

# novacon 10

Organised by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

31st October/1st & 2nd November 1980

Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham

GUEST OF HONOUR: BRIAN W. ALDISS

## PROGRESS REPORT 1

MARCH 1980

Birmingham in November has never seemed the ideal place of beauty, charm and serenity - yet each year more and more people flock to this city. Is it to appreciate the grandeur of its architecture? To sit in its colourful tropical gardens? Or to sample the mouth-watering delights served in its varied restaurants? No..all these are only secondary reasons for visiting Birmingham in November - as in previous years people will flock to this city to play the maze game. Arrive any way you like - air, car, train, on foot - and play the game that has fascinated visitors for ten years. The object is to get to the place in Birmingham designated by us - and get out again in one weekend. Once again we've applied to the City Council to have several one-way streets reversed just to make the game a little more interesting - we don't want to make it easy for you! To help relax you and entertain you between the trip in and the trip out, we have once again organised a science fiction convention, suitably entitled NOVAcon 10 - and that's what this little leaflet is all about.

NOVAcon 10 is the ninth convention organised by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group (Nos 2-10 - the first being organised by the University of Aston SF Society in 1971).

## TIME AND PLACE

NOVAcon 10 will commence on the evening of Friday October 31st and continue through till about midnight on Sunday November 2nd. NOTE - this is different from previous NOVAcons in that it will not fold up mid-afternoon on Sunday. The tenth NOVAcon is something of a landmark and we decided to make this convention longer than previous NOVAcons. As with NOVAcon 5,6,7 and 9 it will be held at the Royal Angus Hotel, a modern hotel in the city centre which has proven it can stand up to the pace of SF conventions.

The Angus can sleep 222 guests with all bedrooms having their own bathroom, shower, radio and TV.

## ROOM RATES

Room rates for NOVAcon 10 are as follows:-

Sharing a twin or double room - £9.50 per person  
Single room - £12.00 per person

These rates are per night and include full English breakfast, service charge and VAT at 15%. Should the VAT rate alter, the room rates will be altered accordingly. In addition to the above we have agreed a rate of £4 per night for an extra bed in parents' room for a child under 12 years of age.

## REGISTRATION FOR NOVAcon 10

This PR is going out to everyone who registered for NOVAcon 9. If you have already registered for NOVAcon 10 your name will appear in the registration list at the end of this PR. Registration is £2 per person and this is Supporting Membership fee. This entitles you to receive all preliminary mailings of PRs and Hotel Booking Forms, etc plus a copy of the Programme Book. Full Attending membership will be available at the time the Hotel Booking Forms are sent out. This will be an extra £2 or £3 - the exact sum will be announced in PR2 - it will be as cheap as we can get it!

#### YOUR COMMITTEE

With one exception, Birmingham fandom is resting this year - no committee was forthcoming from the home-city so your committee this year is being culled from the ranks of fandom in general. The one exception is me - Rog Peyton - again chairing NOVACON and attempting to keep a widely-spread committee in order. Paul Oldroyd served on last year's NOVACON committee and even though he travelled from Worcester to committee meetings, did an excellent job (though he's proven his stupidity by volunteering again). He complicates matters this year by his forthcoming move to Leeds. In charge of general secretarial work and registrations is Krystyna Bula - her first con committee. Her fiancée-to-be (as of mid-March) Keith Oborn is also on this committee - his previous committee work being done at SKYCON. Joe Nicholas is handling advertising, and ex-Brummy Chris Walton completes the team. The last four all live in the London area and thanks to the monthly One Tun meetings, committee meetings in London are possible - in fact, we actually hold committee meetings at the One Tun in the upstairs room, in the afternoon. Quite convenient as we can decide who we want to do what and then downstairs in the evening we can talk to the people concerned.

