

NOVAZON II



GUEST OF HONOUR: BOB SHAW

PROGRESS REPORT TWO

YOUR HOTEL BOOKING FORM

Hotel booking forms are included with this Progress Report - If you haven't got one, please let us know immediately. The same goes for the hotel reservation card.

The booking form should be self-explanatory - all forms will be processed in the order that they are received by Jean (address at bottom of booking form). **DO NOT SEND THEM TO THE HOTEL.**

Please note that if you are a supporting member of the con, but have now decided to attend, you must include £3 to convert to attending membership when you return your booking form.

Although the convention will not start until Friday evening, many people like to arrive the night before, and get relaxed before the con starts - the Thursday night has been included to cater for this. Once again the programme will run through until about midnight on Sunday, so we recommend that you stay on the Sunday night. Anyone wishing to stay on the Monday night as well should include this on the Special Requirements section.

The hotel reservation card should also be self-explanatory, but there is no need to fill in all the boxes. An example is given below of the required boxes you should complete. You MUST sign your card.

**Leisure Limited — Hotels Division Registration Form**

SURNAME PHAN	FIRST NAME JOE	ROOM No.
HOME ADDRESS 42 STENCIL DRIVE TUCKERVILLE, DUPERSHIRE.		No. OF GUESTS
		RECEIVED BY
NATIONALITY	PASSPORT No.	ISSUED AT
DESTINATION	CAR No.	CASH ☐ A/C Co. ☐
NOTICE TO GUEST Money, Jewellery and other valuables must be placed in a safe deposit box or with the reception, otherwise the Management will not be responsible for any loss.		CREDIT CARD TYPE & No.
		SIGNATURE: Joe Phan

Form H21

(2)

ARR 29/10/81	DEP 2/11/81	NAME JOE PHAN	ROOM
REQUESTED BY			PRICE
			TAKEN BY
			DATE

NOVACON 11

TEL. No.	Room Only ☐	Inc Cont. ☐	Inc Eng. ☐	Voucher ☐	Own ☐	A/C To. Co. ☐
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INVOICE

NAME :

ADDRESS :

ACCOUNT NUMBER

LETTER		REMARKS	
COUNTER			
PHONE			
TELEX			
CRO			
TBC			
NTBC			
CONF'D			
CHARTED			

ACCOUNT NUMBER		E
NET		
COMM+		
GROSS		
EXCHANGE RT.		

DISCOUNT	%
1800 RELEASE	
HOLD	

IMPORTANT NOTE: Only one card per room is required. If you are sharing a room, please make sure that only one person returns a card - this should be fairly easy to arrange as most of you will know who you are sharing with. If you are one of those people who are unable to arrange a partner, but want the hotel to arrange it for you, please indicate this clearly on the hotel booking form.

Please return your booking form and reservation card as soon as possible. Rooms will be allocated strictly in the order that we receive the bookings. You will receive confirmation from the hotel in due course. Once the hotel is full, reservations will be made at the overflow hotel (hopefully the Grand Hotel). The same room rates apply (see booking form for rates).

THE ENCHANTING FAN

For the second of our articles on Bob Shaw, Graham James, notorious editor of Matrix and fresh (?) from the committee of YORCON 11, presents Bob Shaw the author's alter-ego - Bob Shaw the Fan!

Writing about 'Bob Shaw - The Fan' is a little like trying to lecture to a group of Brummies on the evils of Motorway link-roads - put simply, Bob is so well known by the mass of fans that he needs little introduction. If you haven't witnessed his presence at a convention (...bar) or heard his 'Serious Scientific Talks', then this is either likely to be your first convention or you must spend the whole of your time at a con playing Space Invaders just like Rog Peyton.

Bob's headed notepaper reads 'Author and Journalist' - it might well read 'Author, Journalist and Fan'. And, furthermore, 'Fan' might, justifiably, be the prominent description. As Bob will readily confess to you over a pint or two, he regards himself foremost as a fan, particularly when at a convention - there's no SFWA isolationism about him. In the bar, at a room

party, lying horizontal in the hotel corridor, you'll find Bob indulging in all the fannish activity much the same as any other fan. This, or course, makes Bob an ideal Guest of Honour, although whether or not we'll see him gyrating, John Travolta-style, on the dance floor in the manner of Ian Watson and Tom Disch at YORCON 11, remains to be seen. In fact, the sedate and leisurely pace with which he takes life would seem to indicate that this will not be the case. Bob is not exactly a workaholic; indeed there was a period in his writing career from the late 50s to the early 60s when he ceased professional writing - but - it is a measure of his commitment to things fannish that he continued in this period to contribute to fanzines.

