

J.P. Chaplin, *The Convention Handbook*

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AWARDS & PRIZES & etc. etc. Part I - JAPAN

## Part II - BRITAIN

*Helliconia Summer* - Brian Aldiss (Jonathan Cape)

Cat Karina - Michael Coney (Victor Gollancz)

Golden Witchbreed - Mary Gentle (Victor Gollancz)

Tik-Tok - John Sladek (Victor Gollancz)

The Citadel of the Autarch - Gene Wolfe (Sidgwick & Jackson; Arrow)

All the entries for the Short Fiction section wERE published in *Interzone* last year.

The content - and, indeed, the form - of the year's Ditmar Awards ballot has not escaped the notice of people; one of the authors whose work is represented on this year's ballot, Russell Blackford, writes:

'...I'm almost embarrassed to be nominated in all three major categories this year -- and it's going to be worse when I come in as an also ran in all three. In particular, *The Tempting of the Witch King* should not be on the list for 'Best Inter-



national Science Fiction or Fantasy': it's a patchy book, and has horrible problems in plotting. I think I managed to cement over most of the latter reasonably plausibly, but there's no way that *Witch King* should be on a list which purports to represent the very best of F & SF of 1983. On the other hand, I still think that the book is way ahead of most adventure novels in the twin genres (in both being visionary and cold-eyed), and I'm not so unhappy about it being on the Australian list, which provides good fair publicity: maybe, I sometimes think, everybody will buy the thing and make me and Paul Collins ((publisher)) rich.'

Well Russell, I don't think you're the only one who is not completely satisfied with the way things have been managed, this year. There is afoot a move to eliminate the 'Best International SF' category, and I believe the idea was to try to make the awards in general appear an obvious farce, and so make people in general more willing to go along with the idea of changing the awards. Personally, although there certainly are problems concerning the notion of eligibility in the 'International' category, I would have thought that this was perhaps one of the most worthwhile categories, seeing as how it is the only one where voters do not have a vested, personal interest in the results. How else to explain such winners as *Riddley Walker*, *Cosmicomics*, etc. Russell continues:

'The lack of a William Atheling Award this year has me a bit riled. I know that you were not necessarily endorsing the view you mentioned - that nothing worthy of an award was printed last year - but the fact that such a view exists at all is most troubling, and (let's be blunt) should be exposed as the bullshit that it is.

'I'm particularly sensitive on this one, because in 1983 I published a major review of *The Judas Mandala* in Van Ikin's *Science Fiction*, analysing the structures and symbols of the novel in a sustained reading which impressed the author himself. At the same time, Lucy Sussex produced an important article on Van Vogt and the fix-up technique which found its way into the prestigious English journal *Foundation*. Marie Maclean's thoughtful 'Recent Approaches to Speculative Fiction' enlivened Australia's most serious literary journal, *AUMLA* (where I had the honour of publishing an article on a non-sf subject a couple of years back myself). Yvonne Rousseau produced a steady stream of high-powered reviews of sf in *Australian Book Review* throughout 1983, including the definitive account of George Turner's *Yesterday's Men*. If she had received an Atheling for the Turner review by itself or for her total effort, nobody could cavill. (This last sentence is perhaps untrue; Yvonne Rousseau's reviewing style is controversial: Paul Collins, for example, has told me that he doesn't like it. But if we can't get controversial stuff on the nominations list, to generate a bit of reaction, what's wrong with us?)

'All the items I've mentioned are of a professional quality which should keep Australian fandom proud of this country's f & sf criticism. I suppose some of the items were published in obscure places from the point of view of many fans, but doesn't word of mouth spread this kind of information through fandom? Good God (or Dread Dormammu), I haven't even mentioned Van Ikin's mighty introduction to his collection of Oz sf, published early in 1983, wherein he analysed the whole history of sf in this brown and sweeping land. Who knows what else I've missed in this letter?

'Wake up Australian fandom. No William Atheling Award! Don't let this outrage be perpetrated again next year....'

Members of the awards sub-committee have explained to some people, privately, that in the constitution there is apparently no reason even for them to pay any attention to people's nominations, when comp-ling a final ballot (there is only a statement to the effect that they must call for nominations). And there's nothing about having to award an Atheling each year. More constitutionalising. To be fair to the committee, however, it must be noted that this year very few nominations for anything were received. It would seem fitting that, in future years, the committee more actively search for eligible entries in the Atheling category, as - as Russell has suggested - pretty obviously news about these items does not circulate around fandom. And so the committee could simply present the voters with a final ballot, taking notice of nominations received - if any are. And I wonder if it is in fact too late for the committee to do this for this year's award, with voting at the convention....



