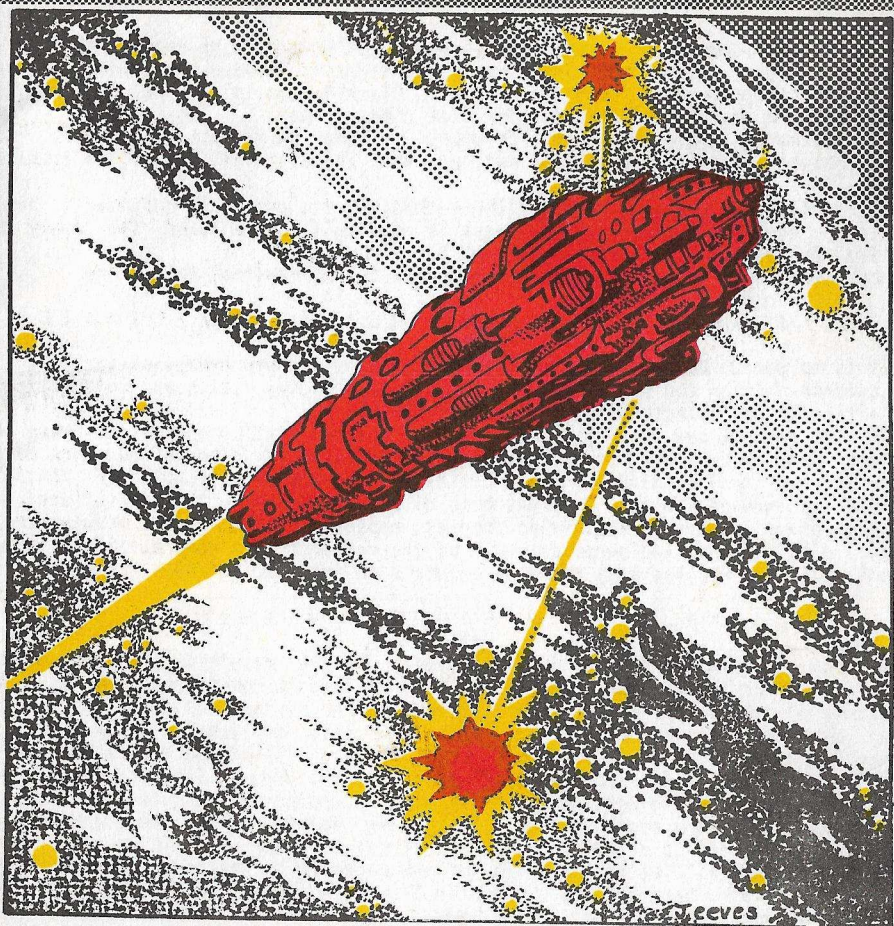
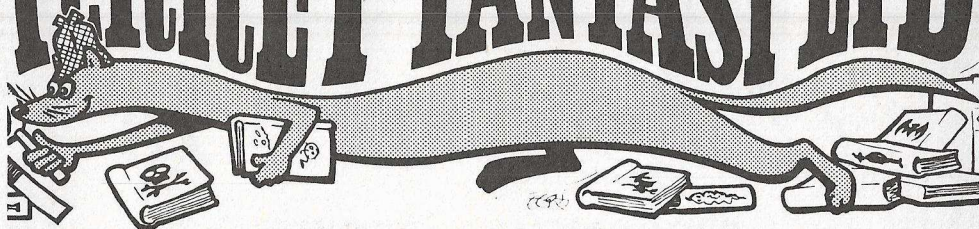


OMPA con '73

PROGRAMME BOOKLET



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are the much-in-demand collectors' items. Don't get us wrong; we eagerly snap up any copies of Arkham House "rarities", hero-pulp magazines, *Weird Tales* with Brundage covers autographed by the good lady herself, Clark Ashton Smith books of poetry and asbestos-bound copies of FAHRENHEIT 451 that come our way.

But **too many** people want them. For every customer we are able to satisfy, there is an **unhappy dozen** who must wait and hope that the dice falls right for them next time.

Our motives for stocking them are three-fold. First, one happy customer is better than none. **Second**, we wouldn't be honest if we didn't say we liked the money they provide. (Love/hate relationships, anyone?)

Most important, though, is that they provide the wherewithal to finance

THE AREA IN WHICH WE REALLY SPECIALISE

It is to search out and research the less firmly trodden byways of early fantasy and science fiction and bring original copies, reprinted texts and information to the attention of collectors and students of the field.

This is nothing new. For at least 40 years, science fiction enthusiasts have been digging into the past and have come up with some notable discoveries. Much of the work has been published. Some, like Bleiler's monumental CHECKLIST OF FANTASTIC LITERATURE, survives to this day. But most of this research, in the form of articles, bibliographies and even republished stories, appeared in fanzines of minute circulation. To all intents and purposes, most of the research of a generation ago is lost to the collector who has only recently acquired an interest in early fantasy.

WE HAVE A SACRED MISSION

And that is to help rectify this situation. As the result of the success of a pilot production issued last November, we have decided to commit ourselves to a full programme of publishing material of interest to the serious collector and student of all aspects of early fantasy. Our first full-scale publication is on display at OMPAcon. Entitled FROM AN ULTIMATE DIM THULE, it is an illustrated review and bibliography of the early (1895-1905) work of weird artist Sidney H. Sime.

Our next publication will be an illustrated anthology of forgotten parodies of famous SF, fantasy and mystery writers, including Wells, Haggard, Doyle, Machen and Verne and topped off by an Arthur C. Clarke parody of H.P. Lovecraft.

Following that will be an anthology of the magazine fantasy and science fiction of George Griffith, best-selling Victorian SF writer who was contemporary to Wells. None of this work has appeared in book form before and will provide a superb introduction to Victorian and Edwardian science fiction.

For more information on these and other projects, see us at the OMPAcon or contact us at the above address.

Meanwhile - have a joyous convention.

George Locke.

OMPAcon '73
 24th British Science Fiction Convention
 The Grand Hotel, Bristol
 April 20 - 23, 1973
 Guest of Honour: Samuel R. Delany

	Committee	
Gerald Bishop	Fred Hemmings	Mike & Pat Meara
Ken Cheslin	Terry Jeeves	Brian Robinson

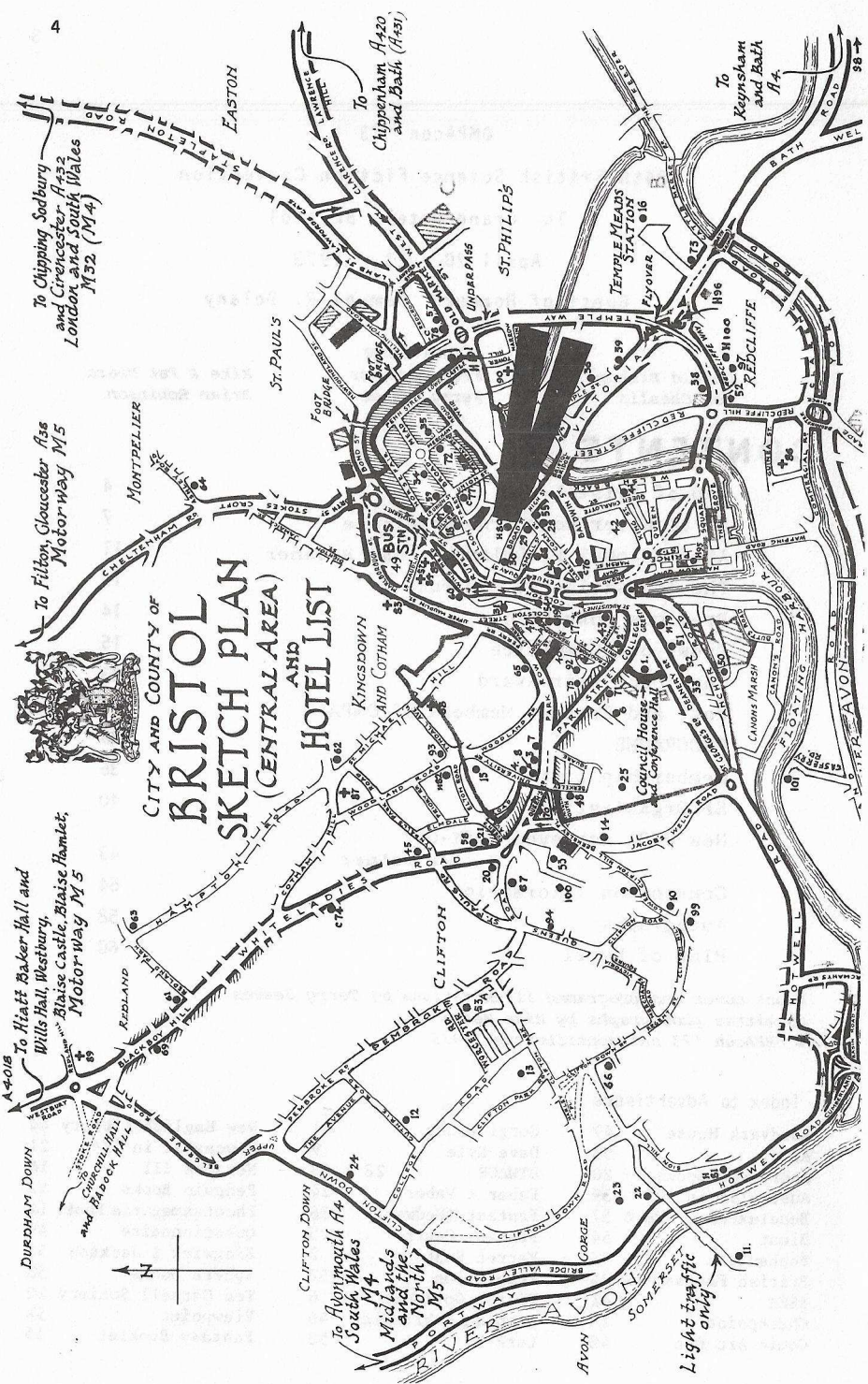
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Front cover and programme illustrations by Terry Jeeves
Committee photographs by Mike Meara
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Lester del Rey	Philip K. Dick
Joseph Green	Robert Heinlein
Zenna Henderson	Frank Herbert
William Hjortsberg	Colin Kapp
Vincent King	Damon Knight
Ursula Le Guin	Fritz Leiber
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Robert Sheckley	Robert Silverberg
Clifford Simak	Theodore Sturgeon
Wilson Tucker	Kurt Vonnegut, Jr
Ian Watson	Gene Wolfe

GOLLANCZ



IT'LL NEVER WORK

We heard it said last Easter when the bid went in. We said it ourselves about many of the suggestions which arose at each of the camel designing sessions we called committee meetings. Most of all we felt it every time that hours, days or even weeks of carefully worked out detail suddenly fell apart. However, we have now reached the stage of producing a Convention booklet, and on the centre pages appears a programme. It acts like a Convention, it looks like a Convention and by golly it even begins to feel like a Convention: perhaps this load of fughheads has managed it after all.

