountain, by Joy Chant (95¢) -- ". . . the first novel by a brilliant young British author. In the fantasy tradition of J.R.R. Tolkien Joy Chant combines both classic and fantastic elements in this tale of a young boy maturing through crises in imaginary surroundings. Oliver Powell is transported to the land of Kedrin and 'chosen' to secure it from the Powers of Darkness. Red Moon and Black Mountain is the superb presentation of the ageold/sic/ struggle between good and evil against a magical and often savage backdrop. Introduction by Lin Carter. A Ballantine original." (Also pub. by S.F. Book Club.)

Dilation Effect, by Douglas R. Mason (95¢) -- "In this suspenseful science-fiction novel an astronaut and the female navigator of his spaceship are plunged into parallel worlds as they grapple with a massive threat to Earth. Fine lines between illusion and reality become blurred and their very identities are in doubt during the odyssey. . . A Ballantine Original."

Horizon Alpha, by Douglas Mason (95¢) -- "A throwback to a former civilization fights for freedom in a hivelike city controlled by robots. He and a girl deviant are the only ones who can liberate a subservient humanity in this highly imaginative tale. A Ballantine Original." (Douglas Mason is an English author.)

DOUBLEDAY SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB, Garden City, N.Y. (May, 1971) --

The Robot Novels, by Isaac Asimov (Combined Publishers Eds. \$5.90; Member's Ed., \$2.49) -- Includes The Caves of Steel and The Naked Sun, "the celebrated robot novels that portray the matchless adventures of Police Detective Elijah Baley . . ."

Sturgeon Is Alive & Well..., by Theodore Sturgeon (Publisher's Ed., \$4.95; Member's Ed., \$1.49) -- Includes 12 tales by Sturgeon, including such stories as "Crate", "Slow Sculpture", "The Patterns of Dorne", "Uncle Fremmis", & others.

A recent offering by BOOK CLUB ASSOCIATES, Garden City, N.Y., 11530, of interest to S.F. Book Club Members is Astronomy, by Donald H. Menzel (Publisher's Ed., \$17.50; S.F. Book Club Member's Ed., \$10.95) -- A Random House book; 8 1/2" x 11"; 210 photos (50 in full color); with supplement of 24 Sky Maps.

MAGAZINARAMA: Contents of Recent Prozines

THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- April, 1971 (Vol. 40, No. 4; Whole # 239) ("Special Poul Anderson Issue") -- Short Novel: "The Queen of Air and Darkness", by Poul Anderson; Short Stories: "The Power of the Sentence", by David M. Locke; "The Unsigned", by William Walling; "Darktree, Darktide", by Michael Bishop. Features: Science Article ("The Plane Truth"), by Isaac Asimov; Special Article ("Poul Anderson: The Enduring Explosion"), by James Blish; Profile of Poul Anderson, by Gordon R. Dickson; Verse ("The Unicorn Trade"), by Karen Anderson; Anderson Bibliography; Cartoon, by Gahan Wilson; Book Reviews, by Joanna Russ, of: The Bad Sitting Room (film); First Flights to the Moon, ed. Hal Clement; SF: Author's Choice 2, ed. Harry Harrison; One Step From Earth, by Harry Harrison; The Cube Root of Uncertainty, by Robert Silverberg; Time Rogue, by Leo P. Kelley; Operation Ares, by Gene Wolfe. Front cover by Kelly Freas; no interior art. 130 pp., digest-size. 60¢ (25p) ea., 12/\$7.00 U.S., 12/\$7.50 Canada & Mexico, 12/\$8 elsewhere. From: Box 56, Cornwall, Conn., 06753. Ed. by Edward L. Ferman. Monthly.

