

Elegance
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[illegible]

Oh boy, am I embarrassed! Shortly after the last issue was mailed, a letter arrived from Van Ikin, pleasantly pointing out that I had made a not-so-slight error in listing the award winners at Conviction. In particular, the William Atheling Jr. Award For Criticism or Review:

William Atheling Jr. Award For Criticism or Review: (11 nom., 26 votes)
Van Ikin, "Mirror Reversals and the Tolkien Writing Game"

I offer apologies to (and request forgiveness from) both Van Ikin and John Foyster. And I will try to do this issue while I'm awake.

<<<<<<<<<< * * * * * >>>>>>>>>>

<u>NOVEL:</u>	<u>The Uplift War</u>	David Brin
<u>NOVELLA:</u>	"Eye For Eye"	Orson Scott Card
<u>NOVELLETTE:</u>	"Buffalo Gals, Won't You Come Out Tonight"	Ursula Le Guin
<u>SHORT STORY:</u>	"Why I left Harry's All-Night Hamburgers"	Lawrence Watt-Evans
<u>NON-FICTION:</u>	"Michael Whelan's Works Of Wonder"	Michael Whelan
<u>DRAMATIC PRESENTATION:</u>	<i>The Princess Bride</i>	
<u>PROFESSIONAL EDITOR:</u>	Gardner Dozois	
<u>PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:</u>	Michael Whelan	
<u>SEMI-PROZINE:</u>	Locus	
<u>OTHER FORMS:</u>	Watchmen	Alan Moore & Dave Gibbons
<u>FANZINE:</u>	Texas SF Enquirer	
<u>FAN WRITER:</u>	Mike Glyer	
<u>FAN ARTIST:</u>	Brad Foster	

And not a Hugo, but awarded at NOLACON:
JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD: Judith Moffet

<<<<<<<<<<***>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

CHICAGO won the right to hold the 1991 Worldcon, defeating Sydney 1297 to 198.

Beauty And The Beast - Fact or Fiction?

- © Linette Horne

The recent arrival on television of a modern version of the old fairy story of 'Beauty and the Beast' is bound to raise some sort of comment, even if it is only of scorn because it is Science Fiction Fantasy not Science Fiction Fact.

But is the story complete fantasy, with no basis in fact?

Research has shown the theme of the beautiful maiden being wooed from afar by the hideously deformed man has shown up in literature since early days. An example is the classic 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'. The most widely known version of Beauty and the Beast was first written in the 18th century by Madame Leprince de Beaumont who produced many childrens' stories while living in London.

The most common description of the Beast is that of a male with a badly disfigured face. The disfigurement normally appeared as the features of an animal, usually a lion, and does appear to have been based on a disease known as 'Leontiasis'. Medical sources state that this is 'a condition where the face of an individual resembles that of a lion, as in certain leprosy cases'¹.

Leprosy was very common in some parts of Europe up until the late 19th century. It is also not uncommon for some leprosy cases to become what is known as 'burnt out', ie. to have all the scars of the disease, but to be no longer infectious to other people.

In the case of Vincent, the Beast in the television show, Leontiasis would not be his problem. When asked by Catherine in the first episode for his history, he tells her that he was born that way and abandoned by his family. He was later found and brought up by the man he calls 'father'.

So Vincent's condition looks as though it could be a condition known as 'Leontiasis Ossium'. This is described as 'a bilateral, symmetric hypertrophy (excessive thickening of part of an organ by increase of its own tissues) of the face and cranium of unknown etiology (cause). It results in a lion-like facial expression which must be differentiated from the leonine face of Leprosatous Leprosy'².

This proves that a condition similar to Vincent's does exist.

Is it possible to prove that he could live in tunnels under New York? It is feasible that a person abandoned as he was could do precisely that. Authorities acknowledged that there are over 600km of tunnels under New York and that over the 400 years of the city's existence they have been largely forgotten about, and their plans lost.

So in conclusion, it means that while Beauty and the Beast appears to be yet another romantic fantasy with crime busting overtones, it is in fact based on several provable facts.