So - OMPA, the Off-trail Magazine Publishers' Association, through its committee, welcomes you to the 1973 British Easter Science Fiction Convention, in the Grand Hotel, Bristol. More about OMPA appears later in this booklet, so, for the moment, let it suffice to say that we are an APA, an Amateur Publishers Association, each member of which publishes a magazine for internal and in some cases external circulation. This is the first time such an organisation has ever run a Convention. We take some pride in this, and the fact that a similar American group is now following our example.

The Committee chose a large hotel as the Convention site with the intention of avoiding overflow hotels, for any who didn't want them. We took this to the point where the smallest hotel considered had 109 rooms and even this limit was later raised to 120. It seems that we have both been successful in our intention and gauged others' feelings correctly in this matter, since only one person has actually asked to be in an overflow.

The Grand, as those with AA or RAC books will no doubt have already noted, has 193 rooms. Practically all of these rooms have been made available to us. At the time of writing, the Convention has filled 137 and various letters indicate that another 10 will go in the near future. All this despite people who, through buying houses, crashing motor cycles, and performing other unfannish activities, are now unable to come. We don't expect to fill the entire hotel but we shall be able to give everyone some choice of accommodation.

This Convention will be the first for many of our members and to these we bid a special welcome. Remember, everyone here will have some interest in sf, no matter how remote; this interest is what made us all become fans. Use the fact as an introductory conversational gambit and, above all, don't be afraid to join in.

The committee would like to meet and talk to everyone, but as they expect to be trying to work on about four things at once this is clearly not possible and one of the reasons for giving our greetings here. However, most fen are a friendly lot and among them is a group of people who have made introducing newcomers one of their ideals - members of the St. Fanthony group. Look for people wearing the S/F badge and speak to them, they don't bite.

The same applies to the authors amongst us: they don't really have two heads and most are under seven feet tall; don't be afraid of them. After

all can you do worse than the Committee member who introduced himself with 'wasn't your last book awful', the conversation may have lagged a bit but no lightning struck him down - be friendly and so will they.

The annual Convention does of course offer a marvellous chance to meet like-minded people. This is the Convention's basic purpose. Some people make it a matter of principal to do only socialising and never attend any of the programme.

Even so it is the programme which inevitably sets the tone of any Convention. For the first time there is a programme both on the Friday and Monday mornings. With this extra time available we have tried to formulate a balanced programme with serious discussions, films, fannish items and fun all having a part. Maybe you won't want to see everything on offer, but there should be no-one who cannot find something of interest.

A full programme has been produced: this is deliberate. Nothing compels attendance, though we hope the items will attract it. Having a full programme gives a choice: long breaks give none. On the other hand people need a chance to stretch their legs, despite the more-than-usually comfortable chairs in the main hall. The thirty minute breaks most mornings and afternoons will allow for this and also, we hope, for the seemingly inevitable over-running of some programme items.

For those who still intend spending the entire weekend making new friends, talking with old ones and drinking (and I can think of worse ways), may we recommend one item which does not appear on the programme - Bristol itself, described by one of our speakers as a beautiful city.

Others have described Bristol variously as a city of Flowers, Churches, Adventure and Contrasts! Certainly none of these are untrue. The floral side of things was well in evidence when we visited last summer, and not only in its many parks. Churches number high among the famous and unusual buildings within easy reach of the hotel and one of the most handsome is St. Mary Redcliffe, apparently described by Queen Elizabeth I as 'The fairest and godliest and most famous parish church in England!' Bristol Cathedral is even closer, as is John Wesley's chapel (the first of the Methodist religion in the world), while, at the end of Broad Street, where the hotel stands, is St. John's on the Arch (literally).

The adventure side of things centres around the old city docks whence sailed John and Sebastian Cabot as well as many of the early American settlers. Adventure is not restricted to fact however, for it was from Bristol that Long John Silver and the others put to sea. Alongside the still cobbled quay stands the Llandoger Trow, an ancient tavern, once the haunt of pirates and reputed to be 'The Spyglass' from that same 'Treasure Island'.

With pirates, churches and flowers, Bristol is certainly a city of contrasts yet these do not exhaust its possibilities. There are also art galleries, museums, other famous pieces of architecture, such as the Cabot tower and Brunel's Clifton suspension bridge (though the latter is a fair distance away), together with much from the Regency and Georgian periods. All this, together with the zoo and facilities for concerts, dancing, golf, boxing, wrestling, ice skating, bingo, discotheques, billiards, football, rugby, greyhound racing and bowling in addition to theatres, cinemas and numerous restaurants, provide a range of activities that could not be exhausted in a month, let alone a long weekend.

Perhaps, as you are faced with this wealth of diversions, we should mention once more that it is an sf convention which you are attending. Despite everything, we hope to see you at least part of the time.



Samuel R. Delany

Photograph: Mike Meara

ABOUT SAMUEL R. DELANY

By John Brunner

Once upon a time, Ace Books got their royalty statements muddled.

Nothing so unusual about that? True. But this was the occasion when I didn't complain, because as a direct result of the mixup I was able to do what I still think is among the smartest things I ever did in my life. The statement I received ought to have gone to Samuel Delany, and it had his address on it.

So I wrote him a fan letter.

A couple of months later a reply came back from c/o American Express, Athens. That's Chip all over - and I mean literally *all over*. If you hear a rumour that he's in, say, Turkey, you may be fairly sure he's in Canada, California, or just about to ring your doorbell.

Since he was due to pass through London on his way home we said please come and see us, and one sunny afternoon I found him rounding the corner of our street: a slim dark guy with a springy walk carrying one small bag. He travels light. But the furniture in that man's head.....!

You'd have to spend a lot more time with him than just a convention weekend in order to gain even a hint of the range not only of his interests but of his talents. Did you know for example, that he had never sold a short story before he produced the Nebula-winning *Aye, And Gomorrah*? Did you know he turned *The Star Pit* into a radio drama for New York's Station WBAI and not only took the major role in it but collaborated with a flautist friend in writing the musical score? (It was rated one of the most successful programmes they ever broadcast.) Did you know he - ?

Stop! I don't want to spoil the fun you're going to have when you make his acquaintance face to face.

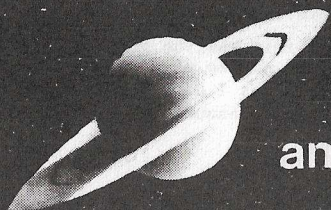
Not only because of his outstanding fiction (I think my favourite is *The Einstein Intersection* but *Babel 17* and *Nova* and *The Fall of the Towers* and *Lines of Power* and - hell, practically all of them have stuck in my mind, with barbs!); not only because of his critical insight, displayed both in print and in conversation, whether public or private; not only because of the hospitality he showed me on three of my trips to New York (I met the most incredible people thanks to him!); not only because of the lyrical songs he composes and the way he sings and accompanies them... but above all because of what he is as a person, I love that guy!

Friends, if you haven't met him before, I almost envy you. You're in for a memorable experience.

- jkhh

PHANTASMAGORIA BOOKS

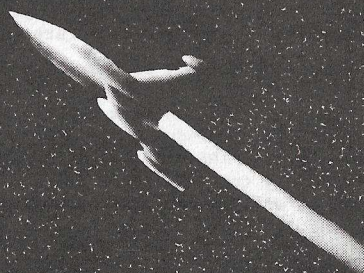
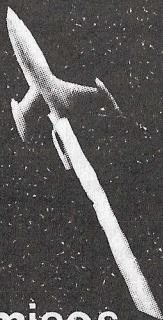
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T A F F

TAFF is not a fan from the Rhondda.

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund exists for the purpose of enabling selected European fans to attend American conventions and vice versa. After a number of less organised efforts a number of fans at the 1953 'Coroncon' set up TAFF, organised more or less as it is today, under the initial administration of Don Ford (America) and Walt Willis (Britain). Basically, it is intended that a TAFF representative be sent from each side of the Atlantic on alternate years. Prospective candidates must be nominated by a minimum number of fans and the necessary finances are raised partially by donations but mainly from a charge made to each voting fan. A European representative normally attends the appropriate World Convention in America while a winner from that side of the ocean attends either the British Easter Convention or a World Convention held outside America.

TAFF representatives are expected to administer the fund in succession after returning from their trip. It is traditional that they publish an account of their experiences although of late this appears to have fallen by the wayside.

MOFFATT IS TAFFMO SPELT BACKWARDS

This was the weird slogan that won last year's TAFF race and now the people responsible are coming to the Con.

Len and June Moffatt are both long time fans, 1939 and 1948 respectively, and there is little, if anything in the field that they have not tackled at some time or other. They are active in the Los Angeles Science Fiction Society, two amateur press associations, The Petard Society and the local Sherlock Holmes Society - among other things. Current publications are *The JDM Bibliophile*, *De Jueves*, *5 x 5* and *Moonshine*.

Len was the Fan Guest of Honour at the 1972 Westercon and was auction co-ordinator for LACon, June is Vice Chairman of LASFS Inc's Board of Directors and together they fill the post of Vice Chairman for Bouchercon III.

They have been active, both as workers and officers, in many clubs and conventions over the years. Best of all they are two of the nicest people in fandom - try and find someone who says otherwise. However, there is one fact which makes their attendance even more pleasing: of the votes cast from this country only one went to any of the other candidates; they are truly Britain's choice.

Len and June - WELCOME TO THE CON.

Previous Conventions

- 01 1937 Leeds
- 02 1938 London
- 03 1941 London [*Bombcon*]
- 04 1944 Birmingham
 - 1 1948 London, White Horse
 - 2 1949 London, Lord Raglan
 - 3 1951 London, Royal Hotel [*'Festivention' - 1st International Convention*]
 - 4 1952 London, Royal Hotel
 - 5 1953 London, Bonnington Hotel [*Coroncon*]
 - 6 1954 Manchester, [*Supermancon*]
 - 7 1955 Kettering, George Hotel [*Cytricon*]
 - 8 1956 Kettering, George Hotel [*Cytricon II*]
 - 1957 LONDON, WORLD CONVENTION [*Loncon*]
 - 9 1958 Kettering, George Hotel [*Cytricon III*]
- 10 1959 Birmingham, Imperial Hotel
- 11 1960 London, Kingsley Hotel
- 12 1961 Gloucester, New County Hotel [*LXIcon*]
- 13 1962 Harrogate, Clarendon Hotel [*Ronvention*]
- 14 1963 Peterborough, Bull Hotel [*Bullcon*]
- 15 1964 Peterborough, Bull Hotel [*Repetercon*]
- 16 1965 Birmingham, Midland Hotel [*Brumcon*]
- 1965 LONDON, WORLD CONVENTION Mount Royal Hotel [*LONCON II*]
- 17 1966 Yarmouth, Royal Hotel [*Yarcon*]
- 18 1967 Bristol, Hawthorns Hotel [*Briscon*]
- 19 1968 Buxton, St Annes Hotel [*Thirdmancon*]
- 20 1969 Oxford, Randolph Hotel [*Galactic Fair*]
- 21 1970 London, Royal Hotel [*Scicon '70*]
- 22 1971 Worcester, Giffard Hotel [*Eastercon 22*]
- 23 1972 Chester, Blossoms Hotel [*Chessmancon*]
- 24 1973 BRISTOL, Grand Hotel [*OMPACON '73*]

KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

GERALD (GERBISH) BISHOP



I entered fandom in 1967, but the first con I could get to was *Scicon* where I got lumbered with showing the films. The following year at Worcester I got lumbered with all the film staph, which meant that I got 6 hrs sleep over 5 days, saw nothing of the con, and little of the bheer..... The Monday morning *sigh* I was having breakfast at 8am *Ghod* with Kench, when he asked me to do the films for his '73 bid. No, oh no, says me trying to hide behind the bags under my eyes, I'll leave that up to the con com. On the way home half conscious, John Coombe explained that it was an OMPA bid, so I realised that I was on the con com, and wrote Ken a letter saying yes, but only films and only If.... Well, two years later, here I am, showing the films, recording the proceedings, doing advertising, Press Relations

and Ghod doesn't even know what else, apart from sitting here at the moment tripestitting thi\$. My favourite saying is "I must give up organising Cons".

