



NOVA CON

13-14 NOVEMBER 1971

GUEST OF HONOUR : JAMES WHITE

THE FIRST BRITISH NOVEMBER SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

NOVACON

THE FIRST BRITISH NOVEMBER SCIENCE FICTION
CONVENTION . IMPERIAL CENTRE HOTEL , BIRMINGHAM .
13 - 14 NOVEMBER 1971



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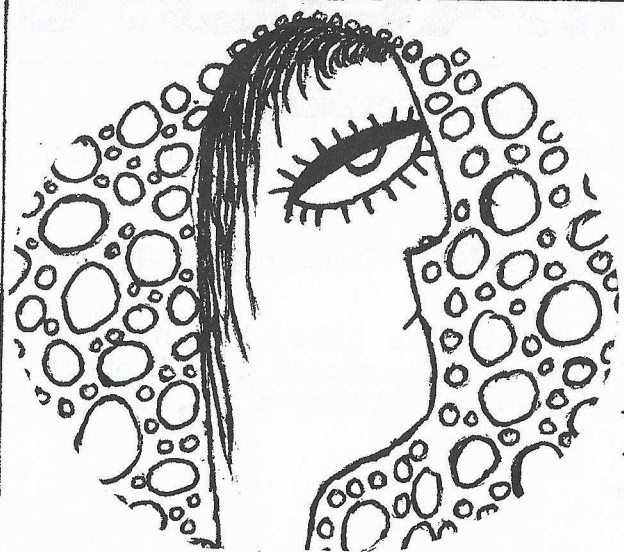
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Chairman:V C Brown. Committee:R Bradbury,A Denham,
A Donnelly,P E Dungate.

Thanks are due to Peter Weston for his invaluable
advice , Carole Simpson for her patience and
assistance and Bob Rickard for his technical
expertise in the production of this booklet .
Artwork for Booklet cover and Commemorative Cover
by Ray Bradbury .



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THE INCONCEIVABLE

Five years ago it was inconceivable , two years ago highly improbable , today it is happening . I refer , of course , to the fact that not only am I writing an article which will be read by a fair proportion of British Science Fiction Fandom , but I am doing so in my capacity as the Chairman of a Convention .

To use an oftspoken phrase , little did I realise those many seasons ago when I first met other fans just what I was letting myself in for . I was in my very early teens when I first found SF , but it was '65 before I had my first brush with fandom - a very light brush , as I could not , in my keenness , imagine an SF gathering of any description discussing or doing anything but SF . In '67 I joined the Aston SF Group and in '69 attended my first convention - the Galactic Fair at Oxford .

Sheer admiration at this juxtaposition of hitherto unknown social events and science fiction fired the minds of all the ASFG members who attended and with great enthusiasm we attended a number of regional fantasy/SF minicons .

The idea of running our own con took root , but like many great ideas , did not grow until one fateful evening when members of the Group were collating "Speculation" somewhere in the depths of the Pharmacy Department . Suddenly , amid the mutter of voices and the rustle of paper , Peter Weston's voice echoed "So why not run a Con" and in a suddenly released rush of enthusiasm a committee was formed , a title chosen and a hotel and GoH decided upon .

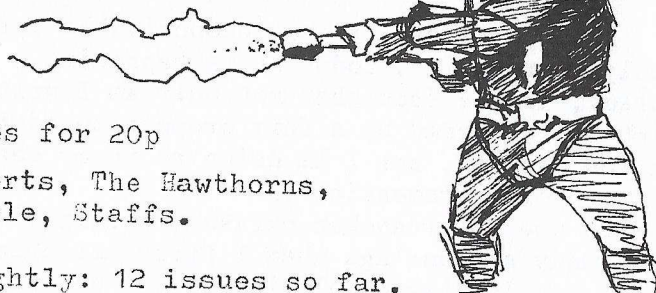
Several of us were already involved to greater or lesser degrees with Eastercon 22 and it was not until Easter was over that NOVACON began to really gain impetus . However , at this point examinations loomed ahead for three-fifths of the committee and soon one member was in the far northern wilds of Scotland , one was in Enfield and one was busy feeding a ravenous computer with strange data concerning rocks at all hours of the day and night .

CONT....

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C*H*E*C*K*P*O*I*N*T

Britain's only fan and sf news
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5 issues for 20p

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** fortnightly: 12 issues so far.