#### GUEST OF HONOUR

The Guest of honour for a special event should be a special person - and for a very special event such as the tenth NOVACON the committee have chosen a very special person. One of the Birmingham SF Group's Presidents - Brian W Aldiss. Brian is England's most famous SF author - he has been G-o-H at the 1965 and 1979 World SF Conventions held in England but, surprisingly, NOVACON 10 will be the first time Brian has been G-o-H at a British convention! Apart from SEACON, it has been several years since he has attended a convention - 1972? 1973? Certainly too long, anyway. His presence at this year's NOVACON will be very welcome - by us old-timers who remember the cons of the sixties which Brian attended every year - and by new fans who have never had the pleasure of meeting Brian. To document his career here is unnecessary - I'm sure you are all familiar with his work - anyone requiring information will find an excellent short piece on Brian in Peter Nicholls' invaluable ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION. One piece of information concerning Brian has just come to our notice - a letter from Brian appears in the latest issue of LOCUS (the newspaper of the SF field) and we thought that it would be of interest to reprint it here....

Dear LOCUS,

I was amazed at the number of people who read LOCUS and commented on the China piece.

I don't know about your politics, but politics seem to loom threateningly over the world at present. You may find the enclosed letter newsworthy. To give you the background, I attended EUROCON III in Poznan, Poland, where I agreed to be Co-President with Eremi Parnov, the Russian SF writer, for two years. I have just been approached to serve again for a further six. I have refused because of Soviet aggression in Afghanistan and their contravention of human rights in their own capital. The argument is set out in my letter. Publish it if you think your readership will be interested. Is anyone else taking a political stand?

In March, my long mainstream novel, LIFE IN THE WEST, is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson. It contains strong warnings about Soviet intentions, and discusses the Olympic Games problem - all horribly topical. In view of that, it would look two-faced to hob-nob with the Soviets in Stresa. A pity, because I like some of the Russians personally, and get a good deal of useful information from them; they're quite prepared to tell you, over a second bottle of vodka, just how bad things are in the USSR.

Things'll be worse when Comrade Brezhnev goes. I cheer the stand President Carter is taking over USSR activities, and only wish the NATO allies showed a bit more fight.

---Brian Aldiss

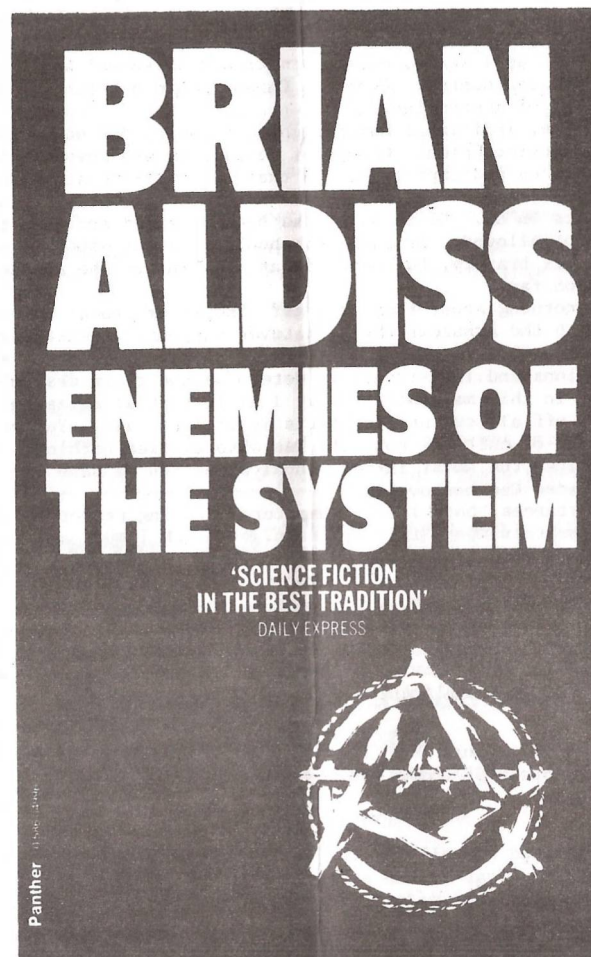
The enclosed letter....