Back in the days of my youth, before I was even a mere neofan, I compiled bibliographies of sf and this took up so much time that when I wanted to start up a zine, I joined OMPA so that I wouldn't have to bother with such things as a mailing list and subs etc for me miniac 'Ot On The Trails. I wish I'd never bothered. Still, the only way to feel bitter about it is to drink same. Do buy me one.

KEN CHESLIN



Returning from the RAF to merry Stourbridge I renewed my acquaintance with a couple of local lads who also read SF, and in 1959 we came across an advert for the first Brumcon. So, the darkingly shadowed corridors and potted palms of the Imperial were the scenes of our first encounters with fandom. Immediately we wanted to become fans - magazine publishing fans. We published the first *Les Spinge*, then the others dropped out, I became a third rate letterhack and published more *Spinges*.

I wrote some stories for zines and became an avid *Goon Bleary* fan and Berry imitator. These were the Golden Days for me - I had correspondents all over the world, got an undeserved *Cry* letterhack card and made the acquaintance of my best fannish friend, Dick Schultz of Michigan.

I joined OMPA about this time and published *Sally Port*. Dick Schultz and I also published in rotation a thing called *Envoy*. There was a certain amount of beard muttering about this as it mucked up peoples' filing systems.

In the 1964-5 period I was secretary, then chairman of the BSFA, as well as being AE of OMPA, pubbing *Whatsit*, and a member of the then Brum Group.

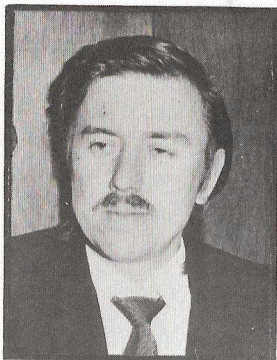
1965 was the year of the Worldcon in London, and the Brum Group put in a bid, with myself as chairman, for the Eastercon & won. One of the most memorable events of the con was the midnight corridor procession, a sort of conga led by Brian Burgess with Ted Tubb chanting "Go back to your wives".

For some years I gradually went fafia, but eventually got back into OMPA and now an AE again.

At Worcester one breakfast, I remarked that OMPA should be able to run a Convention. From that beginning we made plans, got a hotel and decided to bid. It was not until the last minute that a committee was really organised. Somehow we managed to work out a venue and programme, which we hope will prove enjoyable to all attendees.

I believe that I have done the least work of any of the con com members, and if I mention Fred Hemmings as the workhorse, it must not be at the expense of the Mearae, Gerbish, Terry, or indeed of the unsung heroes of the Registration Desk and suchlike worthies.

FRED HEMMINGS



Once upon a time there was a science fiction addict who knew nothing about fandom. By a fortunate coincidence this needy being happened across a trufan named Gerry Webb and was directed by him to a faanish tavern known as the Globe. Having survived a few evenings as a pariah-super-neo he settled into a comfortable apathy, quite content to watch the frantic action around him. However, this pleasant situation was not to last, by chance he became interested in a fringe fanzine. A month after Easter '71 he was suddenly faced with the news that this zine was about to fold. Our neo was horrified and in a burst of unprecedented energy wrote offering to take over the editorship.

At the '71 Eastercon the neo had picked up a copy of the *OMPA combazine* and a few months later, as a fanzine editor, applied to join. At the time vague suggestions were being made about the organisation running a convention, but how could he, as a newcomer, comment. Chessmancon arrived and with it the discovery that the AE was entirely serious about the idea of OMPA running the next con. The decision was made with our fan offering to help in any way he could, providing that it didn't involve much writing. Come the banquet Ken made his proposal amidst a deathly hush, asked for support from other OMPAns and our fan hurriedly rose to fill the gap and found himself involved. The following morning, he volunteered to become treasurer. A month staggered by before he realised that, with a diffuse committee, treasurer equalled secretary... and so the Fred Hemmings as youknow him emerged.

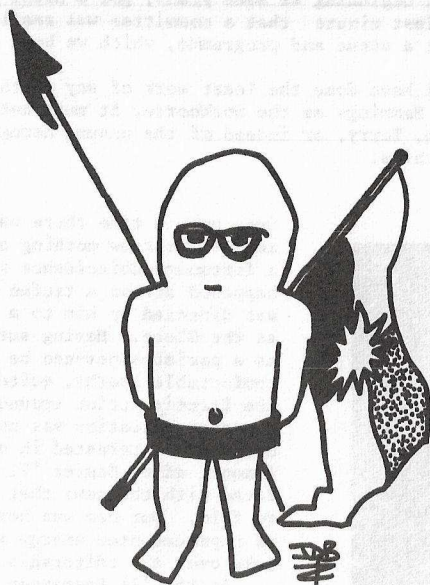
It was much longer before I found out just how much writing I was eventually scheduled to do.

So to an unreal present as I write this before sorting out the heap of material which will eventually be the Convention Book. What should I say and what should be left out? Perhaps it doesn't matter, and anyway there are still dozens of letters to write, The only thing that matters now is getting things ready for the con, but looking back I still wonder just what happened.

TERRY JEEVES



Born in October 1922, I took up SF with *Wonder*, and then *Astounding*. Subbed to Wally Gilling's *Scientifiction* before the war, then 5½ years RAF service as a Wireless Mechanic interrupted fanac for a while. Contacts were resumed after the war when I attended the first Loncon, and just about every other Britcon to date. In the forties I began writing articles for fanzines such as *Operation Fantast*, *Camber* etc. Somewhere along the line I moved over to the illustrating side. This overflowed into the professional field with artwork in *Nebula*, *Visions of*



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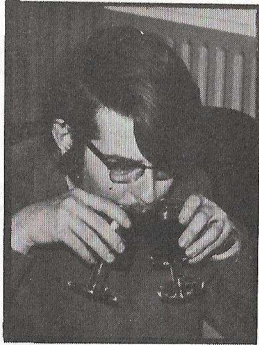
"Better than SKYRACK -- You can quote me!"

(Ron Bennett)

Tomorrow and a host of non-SF publications which actually paid cash money for Soggy cartoons. On the writing side, I was lucky enough to win the SF prize in the first N3F writing competition. Publications include *Triode* in conjunction with Eric Bentcliffe, then *Erg*, now in its 14th year. Also Parts 1, 2, & 3 of *Checklist to Astounding*. I was a founder member of the BSFA and have been both chairman and *Vector* editor. I am a Knight of St Fantony, and a member of First Fandom. I'm also President of OMPA.

I'm happily (very) married to Valerie with three children and my other hobbies are making 8mm sound films, philately and tape recording. Oh, yes, I drink bitter if you offer me a pint.

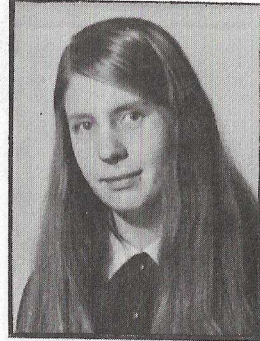
MIKE MEARA



We are the only known fans in Derby, which proves the truth of the old saying "it is a proud and lonely thing to be a fan". Not that we're really lonely, since thanks to the miracle of the motor car, various fannish frieands descend on us from time to time, and with friends like Fred Hemmings, who needs enemies?

We were both avid SF readers from an early age; so that when our paths crossed on the first year chem course at Liverpool

PAT MEARA

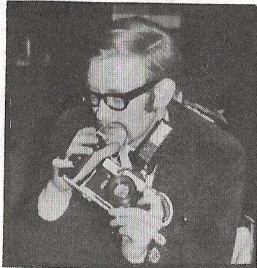


University, this was another thing we had in common, besides a dislike of studying. One thing led to another, and eventually, one rainy day in July 1970, we amalgamated our collections - or got married as the mundanes would say.

We first came into contact with the strange world of fandom and cons through a mention of the '71 Eastercon in a Rog Peyton booklist. We decided to attend on the spur of the moment, despite a strained back and a broken down car, and enjoyed the whole thing immensely. Another spur-of-the-moment action was the purchase at the auction of a box of fanzines, which we'd dimly realised had something to do with amateur publishing. From then on it took us a year to get our own zine off the ground and since then we've never looked back.

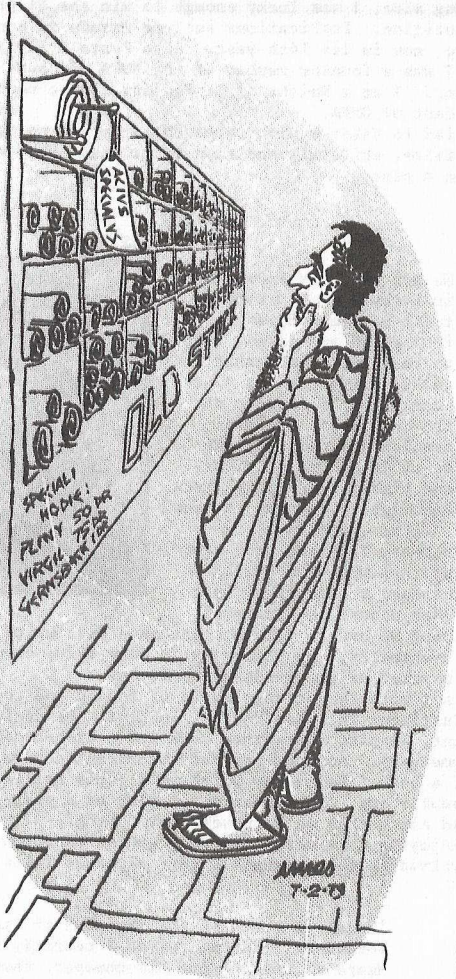
The next step on from enjoying conventions is to organise them, but that doesn't explain how WE got involved in this caper; It just happened folks, honest!

BRIAN ROBINSON



'Twas I who bought the last box of fanzines at Worcester, and the reason I secretly hate Mike Meara is that he got his cheaper, thus depriving me of a coupla pints of bheer. I mention the bheer because its consumption is reputed to be my main enjoyment in life - so much that I spend a third of my life in its vicinity. Not, you understand that I'm an alcoholic - I make the delightful beverage as well as drink it. But the fanzines... I read them with interest and passed them onto that well known creep Skelton. We realised that a zine was something we wanted to do, so *Hell* was conceived and we joined OMPA. Strange that after a relatively short time in

fandom I should find myself helping in a small way to run a con. The redoubtable Mr Hemmings has said he'll work me hard over the weekend; as long as there is a reasonable flow of bheer.....