May, 1971 (Vol. 40, No. 5; Whole # 240) -- Novelettes: "The Bear With the Knot on His Tail", by Stephen Tall; "Ringing the Changes", by Robert Aickman; Short Stories: "A Free Pass to the Carnival", by George Alec Effinger; "If Something Begins", by Raylyn Moore; "Her Lover's Name Was Death", by Edward Bryant; "The Frayed String on the Stretched Forefinger of Time", by Lloyd Biggle, Jr.; "Yearbook", by Barry N. Malzberg. Features: Science Article ("Pompey and Circumstance"), by Isaac Asimov; Cartoon, by Gahan Wilson; Book Reviews, by James Blish, of: Binary Divine, by Jon Hartridge; Nine Princes in Amber, by Roger Zelazny; Whipping Star, by Frank Herbert; Fourth Mansions, by R.A. Lafferty; "Solaris", by Stanislaw Lem; Book Review, by Ron Goulart, of The Pulp, ed. by Tony Goodstone; Film Reviews, by Baird Searles, of: The Phantom Tollbooth; Zachariah (Cinerama); "L.A. 2017" (T.V. episode on "The Name of the Game"); "When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth". Front cover by Ronald Walotsky (illust. "The Bear With the Knot on His Tail"); no interior illos. 130 pp., digest-size.

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE -- March, 1971 (Vol. 31, No. 4) -- Serial: "A Time of Changes" (Part 1 of 3 parts), by Robert Silverberg; Novelettes: "The Mountain Movers", by A. Bertram Chandler (A. "Lieutenant Grimes" novelette); "But the Secret Sits", by Greg Benford; "Mother in the Sky With Diamonds", by James Tiptree, Jr.; Short Stories: "Pegasus Two", by Ernest Taves; "Choice", by J.R. Pierce; "Frog Pond", by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro; "Here Comes the Sun", by Duncan Lunan; "Gehenna", by Barry Malzberg. Features: Guest Editorial ("After Sex--What?"), by Theodore Sturgeon; Book Reviews, by Algis Budrys, of: Ringworld, by Larry Niven; The Inner Wheel, by Keith Roberts; All Judgment Fled, by James White; Satan's World, by Poul Anderson. Front cover by Jack Gaughan (illust. "Pegasus Two"); interior art not credited (assume all by Gaughan). 192 pp., digest-size; 75¢ ea., 12/\$7.50 U.S., 12/\$8.50 elsewhere. From: 235 East 45th St., New York, N.Y., 10017. Edited by Ejler Jakobsson. Monthly.

April, 1971 (Vol. 31, No. 5) -- Serial: "A Time of Changes" (Part 2 of 3), by Robert Silverberg; Novelettes: "To Fit the Crime", by Joe W. Haldeman; "Liaison Assignment", by Duncan Lunan; "Defender of Death", by Gordon Eklund; Short Stories: "Necessary and Sufficient", by Theodore Sturgeon; "Takeover", by Ernest Taves; "The Exorcism", by J.R. Pierce. Features: Lettercolumn; Book Reviews, by Algis Budrys, of: The Pulp, ed. by Tony Goodstone; More Issues at Hand, by James Blish; The Andromeda Strain, by Michael Crichton; Jesus Christs, by A.J. Langguth. Front cover by Jack Gaughan (illust. "Liaison Assignment"); interior art not credited (assume all by Gaughan). 192 pp., digest-size.

The May, 1971 issue of F&SF advertises the first issue of INNER SPACE, The Magazine of the Psychic and Occult (Nov., 1970; newsstand price, 75¢). Contents include interviews with Isaac Asimov & Isaac Bashevis Singer, material by R.E.L. Masters and Martin Ebon, and other items. Published by Mercury Press.

THE STEADY STREAM....

A listing, sometimes with brief comment, of books & fanzines recently received; most of the books & some of the fanzines listed will be loaned out to various persons for review; some were purchased by the editor (and we'd like these back!); others were sent specifically for review. Items sent directly to our reviewers are excluded. ~~####~~ Reviewers, please note books listed herein, and get the ones you'd like to review from the Editor at the next WSFA meeting (or, better yet, call him (933-5417) as soon as you get this, and let him know which one's you'd like to review). If possible, all reviews should be turned in within two to four weeks so they can receive timely publication. ~~####~~ More reviewers needed.