WHAT'S ON WHO'S WHERE HOW'S THINGS including the feared CHANGES of ADDRESS

Melbourne: well while still on the subject of literary criticism it seems appropriate to mention the Nova Mob. As most of you know, the group meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month, at the Foyster Restaurant - er, sorry, that's the Danube Restaurant and the Foyster residence. The Danube is in Acland Street, St.Kilda, and people congregate there around 6pm for fine food and drink before tottering off around the corner to 21 Shakespeare Grove (opposite Luna Prk) for an evening's discussion (starting around 8pm). The programme for the next for months' meetings is given below, but the conversation can stray, as any good one can.

2nd of May - Natural and Un-natural Language; Marie Maclean

6th of June - Heinlein's Critics; Mark Linneman

4th of July - Dystopias in sf (with reference to 1984); Cathy Kerrigan

1st of August - SF as a language; Damien Broderick. □□□ A reminder that although

Marc Ortlieb has moved, his postal address remains as G.P.O.Box 2708X, Melbourne 3001.

Alan Sargent, aka. Smiley, is now at 140 Curtain Street, Carlton North 3054.

Carey Handfield (and Don Ashby) are now at 76 Kay street, Carlton 3053. Dennis Callegari

is now ensconced in his new house at 159 Kilby Road, North Kew 3102 - until his parents

decide they like it, that is (snigger snigger); and Peter Burns is also in a place of

his own, 206 Houghton Road, ~~DAVEY/NORRIS~~ South Oakleigh 3167. It is - aber natürlich -

"right next to the railway". Sharing the place, for the moment, is Mark Rocky Lawson,

fearless journalist. Sarah Crawshaw and Robbie (Robyn) Lyall are at 25 Seacombe Street,

North Fitzroy 3065. Mal & Fiona Gordon (who I erroneously reported last issue as having

wed on the 1st of April - sorry; it was of course the 31st of March) have moved from

Canterbury - they're overseas for a while, on a honeymoon. Not a change of address but

a change of telephone number for Francis Payne - Mont Park (where he works & lives - I

know what you were going to say) number is now 4560211; Frank's still on ext.470.

Antoine Pace & whole family have moved to 47 Lady Nelson Crescent, Altona Bay 3025.

Cathy Kerrigan's new postal address is P.O.box 437, Camberwell 3124. Lindsay Jamieson

is at 11 Margaret Street, Prahran 3181 - he's been there awhile, I'm just slow.

there's a PARTY! on this weekend (Saturday the 14th) to celebrate lots of birthdays

and just generally celebrate - why not? - and it's at Susannah & Yvonne's place,

Flat 6, 7 Queens Road, South Melbourne. Come one come all. Eight o'clock. Hmmn, amazing,

more than half a page of Melbourne info and not a single marriage or birth announce-

ment yet. The truth of the matter is that I am busy composing a 'Wedding Report' on

Chris & Victor's recent nuptials - it will appear next issue, as long as I think my

health can stand it (Chris is a doctor). One more change of address; Kevin & Denise

Noonan are living at 4/41 Dover Street, Flemington 3031 - but please no mail to this

address. Even as you read this, they are looking for a house to buy.

Sydney: Peter Toluzzi is back in town already. Peter is spreading himself around the

town and will be at Eurekacon in Melbourne over Easter, and afterwards in the

Sydney region for maybe even a couple of weeks after that. □□□ Kim Huett has moved

into a house with Deb O'Brien & Rob Matthews, at 76 Gipps Street, Concorde 2137. His

postal address remains 429 - Box 429, that is - Sydney South 2000 - same as for Gerald

Smith, Paranoiakon and innumerable other low-lives. □□□ SF<sup>3</sup> (SF, Fantasy & Film), a

new Sydney group, meets socially every 2nd Friday of the month at the above address.

Reports are in now that indeed, as presaged in the last issue of Thyme, the Sydney SF

Foundation has been reformed. Now what is it going to do with all that money and all

those books.... But back to SF<sup>3</sup> and a convention they're holding in October: Paranoiakon.

To be held at the 'El Toro' Hotel, in Liverpool; membership is \$20 until the end

of Eurekacon (Easter), then \$25 until a week before the con when it rises to \$35 - the

idea to keep away casual attendees, the committee says. The convention is going ahead,

they've just been given \$200 (to help with cash flow problems) by a Syncon '84/SSFF

combination. The con is on 29th September - 2nd October, this year, and all correspon-

dence please to Box 429, Sydney South 2000, NSW. □□□ Terry Frost is living at 3/35 John

Street, Petersham 2049. Sharon Carver is now to be found at 11/12 Mosman Street,

Mosman 2088, but her postal address is P.O.Box 143, Crows Nest 2065.

Queensland: Gordon Jackson has become a banana bender. He now lives at 2/845 Old

Cleveland Road, Carina 4152 (suburb of Brisbane).