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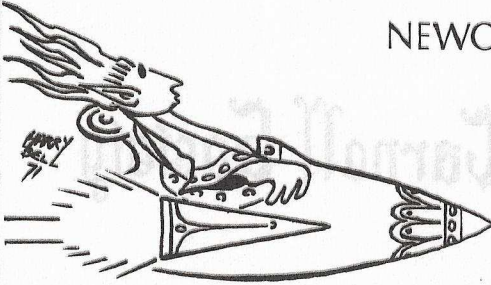
Specialists in Science Fiction and Fantasy

131, GILLHURST ROAD,

HARBORNE,

BIRMINGHAM B17 8PG.

NEWCASTLE IN '74!



Northeast Fan Group, Gannetfandom,
is intending to organise next year's
Eastercon. By the time you read this
we will have a hotel ready and will be
planning a programme of science fiction
and fannish items. We would like your
support at the bidding on Saturday.

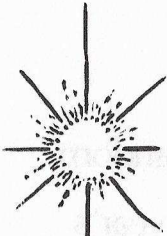
Ian Williams

Ian Maule

Harry Bell and the rest

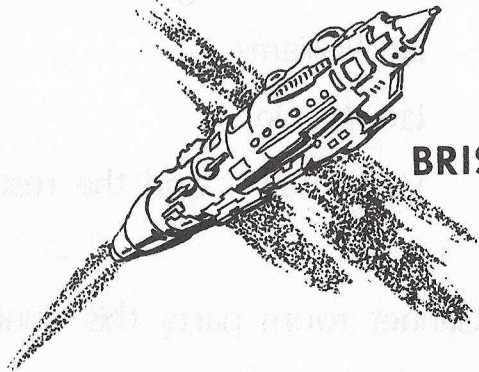
P.S. Gannet room party this Sunday.

The Ted Carnell Society



sends
its Best Wishes
to

OMPA CON '73



BRISTOL

WHO WILL IT BE IN '73?

Pardon.

You heard.

Er, yes. Well, who was it in '72

It was JILL ADAMS in '72.

Oh! What about before then?

Well....in '63 it was PETER MABEY,
 in '64 it was ARCHIE MERCER,
 in '65 it was TERRY JEEVES,
 in '66 it was KEN SLATER,
 in '67 it was DOREEN PARKER (Rogers),
 in '68 it was MARY REED (Legg),
 in '69 it was BERYL MERCER,
 in '70 it was MICHAEL ROSENBLUM,
 and in '71 it was PHIL ROGERS.

Yes, but what did they all do?

They won the 'DOC' WEIR Award, that's what.

How did they win?

Nothing to it. Each was acclaimed by popular vote as being the person those voting most wished to see win the Award that particular year.

What does the winner receive?

A silver goblet on a stand, engraved with the winner's names, which he, or she, keeps for one year. Also a certificate suitable for framing.

What, no money?

You must be kidding.

Of course. Who was 'DOC' WEIR anyway?

A schoolteacher with a science degree who was a great fan, both of 'hard' sf and of fantasy literature in general. He came into contact with other sf fans late in his life, and for his last few years threw his heart and soul into his new hobby. At his death, a fund was raised with the object of purchasing his library for the BSFA. When this turned out to be impossible, the money was used to purchase the Award goblet instead.

I see, the winner is chosen by vote, but who's allowed to vote?

At present, all members of the BSFA can vote, either by post or at the Con and all members of the convention who attend can vote at that time. Incidentally, nobody can cast more than one vote.

Thank you, but who should I vote for?

That should be whom?

Possibly, but it doesn't answer the question.

It's not intended to. Vote for the person you would most like to see win the award. Somebody whose name you think worthy to join the list above.

REMEMBER TO CAST YOUR VOTE.

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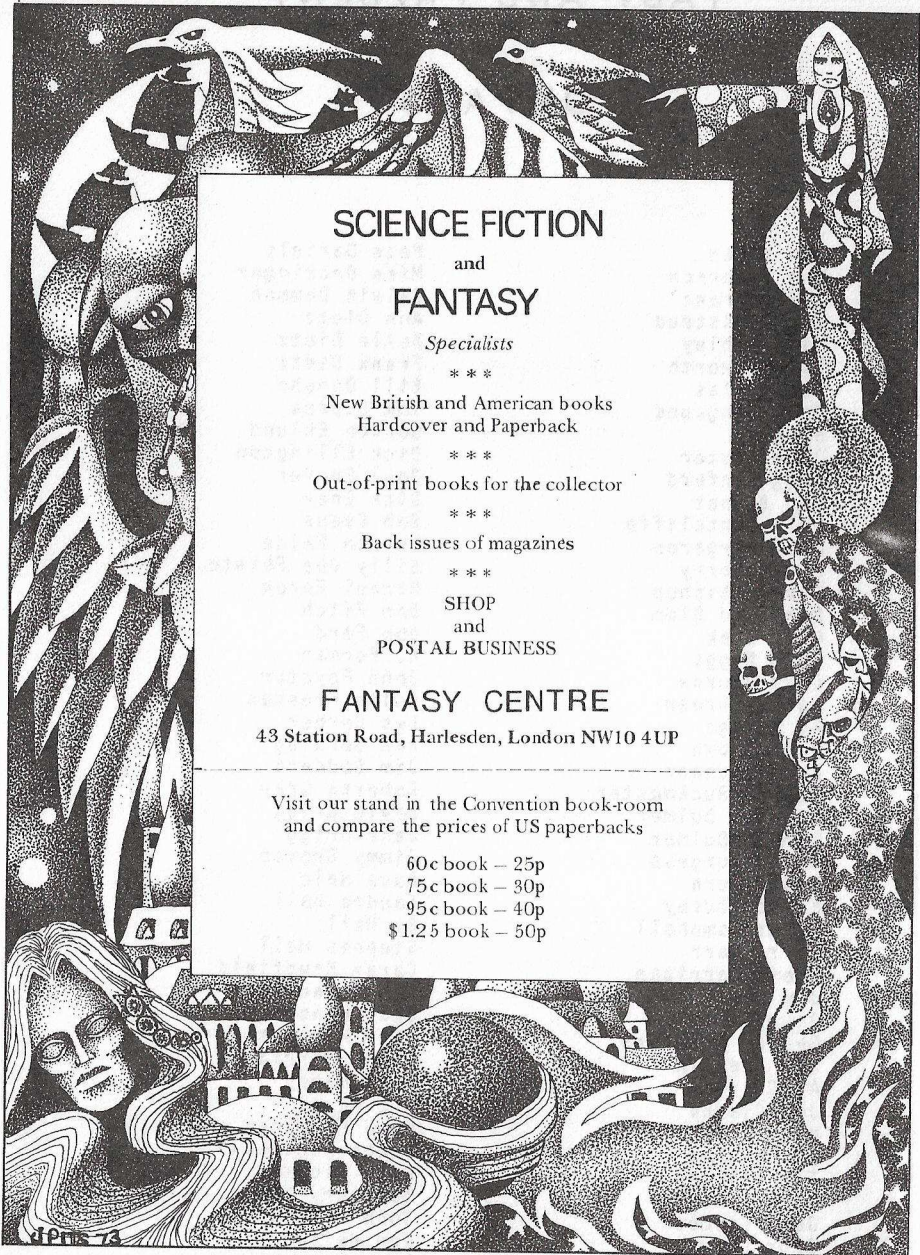
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\$1.25 book – 50p



PAST AND PRESENT

COMPANYS

Don Allen	Pete Daniels
Don Anderson	Mike Deckinger
Heinz Arenz	Calvin Demmon
Tom Armistead	Ann Dietz
Mike Ashley	Belle Dietz
Mal Ashworth	Frank Dietz
Les Bailes	Bill Donaho
John Bangsund	Tom Dupree
S. Barr	Gordon Eklund
John Baxter	Dick Ellington
Greg Banford	Paul Enever
Ron Bennet	Dick Eney
Eric Bentcliffe	Bob Evans
Dick Bergeron	Vernon Faive
Chuck Berry	Billy Joe Fekete
Gerald Bishop	Michel Feron
Burkhard Blum	Don Fitch
Grey Boak	Don Ford
Redd Boggs	H. Forman
Lars Bourne	John Foyster
Walter Breen	Colin Freeman
R. Briggs	Les Gerber
Rich Brown	Nan Gerding
John Brunner	Jim Goddard
Daphne Buckmaster	Roberta Gray
Kenneth Bulmer	David Grigg
Pamela Bulmer	Jake Grigg
Brian Burgess	Jimmy Groves
Bruce Burn	Dave Hale
Elinor Busby	Sandra Hall
Peter Campbell	B. Hall
Terry Carr	Stephen Hall
Steve Carrigan	Carey Handfield
Jim Caughran	Oscar Hannifen
John Champion	Chas Hansen
George Charters	Jack Harness
Ken Cheslin	Chuck Harris
A. Chirmak	Bill Harry
Joy Clarke	Art Hayes
Ving Clarke	Fred Hemmings
C. Cochran	Bruce Henstall
Tom Collins	Lynn Hickman
Lisa Conesa	Rosemary Hickey
Jane Coombe	John Hitchcock
John Coombe	Lee Hoffman
Chuck Crayne	Rich Horrocks
Sally Crayne	Bob Hoskins
Larry Crilly	Dave Hulan

Fred Hunter
 Jan Jansen
 Terry Jeeves
 Ted Johnstone
 Langdon Jones
 Brian Jordan
 Arnie Katz
 Roy Kay
 Pat Kearney
 Sally Kidd
 Helmut Klemm
 J. Kusske
 Ivor Latto
 Mary (Mushling) Legg
 Bob Leman
 Fred Lerner
 Alan Lewis
 Bob Lewis
 Bob Lichtman
 Ethel Lindsay
 Nigel Lindsay
 Jhim Linwood
 George Locke
 Sam Long
 Pat Lyons
 J. McCallum
 D. McFarlan
 John Stuart Mackenzie
 Bob Madle
 Andy Main
 Jurgen Mann
 Jim Marshall
 Ivor Mayne
 Mike Meara
 Pat Meara
 Archie Mercer
 Beryl Mercer
 Norm Metcalf
 Ellis Mills
 Larry Montgomery
 Mike Moorcock
 John Muir
 Phil Muldowney
 Dave Newman
 Darroll Pardoe
 Ro Pardoe
 Ella Parker
 Ron Parker
 Joe Patrizio
 Fred Patten
 Ted Pauls
 Bob Pavlat
 Bruce Pelz
 Diane Pelz
 Ian Peters
 Billy Pettit
 Dave Piper
 Derek Pickles
 Harold Palmer Piser
 Ken Potter