Books (Hardbound) --

A For Anything, by Damon Knight (Walker & Co., N.Y., 1970; orig. published in 1959 as The People Maker (Zenith Books, Inc.); 160 pp., d.j. by Carl Weiss (design) & Newton Meyers (illust.); \$4.95) -- "The Gizmo was a simple-looking contrivance of wood and copper and glass. It could do only one thing: reproduce an exact replica of whatever was placed on it . . . Predictably, this ushers in a golden age of leisure. But with everything supplied by the Gizmo, a rigidly stratified and hereditary social order resulted. So, in the mid-twenty-first century, society regresses as it was in medieval times, with all the horrors of serfdom. And underlying the whole civilization are the Slobs--slaves at the bottom who wait patiently for the day when..."

Earthjacket, by Jon Hartridge (Walker & Co., N.Y., 1970; orig. pub. in 1970 in the United Kingdom; 182 pp., d.j. by Lena Fong Hor (design) & John Daniel Norwood (illust.); \$4.95) -- "... Step down into the artificial landscape of the Texecs and Sloopees--a society in which life and survival is totally dependent upon undeviating adherence to a system imposed by man. Self-sufficient, self-contained, perfectly ordered...until one man among the oppressed Sloopees asserts his independence, infiltrates the ruling class of Texecs, and in so doing effects the total collapse of the technological order."

The Shape of Further Things: Speculations on Change, by Brian W. Aldiss (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1971; release date 26 March '71; 173 pp., d.j. by Carl Berkowitz; \$4.95; orig. published in U.K. in 1970, by Faber & Faber, Ltd.) -- Nineteen essays by Brian Aldiss on various subjects, with especial emphasis on dreams; and five appendices, including "Sleeping and Dreaming--a new, 'functional' theory", by Dr. Christopher Evans (first three appendices were reprints). Plenty of "food for thought" here....

Strange Seas and Shores: A Collection of Short Stories, by Avram Davidson (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1971; 219 pp., d.j. by Peter Rauch (design) & Nicole Kramer (photograph); \$4.95) -- Contents: "Sacheverell" (F&SF, 3/64); "Take Wooden Indians" (GALAXY, 6/59); "The Vat" (F&SF, 10/61); "The Tail-Tied Kings" (GALAXY, 4/62); "Paramount Ulj" (GALAXY, 10/58); "A Bottle Full of Kismet"; "The Goobers" (SWANK, 11/65); "Dr. Morris Goldpepper Returns" (GALAXY, 12/62); "The Certificate" (F&SF, 3/59); "Ogre in the Vly" (IF, 7/59); "Après Nous" (F&SF, 3/60); "Climacteric" (F&SF, 8/60); "Yo-Ho, and Up" (F&SF, 12/60); "The Sixty-Third Street Station" (F&SF, 3/62); "The House the Blakenays Built" (F&SF, 1/65); "The Power of Every Root" (F&SF, 10/67); "The Sources of the Nile" (F&SF, 1/61); plus Preface by the author, and Introduction: "Night Travel on the Orient Express: Avram", by Ray Bradbury. (Release date: 23 April 1971.)

Tactics of Mistake, by Gordon R. Dickson (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1971; 240 pp., d.j. by François Colos; \$4.95; rel. date, 9 Apr '71) -- "Lt. Colonel Cletus Grahame, a superb military tactician, resigns as the head of the Tactics Department at the Western Alliance Military Academy. He proposes to put his theories into practice by arranging a transfer to Kultis, a minor planet in the Outerworlds where the Alliance and Coalition forces are at war. ~~####~~ Grahame is assigned to the Alliance Forces and faced with the formidable opposition of

Dow DeCastries, Secretary of the Coalition party. . . . The war for these two powerful men becomes a personal battle as they continue to confront each other in the outer reaches of space. Ultimately the lives of Grahame and DeCastries become inconsequential in a final victory seen in the death of an old order and the rebirth of a new."