Dear Pierre (Barbet, EUROCON Co-ordinator),

My grateful thanks go to you and the committee for inviting me to be Co-President of the European SF Committee. I regard this invitation as an honour.

**PUBLISHED ON APRIL 3rd**

**PRICE 85p**



**GRANADA PAPERBACKS**



However, after much painful thought, I have decided that I am unable to accept the position at this time.

The European SF movement for the series of EUROCONs was born in the optimistic years of the seventies, and gained impetus from the spirit of detente engendered by the Helsinki agreement. There seemed every good reason why the countries of Europe, from Ireland in the West to the Soviet Union in the East, should get together, talk, and enjoy each other's company. That international spirit was particularly important for the fraternity united by enthusiasm for an international literature such as science fiction. You will recall that it was with such optimistic thoughts in mind that I became one of the co-founders of World SF, which sprang from EUROCON.

I cannot be the only person now experiencing an extreme revulsion of mood and the pain of disillusion, following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. I use the present tense; even as I write, Soviet armour and personnel are still pouring into that unfortunate country. Even the Cubans could not find it in their hearts to defend this act of aggression.

At the same time, individual human rights are being defied within the iron frontiers of the Soviet Union. Groups of dissidents and Jews are being arrested on trumped up charges and imprisoned, so that they will remain mute while the farce of the Olympic Games is played out. As there are politics in sport, so there are politics in SF. Dr Sakharov has been arrested and sent to a city where foreigners are not allowed. Dr Sakharov should have our especial respect, not only because of his bravery, but because, as a scientist, he is naturally a hero to science fiction fans.

Should we do nothing about these things? Should we appear to comply with them? I am familiar with the argument that, whatever happens, we must keep talking, even with those who have shown enmity towards the thing that we in the West hold dear, the right of nations and individuals to determine their own destinies, as far as that is possible in this makeshift life. I am in partial agreement with this argument; to cut off all cultural contacts is of little use. Yet we have seen that the fostering of cultural contacts has also availed nothing. By its actions, the USSR has created the worst international situation we have experienced since their forces invaded Czechoslovakia.

In the circumstances, both logic and natural feeling render me unable to sit down with my opposite numbers from the East. (Though I must add that I have maintained friendly relations with several of them for years, and intend no personal attack upon them: they will understand this position better perhaps than do delegates in the West.) Sorrow fills me to realise that some of my friends will condemn my action; but this is a time when one must be clear where one stands. I am clear. I cannot consent to be the Western Co-President of EUROCON and seem thereby to condone Soviet aggression. Please convey this message to your committee, with my compliments.

---Brian Aldiss

A postscript to the above is that John Brunner has now accepted the position of Co-President of the European SF Committee.

#### THE NOVA AWARD

The Nova Award is presented annually by the Birmingham SF Group to the editor of the fanzine voted 'Best of the Year'. The award is of a different design each year and since 1974 has been designed and made by Ray Bradbury (the Brummy publican - not the author!).

The Award was started in 1973 and past winners are:-

- 1973 SPECULATION edited by Peter Weston
- 1974 (tie) BIG SCAB edited by John Brosnan and ZIMRI edited by Lisa Conesa
- 1975 MAYA edited by Rob Jackson
- 1976 MAYA edited by Rob Jackson
- 1977 TWILL-DDU edited by Dave Langford
- 1978 GROSS ENCOUNTERS edited by Alan Dorey
- 1979 SEAMONSTERS edited by Simone Walsh

The rules for the Nova Award are too lengthy to reproduce here but anyone wanting a copy can obtain a set by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope (large) to Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Avenue, Reading, Berks., RG2 7PW.