Reference: Beauty and the Beast Retold by Phillipa Pearce

¹ Invert. Medical Dictionary by Walide A Rigal

² International Dictionary of Medicine and Biology V2, Wiley Medical Publishers.

DARTH: The Good Guy Who Lost

History and the dramatic arts have never been comfortable together. Truth may be stranger than fiction, but fiction is certainly more exciting - or at least as boring - when translated to the screen or stage. If the production costs a lot, realism/history is often instantly sacrificed on the altar of dramatic effects.

As a result, the golden rule of thumb in watching any popular film purportedly about historical events is: don't believe a second of it unless you know otherwise. The rule has a long history. I remember in my youth watching a film about Hannibal - a musical, including one number where the actors danced on top of elephants.

Now making a movie about the second Punic war, where Hannibal wandered around Italy for 17 years winning battles but not the war, is something like making a sitcom about a concentration camp. However, as I recall, in the Hollywood version Hannibal actually won, thereby completely reversing all of western history. (Oh, never mind why, it would have.)

Amusing perhaps - I cannot remember the name of the film - but quite recent big-budget productions have committed greater sins. The film 'The Untouchables', which did the theatre circuit last year, had nothing to do with the actual exploits of the group of detectives in prohibition Chicago, or of the gangsters they opposed. The film 'Amedeus' was a curious re-working of the life of Mozart so that one of his minor opponents became the major villain.

The list is endless. Captain Bligh, a brilliant seaman, is always quite unfairly treated in any film version of the 'Mutiny on the Bounty'. Richard III, despite the tar-and-feathers job by Shakespeare, was a good guy who had the misfortune of losing. His memory is marred by stuff written by those under the control of the winning side.

On that note we arrive at the point under discussion, namely the historical character Darth Vader - the Emperor's right hand man and alleged black-hearted villain who never gave an adventurer an even break.

Well, of course, we don't have the written history to refer to, just the films. But as I have just pointed out, the films often have nothing to do with the historical situations they are meant to portray, and Star Wars I, II and III, particularly suffer from the disadvantage of (presumably) having been written by historians under the control of Luke Skywalker - a tough but completely unknown and unconnected adventurer who allied himself with an obscure branch of a minor Royal Family (Princess Leia). Skywalker and Leia seem to have then (and one can only guess) gotten involved with another set of adventurers, namely the crew of the Millennium Falcon and a whole heap of rebels. What were they rebelling over?

The book of the first film refers to an inaccessible text book, and says that the Emperor was a Senator who got elected President and then declared himself Emperor. He then exterminated the Jedi Knights and, would you believe, allowed the bureaucrats and Imperial governors to begin a reign of terror which provoked a "small number of systems" to rebel.

History does not repeat itself, but historical situations do re-occur, so some understanding of the economic, military and political circumstances of this rebellion can be gleaned from Earth's own history. In any decent civil war the causes are deep seated, as in the conflict of Fascists and left-wingers in the Spanish Civil War, or the slave states with a completely different economic system against the rest in the American Civil War.

- © LynC

The bit bucket

《中国书画函授大学肇庆分校建校二十周年纪念册》

Cover: 'Hjollnir' © Ian Martyn Metcalfe/Wiz

11/9/88.

