



NOVACON TWENTY ONE

GUEST OF HONOUR

COLIN GREENLAND

FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER TO SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER

FORTE POST HOUSE at BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT

CHAIRMAN

Nick Mills

COMMITTEE

*David T Cooper
Bernie Evans
Al Johnston
Alice & Steve Lawson
Chris Murphy*

STAFF

**Creche
Artshow
Bookroom**

*Vicky Evans
John Harrold
Mick Evans*

Membership Rates

£15.00 per person.
Postal memberships by 19th October.
£20.00 on the door.

Room Rates

£24.75 per night twin/double.
£30.00 per night single

Advertising Rates

*Progress Reports
Programme Book*

£28.00 per page: £14.00 half page: £7.00 quarter page.
£36.00 per page: £18.00 half page: £9.00 quarter page.

Send camera ready copy to : 379 Myrtle Rd Sheffield S2 3HQ (0742 728639)
Advertising & Copy Deadlines: Third Progress Report 28th September 1991
Programme Book 14th September 1991

Bookroom Rates

£15.00 per table for the weekend. Dealers must be members of the convention.

Convention Enquiries.

Bernie Evans, 121 Cape Hill, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands, B66 4HS
Telephone 021 558 0997

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Please note that Novacon will now take place at the :-

Forte Post House at Birmingham Airport.

This is not a change of venue, only the name of the hotel has changed.

This PR contains a number of forms. Fill them in and return them now!

If this PR is addressed to you, you should already be a member. If not join immediately using the general purpose membership form. And don't forget to buy memberships for your friends and loved ones. You can also use this form to order dealers' tables; reserve space in the art show, including competition entries; volunteer for everything.

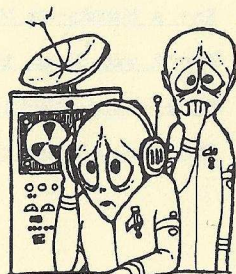
Please note that at the request of various dealers the book room will operate restricted opening hours on Saturday. There will be two two-hour sessions one in the morning and one in the afternoon. It is hoped that this will give dealers more time to enjoy the convention, without seriously inconveniencing avid book-buyers.

If you are displaying valuable work in the art show then please note that, because insurance companies would require a valuation for works of art, the convention insurance can only cover work for the value of materials.

Also included in this PR is your hotel booking form. Please fill it in and return it as soon as possible, indicating at least first and second preferences. Applications will be dealt with on a first-come first-served basis. However, if you specify only a first preference and it is not available, this will cause great annoyance to our membership secretary and she is likely to place you at the back of the queue.

Please use the separate form to enter the snooker tournament.

Nick Mills



'OH MY GOD... GRACE ARCHER'S DEAD!

Tip 90

from Dr Greenland's Diary

26 Jun 91

Writing my story for the Novacon special edition. It's one of the bits that didn't quite make it into Take Back Plenty: the origin of Saskia and Mogul, the Amazing Mercurial Zodiac Twins.

I found this note.

they couldn't leave us alone. sometimes we'd be 3 for a while, then we'd fall asleep, and when we woke up we'd be 5 again. we started noticing. one day 2 of us woke up in a lab, and remembered it when we got back. we knew there was another world. anyway, they hadn't matched the things we knew with things around us. we knew there were x and y and z.

Typical Greenland, writing about the subjects of the experiment, not the experimenters. It may be called "In the Garden", which would be nice, because that's the title of the Eurythmics' first album, the one nobody bought, the best one.

Going to get it to play while I work I get sidetracked, by Iron Butterfly's In-a-Gadda-Da-Vida. The connection has to be the title, a corruption of In the Garden of Eden, which their singer was legendarily too stoned to enunciate. When obscure nonsense associations like that suddenly become very important you know you're on. Bill Gibson thinks they may actually generate the thing, and he may not be wrong.

Ancient history, In-a-Gadda-da-Vida. Part of the soundtrack to my schooldays, along with Traffic and Melanie and Pink Floyd's Atom Heart Mother.

In- a Gadda-da Vida, honey

Don't you know that I'm lovin' you?

In-a-Gadda-da-Vida, baby,

Don't you know that I'll always be true?

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, eat your heart out!

IB vocalist a prime exponent of the Owl Rat school: hairy-larynxed gentleman who, when the drummer kicks up the beat and the lead guitar grinds back in with the dominant riff, grab the mike and growl: "Owl rat!"

It probably went on for hours live. Key bits are the very end, and the bit where the obligatory phased drum solo suddenly delivers itself up via some unusually delicate percussion to the organ, which delivers this eerie, plaintive fugue. Interrupted at one point by harsh scraping squeals like Hendrix doodling with a screwdriver, the fugue returns, undeterred, sublime.

Don't know anything else by Iron Butterfly. Don't want anything else. I want to be swallowed by In-a-Gadda-da-Vida, in all it's cheesy glory. I adore it. Play it four times today, driving the story along.

Actually. I'm not. Not driving anything, that's insidious rockist metaphor. What I'm making is more like coral at this point: skeletal, nubby. Tracking forward and back to this juncture and that, coaxing out another image, another little bud of information. x, y, z. Associating.

Call Jane at Grafton to talk about Take Back Plenty posters, on which the marketing dept. have unfathomably failed to name the Arthur C Clarke Award. Jane's on the phone, so I talk to her assistant. "I'm writing the history of the Zodiac Twins," I tell her.

"That's me," says Patsy at once. "Gemini".

For some reason, all the way through Plenty, I never even thought about the sign. Maybe I did and forgot. All I remember now is nicking the name Zodiac from Fireball XL5.