Dorothy Ratigan
 George Nims Raybin
 Charles Lee Riddle
 David Rike
 Alan Rispin
 Peter Roberts
 Brian Robinson
 Alva Rogers
 John Roles
 W. Rombouts
 H. P. (Sandy) Sanderson
 Joy Sanderson
 Ray Schaffer
 Tom Schluck
 Dick Schultz
 Mark Schulzinger
 Gerd Schwenn
 Mike Share
 L. Shaw
 Larry T. Shaw
 Lee Shaw
 Nick Shears
 Norman Shorrocks
 Paul Skelton
 Ken Slater
 Fred Smith
 George Spencer
 Phil Spencer
 Anna Steul
 Steve Stiles
 Will Straw
 Don Studebaker
 Pete Taylor
 Arthur Thomson
 Tony Thorne
 Bjo Trimble
 John Trimble
 E. C. (Ted) Tubb
 Harry Turner
 Dave van Arnam
 Dave Vendlemans
 Lynette Vendlemans
 Toni Vondruska
 Keith Walker
 Mike Wallace
 Norman Wansborough
 Mike Ward
 Wally Weber
 Charles Wells
 Peter Weston
 Tom White
 Ted White
 Walt Willis
 Art Wilson
 Geoff Wingrove
 Charlie Winstone
 Dave Womak
 Andy Young
 Jean Young
 British Museum

DARK THEY WERE AND GOLDEN EYED

DARK
A BOO
SCIENC

WE CAN
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BBONS

THURSDAY

8.30pm Registration desk opens - 10.30pm Registration desk closes

FRIDAY

10.15am Registration desk opens

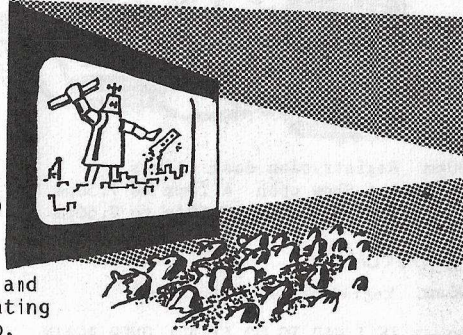
10.30am FILMS

Runnings, Jumping and
Standing Still Film
Beyond the Time Barrier

12 noon LUNCH (Hotel lunch 12.15)

1.30pm COMEDY HOUR - FILMS

Dig that Dog, Uncle Tom and
Little Eva, The Metal-Eating
Bird, Crazy Mixed Up Pup,
and It's A Gift



2.30pm THE INFLUENCE OF OTHER STARS

John Brunner, Samuel R. Delany and Anne McCaffrey discuss non-sf
in an sf context

3.30pm FANDOM AT RANDOM

Representatives of fandom's many facets talk about how it has
changed their lives, and has itself changed since they discovered
it. In the chair, *Dave Kyle*

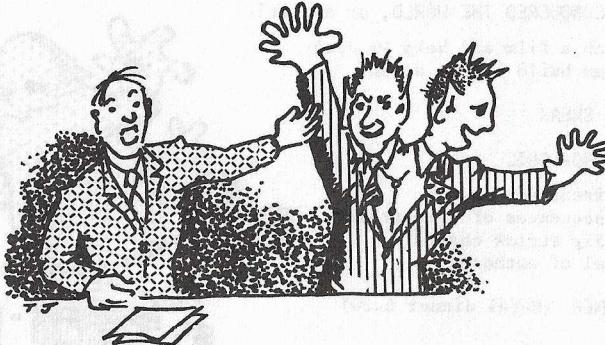
4.30pm TEA BREAK

5.00pm SIGNPOSTS FOR THE FUTURE

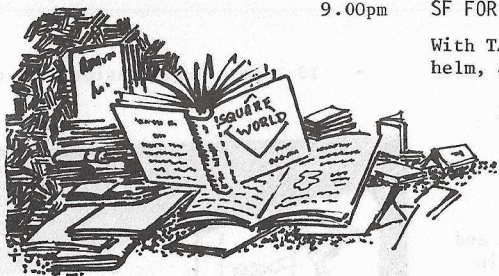
Kenneth Bulmer chairs a panel of authors who hope to be among
the professionals of tomorrow.

6.00pm DINNER (Hotel dinner 6.45)

8.00pm LOOK WHO'S HERE



Following the opening speech,
E. C. 'Ted' Tubb introduces the celebrities



9.00pm SF FOR SALE

With TAFF winner *Len Moffatt* at the helm, an auction of books and prozines

10.00pm BRUM GROUP PUNCH-UP

The group's monthly meeting moves to Bristol and, for this occasion, becomes a party for all. It takes place in the Gloucester Room

10.30pm Registration desk closes
NB Art Show open 4.20pm to 7.50pm
Bookroom open 11.00am to 7.50pm

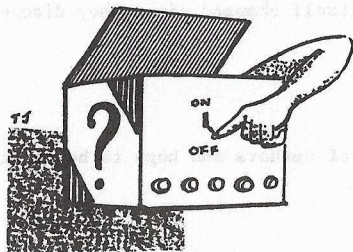
SATURDAY

10.00am Registration desk opens

10.00am IF I HAD TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN

A business meeting and discussion on convention organising by an international panel, in the chair *Fred Hemmings*, representing OMPAcon.

Future con bids will be made during this session, come and vote!



11.00am COFFEE BREAK

11.30am THE BRIAN ALDISS MYSTERY BOX

You know as much about this as the committee, but we can guarantee you won't be bored, so this will be an item not to be missed.

12.30pm LUNCH (Hotel lunch 12.45)

2.00pm IT CONQUERED THE WORLD, or did it?

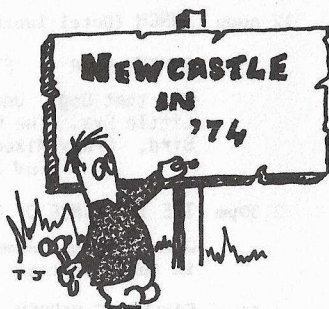
Watch a film and help *Dr Jack Cohen* build a REAL alien.

4.15pm TEA BREAK

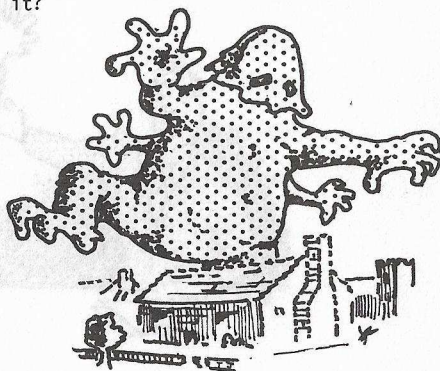
4.45pm CHRONO-LOGIC

A discussion on the consequences of time travel. *Philip Strick* chairs a panel of authors.

5.45pm DINNER (Hotel dinner 6.30)



[our artist seems a little biased]

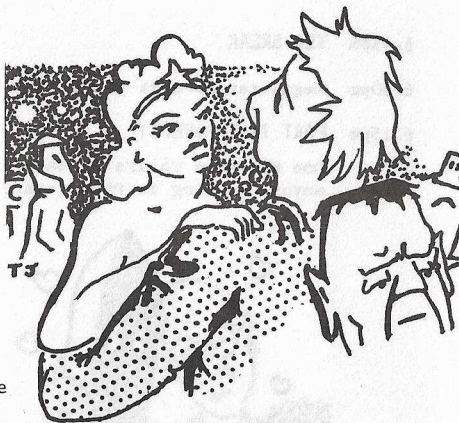


7.45pm THE DELANY INTERSECTION

A talk by our Guest of Honour, Samuel R. Delany.

8.45pm BEAUTY OR THE BEAST?

ANYTHING may win in the Fancy Dress. Not brought a costume? Improvise..! MC Phil Rogers will run the show, and a panel of judges will select the winners.



10.15pm THE OMPA PARTY

Drink to Ken Bulmer, founder of OMPA, who made this con possible. Admission, a measure of spirits for the punch bowl.

10.15pm Registration desk closes

NB Art Show and Bookroom open 11.00am to 1.45pm and 4.30pm to 7.45pm

SUNDAY



9.30am BSFA AGM

10.30am A DIFFICULT DECISION

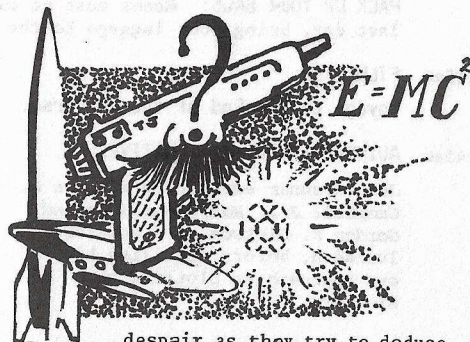
Peter Weston discusses his faanish dilemma with others who have either solved the problem or still face it.

11.15am Registration desk opens

11.15am COFFEE BREAK

11.45am DELTA FILM COMPETITION

Enjoy and vote on the amateur films. A trophy to the winner.



1.15pm LUNCH (Hotel lunch 1.30)

2.45pm THAT LOVABLE ALIEN

Our own James White.

3.45pm H. G. WELLS' MOUSTACHE

Enjoy a mercurial quiz game, with regional teams plumbing the depths of objects from the realms of sf, fantasy and fandom. Fred Hemmings will be in the chairman's hot seat.

4.45pm GOING FOR A SONG

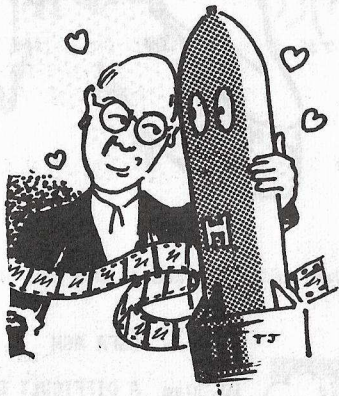
Fanzines for sale - Gray Boak auctioneer.

5.45pm TEA BREAK

6.00pm Registration desk closes

6.15pm PART TIME POVERTY

Don Wollheim chairs a panel discussing the problems that arise for anyone writing in their spare time, and what can be done to overcome them.



7.15pm CONVOLUTIONS OF THE BRAIN

Dr W. Grey Walter considers the nature and capabilities of the mind.

8.15pm [for 8.45]
THE 'GRAND' BANQUET

To be followed by verbal contributions from our Guest of Honour and the TAFF winners, the *Moffatts*. Ever-bready *Dave Kyle*, our live-wire Toastmaster, will introduce a battery of prizewinners. A quote-card competition will run during the Banquet.

11.15pm MIDNIGHT FILM SHOW

Including *Dr Strangelove* and *Timeslip*.

NB Art Show open 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Bookroom open 9.30am to 11.45am, 1.00pm to 2.15pm and 5.30pm to 7.45pm.

MONDAY

PACK UP YOUR BAGS: Rooms must be clear by noon, so if this is your last day, bring your luggage to the hall before the programme starts.

10.15am FILM

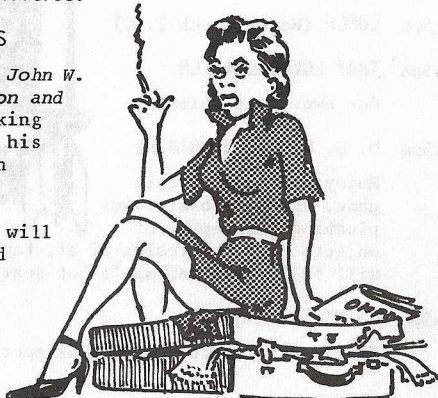
Voyage to the End of the Universe.