Where Do We Go From Here?, edited by Isaac Asimov (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1971; 441 pp., d.j. by Peter Rauch; \$6.95; rel. date 16 Apr '71) -- Contents: "A Martian Odyssey", by Stanley G. Weinbaum (WONDER STORIES, 7/34); "Night", by Don A. Stuart (ASTOUNDING STORIES, 10/35); "The Day Is Done", by Lester del Rey (ASTOUNDING S.F., 5/39); "Heavy Planet", by Milton A. Rothman (as Lee Gregor, in ASTOUNDING S.F., 8/39); "--And He Built a Crooked House--", by Robert A. Heinlein (ASTOUNDING S.F., 2/41); "Proof", by Hal Clement; "A Subway Named Mobius", by A.J. Deutsch (ASTOUNDING S.F., 12/50); "Surface Tension", by James Blish (GALAXY, 1/54); "Country Doctor", by William Morrison (STAR S.F. #1); "The Holes Around Mars", by Jerome Bixby (GALAXY, 1/54); "The Deep Range", by Arthur C. Clarke (STAR S.F. #3); "The Cave of Night", by James E. Gunn (GALAXY, 2/55); "Dust Rag", by Hal Clement (ASTOUNDING, 9/56); "Pate de Foie Gras", by Isaac Asimov (ASTOUNDING S.F., 9/56); "Omnilingual", by H. Beam Piper (ASTOUNDING S.F., 2/57); "The Big Bounce", by Walter S. Tevis (GALAXY, 2/58); "Neutron Star", by Larry Niven (WORLDS OF IF, 10/66); plus Introduction by the editor, and Appendix ("Further Reading"). (Note that we overlooked above the original publication of Clement's "Proof": ASTOUNDING S.F., 6/42.) ##### "Each selection was chosen for its scientific content as well as for its merit as a story, and each is followed by a brief discussion by Dr. Asimov in which he considers the scientific problems it presents and the fascinating questions it raises. . . . an excellent supplement for standard science texts." (Was published by Dr. Asimov with the idea of exploring the potential of science fiction as "an inspiring and useful teaching device", as well as providing the science fiction reader with additional reading pleasure.)

The World Menders, by Lloyd Biggle, Jr. (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1971; 181 pp., d.j. by Pat Steir (illust.) & Ericka Hamburg (typography); \$4.95; rel. date 26 March '71; orig. pub. in ANALOG as a serial, 2/71-4/71) -- "On the world Branoff IV, in the lovely land of Scervif, live the rascz, an industrious, artistic, superbly civilized race. Few of them are aware that their prosperous civilization is totally dependent upon the olz, a race of slaves owned by their god-emperor. . . . Cultural Survey trainee Cedd Farrari . . . becomes aware of the horrible plight of the olz. He dedicates himself to their liberation. . . . As he pursues its quest to its startling conclusion he passes perilously close to death, and along the way he finds himself leading the olz in the strangest rebellion ever described in truth or fiction: the rascz, the master race, don't know their slaves are rebelling. Neither do the slaves!"

Books (Paperbound) --

Best SF: 1969, edited by Harry Harrison & Brian W. Aldiss (Berkley Medallion Book N1982; April, 1971; orig. pub. 1970 by G.P. Putnam's Sons, Inc.; 224 pp.; 95¢) -- Contents: "The Muse", by Anthony Burgess (THE HUDSON REVIEW, 1968); "Working in the Spaceship Yards", by Brian W. Aldiss (PUNCH, 1969); "The Schematic Man", by Frederik Pohl (PLAYBOY, 1968); "The Snows Are Melted, the Snows Are Gone", by James Tiptree, Jr. (VENTURE, 1969); "Hospital of Transplanted Hearts", by D.M. Thomas (NEW WORLDS, 1969); "Eco-Catastrophe!", by Dr. Paul Ehrlich (RAMPARTS, 1969); "The Castle on the Crag", by Pg Wyal (FANTASTIC, 1968); "Nine Lives", by Ursula K. LeGuin (PLAYBOY, 1969); "Progression of the Species", by Brian W. Aldiss, and "Report Back", by John Cotton (poetry from Holding Your Eight Hands, ed. by Edward Lucie-Smith; 1969); "The Killing Ground", by J. G. Ballard (NEW WORLDS, 1969); "The Dannold Cheque", by Ken W. Purdy (PLAYBOY; 1969); "Womb to Tomb", by Joseph Wesley (ANALOG, 1969); "Like Father", by Jon Hartridge (NEW WORLDS, 1969); "The Electric Ant", by Philip K. Dick (F&SF, 1969); "The Man

"Inside", by Bruce McAllister (GALAXY, 1969); "Now Hear the Word of the Lord", by Algis Budrys (GALAXY, 1969); plus Introduction, by Harry Harrison, and Afterword: "An Awful Lot of Copy", by Brian W. Aldiss.