#### FILMS AT NOVAACON

The films to be shown at NOVAACON 10 are currently being booked - as in previous years there will be the usual set of interesting, boring, intentionally funny, fantastic, mind-boggling, unintentionally funny films to amuse, delight, shock, embarrass you. Already booked are:-

WIZARDS - the short animated film that we guarantee will be a favourite and will be shown at most future conventions.

FIGURES IN A LANDSCAPE - the Joseph Losey film that several of you will say is not science fiction. Only one member of the committee has seen this and he says it is SF - it hasn't been shown at cons before so at least it will be different.

SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS - this is the one to embarrass you! It has the dubious honour of being featured in a newly published book THE 50 WORST FILMS OF ALL TIME! (THE TERRORNAUTS, shown at NOVAACON 9, doesn't even get mentioned in this book - it just shows how bad this movie will be!) A must for those who like to see films along with other masochists.

Those films are booked and we are also awaiting confirmation of our booking for DEATHRACE 2000. We are also on the lookout for scarce films that haven't been seen at conventions, on TV, etc for several years. More news in future PRs.

Gerald Bishop ('Ye Gerbish') will again be acting as projectionist. He did such an excellent job at NOVAACON 9 that we asked him for a repeat this year.

#### ADVERTISING

Anyone wishing to advertise in Progress Reports 2 and 3 or the Programme Book should note the following:-

Rates for PR 2 and 3 are:-

Professional	£16 per page - part pages pro-rata
Amateur or Fan	£10 per page - part pages pro-rata

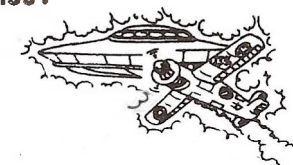
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Rates for Programme Book are:-

Professional	£20 per page - part pages pro-rata
Amateur or Fan	£12 per page - part pages pro-rata

All copy to be supplied camera ready - size A4 with allowance for borders - suitable for reduction to A5. Half-tones, reversing out, bleed-offs, etc. will be charged extra at printer's rates plus 20%.

Deadlines for copy are:-

Progress Report 2 is June 30th - Mailing will be late July.  
Progress Report 3 is September 14th - Mailing will be late September.  
Programme Book is September 14th

#### OTHER PROGRAMME ITEMS

There will be the usual Book Room, Art Show. There will not be a banquet. There will be a selection of programme items that will probably read like the 'Best of NOVACONS' - The Eve Harvey Chat Show, the Phil Strick Picture Show, talks and discussions from some of the celebrities and guests we've had the pleasure of having at previous NOVACONS. We can promise you a really packed programme, plus the extra half-day of programming. BUT - remember - this is NOVACON, and what we call a packed programme is not that packed - there will still be plenty of time for drinking, chatting, refilling glasses, eating, buying another pint, buying books, quenching your thirst, looking at artwork and if you're really stuck you can always get drunk! We'll be reporting on programme items as we arrange them - we have so many ideas this year that we'll have to drop quite a few of them for sheer lack of time.

#### NOVACON 9 SPECIAL

You will doubtless remember that at NOVACON 9, all registered members had a copy of THE LESBIAN HORSE by Christopher Priest - a 500-copy limited edition booklet that is a spoof sequel to INVERTED WORLD. INVERTED WORLD has just gone out of print from Pan and THE LESBIAN HORSE is about to join it! There are very few copies left - if anyone wants a spare we are selling them for 75p each plus 15p postage. Write to me - Rog Peyton (address at end of this PR).

#### NEW BRUM GROUP

The Birmingham SF Group now has a splinter group - the Birmingham SF Film Society. This new society will be holding meetings on the first Sunday of each month - at lunchtime. It will meet at the Arts Lab Cinema in Birmingham which has 16 and 35mm facilities and each month the programme will consist of a full-length SF film plus short, cartoon and a serial. The Society commences in May and will run for a trial period of 6 months. Anyone wishing to join or requiring further information should send SAE to Chris Smith, c/o 57 Summer Row, Birmingham B3 1JJ.