11.45am AUTHOR-ITATIVE ALTERNATIVES

John Brunner eavesdrops on *John W. Campbell Jr.*, *Harry Harrison* and *Gordon R. Dickson* at a working luncheon, before detailing his own approach to plotting an sf story.

NB Both Art Show and Bookroom will be open between 10.15am and 11.30am, when both must finally close.

The convention's official programme will finish at approximately 1.30pm.



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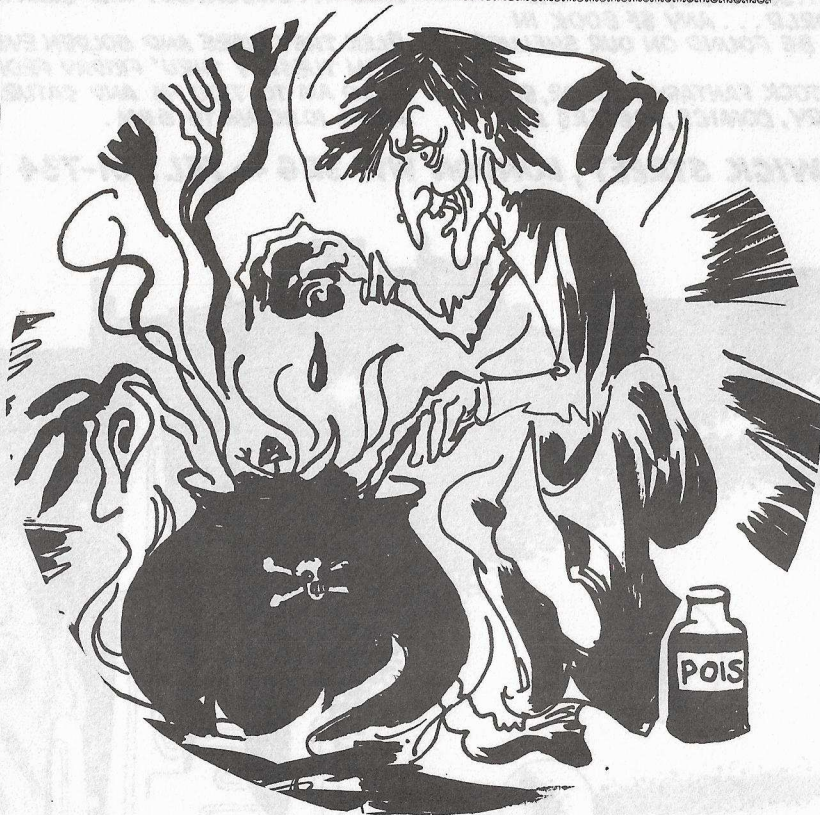
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as at March 31, 1973

Guests of Honour

Samuel R. and Marilyn Delany

TAFF Winners

Len and June Moffatt

OMPAnS

Gerald Bishop
Jean Cheslin
Ken Cheslin
Jane Coombe
John Coombe
Jim Goddard

Fred Hemmings
Jan Jansen (B)
Terry Jeeves
Sam Long (A)
Mike Meara
Pat Meara

Darroll Pardoe
Ro Pardoe
Brian Robinson
Paul Skelton
Phil Spencer
Keith Walker

Honourary OMPAn

H. Ken Bulmer

- | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|----------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 1 | R. Gray | 41 | Stan Eling | 81 | John Eggeling |
| 2 | Rosa Jansen (B) | 42 | Helen Eling | 82 | Steve Moore |
| 3 | Gary Kluepfel (G) | 43 | John Newman | 83 | Stan Nicholls |
| 4 | Uschi Kluepfel (G) | 44 | Michel Feron (B) | 84 | George Hay |
| 5 | Brian Burgess | 45 | Al deBettencourt (A) | 85 | Brian W. Aldiss |
| 6 | Howard A. Rosenblum | 46 | T. P. Hogan | 86 | Gerry Webb |
| 7 | Mario B. Bosnyak (G) | 47 | Vic Hallett | 87 | Anne Keylock |
| 8 | Jhim Linwood | 48 | Tony Edwards | 88 | Joanne Burger (A) |
| 9 | John D. Roles | 49 | Marjorie Edwards | 89 | Jill Adams |
| 10 | Jacques Guidod (F) | 50 | Rog Peyton | 90 | Rob Holdstock |
| 11 | Andrew M. Stephenson | 51 | Arline Peyton | 91 | Gerd Hallenberger (G) |
| 12 | Cas Skelton | 52 | Dave Rowe | 92 | Thomas Schluck (G) |
| 13 | David Grubb | 53 | James Blish (A) | 93 | Eva Reisch (G) |
| 14 | Peter L. Dowson | 54 | Judy Blish (A) | 94 | Bram Stokes |
| 15 | Hans Loose (N) | 55 | Graham R. Poole | 95 | Diane Stokes |
| 16 | Phil Rogers | 56 | Bill Burns | 96 | Bob Rickard |
| 17 | Doreen Rogers | 57 | Eric Bentcliffe | 97 | Harry Harrison (A) |
| 18 | David A. Kyle (A) | 58 | John Piggott | 98 | David Sutton |
| 19 | Ruth Kyle (A) | 59 | Jim Marshall | 99 | Sandra Sutton |
| 20 | Norman Shorrock | 60 | Peter Weston | 100 | David Riley |
| 21 | Ina Shorrock | 61 | James White | 101 | Tony Walsh |
| 22 | F. John Steward | 62 | Peggy White | 102 | Simone Walsh |
| 23 | Pete Wilde | 63 | Tony Moran | 103 | Peter Roberts |
| 24 | Hazel Reynolds | 64 | Keith Freeman | 104 | Meg Palmer |
| 25 | Pauline E. Dungate | 65 | Wendy Freeman | 105 | Alexander Brown |
| 26 | Horst Evermann (G) | 66 | Sam J. Lundwall (S) | 106 | Helen Brown |
| 27 | Holger Muller (G) | 67 | Ted Ball | 107 | Kenneth W. Mardle |
| 28 | P. N. Weedall | 68 | Ethel Lindsay | 108 | Peter Barrow |
| 29 | Jeffrey D. Hacker | 69 | Nigel Haslock | 109 | Diane Barrow |
| 30 | John Brosnan (Aus) | 70 | Bob Shaw | 110 | Ella Parker |
| 31 | Vernon C. Brown | 71 | Tony Rogers | 111 | Roland Pierot (F) |
| 32 | Mark Adlard | 72 | Christine Priest | 112 | Kevin W. Hall |
| 33 | Arthur Cruttenden | 73 | Graham Andrews | 113 | Roger Waddington |
| 34 | Peter Darling (Aus) | 74 | Eddie Jones | 114 | Archie Mercer |
| 35 | Hartley Patterson | 75 | Marsha Jones | 115 | John G. Cole |
| 36 | Brian J. Hampton | 76 | Pete Presford | 116 | Peter Colley |
| 37 | Lars Olaf Strandberg (S) | 77 | Roy Mortimer | 117 | Ake Jonsson (S) |
| 38 | Richard Newnham | 78 | Chris Burse | 118 | J. Michael Rosenblum |
| 39 | Peter Mabey | 79 | Rod Milner | 119 | Betty Rosenblum |
| 40 | Ted Tubb | 80 | Dave Gibson | 120 | Tony Sudbery |

121	Rodie Sudbery	182	Frank Arnold	243	Marie Nadler
122	Ingrid Olofsdotter (S)	183	Graham Howard	244	B. Cairns
123	Bryn Fortey	184	Graham Bullock	245	K.W. Cowley
124	Richard E Colton	185	Vera Johnson	246	J.H. Finder (Can)
125	Roger Earnshaw	186	Henry Pijohn	247	Brian Ammeringen
126	E. R. James	187	Roy Shorrock	248	Leo Kindt (N)
127	Lisbeth Chandler	188	Linda Shorrock	249	Annamarie Kindt (N)
128	Christopher Chandler	189	Alan B. Stewart	250	Eric W Briggs
129	Moira Read	190	Pat Andrews	251	Jim Soutar
130	Roy Sharpe	191	A. Bronkhorst (N)	252	Jack Marsh
131	Joan Sharpe	192	F. Bronkhorst (N)	253	Peter Matthews
132	David A. Symes	193	Daniel De Raeve (B)	254	Pat Codd
133	Angela North	194	Eileen Costelloe	255	Jan Geldart
134	David Berry	195	Kevin Costelloe	256	Don Geldart
135	Margaret Hodgson	196	Joan Newman	257	George Locke
136	Graham Mills	197	Mrs B. Milner	258	Martin Bridgestock
137	Diana Mills	198	Ian Williams	259	Russell Belshaw
138	Bernie Peek	199	Don Malcolm	260	A.R. Pook
139	Tony Craven	200	Rita Malcolm	261	John N. Hall
140	I.G. Bengry	201	John A. Spinks	262	Deirdre Smyth
141	Pam Christian	202	Don A. Wollheim (A)	263	Malcolm Smale
142	Charles D. Winstone	203	Rosemary Jones	264	Chris Beaumont
143	Pamela Boal	204	Mary J. Burns (A)	265	Will Haven
144	John-Henri Holmberg (S)	205	W.H. Penard (N)	266	Sheila Cummins
145	Phil Rowing	206	Michael J. Kanis (N)	267	Danny Plachta (A)
146	Ian Maule	207	John Farrimond	268	Banks Mebane (A)
147	Ray Bradbury	208	Ramsay Campbell	269	Sue Beaumont
148	Leroy Kettle	209	Jenny Campbell	270	Elaine Wash
149	Greg Pickersgill	210	S. Duncan Steel	271	Sven Swahn (S)
150	Malcolm J. Davies	211	Valerie M. Steel	272	J.E. Rupik
151	John Brunner	212	Thom Penman	273	Mrs Rupik
152	George H. Wells (A)	213	Chuck Partington	274	P.J. Cook
153	Ed Connor (A)	214	Gordon Black	275	Helen Cook
154	Daphne Sewell	215	Gordon Johnson	276	John Jarrold
155	Val Jeeves	216	Mike Horrell	277	Les Flood
156	Gillon Field	217	David Shack	278	Peter Fryer
157	Dave Chopping	218	Dave Simmons	279	Mike Fox
158	Julia Stone	219	Peter D. Nicholls	280	John Lowe
159	C. Southern	220	Ian Roll	281	Mrs S. Bullock
160	David Garnett	221	Robert Jackson	282	Anne McCaffrey (A)
161	June Dowson	222	Laurence James	283	Todd Johnson (A)
162	Marjorie Brunner	223	Mick Rowley	284	Gigi Johnson (A)
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164	Robert A. Hepworth	225	Mervyn Barrett (Aus)	286	Raymond Waters
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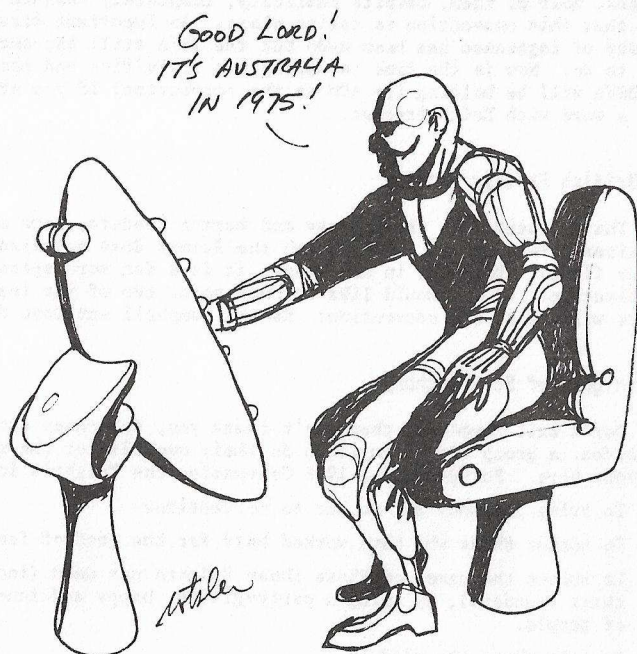
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At Torcon 2 this September, Australian fans will bid for the 1975 Worldcon. Under the Rules, mail ballots will be sent out in June with the next Progress Report: to get this you have to be a member of Torcon. Peter Weston is the British agent for Torcon, and will be happy to sell you a membership if you have not yet joined. Please vote for the Australian bid: under the same Rules we may well have to bid in competition with one or more American sites, and voters have to put up £1.25 for membership of the 1975 Worldcon, whoever wins. Our membership rates may rise nearer the time, and we will distribute Progress Reports to members, as well as the Programme Book, and there will also be a Report afterwards; so membership is a bargain at the present price. If we lose, you have a membership of whoever is able to convince a majority of both mail and attending voters that they can put on a better Con than we can - and that has to be good!