The Currents of Space, by Isaac Asimov (Fawcett Crest Book T1541; rel. date March 11, 1971; orig. pub. as serial in ASTOUNDING in 1952, and in hardbound by Doubleday; 191 pp.; 75¢) -- "What he knew about the future could destroy a solar system...so they scared the memory from Rik's brain, and left him for dead, a whimpering, thumb-sucking half-child. Then Valona, a young, lonely peasant girl, adopted him. And gently turned him into a man again. Hunted by kings and spies, caught in a web of interplanetary intrigue, Rik struggles with his own numbed mind and his unknown enemy in a desperate and one-sided race with time."

(Remainder of listing postponed until SOTWJ #20, out shortly after #19.)

THE CLUB CIRCUIT: News & Minutes (ESFA)

ESFA (EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION) meets informally on the 1st Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m., in the YM-YWCA, 600 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey.

Minutes of ESFA Meeting of 7 March 1971 --

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Director Mike Deckinger at 3:30 p.m. The attendance was 18. The Treasurer's report and Secretary's minutes were given and accepted.

Deckinger read from a clipping describing the Federal indictment on obscenity charges of former sf publisher William L. Hamling and Earl Kemp for printing the Presidential Obscenity Commission report, with illustrations. This prompted a remark by Milton Spahn that Hamling had made a bare living while publishing sf, but now made a living from publishing about people living bare. Lew Mayer passed around a book review by Ray Bradbury in the BERGEN SUNDAY RECORD of March 7, on The Moon: Man's Greatest Adventure, by Davis Thomas, published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., at \$45.00. Les also called attention to the obituary of Clayton Rawson, mystery story author, and former editor for Ziff-Davis Publications and of ELLERY QUEEN MYSTERY MAGAZINE.

Sam Moskowitz announced that Robert A. W. Lowndes had become associate editor of SEXOLOGY for Gernsback Publications at a better salary than he had received at Health Knowledge, Inc. Terry Carr has been dismissed as full-time editor at Ace Books, but will continue to edit the Ace Specials at home. The Specials had been doing poorly, but it was hoped that sales would pick up with the new cover art.

Mike Deckinger, announcing that Brian Burley would not be a candidate for re-election as Director, opened the floor for nominations. Deckinger was nominated by Paul Herkart and Milton Spahn. Mark Owings was nominated by John J. Pierce and Richard Hodgens. Mark Owings won the balloting by a vote of 8-6, with one vote in doubt. All other incumbents were returned by nomination and acclamation. Richard Hodgens and Sam Moskowitz were the only nominations for the Membership Committee.

Deckinger called for discussion of the October Open Meeting. Allan Howard recalled from past minutes that the feature of the March 1, 1964 Open Meeting was the presentation of a plaque to Virgil Finlay as the "Dean of Science Fiction Artists", succeeding Frank R. Paul. Howard felt that since the title was now vacant, the idea of the program was worth repeating, with the title going to the most worthy of present artists. Consensus of the members favored Frank Kelly Freas, both for length of time in the field and continued excellence of performance. Sam Moskowitz offered to contact Freas, and Mike Deckinger would contact the Robert Treat Hotel. A Saturday program and Sunday Banquet are planned.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

-- Allan Howard, Secretary, ESFA

S. F. PARADE: Book Reviews

The Sun Grows Cold: A speculative novel by Howard Berk (Delacorte Press; 245 pp.; \$6.95).

This book was hard to put down. It starts out to be that kind of a novel. But then--thud!--the final ten pages destroy all the absolutely beautiful believability the author produces to keep the reader in edge-of-the-seat interest. He does it wonderfully until the last.