"Gemini," I say. "Do you know, I never thought about them."

"Well, I am one," says Patsy.

"Two," I say.

"No, one," she says. "I'm definitely one."

I say: "I thought Geminis were supposed to be indecisive."

"I might be," says Patsy, "but I don't think I am."

Jessica Palmer, author of Dark Lullaby, phones to say she's coming to town. She remembers In-a-Gadda-da-Vida, starts singing down the phone. "Black light," she says. "Whenever I think of that track I think of black light. The Free University at Berkeley, a room full of people with luminous green teeth. I think probably there was a little gnome who used to follow me around with a copy of that album. Whenever I was peaking he'd slap it on the stereo."

Colin Greenland

PROGRAMME

This is a year of celebrations. The 20th anniversary of the Brum group has been marked by Twentycon, and here is the 21st Novacon. We shall reflect this by having a party-style event as an introduction to the traditional disco, with spot prizes for fancy dress etc.

Naturally we will be hearing from our Guest of Honour, Colin Greenland, and also from Danish SF critic and translator Ellen M Pedersen. Ian Stewart, who spoke on Chaos Theory at Novacon 20, will be giving a talk on a new topic.

For those who want to hear serious (or not-so-serious) debate, there will be the usual panel discussions. A mystery video item is being prepared, and regular features such as the art and book auctions will not be neglected. We hope there will be something for everyone. If you have something to contribute, please let us know.

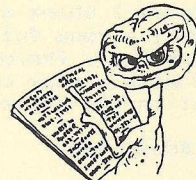
Chris Murphy

GOPHER APPEAL

Novacon 21 needs gophers and I'm not talking about North American rodents here. Nor am I appealing for pieces of a cypress or yellow-wood tree. No, it's people to "go-fer" things that are required; people to shift chairs, move equipment, fetch, carry and..... hang on, I'm supposed to make this sound appealing. So, for all the non-masochists out there, let's just say that gophering gives you more involvement in the con than mere attending, better stories to tell, afterwards, the inside track. All this and our appreciation too.

Seriously, if you feel you can help, fill in the "Gophers" section on your registration form, with details of your name and availability. We need people all through the con, from setting up on Friday afternoon to tearing down on Sunday evening. Whatever you can do, we'll be grateful.

Al Johnston



THE BOOKROOM

Attention all dealers. Tables in the bookroom are available at the bargain price of £15.00 for the weekend. You can reserve your table on the multi-purpose membership form enclosed with the latest batch of Bernies' Famous Forms, which you will find with this PR.

We expect to have plenty of help available for unloading and setting-up on Friday afternoon, and have also decided to continue with Anne Page's wonderful idea last year of providing light refreshments when you arrive, so book early and claim your free tea/coffee and biscuits.

It will help us plan the lay-out if you could return your form really really quickly, preferably before the end of September, and we can send your confirmation out with PR3. Anyone booking late will, of course, be running the risk of discovering that all the tables have gone already.

Please see below for details of opening times.

Attention all book collectors. The bookroom will be available for setting-up on Friday afternoon, it will be up to individual dealers whether they are open for business. The room will be open on Saturday between 10 am and 12 noon, and for two hours after the end of the Guest of Honour talk in the afternoon. It will be open on Sunday between 10 am and 3 pm, for all those essential last-minute purchases.

These times have been decided so that the Dealers can have a break from dealing, and see a bit more of the Convention, or even get a meal.

Mick Evans

ART COMPETITION

A reminder to all you keen artists out there to start work on your entry for our birthday card competition. No less than three fabulous prizes can be won. All you have to do is to design a twenty-first birthday card for Novacon. Entries will be judged in the categories - best artwork, best entry by a child under 12, and most apt or amusing idea.

This is intended to be a light-hearted contest: we are not looking for masterpieces. So please don't be afraid to join in the fun and have a go.

If you do intend to enter, then there is no need to reserve space in the art show for this purpose. But it would greatly assist us if you indicated your intention by writing 'Competition entry' in the art show section of the membership form.

Nick Mills

MORE MEMBERS

101	Dave Hardy	127	Peggy White
102	Kathy Westhead	128	Mark Reynolds
103	Mike Westhead	129	J Baker
104	Kevin Joyce	130	Terry Pratchett
105	Gill Alderman	131	George F Ternent
106	John Brunner	132	Linda Ternent
107	Robert Day	133	Dean Rowe
108	John Steward	134	Valerie R Housden
109	Richard James	135	Anne Page
110	Jacky Andrew	136	Ethel Lindsay
111	David Cochrane	137	Jeffrey T Rolfe
112	William Armitage	138	Ken Cheslin
113	Alastair Wheeler-Reid	139	Nigel Robson
114	Andrew Stephenson	140	Pat Silver
115	Joyce Slater	141	David V Barrett
116	Ken Slater	142	David Walters
117	Neil Curry	143	Mike Llewellyn
118	Iain Banks	144	Freda Warrington
119	B A Blackburn	145	Dana G Nadeau
120	Jenny Glover	146	Janis Nadeau
121	Chris Amies	147	Graham Joyce
122	P F Hamilton	148	Claire Brialey
123	John Trasler	149	Noel Collyer
124	Karen Trasler	150	Jason Grant
125	Peter Day	151	Debby Moir
126	James White	152	Mike Moir

Correction to previous list of members.

061 Phil Rogers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Information page by Steve and Alice Lawson, all articles by those named. Cover artwork by Dave Mooring. Other artwork by Tim Groome. Thank-you to all contributors.