The THYME Convention Update

CONQUEST 88:Dates: 23-25 September 1988Venue: Tower Mill Hotel, BrisbaneGOH: Richard Arnold (from Paramount)Rates: \$40/\$60 till 16 SeptRoom Rates: \$68 single + \$10 per person extra.Mail: G.P.O.Box 1376, Brisbane 4001ZENCON 2: The 1988 Media Natcon.Dates: 14-16 October, 1988Venue: Clunes Ross House, 191 Royal Pde, Parkville, Vic.,
and the Carlton Football Club[?]GOH: Paul Darrow (Avon), Michael Keating (Vila), Janet
Lees Price, Dr Michael ArcherRates: \$45 till 13 October, \$60 at the door, \$15 supporting,
\$35 Day.Rooms: The Royal Parade Motor Inn. Double/Twin \$83 + \$10
per extra person. All Meals for whole Con: \$122,
but individual meals also available.Mail: Zencon 2, c/- Cathy Kerrigan, P.O. Box 437,
Camberwell, 3124.CONVERGE 1988: 'The Gathering'Dates: 21-24th October, 1988 (NZ Labour Day Weekend)Venue: The Avenue Motor Inn, Victoria Ave, Wanganui,
AotearoaGOH: David Gerrold, Ian McLean (Fan GOH)Rates: NZ\$35 attending, NZ\$15 supporting.Room Rates: NZ\$88 double, NZ\$77 single, NZ\$11 per extra
adult. Organized by Hospitality Wanganui, P.O.
Box 637, Wanganui.Mail: conVERGE, P.O.Box 4188, Wanganui, New
Zealand/Aotearoa.SWANCON 14: the 28th Aust. National SF convention.Dates: 23-27th March, 1989 (Easter)Venue: Kings Ambassador, Hay St, Perth.GOH: John Varley, Bob Shaw, Paul J. (Antifan) Stevens.Theme: Urban spaceman.Rates: \$60 Attending, \$20 supportingRoom Rates: \$79 a night for a single, twin, or double. (\$89
triple) One night's deposit in advance ONLY,
please. (Separate cheques for rooms/membership,
room deposits made out to 'The King's
Ambassador Hotel'.)Mail: Swancon 14, PO Box 318, Nedlands WA 6009. (PR#1
was released in June)CONSPIRE:Dates: 17-19th March, 1989.Venue: The Rex Hotel, Northbourne Ave., Canberra, ACT.GOH: To be announced.Fan GOH: Robert JanRates: \$50 until 1/1/89, \$60 until 1/3/89, \$70 at the door.

\$10 supporting.

Mail: Conspire '89, GPO Box 2080, Canberra, ACT, 2601.CONTRIVANCE: British SF NatCon, 1989Dates: 24-27th March, 1989Venue: Hotel de France, St Helier, Jersey Island.GOH: Anne McCaffrey, M. John Harrison.Rates: £8 supporting, £15 attending, £6 associateMail: Contrivance, 63 Drake Rd, Chessington, Surrey,
KT9 1LQ, UKU.S. Agent: Bill & Mary Burns, 23 Kensington Crt,
Hempstead, NY 11550, USAMexicon III:Dates: 26-29 May 1989Venue: Albany Hotel, Nottingham, UK.Rates: £15Room Rates: £20 including breakfast/lunch & VAT.Mail: Greg Pickersgill, 7a Lawrence Rd, South Ealing,
London, W54XJ, UK.NOREASCON 3: the 47th World Science Fiction
ConventionDates: 31 August - 4 September 1989Rates: ?? PR#4, apparently mailed in July hasn't arrived
yet, \$US20 supporting,GOH: Andre Norton, Ian & Betty BallantineVenue: John B. Hynes Veterans Convention Center, the
Sheraton-Boston Hotel, and the Back Bay Hilton.Mail: Noreascon 3, Box 46, MIL Branch Post Office,
Cambridge, MA 02139, USA.Agents: Australia: Carey Handfield, PO Box 1091,
Carlton, Vic, 3053.CIRCULATION IV: (4th Canberra regional SF convention)Dates: September 29 - October 2, 1989Rates: \$20 until 1/12/88, \$30 until 1/6/89, \$10/\$15
supporting.Venue: Eaglehawk Hill Motel, Federal Hwy., Canberra,
ACT.Mail: Canberra Science Fiction Society, Circulation 4, PO
Box 47, Civic Square, ACT, 2608.DANSE MACABRE: The 29th Australian National Science
Fiction ConventionDates: Friday 13th - Monday 16th April, 1990 (Easter)Rates: \$30 Attending until September 1st, 1988 (I think
they expected to have a GOH and a PR by now -
CR#), \$15 SupportingGOH: ??? To be announced.Venue: ???Mail: DANSE MACABRE, PO Box 273, Fitzroy, Vic., 3065

For Inclusion with Thyme #71, September 1988

SLOW GLASS BOOKS

Welcome to the third catalogue of books from Justin Ackroyd, alias SLOW GLASS BOOKS.