#### OTHER CONVENTIONS

ALBACON 80 - the 31st British Easter SF Convention. The Albany Hotel, Glasgow from April 4-7 1980. Guest-of-Honour: Colin Kapp. Fan Guest-of-Honour: Jim Barker. Details from Gerry Gillin, 9 Dunottar Street, Glasgow G33. (Enclose SAE).

U.F.P. CON 1980. A STAR TREK Convention. The De Vere Hotel, Coventry on May 24/25. SAE to Kim Knight, 135 Greensted Road, Loughton, Essex for details.

TERRACON '80. A STAR TREK Convention. The Dragonara Hotel, Leeds on September 20/21. SAE to Dot Owens, 51 Furniss Drive, Illingworth, Halifax. W Yorks, for details.

There is also a convention at Keele University in either June or July. Unfortunately we don't have details of this. Harry Harrison is Guest-of-Honour.

The JOE-90 convention mentioned at NOVACON 9 is definitely going ahead in March 1981 at the Dragonara Hotel, Leeds. Details in future PR.

If you have details of any conventions forthcoming in the UK, please send so that we can list in future PRs.

# ANDROMEDA

## BOOKSHOP

#### RECENT PAPERBACKS NOW IN STOCK

HITCH HIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY by Douglas Adams	80p	FLESH by Philip Jose Farmer	95p
ENEMIES OF THE SYSTEM by B W Aldiss	85p	TONGUES OF THE MOON by P J Farmer	£1.10
THE BUG WARS by Robert Asprin	£1.00	THE MAGICIANS by James Gunn	£1.10
LOOKING BACKWARD by Edward Bellamy	95p	SAINT CAMBER by Katherine Kurtz	95p
THE LIGHT THAT NEVER WAS by Lloyd Biggle Jr.	95p	CLASH BY NIGHT by Henry Kuttner	95p
KINSMAN by Ben Bova	£1.25	EARTHBLOOD by Keith Laumer & Rosel George Brown	95p
THE FORBIDDEN TOWER by M Z Bradley	£1.35	THE WHITE DRAGON by Anne McCaffrey	£1.50
1985 by Anthony Burgess	95p	CONVERGENT SERIES by Larry Niven	£1.10
THE INCOMPLEAT ENCHANTER by L Sprague de Camp & Fletcher Pratt (Vol 1)	£1.25	RITE OF PASSAGE by Alexei Panshin	£1.25
THE CASTLE OF IRON by de Camp & Pratt (Vol 2 in trilogy)	£1.25	FUTURE HISTORY (THE MERCENARY and WEST OF HONOUR in 1 vol) by Jerry Pournelle	£1.50
THE ENCHANTER COMPLETED (aka THE WALL OF SERPENTS (Vol 3))	£1.00	ANTICIPATIONS ed by Chris Priest	95p
SS-GB by Len Deighton	£1.25	THE BEST OF ERIC FRANK RUSSELL	85p
A HANDFUL OF DARKNESS by P K Dick	95p	THE FAR ARENA by Richard Ben Sapir	£1.25
THE PRISONER (based on the TV series) by Thomas M Disch	85p	THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF ROBERT SHECKLEY by Robert Sheckley	£1.00
SORCERER'S SON by P Eisenstein	95p	SLAVES OF THE KLAU by Jack Vance	85p
		STAR BRIDGE by Jack Williamson & James Gunn	95p

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# REGISTERED MEMBERS OF NOVACON 10