He has, much to everyone's amazement, never published his own fanzine ("Too much like hard work", he tells me) but, like certain other notables of late, this in no way underestimates his fannish output. Bob's volume of fannish writing, from the early 50s to date, is prolific, particularly for a full-time writer. There can be few other fans who can span 30 years (yes, it is that long) of fannish writing and still deliver an invigorating and fresh approach. From his superlative 'Glass Bushel' columns in the legendary British (Irish) fanzine HYPHEN in 1954, to his Eastercon Speeches from 1974 to present, and contributions to many other fanzines, including MAYA, Bob has lived through and been highly praised by several generations of fans.

In the typical mould, Bob began reading SF when he was still in short trousers but, for many years (until he was 19) he had believed that he was the only SF fan in Ireland. For most fans, contact with fandom begins by writing to some notable fan/writer saying ... "Hello, I'm Arth Pudor ..., can you put me in touch with some other fans ...". So it was with Bob; back in the days when Ken Slater's Bookshop was nowt but a broken kitchen table in a Medway Market town (...who said that?.....), he wrote to Ken along those lines. With that Simple Twist of Fate which embarks fans on the route to fannish captivity, Walt Willis happened to be at Ken's house when Bob's letter arrived. After Ken had put Bob in touch with fellow Irish fans, Walt Willis and Jim White, Bob went round to Walt's house and to his great surprise was greeted by Walt with "Hello, you must be Bob Shaw". So began the first contact which was to lead to great friendship and a quality of association in fanzine publishing which is unsurpassed even to this day. Bob began contributing in the early 50s to the Irish fanzine SLANT. That fanzine wasn't printed in the easy manner we know today (xerox and all that) - it was set by hand and it took three fans a whole evening to set one page!

Technology advanced from this, through a typewriter with a carriage balanced by a can of baked beans, the ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR, to HYPHEN (an awful pun - 'HI FEN'). Bob contributed a regular column to that fanzine from 1954 to 1965, called the GLASS BUSHEL. I would recommend a collection of these articles, entitled 'The Best of the Bushel', available from Rob Jackson. Bob's fannish writing is characterised by; that ability to write about 'every-day' events with a meticulous eye for detailed observation; the awful but glorious puns; the subtle word-plays; the vast understatement; and an embroidery of fantasy. Walt Willis by no means overstates Bob's ability in comparing his style to that of James Joyce. But, after reading a BoSh article, through ecstatic laughter and appreciation, one is often left with a feeling of guilt, humility, and personal inadequacy when 'arriving' at his often moral point or profound observation. As Walt Willis again observed, ... "To be funny, humour must skate over the thin ice of pain, and this requires a mordant observation of the human condition...". This is, precisely, the appeal of Bob's fannish writing. In an article, 'The Strange Pond of Dr. Moreau', in 1960, Bob wrote on his childhood reminiscences when he and his brother played and swam at Greencastle; there were crabs at Greencastle, 'doomed to live and die' in muddy ponds. He had the idea of rescuing two crabs and transporting them to a clear, clean pond in a local park... 'Bigger, better, happier crabs...'. The two 'dismayed crustaceans' were duly found new homes. He returned to the park many years later, deep in nostalgia;... 'as I neared

the gates I began to recapture some of that magical fervour of my childhood and my step quickened until I was almost running. Suddenly I halted. The pond was no longer there. They had filled it in and built a football pitch in its place. Occasionally I drive by that spot, but I never watch the football players because, somewhere under those ceaselessly pounding boots, my two little friends lie silent in the cindery soil. I should have left them in Greencastle.'

In his time in fandom, Bob has been a regular convention-goer, dating back to his first convention in London in 1951. He was Guest of Honour at the British Easter Convention TYNECON, in 1974, and Toastmaster at the World SF Convention, SEACON in 1979. Since being "forced", as he would put it, into making a speech at TYNECON, Bob has been press-ganged at each successive EASTERCON into his now famous Eastercon Speeches, or "Serious Scientific Talks". As Dave Langford might tell you, fanzine editors have come close to blows for the right to publish his speeches. No matter - a collection of his Eastercon Speeches is available, under that title, also from Rob Jackson.