Progress Reports began to appear as authors and others accepted invitations to speak at the con . After a time of much frantic activity we sent out booking forms and awaited with trepidation their return . The response was not long in coming and the long nights of recording peoples' wants began . As people were still enquiring about NOVACON and this period coincided with the start of University Term the postmidnight electricity flowed on many occasions.

The decision in September to issue a specialy handstamped Commemorative Cover meant more work still in the form of Artwork production etc ,but the resultant GPO publicity offset much of this .

With but a week or so before the con weekend the programme is finalised , the films ordered and fingers are crossed in all directions . I now understand just what Peter meant at Eastercon when he declared that never again would he organise a convention !

But , as the chap said when he was asked why he was beating his head against a wall "It feels so good when I stop". He was right - the mere thought of the 15th is intoxicating . And after all these months of preparation I doubt that I will have time to see the programme !

But you will , and the Committee and I hope you will enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed producing it .

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER

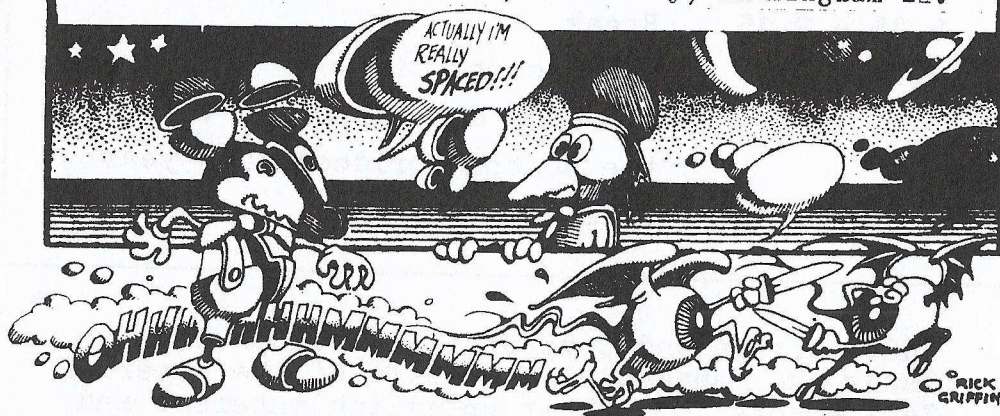
- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10.00 | Registration Desk opens |
| 10.00 - 12.30 | Film Programme |
| 12.30 - 1.45 | Lunch |
| 2.00 - 2.20 | Chairman's Welcome |
| 2.20 - 3.20 | "Man's Successors"
Jack Cohen |
| 3.20 - 4.00 | James White , Guest of Honour |
| 4.00 - 4.15 | Coffee break |
| 4.15 - 5.15 | "Science Fiction Publications"
Ken Bulmer with Panel |
| 5.15 - 6.15 | "Writing for the Screen"
John Brunner with Chris Priest
and Kit Pedler |
| 6.15 - 7.00 | Break |
| 7.15 - 8.45 | Minibanquet with afterdinner
speech by GoH James White |
| 8.45 - 9.15 | Break |
| 9.15 | "Noreascon"
Bob Shaw describes his visit to
the Boston Worldcon this year |
| 10.00 - 1.00 | Film Programme |

THE Chairman and Committee of NOVACON wish to thank the Management and Staff of the Imperial Centre Hotel for their unfailing interest and assistance in the production of the Convention



RUBBISH?

Did you know about the dog that said "Hallo" and then vanished? Was Earth settled from Space? What did Damon Knight, James Blish, Eric Frank Russell and others do when they were younger? Who was Charles Hoy Fort? Dare you read about the ghastly teleportation murders? Are the Lights in the skies only stars? Why does Biffo wear red braces? What about these strange falls of frogs, goo and stones?...and the spontaneous combustion of human beings? What have the Devil's Hoofprints and Vanished Civilizations in common? Are we property? Would you like to bore the pants off people with dissertations on such fun subjects as strange artifacts, poltergeists, Secret Knowledge, anacronisms, monsters and other Enigmas? Is it time for those interested in the Unexplained to stand up? If you know the answers, or think you do, or would like to, contact Bob Rickard, or someone who thinks he is: 54 Camphill, Bordesley, Birmingham 12.