In this catalogue you will find the November U.S. new releases, a list of all the SF and related titles that were on the warehouse shelves, on August 30th, 1988, of Century Hutchinson, and a complete listing of Popular Library/Questar Science Fiction.

Orders from this catalogue are due back by SEPTEMBER 21ST, 1988.

And may be sent to me at:

SLOW GLASS BOOKS,
G.P.O BOX 2708X,
MELBOURNE,
VICTORIA. 3001.

Or, if you can catch me at home, by phone on (03) 4898416. Not after 10.00 p.m. please. I will have an answering machine in about one month so that orders and messages may be left when I am not at home. You may use this list to write your order on (a tick on the appropriate line) or use separate paper and use the catalogue for your own record. Just remember to put your name and address on your order.

If there are any books that you are after that do not appear on this list, please feel free to sent your want list in and I will see what I can do. Also, if you suddenly decide that you want a copy of a book from a previous catalogue, I can certainly try and get it. Please mention whether you want hardcover, trade paperback or paperback for these titles.

Orders from the November new releases and humour sections of this catalogue should arrive in mid-November, and orders from the other sections within a month.

Payment may be made by the following methods: cheque or money order for all the orders mailed out (exact postage will be charged), or by cash if you can arrange to pick your order up yourself. I will accept no responsibility for any cash sent through the post. No deposit is necessary for any book ordered (except small press orders), but if you do order anything, you are obliged to pay for it.

All prices may fluctuate as the dollar fluctuates or the publisher changes the price, so please be prepared for the occasional price rise or drop.

Please feel free to copy and distribute this catalogue. To remain on the mailing list, I must hear from you at least once every three mailings. The lists are sent out free.

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QUICK COMMENTS ON SOME JULY AND AUGUST RELEASES

THE MAN WHO PULLED DOWN THE SKY - The least of the "Isaac Asimov Presents" series. Political/war novel of the near future. Cardboard characters that don't carry the plot (JA). Baen should have published it (SB).

JOHNNY ZED by John Gregory Betancourt - Fast paced juvenile cyberpunk. Entertaining (JA). Flashy, shallow, not a bad read but not very demanding (SB).

THE STORY OF STONE by Barry Hughart - Not as good as "Bridge of Birds". Original idea not strong enough to carry over to extra volumes (SB).

RETREAD SHOP by T. Jackson King - SF juvenile with good plot and characterization. Lone human on alien trading station (SB).

THE DRIVE-IN by Joe R. Lansdale - Lives up to its blurb. A B grade novel where the occupants of a drive-in are stranded there with only junk food to keep them alive. I loved it (JA). The fun book of the month (SB).

LITTLE HEROES by Norman Spinrad - His best in years (JA & SB).

LOWLAND RIDER by Chet Williamson - New York subway thriller with a touch of horror. Great characters in a very well paced novel (JA).

(JA) = Justin Ackroyd (SB) = Stephen Boucher

EXPLANATIONS: PUBLISHERS CODES.

ACE	=	ACE BOOKS
AVO	=	AVON BOOKS
BAE	=	BAEN BOOKS
BAL	=	BALLANTINE/DEL REY
BAN	=	BANTAM SPECTRA
BER	=	BERKLEY BOOKS
BRI	=	BRIDGE
CAG	=	CARROLL & GRAF
COL	=	COLLINS
CRO	=	CROWN/PAGEANT
DAW	=	DAW BOOKS
DDF	=	DOUBLEDAY/ FOUNDATION
DEL	=	DELL BOOKS
FON	=	FONTANA
FRW	=	FRANKLIN WATTS
GRF	=	GRAFTON
JOV	=	JOVE BOOKS
LEI	=	LEISURE BOOKS
MOR	=	MORROW/ ARBOR HOUSE
NAL	=	NEW AMERICAN LIBRARY/SIGNET/ONYX
PB	=	POCKET BOOKS
POP	=	POPULAR LIBRARY - QUESTAR
RH	=	RANDOM HOUSE
STM	=	ST. MARTINS PRESS
TEN	=	TEN SPEED PRESS
TOR	=	TOR BOOKS
VIK	=	VIKING
WRK	=	WORKMAN
WRN	=	WARNER BOOKS
WWL	=	WORLD WIDE LIBRARY
ZEB	=	ZEBRA/PINNACLE