It is, perhaps, surprising that Bob's fannish writing went largely unrecognised for some time, in terms of HUGO Fan Awards, but since these are handed out by the self-congratulatory American Fans, it matters not. However, belated though it may have been, Bob did gain the FAAN Award for Best Fan Writer in 1979 and a HUGO for Best Fan Writer in 1980. He was also presented with the Doc Weir Award in 1980, for his service to fandom. Had the NOVA Awards, and Checkpoint/Ansible polls existed in earlier days, I'm sure Bob's drinks cabinet would have been brimming with certificates and trophies. During the year leading to YORCON 11, I got to know Bob via correspondence relating to his 'one man private fan charity'. He sponsored a Polish fan, Wiktor Bukato, to come to the convention. Because of weird currency restrictions, customs, officialdom, etc, it necessitated an avalanche of correspondence to and from Poland to get Wiktor over to England, complete with the ill-fated film GOLEM, which Wiktor was brining to show at the convention. Bob wrote many letters to me, complete with offers of 'bribes' in the form of drinks, to send urgent letters to Poland. Amidst the stream of requests for information and other matters I had to deal with as convention secretary, Bob's letters became breaths of fresh air; each one was hilarious and never failed to persuade me to do what Bob asked. His final letter sums it up and, I think, gives you an idea (if you don't know already) of his wit and what to expect of him as Guest of Honour at NOVACON:

"I'm sorry about this, mate - it's getting a mite embarrassing for me - but Wiktor has been on the phone again from Poland and he has asked for two more letters - it's some difficulty he thinks may arise about brining the film in through our customs. Apparently he has been told he may need proof that he won't be selling the film, or making money from it, while in England - otherwise there could be a hefty duty to pay. So, he is asking you to write a letter to the senior customs officer at Harwich outlining the situation, and he wants one copy sent to Harwich and another original copy sent to him in Warsaw, so that Wiktor can produce it on demand if need be. I don't know about you, but this business is making me appreciate our way of life more and more every day. Poor old Wiktor has been on the run for weeks and weeks, pacifying bureaucrat upon bureaucrat, just to make one little overseas trip. As regards the drinks I now owe you, I think it would be best if we get the Dragonara to connect you up via a flow meter to a beer barrel and put the total on my bill at the end of the con. I promise this will be the last time I'll trouble you before Easter - if Wiktor rings again I'll play a recording which says I have gafiated."

There's no danger of Bob gafiating, at least not before NOVACON - make sure you don't gafiate either - Bob will be an excellent Guest of Honour, both as writer and fan.

PROGRAMME NOTES

The Programme, as mentioned last time, will consist of old and new items. Hopefully we've got the right balance, so that you won't have too much trouble remembering which Novacon you're at when you wake up after that amazing room party the night before.....

Pete Roberts is going to give a talk on the classification of fanzines. Those few dozen who were around at last year's Unicon when Pete last gave this talk will know what's in store for them, the rest have a treat in store.

Any Questions? - A panel of critics will confound and amaze you with their insight into any questions thrown at them by the audience. So far confirmed to face your verbal tomatoes are: Joe Nicholas, Roz Kaveney and Tom Shippey.

Mr. and Mrs. - To be run on the same lines as the TV series that everyone has heard of, but only watched by accident. The quizmaster will be Chris Baker and Bob and Sadie Shaw, Stan and Helen Eling and a mystery couple have agreed to show how little they know about each other's little foibles.

SF University Challenge - As mentioned in the last PR, Chris and Pauline Morgan will once again be sifting through their rare books to compile the most obscure questions yet heard in an SF quiz. So far the prize has been won by the Surrey Limpwrist two years running. Can they complete a hat-tick? Teams of three people can be entered for the contest. Entries for the contest should be sent to Paul Oldroyd at 118 Domestic Street, Holbeck, Leeds LS11 9SG. If there are as many entries as last year, we shall again have to have a preliminary postal knock-out round. Closing date for entries is 31st August.