The British Science Fiction Association Ltd

This year's Eastercon marks the 15th anniversary of the BSFA. The BSFA has had a great effect on both fandom and the Easter convention so it is perhaps appropriate, on this occasion, to look back over those 15 years. In 1958 the convention site was the George Hotel in Kettering and Fandom was in something of a decline. 1954 had seen over 250 people joining "Supermancon"; four years later it was a struggle to raise half that number and this was the third convention running to be held at the same site.

For some reason the situation was ideal but others saw an already specialist event becoming more and more an in-group activity until it crushed itself to death. Even some of the people who advocated change looked back on the "Cytricons" as being among the best ever held; but they had no future. Leading lights among those who felt something must be done was author E. C. (Ted) Tubb and it was mainly through his efforts that the Association was launched at the 1958 convention.

The BSFA was formed with two aims: Attracting new people to the all too limited group which attended the conventions and creating a better image for the entire sf field. Although for two years it had no official head, the Association started to publish *Vector*, which is still its official organ, and rapidly gained a large membership. At the same time it also achieved the breakthrough of serious publisher acceptance, and started the postal lending library which, with modifications, still continues.

Today, the Association's success can be gauged by the agonising reappraisal it finds itself undergoing. Some people argue that its job is done. This is of course nonsense; Britain has over a million sf readers, most of them, despite publicity, completely unaware of the fact that this convention is taking place. An important scratch in the surface of ignorance has been made but the BSFA still has much important work to do. Now is the time to expand its activities and membership. The BSFA will be holding its AGM at the convention; if you are interested have a word with Keith Freeman.

The British Fantasy Society

The BFS performs, for fantasy and horror readers, some of the functions served by the BSFA (though the former does not disdain the latter field). However, in many ways, it is a far more specialised organisation. If you would like to know more, two of its leading lights will be at the convention: Ramsey Campbell and Dave Sutton.

The Knights of St. Fanthony

Don't call them Sir; they won't thank you, for these are the Knights of fandom, a group whose aim is to do their own bit for the good of everyone here. Formed at the 1956 Convention the Knight's intentions are:

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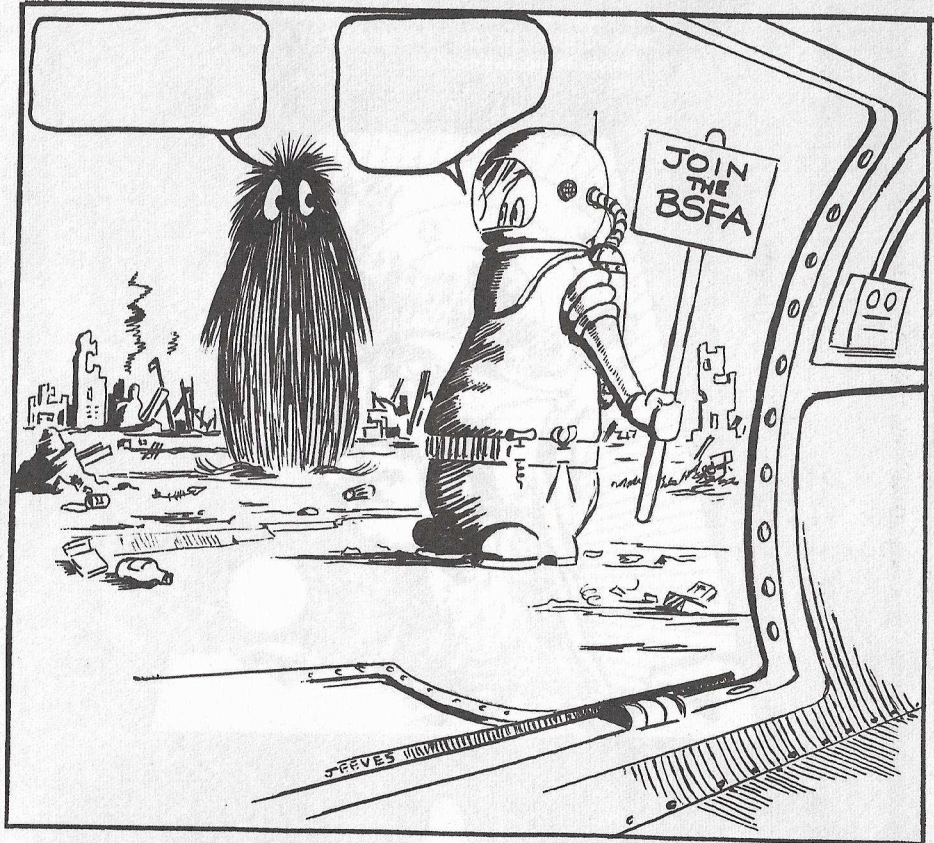
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HOW OMPA ACHIEVED LIFE OFF or,
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AND STYLUS
THROUGH
DARKEST FANAC

The Off-Trail Magazine Publishers' Association was formed in June 1954, as a byline on the headed notepaper proudly informs all and fandy, and damned unkind it is too, to remind us. I insisted that the heading be carried at the time, for reasons explained elsewhere, and it worked; but to perpetuate the banner so cruelly twenty years on is downrightly the action of a bunch of ingrates. For a youthful 35 yr-old it tends to complicated chronological computations. And yet - and yet, leave it there, OMPA OE. It is, after all, something genuine to be proud of.

The very notion of OMPA actually running a convention is to me highly entertaining, instructive and startling - not to say impossible. For those of you at the Bristol convention who do not know what *fanac* is, the gulf dividing a *fnz fan* and a *confan*, the horrors of *gafiation*, what *sercon fen* are really like, the difference between a *fan* and a *faan*, a whole new world lies ready for exploration. (Had I been true to myself I should have said a whole New Writings lies open etc.) I leave altogether alone the first word on page 30 (I think it was page 30), or why *Widowers were so Wonderful*, or why *Yngvi is a louse*, why *fen* send postcards but do not spell postcard that way, why the pure colourless variety of steam (regd trade mark) as supplied by the BAVC is so superior to your cheap coloured steam and all the other happy memories that destroyed so much of my working life.

They used to say: "Once a boy scout always a boy scout" and if that means one will always chase girl guides then it applies to *fnz fen* also. [*The stefnate will always chase femme fans*, I didn't mean that] Once a *fnz faan* always a *fnz faan*, and I faunch, like Augustus Bickerstaff, for the sight and smell of *fmz*. Actifen never die; they simply vanish beneath waves of mimeo ink, their arms rotted off through opening *fmz* with their thumbnails.

In those days, a *sercon* - or *sericon* - fan was an object of pity and ridicule, mistakenly, as we now see in view of the splendid amateur science fiction speculative magazines that splinter the floorboards beneath our letter boxes. In those days there was a marked coolness between those who were *fmz* pubbers and those who were only once-a-year con attendees. Those with wider interests, those in the middle, I am happy to report, have taken the prizes. So it is that, almost twenty years ago for OMPA to have run a con would have been

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unthinkable. Today we have progress. I rather like it. When Fred asked for a piece about the foundation of OMPA (now - Foundation - there is a word to conjure with) I was happy to oblige as ye olde founder as a few remarks had already been made in response to a Ken Cheslin letter after the OMPA combozine of Worcester '71 fame.

What OMPA is and what OMPA does I feel sure will be found elsewhere in this programme; this is how OMPA began.

I can remember the scene so well. Vinç Clarke and I had been talking for some time about beginning an sf amateur press association on the lines of FAPA of which we had both been members from time to time. Vinç wanted to write around to the varioys faneds turning out the zines of the time and ask them if they would be interested. This would have been the nice democratic way of doing it and might have produced a few languid flickers of interest in a year's time. We were standing in the front room of my new house. Well, new to me. Tresco. Ah! TRESCO!! The sun shone in through the windows. Magazines were piled here and there. Pamela was about her business in the house.

We were standing by the empty fireplace. The sun was very bright. I remember I struck the marble mantelpiece in what was a dubiously theatrical gesture. I turned to Vinç and said: "I'm forming this apa here and now. It now exists. We'll write to fen and tell them it's formed and invite them to join a running organisation." I then added ominously: "We can mention, casually, something about a waiting list."

It would be invidious to go into too many of the reasons for this formation; but there were a number of genzines that really needed the cover of an umbrella, there were fans putting out remarkably good work with little return to show for it who we felt were likely to gafiate, many folk wanted a relatively restricted but enthusiastic and informed audience, many wanted to cut down on fanac, and, reprehensibly or not, we wanted to improve standards. I wanted a nice mouth-filling name, something distinctive and nothing like FAPA. So we chose OMPA and then found the most suitable names to fit, more or less. I had thought this might shock latter-day ompans; but not a bit of it. I don't believe anyone has ever queried the name although a few early members thought of writing punning remarks. But the Off-Trail bit was genuine, and we were, after all, a magazine publishers outfit. That is, there is a subtle distinction between that and a press association. Vinç worked like a Trojan once he grasped the fact that OMPA EXISTED, and did by far the largest amount of work involved in the creation or the organisation. He agreed to be OE and I was President, so we needed a treasurer. We could have done this ourselves, or got Pamela to do it (she was the association's next President) but we figured it would look more democratic to get a new face in. We decided Chuck Harris would be a good choice and asked him. He agreed.