1 Brian Aldiss	53 Stan Eling	105 Anthony Heathcote
2 Margaret Aldiss	54 Mike Parry	106 Mike Walsh
3 Rog Peyton	55 Helen Eling	107 Martin Stallard
4 Ailine Peyton	56 Bernard Farp	108 Rob Jackson
5 Paul Oldroyd	57 Dave Ellis	109 Coral Jackson
6 Krystyna Bula	58 Mike Hamilton	110 Ken Bulmer
7 Keith Oborn	59 Al FitzPatrick	111 Lucy Bulmer
8 Joe Nicholas	60 Jimmy Robertson	112 Chrissie Pearson
9 Chris Walton	61 Joyce Slater	113 Dave Holmes
10 Steve Green	62 Ken Slater	114 Kathy Holmes
11 Vernon Brown	63 Chris Barlow	115 Larry Bulmer
12 Pat Baxter	64 Paul Barlow	116 Pamela Bulmer
13 Martin Hoare	65 Peter Mabey	117 Edward Ward
14 Joyce Cluett	66 Rob Welbourn	118 John Fairey
15 Dave Cluett	67 Ron Bennett	119 Christine Jennings
16 Margaret Austin	68 Jerry Elsmore	120 Ye Gerbish
17 Martin Easterbrook	69 Fred Ingham	121 Pat Charnock
18 David Symes	70 Patricia Gardner	122 Graham Charnock
19 Fay Symes	71 Richard Hughes	123 Andrew Stephenson
20 John Stewart	72 Peter Wareham	124 Eve Harvey
21 Linda Hutchinson	73 Eddie Stachelski	125 John Harvey
22 Mike Hutchinson	74 Ian Warner	126 Alan Dorey
23 Bob Whitaker	75 Chris Priest	127 Gerald Lawrence
24 Steve Gould	76 Pete Gilligan	128 Celia Parson
25 Harry Harrison	77 Mike Skelding	129 Ian Williams
26 Brian Smith	78 Dermot Dobson	130 Alun Harries
27 Dai Price	79 Perdy Dobson	131 Joyce Mains
28 Tr Cruttenden	80 Hazel Faulkener	132 Julia Matheson
29 Wendy Cruttenden	81 Neil Faulkener	133 Michael Damesick
30 Steve Rogers	82 John Watkinson	134 C Cooper
31 Owen Whiteoak	83 Julian Headlong	135 Margaret Thorpe
32 Richard Smith	84 Patricia Fanthorpe	136 Malcolm Thorpe
33 Tim Illingworth	85 Fiona Fanthorpe	137 Richard van der Voort
34 Mark Craske	86 Stephanie Fanthorpe	138 Marion van der Voort
35 David Row	87 Lionel Fanthorpe	139 John Lowe
36 Marcus Rowland	88 Stephen Davies	140 Janice Maule
37 Rochelle Reynolds	89 David Breen	141 Nellie Pardoel
38 Philip Barnard	90 Richard Cooper	142 Ian Maule
39 J Burnett	91 John Stewart	143 Peter Weston
40 Howard Rosenblum	92 Judy Mortimore	144 David Langford
41 June McGaw	93 Tim Broadribb	145 Hazel Langford
42 Liz Burak	94 Brian Derby	146 Peter Day
43 Paul Kincaid	95 Andy Strangeways	147 Joy Hibbert
44 Jim Barker	96 Edgar Belka	148 Laurence Miller
45 Dave Thomas	97 Pat Meara	149 Jackie Miller
46 Paul Wilson	98 Mike Meara	150 Jim Darroch
47 Colin Fine	99 Chris Morgan	151 Paul Vincent
48 Mike Ford	100 Pauline Morgan	152 Peter Thompson
49 Paul Dormer	101 Graham England	153 Eddie Jones
50 Chris Southern	102 Jeff Suter	154 Marsha Jones
51 Jonny Southern	103 Mike Westhead	155 Colin Langeveld
52 Nick Burnett	104 Kathy Flint	156 Joan Langeveld

All correspondence re NOVACON 10 should be sent to one of the following two addresses:-

Registrations, etc. to Krystyna Bula, c/o 'Nurseryland', 183 Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.

Other correspondence to Rog Peyton, 19 Eves Croft, Bartley Green, Birmingham B32 3QL.

Please enclose SAE with your letter where necessary.