FILMS

Saturday Morning

10.00 - 10.30	Cartoons
10.30 - 10.45	Break
10.45 - 12.00	Village of the Damned
11.00 - 12.30	Jason and the Argonauts I

Saturday Evening

10.00 - 10.30	Jason and the Argonauts II
10.30 - 12.10	The Time Machine
12.10 - 01.00	Jason and the Argonauts III



The Bar will be open for all NOVACON members between the following hours -

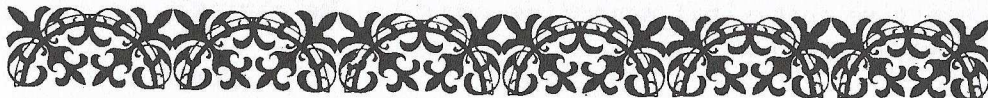
SATURDAY

10.30 a.m. until 5.00 p.m.
5.30 p.m. until 10.30 p.m.

SUNDAY

12.00 a.m. until 6.30 p.m.
7.00 p.m. until 10.30 p.m.

Residents , of course , may purchase drinks at any reasonable time .



JAMES WHITE

BY BOB SHAW

"James White" is the pseudonym which cleverly conceals the identity of the Belfast science fiction fan , local landmark , perennial convention-goer , and all-round Good Person --- Jim White .

His first professional sale was a short story called "Assisted Passage" which was bought for NEW WORLDS by Ted Carnell back in the early 1950s , and which was followed by a steady stream of shorts which in later years has given way mainly to novel-length works . In his regular job he works for the publicity department of an aircraft company , but he would be the last one to deny that he gets a great deal of his career satisfaction from his enduring ability to produce readable and saleable science fiction .

This , however , is not the place to review the corpus of Jim's contribution to the field --- anybody who is attending the NOVACON already knows his famous Sector General space hospital series and his many other thoughtful, amiable yarns . Instead I would like to say a few words about the man behind the penname , who has been a close and valued friend for more than twenty years .

Jim White was a founder member , in 1948 , of SLANT - one of the most famous fanzines of all time . It was hand-set and hand-printed on a small press , which---as anybody who has ever done manual composing will testify---demands an ample supply of patience , persistence and good humour. And these are precisely the qualities which characterise Jim's private and professional life . When he is doing something for a friend or business associate , that something is done immediately , thoroughly , painstakingly; and any student of his published SF can discern the same approach in the wealth of carefully planned detail he puts into every story . In these days---in which a recognised method of winning science fiction fame is to dream up an interesting situation , throw on a few pots of primary colour , then walk away and leave the whole thing ---it is pleasant and reassuring to find somebody who is prepared to give that vital something extra to the minimal requirements .

CONT....

Perhaps the reason he does so is that Jim loves science fiction and practically everything about it . He was devoted to it long before it was fashionable , he has stayed with it through all the years that SF has been "in", and if ever it should be relegated to the wilderness again he'll accompany it without question . Only it won't really be a wilderness as long as Jim and a few others like him are there.

You can experience his bonfire glow of interest yourself this weekend by simply walking up to him and talking about SF . Don't be put off by the fact that he is almost a mile high---he is used to picking out human voices filtering up from below and will always send you down a courteous and entertaining answer . The only thing to watch out for is his sense of humour---unless you yourself happen to be weird enough to think that a phrase like "Scribbans Kemp be choosers" is funny .

Anyway , it's a small risk to take in return for a chat with a genuine science fiction personality , one who has really earned the title of Guest of Honour