EXPLANATIONS: DESCRIPTION CODES

SF	=	Science Fiction
F	=	Fantasy
SFF	=	Science Fantasy (The grey area that borders both genres)
H	=	Horror
ADV	=	Adventure
MY	=	Mystery
NONF	=	Non-fiction
O	=	Original - First publication of title in any form.
R	=	Reprint/Reissue of a previously published title.
R1	=	First appearance in paperback of a title that has been previously published in hardcover and/or trade paperback.
AO	=	Anthology of original stories by various authors.
AR	=	Anthology reprinting stories by various authors that have appeared in other publications previously.
CO	=	Collection of original stories by a single author.
CR	=	Collection reprinting stories by a single author that have appeared in other publications previously.
SWA	=	Shared-world anthology - original stories set in a created world.
N	=	Novel
HC	=	Hardcover
TPB	=	Trade Paperback

NOVEMBER U.S. NEW RELEASES

All books are paperback unless stated.

AHERN, Jerry

THE DEFENDER #3: OUT OF CONTROL

— DEL SF/ADV-O-N \$6.50

SURVIVALIST #17: THE ORDEAL

— ZEB SF/ADV-O-N \$5.95

ANTHONY, Piers

FOR LOVE OF EVIL

— MOR F-O-N HC \$23.95

Just when you thought that he had finished the series comes... Incarnations of Immortality Book 6.

ASPRIN, Robert Lynn

M Y T H - N O M E R S A N D IMPERVECTIONS

— ACE F-R1-N \$6.50

ASIMOV, Isaac

AZAZEL

— DDF SF-O-CR HC \$23.95

BACON, Donald

THE MIDNIGHT HOUR

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HARDFOUGHT

together with

ZAHN, Timothy

CASCADE POINT

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BLAYLOCK, James P.

THE LAST COIN

— ACE F-O-N HC \$23.95

BRADLEY, Marion Zimmer

SHARRA'S EXILE

— DAW SF-R-N \$6.95

BRADLEY, Marion Zimmer and

THE FRIENDS OF DARKOVER

FOUR MOONS OF DARKOVER

— DAW SF-O-SWA \$6.95

BRODERICK, Damien

STRIPED HOLES

— AVO SF-O-N \$5.95

BRUNNER, John

THE BEST OF JOHN BRUNNER

— BAL SF-O-CR \$6.95

Retrospective collection of John Brunner's short fiction. Recommended.

THE CRUCIBLE OF TIME

— BAL SF-R-N \$6.95

CARD, Orson Scott

TREASON

— STM SF-O-N HC \$25.50

Rewrite of Card's earlier novel "A Planet Called Treason".

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THE HIDDEN TEMPLE

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SCOUT'S HONOR

— ZEB H-O-N \$6.95

DICK, Philip K.

CLANS OF THE ALPHANE MOON

— CAG SF-R-N \$6.95

DONALDSON, Stephen R.

A MAN RIDES THROUGH

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Volume II of "Mordant's Need".

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 THE CRYSTAL PALACE
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 ANGRY CANDY
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 fiction from one of the best.
 Highly recommended.

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 Reissues of the "Sidhe"
 trilogy.

GERROLD, David
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 — DAW SF-O-N \$6.50
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 SOLAR KILL
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 LASERTOWN BLUES
 — DAW SF-R-N \$6.50
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 SUCH A GOOD BABY
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 — NAL F-R-N TPB \$14.95
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 This is pretty close to being
 my favourite King novel.
 Highly recommended.