Some folk thought we were indulging in a Machiavellian scheme in connection with what were sometimes called fan-feuds; but we managed to convince everyone that our motives were simon pure. A similar measure of disbelief and disapprobation wafted around fandom at the time of the formation of the BSFA some four years later. But we received an enthusiastic response from the faneds of the day. Some of those early magazines I recall as being of an exceptionally high standard, with the inevitable crud-offerings from time to time. Standards in general have gone up since ompa began, and in the genzine field litho, large page counts and print runs, lavish illos, are all commonplace. In those days paper was dear and hard to come by, duping a problem - flat-beds and hektos, postcard hand-printers, spuds - the lot have been used in ompa, including the eatable Christmas Card.

One detail that I believe no longer is applicable is the credentials. We asked that prospective members be already active in fnz fandom, either producing their own zine, or being an active contributor, and we rapidly acquired a long



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waiting list. There was no discovering sf Monday, finding out about fandom Tuesday and joining OMPA Wednesday. (With the corollary: gafiation Thursday.)

Nowadays the emphases are different. At Worcester on seeing the ompa combozine I had exclaimed: "Is that still going?" - for I had heard ompa was foundering. Ken Cheslin rapidly convinced me the organisation was prospering. The interesting thing, tho', is that I'd spoken in a corridor containing the founders of both OMPA and FAPA - Don Wollheim and me - still actively involved in fandom if no longer fnz fen of high fanac. Nowadays, it seems to me, OMPA is much more imbued with the spirit of a gang or a club, a unit with an identity of spirit of its own - typified in this present welcome organisation of a convention.

Fanzine publishers come in all shapes, sizes, ages and sexes; but they have one thing in common. They have something to say that they at least feel should be said and they publish and don't give a damn if they are damned. They're usually busy damning the next faned anyway. Actifen are the salt of fandom. For those people who believe sf fandom means attending cons, one sympathises with them. One sympathises also, to a different degree, with those who attend sf clubs - where they are to be found. There are the letter hacks - sadly depleted with the loss of the zine readers' columns. There are those who correspond voluminously with one another. All these are admirable types. Those who believe sf fandom is to be found by subbing to an sf fanzine of the modern high-powered - and excellent - variety, approach a little nearer the truth. Despite its detractors the BSFA has done a fine job for sf fandom, and the SF Foundation is going from strength to strength.

For those fen - and, for that matter, those fans - who have eyes to see there are a goodly number of treasures to be dug from the Ulcer Culture, scenes and places of inner meanings that I resolutely refuse to comment on.

Although almost totally disbelieving that OMPA is running a convention (OMPA? where old and tired faneds retire to?) I have the feeling that this may not be the last of ompan's activities. All cons are good cons. But I feel that you should have brought staplers with you, and be prepared to have mimeo-inked hands, and turn a duper crank (they're electric now? Oh.) You can collate, natch? Who's addressing? Where's that stylus - the one I made with the clock cogwheel? This typer won't cut. Don't crinkle that stencil! My Ghod! That's five bob's worth of ink you've squirted over me! Well, pour the three-in-one down the rollers! That offset's better than the original. Where's the hammer?

Yes. Have a good con. Many thanks to OMPA - and the first person - every person - to call me Frankenstein may buy the drinks. I believe you will all know a great deal more about fnz pubbing come Easter Monday. Sincerely, that will be a Good Thing.

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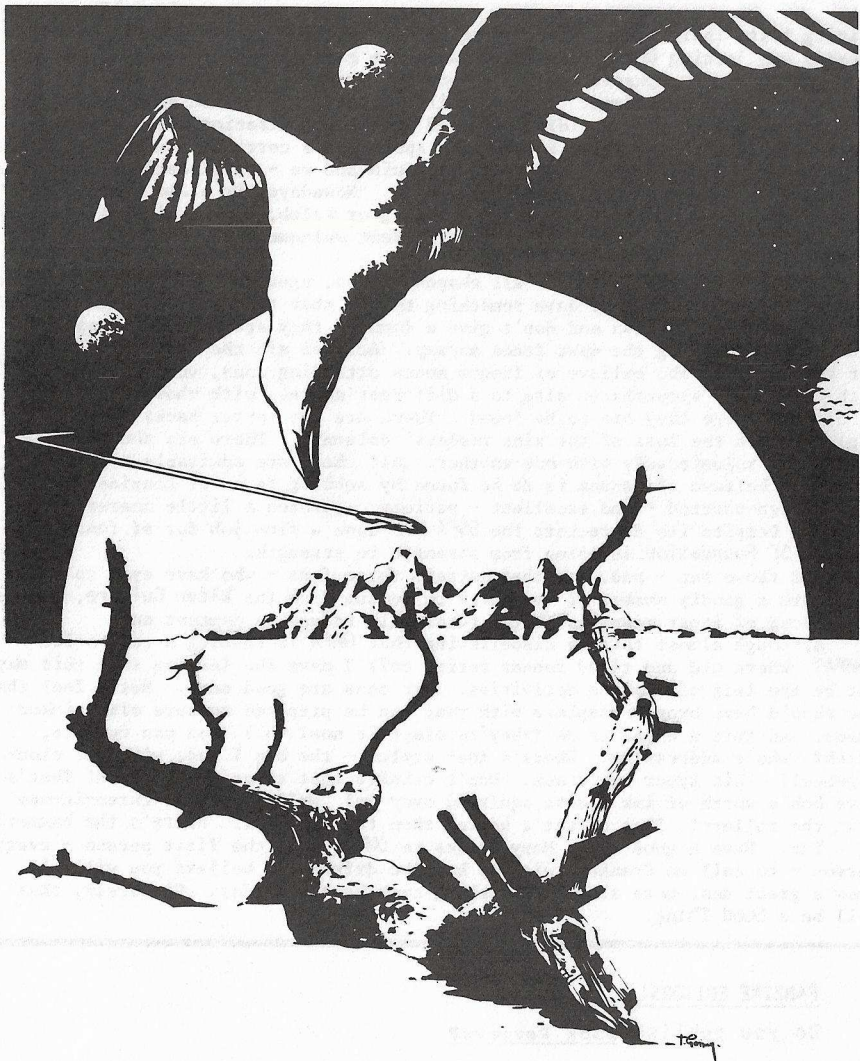
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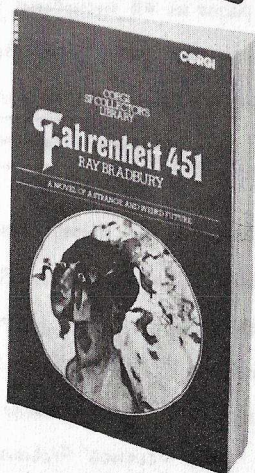
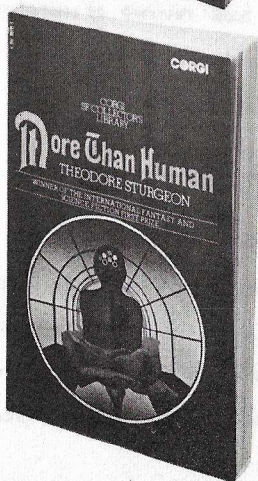
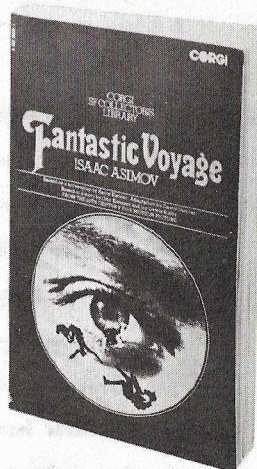
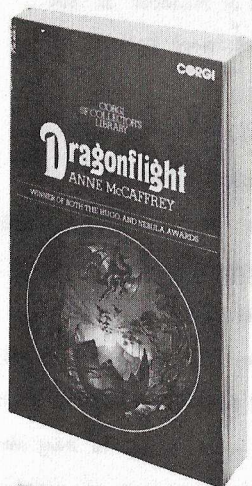
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BREAKFAST AND OTHER MEALS INCLUDING BANQUET Breakfasts will be served from 7.30 to 9.30 except on Sunday when they are from 8.00 until 10.00. Lunch and Dinner are available on a casual basis but please give the hotel adequate warning. Times given for meals in the Programme should be adhered to as closely as possible. Banquet tickets are available until noon on Friday. If you want one later, the Registration Desk may be able to help.

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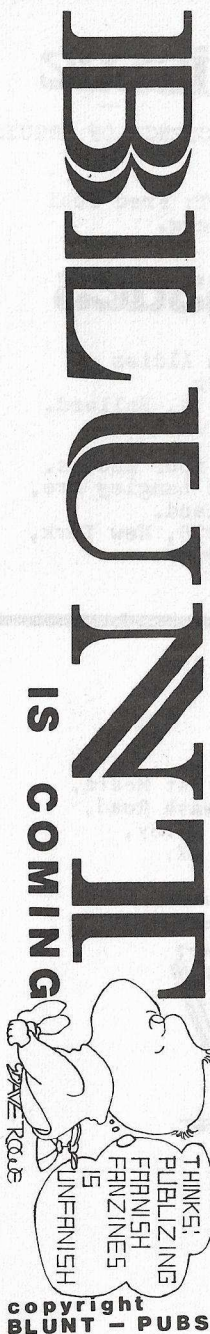
CONVENTION BAR This will normally be in the Gloucester Room. It will open at 10 each morning and the hotel have promised that it will remain that way while at least 15 people are drinking. Chester's Wall-Walkers may now like to try their talents on Bristol's Floating Harbour

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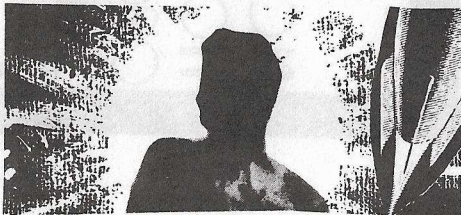
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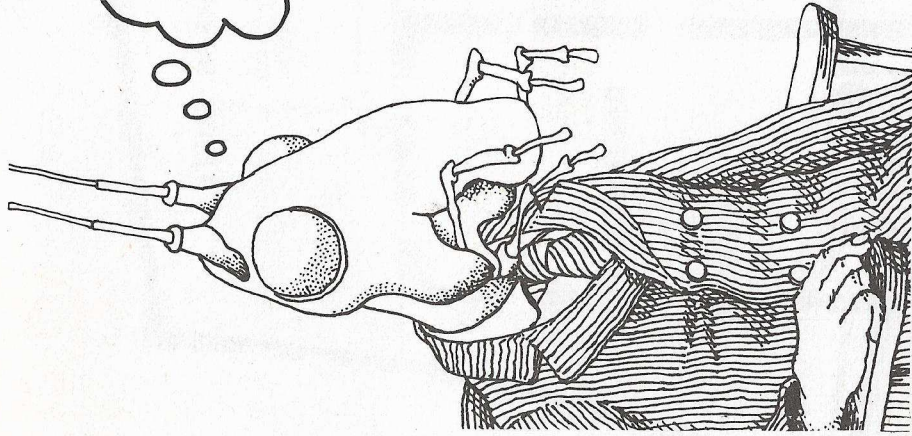
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