From the onset it's apparent man has nearly destroyed himself. Alex Parnell, the protagonist, is undergoing intensive therapy following some deep psychological trauma. What that trauma is is the novel's *raison d'être*. The first conjecture that comes to mind is a world war, but don't jump to conclusions.

Plotting is superb. So is the gradual exposure of the world, which at Parnell's first awareness is the Complex, a huge multi-level underground city beneath the radioactive ruins of Washington, D.C. Later, after Alex and Julia (with whom he rediscovers sex; she turns out to be his wife) escape, the world outside the Complex is depicted with equally devastating reality. It could be that way, you tell yourself breathlessly.

But when the Moment of Great Truth is finally come, it is so miserably unrealistic as to defy credulity by anyone who has the faintest understanding of the way governments operate. Berk has world governments mutually agreeing to near self-annihilation to stop the spread of an unproven genetic psychological mutation brought about by overpopulation. If nations today can't agree on numerical limitations of such countable things as weapons, can you see them agreeing to decimation of their own populations on the strength of a rationale as intangible as eradicating a theoretical cause that might be causing mass madness?

Neither can I.

-- James R. Newton

Uncharted Stars, by Andre Norton (Ace #84000; 75¢).

In 1969, Andre Norton inaugurated a new series--I've lost count of how many series, loosely speaking, she has running simultaneously--with a novel entitled The Zero Stone. That novel marked a promising beginning. It was, as is customary for this author, a very competently-written adventure story, involving a quest by the two principal characters for the zero stones of the title, ancient gems possessing unique and marvelous properties. No symbolism, no philosophy, no probing character development, no massive ideas; heavy writing is utterly foreign to this author. She is a storyteller, and a highly-accomplished one. The appeal of The Zero Stone derived from the entertaining weaving of the story, reinforced by the sympathetic and valid portrayal of those two principal characters, a likable gem dealer's son named Murdoc Jern and Eet, an advanced mentality in the body of a mutated cat (about whose origins there were hints of a mystery). Jern and Eet journey among far-flung worlds, searching for zero stones and eluding the minions of the Thieves' Guild and the Patrol. It was an enjoyable adventure, and I looked forward to the inevitable sequel.

That sequel, Uncharted Stars, is disappointing. Norton's competence as a storyteller has not deserted her, and this novel is still distinguished by a certain class and grace from most of the sf that is generally grouped under the classification of "space opera". But it does not compare at all favorably with the initial book of the series. In particular, Murdoc Jern has changed for the worse. In Uncharted Stars, he is a paler, thinner, somehow less comfortable (to the reader) character. His distinctive almost-"classical" manner of speech, which lent him individuality and depth once one became accustomed to it in The Zero Stone, has disappeared--the Jern of this book talks like everybody else. Also distinctive in the earlier novel was his vulnerability and fallibility: he

made mistakes and got into jams where he had to be bailed out by Eet. In the second book, though, Norton has Jern hung up on the idea of making it on his own, and allows him to develop psi powers to make this possible. The result is a Jern who moves dangerously close to becoming a standard space opera Hero, endowed with such qualities that it is no longer possible for the reader to believe in him as a real, human, fallible person.

Still, while disappointing by comparison, Uncharted Stars remains readable. Norton, like nearly all of this author's work a superior example of light sf adventure.

-- Ted Pauls

Alchemy & Academe: A Collection of Original Stories Concerning Themselves with Transmutations, Mental and Elemental, Alchemical and Academic, compiled by Anne McCaffrey (Doubleday; 239 pages; \$4.95).

Anne McCaffrey is a superb fantasist. She is established as a competent craftswoman in her own right, most aficionados of that genre will agree, by her Dragonflight, Restorée, Decision at Doona and The Ship Who Sang.

But in succumbing to the current auctorial lex loci that seems to dictate one simply must anthologize to be anybody in the fantasy-science fiction fields, she has fallen, unfortunately, into the error of choosing persiflage anomalies to represent "alchemy and academe".

They don't. They're too cute, too contrived, too filled with attention to autistic writing (obviously pure, unadulterated, pristine Originals), showing more creative efforts to produce anthological inclusions than lasting creations.

