

John.

FROM HIS COLLECTIVENESS THE MIGHTY AND MAJESTIC M. H. ZOOL
TO HIS ESTIMABLE COMPONENT PARTS: THE FIRST MISSIVE

First Section - Author Entries

Here is the list of new authors--all are small (120 words) entries. Assignments in brackets are provisional, but please let me know quickly if you can't or would rather not do them--or, indeed, if you are furious that you haven't been given some particular author--so I can sort things out. Thanks.

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| Margaret Atwood - PaulC | Clive Barker - Ivan |
| John Barth - Ivan | Peter Beagle - Neal |
| Michael Bishop - PERSON NEEDED!!! | Anthony Burgess - Neal |
| Karel Capek - PaulM | Lin Carter - Neal |
| A. Bertram Chandler - PaulC | D G Compton - Ivan |
| Richard Cowper - Ivan | Hermann Hesse - PaulM |
| Franz Kafka - Neal | Stephen King - (Penny) |
| H P Lovecraft - (Mo) | Elizabeth A Lynn - Malcolm |
| Naomi Mitchison - PaulM | Marge Piercy - Neal |
| Thomas Pynchon - Neal | Anne Rice - (Marina) |
| Fred Saberhagen - Malcolm | Josephine Saxton - Mo |
| Charles Sheffield - PaulC | Brian Stableford - (PaulM) |
| Arkady and Boris Strugatsky - Neal | D M Thomas - PERSON NEEDED!!! |
| George Turner - Simon (NT says read <i>Beloved Son</i>) | Kate Wilhelm - Adrian |
| Yevgeny Zamyatin - Neal | Phyllis Gotlieb - PERSON NEEDED!!! |

Keith Roberts apparently got left off the main list by some hideous mistake... Adrian thinks he might be doing him; does anybody else want to stake a claim? This is a medium-sized entry (250w).

DON'T FORGET THE REVISED ENTRY SIZES: L=550, M=250, S=120. These were introduced because Neal felt he couldn't do justice to ERBurroughs in a mere 80 words, and we had to juggle the L and M sizes to fit. Violent objectors should talk to me (or part of me, at least) before setting fire to anybody.

Second Section - Themes And Menus

Suggestions for menu entries are wanted *now*; suggestions for new menus (themes) are wanted sooner. I think that between me I have got most of the obvious books, but any interesting obscurities are welcome as long as they're not too obscure... For new themes, I could do with some more character types and a bit more on fantasy (bits of me are gunning for a lot more). Please, no more gadgets! The book seems to be heavily skewed towards them already.

The following menus are looking a little empty at the moment, so suggestions are requested: bioengineering; ecology; big engineering projects; spaceships; weird science (incl odd planets); robots; psi powers; mythical beasts; drugs; hack and slay; juveniles; the New Wave(s); horror and Gothic; aliens and alien societies; anti-heroes; messiahs; children; mental disorder. If you think the categories ought to be widened, say so and send in suggestions anyway.

The following new menus are at the bandying-about stage (they are NOT confirmed to go in--please let me know what you think), courtesy mainly of Malcolm, Neal and Ivan: classic fantasy quests; windows between worlds; the edge of sf; politics; exiles; languages; detectives; science (in the sense of approaches to science, the ethics, methodology and philosophy thereof, etc); man/machine integration; anthropology; sociology.

I could also do with some snappy titles (for some reason Neal won't let me call the Feminism menu "Cut Off Their Goolies!").

Third Section - Skeins and Read-Ons

I'd like skeins in soon-ish, as it might be a good idea to send them about to a few other people who might have interesting additions that you hadn't heard of. Read-ons will probably be hacked around a bit more than the main body of an entry, but everything will be returned to its author for rubber-stamping. I COULD DO WITH SOME HELP ON THIS! The point is that nobody has read everything of relevance, so some of me will think of things that you didn't. And the rest of me/you; while you're writing your entries make sure you jot down ideas for read-ons, *even if they're nothing to do with your authors*. When I get together in September to collate all this mess, there should be plenty of interesting link-ups around if I all do this. But don't send lists of ideas in to me yet--I'll only eat them by mistake. (Burp.)

Fourth Section - Deadlines

I would like to see everything by CONINE (first weekend in August)--I'm not worried how polished it is, I just want where possible to have something decent in for every entry, so that all that remains is editing. The reason I'd like to see stuff this early is that editing is going to take two long phases: first, a text editing phase in which we exchange corrections, and second, a read-on editing phase in which I try to collate everybody's ideas and seek out and destroy closed loops. Believe me, even with my 10 hands and eyes this will take time!

CONINE is not an absolute hard-and-fast deadline, but it is an "excuse deadline"--if it's not in at the book meeting we'll be holding there, it would be nice to hear why (holidays and full-time jobs are excuses, but if you don't expect to get everything in by then, *please let me know when I'm likely to get it*)--that was an oblique threat, for those of me who missed it... The absolute deadlines are 25 September for everything (to send to Ken McLeish), and the first week in September for text editing--if your stuff isn't sorted out by then, prepare to taste searing editorial blue pencil... It would be very nice if you could send stuff in as you write it so that I'm not sitting around doing fuck-all until 5 August and then spend 2 weeks being rushed off my 30-odd feet till 3 in the morning. Thank you,

love
M. H. Zool (a sentient of many parts), c/o 298 Ifley Rd, Oxford, OX4 4AE (or ring 0865-247369 and go "gurk!")