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KLINE, Robert Y.
 ANCESTORS
 — CRO H-O-N \$6.95

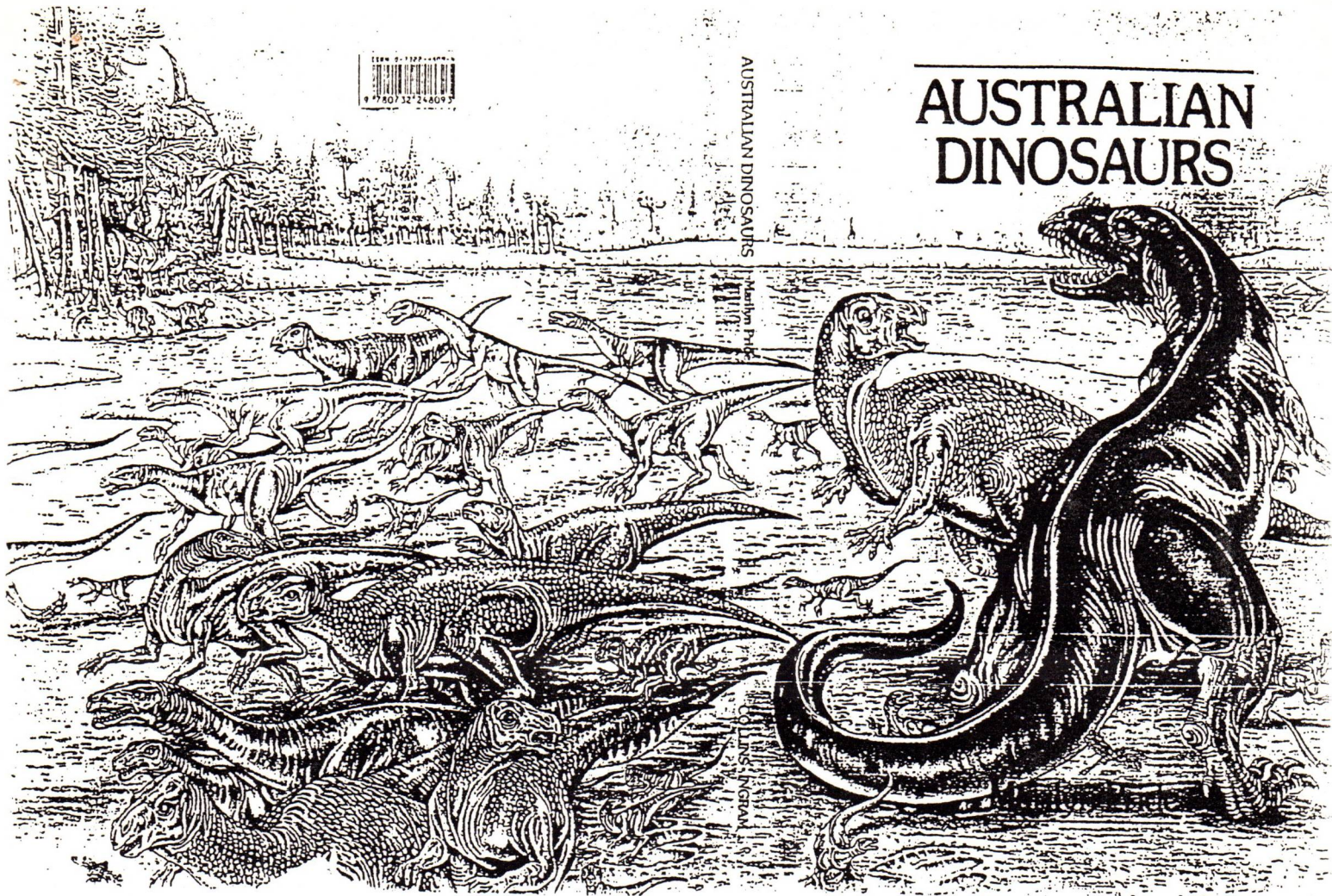
LE GUIN, Ursula K.
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 Anton.

- SHEFFIELD, Charles
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- SMITH JR., James V.
BEASTSTALKER
___ DEL H-O-N \$6.95
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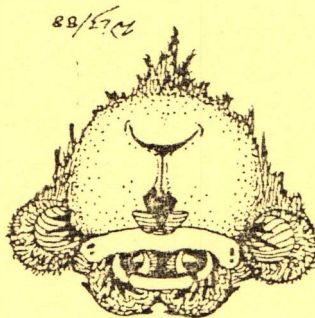
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