Notwithstanding previously-proven actual and potential literary capabilities of each of the nineteen individual contributors, this is a volume of froth, pretty in a shallow way, but unless you have nothing better to read, forget it.

-- James R. Newton

Spacepaw, by Gordon Dickson (Berkley SL715; 75¢).

Disregard the cover, which is a reject from Planet of the Apes.

Do not, however, disregard that feeling of deja vu that may seep slowly into your mind as you begin this book. It's the sequel to Spacial Delivery.

It isn't quite as much fun as the first visit to Dilbia, for several reasons. The most obvious is the simple fact that there are a lot fewer surprises. This is natural and can't be helped in a sequel. A more glaring fault (glaring, perhaps, because I'd already seen what he was getting at) is the tendency in the story to explain everything. Great Campbell! Why explain things that are made so blatantly apparent in the natural telling of the story? Some of the characters are pretty dense; but the readers aren't.

Albeit, the Dilbians are fascinating creatures, and I am not saddened by their second coming. The best description to be made, perhaps, of these neuras-thenic grizzlies, is to say that they are the Hokus grown up, with a collection of Mike Fink and mountain man legends, and one hell of a superiority complex. I enjoyed this book, actually, almost as much as the sequel to Earthman's Burden; but then, anticipation is half the fun.

Recommended B+.

-- David A. Halterman

Ice, by Anna Kavan (Doubleday & Co.; 176 pages; \$4.50).

Despite extravagant praise by science fiction author Brian W. Aldiss, who wrote a lengthy introduction and induced the publisher to being Ice out under a

science fiction label, this is not science fiction. It defies ready categorization.

Allegory abounds; continuity does not. Symbolism is rampant; orderly story-telling is not. Confusion intrudes; sensibility does not. Speculative writing may be illustrated here and there; believability most certainly is totally lacking.

Miss Kavan's autistic style and metastatic treatment of plot effectively mask any real purpose she may have meant this obscure oeuvre to communicate. If, indeed, she had a purpose at all beyond recording for all to see the nightmarish quality of the tropism deep and unbreakable heroin addiction saddled her with.

I fear Mr. Aldiss, then, let pity blind him to the emptiness Miss Kavan so cleverly disguised in an apiculate tale of a nuclear bomb-induced ice age. But that cleverness cannot change the fact that she rambled on and on acristically and arrived nowhere.

-- James R. Newton

Deeper Than the Darkness, by Greg Benford (Ace 14215; 60¢).

Greg Benford has more than once had kind things to say about my book reviews, and when I was handed this novel to review at a WSFA meeting that he and his brother Jim attended, he repeated some of them. It would be kind of nice, then, to be able to return the compliment by praising Deeper Than the Darkness as an excellent novel. Unfortunately, in my opinion, it isn't.

The first 34 pages are a superb novelette of the same title that appeared in F&SF in 1969 and was (deservedly) nominated for a Hugo. It is a remarkable example of economical use of words. Greg manages, in just 34 pages, to adequately sketch background (a future Terran empire dominated by descendants of Asian peoples who survived a general Earth war), portray a culture and its religion, competently characterize several individuals, and tell the story of the beginning of a losing war with the mysterious alien Quarn, including a stunningly memorable scene of human beings reduced to veritable animals by abject panic and terror. The author's mistake was to attempt to nail another 150 pages onto that novelette instead of simply letting it stand as the fine gem it was.

It isn't that those 150 pages are bad; it is simply that they aren't as good, and the reader spends them waiting, in vain, for the novel to regain the level of its opening part. That contrast makes Deeper Than the Darkness a failure. Loosely-written and wandering where the opening segment is tightly constructed and disciplined, the bulk of the novel expands on elements present in the novelette without really adding much to them, and takes overly long side-trips into the physics of a double-star system and the vagaries of Hindu sects. It's all perfectly readable, mind you, and some of the plot devices are entertaining, but it must in all fairness be stated that, on balance, the extra 150 pages does more harm than good.

-- Ted Pauls

Transit of Earth: A softcover collection of science fiction stories from PLAYBOY Magazine (Playboy Press; 188 pages; 75¢).