Don't forget the old firm

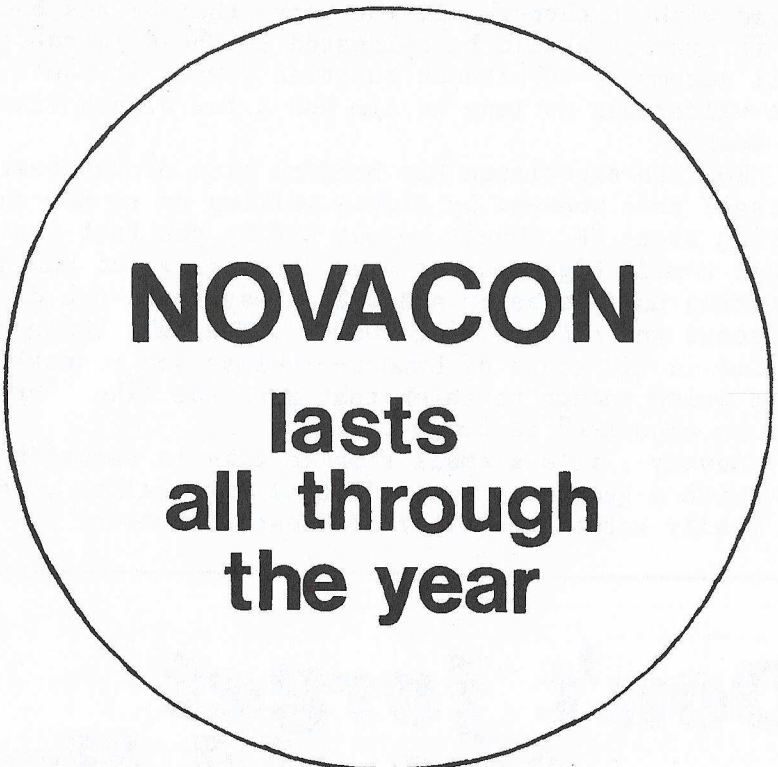
In a world overwhelmed by the ubiquitous and unsmiling Vernon Brown the unwary might easily forget the old firm.

But SPECULATION magazine is staggering into its ninth glorious year, the third SPECULATION conference will take place on 24 June 1972, and other projects are stewing nicely.

So remember - we were here first!

(Ask Peter Weston for more details)





NOVACON

**lasts
all through
the year**

With the BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

Meetings begin at 8.00 on the
THIRD FRIDAY of each month, at the
Imperial Centre Hotel.

Further details and programme from
Peter R. Weston, (Chairman)
31 Pinewall Avenue, Birmingham 30.

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER

- 10.00 - 11.30 "Present and Future Conventions"
James White with Harry Nadler ,
Charles Partington , Keith
Freeman and others
- 11.30 - 12.30 "The Role of Fanzines"
Peter Weston
- 12.30 - 1.00 Auction
- 1.00 - 2.30 Lunch
- 2.30 - 3.30 "Pantropy vs Terraforming"
James Blish with Jack Cohen and
Dr Johnson
- 3.30 - 4.30 "Robots and Robotics"
J F Young
- 4.30 END OF OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

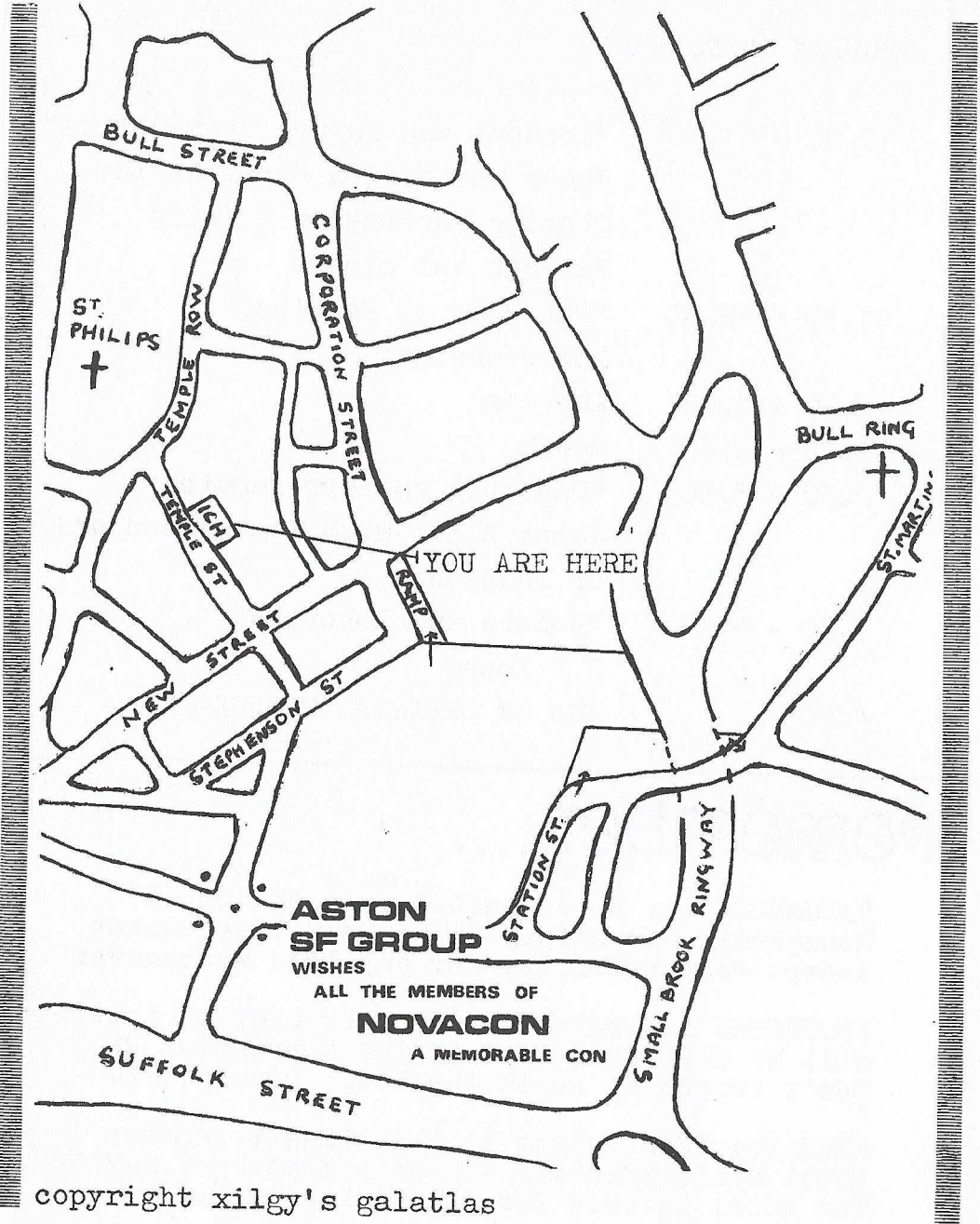
remember....

VALUABLES may be deposited with the Hotel Management for safety . The Committee cannot accept responsibility for any loss whatsoever .

PROGRAMME alterations and other news of interest will be displayed next to the Convention Hall . Don't forget to check the Board regularly .

WEAR your Con badges at all times to enable Hotel staff identify you as a member of NCVACON. The hotel is ours for the weekend - help us keep it that way .

map of the centre of the universe



THE SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION

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institution for the study of Science Fiction)

announces the production of its new journal

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The Science Fiction Review

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serious criticism of science fiction , and a
wide range of original stories .

Further information available from the SCIENCE
FICTION FOUNDATION table at NCVACON , or from
Peter Nicholls .

only a robot...

ONLY A ROBOT

Words : John Brunner

Air: "Poor Miners Farewell" by Aunt Molly Jackson & Jerry Silverman

On-ly a robot and made out of steel , Able to think but not

able to feel , Built in a fac-to-ry so tough and so strong , Your

joints are worn out now , poor robot , so long! The-ey

built him of steel and ti-to-nium parts , They gave him a

brain but they gave him no heart. He's ob-so-lete now and his

life-time is through, so robot I fear it's the scrap-yard for you !

ONLY A ROBOT

Words: John Brunner

Air: "Poor Miner's Farewell" (Aunt Molly Jackson)

Only a robot and made out of steel ,
Able to think but not able to feel ,
Built in a factory so tough and so strong-
Your joints are worn out now, poor robot, so long!

They built him of steel and titanium parts,
They gave him a brain but they gave him no heart .
He's obsolete now and his lifetime is through -
So robot I fear it's the scrapyard for you!

Only an android and bred in a vat,
Only an android and faulty at that,
Made from synthetics and a gene has gone wrong-
You're clumsy and stupid , poor android, so long!

They took RNA, and DNA too,
They thought they knew just what the process must do ,
' They made a mistake and they don't know quite how-
But androids with faults in we cannot allow!

Only a human and born from a womb,
Walking and talking and bound for the tomb,
Partway intelligent, surprisingly dumb-
Best watch out , poor human , your time's almost come!

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... by John Brunner

THE CON-COVER & STAMP

Although envelopes of a modern type were invented in the 18th century they did not become popular until after 1840 , when Rowland Hill introduced his postal reforms . Prior to this date letters were charged at a rate depending , among other things , the number of sheets used . An envelope could thus double the cost a a letter .

In 1840 the first adhesive postage stamps were introduced and the letter-charge became dependent on weight . As well as stamps decorated envelopes and lettersheets went on sale , the designs denoting postage . However , within a year or so they were withdrawn and stamps took over completely . To prevent re-use , handstamps came into use to obliterate the stamp .