The title is taken from Arthur C. Clarke's lead-off story in this ten-author anthology. The thirteen stories represent appearances in this slick publication over a period stretching from 1958 through 1971, and are the first in a series of monthly volumes of science fiction short stories to be published by this prestigious concern. If you like the stylishly uninhibited Rabbit's forte, and you like your science fiction in the same vein, you'll enjoy these quality stories by Matheson, Bradbury, Disch, Pohl, and other well-knowns.

-- James R. Newton

THE FOREIGN SCENE

AUSTRALIA --

Misc. news from Michael O'Brien:

The Sydney SF Foundation is returning to a monthly meeting schedule. Guest of Honor at the July meeting will (hopefully) be Jack Williamson. The SSFF's new postal address is GPO Box 4593, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia 2001 (note the appropriate postcode number!).

A science fiction club has been formed in the state of South Australia for the first time. The Adelaide University Science Fiction Association starts out with 20 members, making four states with regularly-meeting fan groups. President is Alan Sandercock.

Don Tuck has donated a bundle of AMRA's to be auctioned by the Australia-in'75 Committee. The issues include No. 14 to No. 49, with only No. 15 missing. Bids for the set should go to Robin Johnson, Flat 2, 28 Ardmillan Road, Moonee Ponds, Victoria 3039, by air mail.

John Foyster has a pseudonymous story in the Lancer anthology Infinity Three, the profits from the sale going to the Australia-in'75 Committee.

Conventions have been simultaneously scheduled for two cities for the first time in Australia. The Easter Cons will be held in Melbourne and Brisbane; the Brisbane Con is the first Queensland Convention since Queensland fandom first appeared in 1952.

The new national organization Comorg has closed down because of the small number of people it interested. The Comorg magazine AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY has also folded, and editor John Bangsund reports that he is also abandoning his AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION YEARBOOK & DIRECTORY because only three dozen people ordered copies. JB is reviving his gazette SCYTHROP and will use YEARBOOK articles in it.

An era in Australian fandom ends when Mervyn Binns leaves McGill's Newsagency to set up his own establishment, the Space Age Bookshop. Mervyn & McGill's have been the Mecca of Australian sf readers for uncounted years (see All Our Yesterdays, for instance). Mervyn's new venture is backed by Ron Graham, former sf publisher.

GREAT BRITAIN --

Letter dated 27 March 1971 from Peter Singleton:

"... I received NEW WORLDS #201 today--the first issue to be published since #200, received in May 1970!

"Details: NEW WORLDS #201 is edited by Michael Moorcock. Associate Editor: Langdon Jones. 'Special Subscription Only Issue' Extracts from Moorcock's editorial: 'The next NEW WORLDS you will see will, with luck, be appearing on most bookstalls in Britain, the U.S.A. and elsewhere. It will be in a paperback format and will be Quarterly. We had hoped to publish simultaneously in Britain and America but more problems came up and now NEW WORLDS QUARTERLY No. 1 (issue 202) will be published in June 1971 by Sphere Books (U.K.) and in September 1971 by Berkley Books (U.S.A.). Perhaps at a later date we shall be able to stagger schedules so that publication will be simultaneous. The first Quarterly NEW WORLDS will contain some fine work from Thomas M. Disch, Keith Roberts, John Sladek, Brian Aldiss, J.G. Ballard and others, with illustrations by Mervyn Peake, R. Glyn Jones and Keith Roberts.'

"Back to NW #201: 8 2/10" x 11 1/2". 24 pages. Black & White only, but with fine layout and illustrations. Contents: "Feathers From the Wings of an Angel" (story) by Thomas M. Disch. "An Incident From The Warlord of the Air, a new novel by Michael Moorcock. A NEW WORLDS Index: Arts Council grant-supported issues 173(July 1967) to 201 (dated January/February 1971--Subscription Only Issue. Last in Large Format). "Is the End of the World Near?", a question and an answer by John Munro, with some sketches of what may be, by Paul Hardy. . . ."

((Thanks, Mike & Peter, for your most informative letters! --ed.))