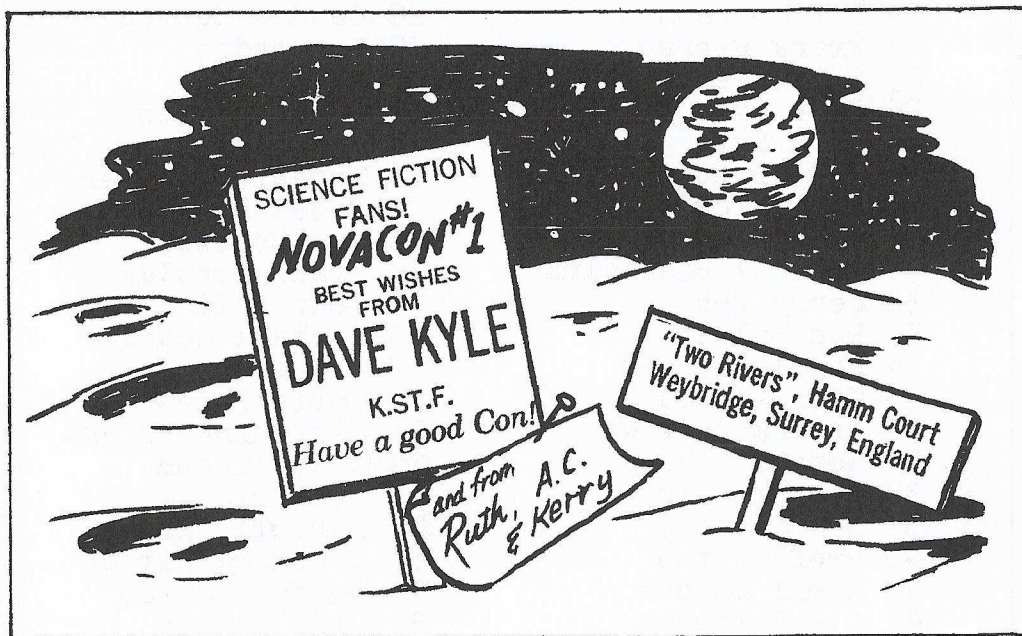
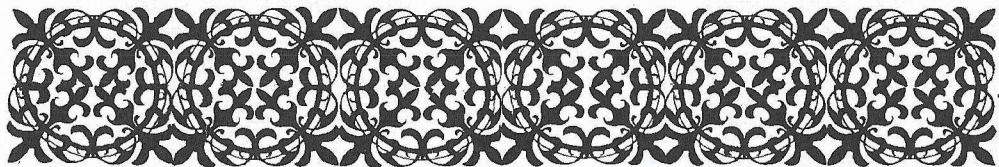
Naturally enough , as other countries followed Britains lead and produced their own stamps , people started to collect them as a hobby . The stamps were removed from the envelopes and gummed into books . Many stamps were ruined and few early envelopes remain .

Souvenir covers , that is , envelopes bearing a special postmark or pictorial design were prepared on occasion to commemorate some special event . This practice grew until nowadays there are covers produced for all kinds of things , of both great and small import .

During this hundred odd year period , there has been no cover produced to commemorate an event in the Science Fiction field . This appears astounding (small A) when one considers the length of time that conventions have been organised in this country , let alone America .

To remedy this state of affairs , a cover with an SF design has been produced , and arrangements made with the Post Office for these to be collected and franked with a special NOVACON handstamp . An attempt was made at Eastercon 22 this year to provide a similar service , but due to the postal strike the GPO could not provide the handstamp in time .

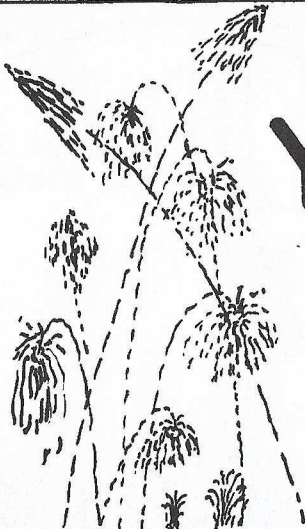
Covers are on sale on Friday and Saturday , 12&13th , and must be posted in the special postbox , bearing a 3p stamp , on Saturday . This is a chance to obtain an unique souvenir , a cover which is not only the first of its kind in the SF field , but a cover which commemorates an event which is also the first of its kind - NOVACON .



A LIST OF NOVACON MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 James White | 44 Paul Collins |
| 2 Vernon Brown | 45 Greg Pickersall |
| 3 Peter Weston | 46 David Riley |
| 4 Ray Bradbury | 47 George Hay |
| 5 Carole Simpson | 48 D G Sellars |
| 6 Alan Donnelly | 49 Gray Boak |
| 7 Pauline E Dungle | 50 Hartley Patterson |
| 8 Alan Denham | 51 A N Stephenson |
| 9 Jeff Hacker | 52 Phil Cooper |
| 10 Brian Hampton | 53 John Stewart |
| 11 Bob Smith | 54 Peter Roberts |
| 12 Mary Smith | 55 Keith Freeman |
| 13 David Rowe | 56 Wendy Freeman |
| 14 Bernard Peek | 57 Aldo Ferri |
| 15 Fred Hemmings | 58 J Ward |
| 16 John Eggeling | 59 Sam Long |
| 17 Ted Ball | 60 Roger Peyton |
| 18 Dave Gibson | 61 Arline Peyton |
| 19 Mrs Ailsa Kelly | 62 Chris Bursey |
| 20 G R Pearle | 63 John Piggott |
| 21 J Bonny | 64 G R Poole |
| 22 John Griggs | 65 David Sutton |
| 23 P T Johnson | 66 Sandra Sutton |
| 24 Frank Wyers | 67 Ken Eadie |
| 25 S D Steel | 68 R Rickard |
| 26 Dave Kyle | 69 H Southworth |
| 27 Ruth Kyle | 70 M Rowley |
| 28 A D Cruttendon | 71 Margaret Palmer |
| 29 Phil Clarke | 72 Hazel Reynolds |
| 30 Mike Higgs | 73 Lee Hopewell |
| 31 Michael Rosenblum | 74 Frank Arnolds |
| 32 Jerry Webb | 75 John Hall |
| 33 Ken Bulmer | 76 Michael Meara |
| 34 Pamela Bulmer | 77 P Meara |
| 35 Mark Adlard | 78 Chris Priest |
| 36 Graham Andrews | 79 Christine Priest |
| 37 Gerald Taylor | 80 M Rawlinson |
| 38 Ken Cheslin | 81 J Farrimond |
| 39 D H Simmons | 82 Darroll Pardoe |
| 40 Prof. Doron | 83 Rosemary Pardoe |
| 41 Avril Barnes | 84 Doreen Parker |
| 42 J P H Turner | 85 Ella Parker |
| 43 I Roll | 86 Daphne Sewell |

87	Charles Winstone	116	Mrs Hedger
88	Jack Cohen	117	J A Sheriff
89	Anne McCaffrey	118	R Newnham
90	C J K Morgan	119	S Reynolds
91	Linda Humphreys	120	M J Walshe
92	Harry Nadler	121	D Bouvet
93	Charles Partington	122	Muriel Lawrence
94	James Blish	123	Jenny du Sautoy
95	Judy Blish	124	Bob Shaw
96	Michael Brain	125	D J Cripps
97	Barbara Stokes	126	Brian Harrigan
98	S A Eling	127	Jeannette Bream
99	S Vasepury	128	Phil Spencer
100	K Somerfield	129	Norman Shorrock
101	Tim Stannard	130	Ina Shorrock
102	Doreen Humphries	131	Roy Shorrock
103	Dave Berry	132	Linda Shorrock
104	L R A Kettle	133	Norman Weedall
105	Malcolm Edwards	134	Tony Edwards
106	Christine Lane	135	M Edwards
107	R Mortimore	136	Mario B Bosnyak
108	P H Mabey	137	Dan Morgan
109	Andrew Prior	138	Mrs Morgan
110	R T Walker	139	Susan Pearce
111	G H Howard	140	Jean Nuggoch
112	Vic Hallett	141	M C R Gover
113	John Brunner	142	P E Presford
114	Eddie Jones	143	C Barren
115	E R Hedger	144	P Nicholls



N YAC'S ONE*

D I R*

Both send greetings to NOVACON, from their suspended-animation booths at Villa Park. Here's hoping for a very successful Convention, and the birth of a new tradition in S.F.Fandom—the November Conventions.

* - Editor, Chas. Winstone.