Disco - The Disco will again be run by Graham Bullock, erstwhile ex- BSFA Secretary. Anybody so wishing is welcome to turn up in fancy dress, but there will be no parade or prizes this year.

Auctions - There will be the usual Book and Art Auctions. All donations of rare collections, first editions, Badger books etc. will be most welcome. We will also auction rare material for you. Any items thus sold will be subject to 10% of sale value being donated to Convention funds.

ART SHOW

Anybody wishing to display material will be welcome to do so; anybody having special requirements (large amount of space; table for setting up models) should contact Pete Lyon, this years Art Show organiser at the address at the end of this PR. If you wish to put your material into the Art Auction, the Convention will again take 10% of the money raised to go to Novacon's funds.

REGISTERED MEMBERS OF NOVACON 11

If your name is incomplete, or wrong, on the following list, please let Jean know your full correct name so that the badges can be produced correctly.

1	Bob Shaw	54	Ian Maule	107	Celia Parsons
2	Sadie Shaw	55	John Dallman	108	Naveed Khan
3	Paul Oldroyd	56	Kathy Westhead	109	Sandy Brown
4	Joe Nicholas	57	Mike Westhead	110	Lawrence Lambourne
5	Phill Probert	58	Geoff Boswell	111	Paul Russell
6	Stan Eling	59	Dave Haden	112	Harry Bell
7	Helen Eling	60	Tim Groome	113	Peter Worrall
8	Jean Frost	61	Joyce Slater	114	Brian Smith
9	Chris Smith	62	Ken Slater	115	Tim Illingworth
10	Roger Robinson	63	Martin Stallard	116	Martin Tudor
11	John Stewart	64	Joyce Cluett	117	Philip Barnard
12	Jenny Southern	65	David Cluett	118	Neil Talbot
13	Chris Southern	66	Su Worrall	119	John Wilkes
14	Marcus Rowland	67	Ken Worrall	120	Julian Headlong
15	Owen Whiteoak	68	Roy Arblastar	121	Timothy Headlong
16	Fay Symes	69	Ian Warner	123	Stephen Bakewell
17	Dave Symes	70	T. J. Furniss	124	Keith Pugh
18	Mike Damesick	71	Chris Walton	125	Peter Wareham
19	Coral Jackson	72	Jean Sheward	126	Glenn Pugh
20	Rob Jackson	73	Greg Pickersgill	127	Mike Hamilton
21	John Owen	74	Linda Pickersgill	128	Paul Foster
22	Hazel Faulkener	75	Rob Hansen	129	Linda Ternant
23	Neil Faulkener	76	Margaret Austin	130	George Ternant
24	Marsha Jones	77	Bob Day	131	Colin Fine
25	Eddie Jones	78	Pat Brown	132	Andrew Hall
26	Phillip Greenaway	79	Vernon Brown	133	Durham U.S.F.S.
27	David Breen	80	Dave Cox	134	Paul Schofield
28	1/2r Cruttenden	81	Gary Stratman	135	Paul Wilson
29	Wendy Cruttenden	82	Sue Tonkin	136	Tony Cullen
30	Steve Green	83	Martin Easterbrook	137	Roger Perkins
31	Sue Williams	84	Bernard Earp	138	Chris Lewis
32	Kev Williams	85	Rob Welbourn	139	William Goodall
33	Phil Dawson	86	Andrew Stephenson	140	Dave Thomas
34	Pat Meara	87	Chris Evans	141	Ian Williams
35	Mike Meara	88	Tevor Mendham	142	Ina Shorrocks
36	Rory Mclean	89	Jerry Elsmore	143	Norman Shorrocks
37	Trish Hall	90	Joy Hibbert	144	Dave Holmes
38	Chris Hall	91	Dave Rowley	145	Murray Lynes
39	Alun Harries	92	Eve Harvey	146	Phil Palmer
40	Tim Broadribb	93	John Harvey	147	-----
41	Judy Mortimore	94	Allan Simmons	148	John Bark
42	Martin Hoare	95	Steve Davies	149	Wayne Morgan
43	Catherine McAuley	96	Florence Russell	150	Mary Gray
44	Howard Rosenblum	97	Jim Barker	151	Mike Gray
45	John Lowe	98	Peter Thompson	152	Mark Craske
46	John Steward	99	Paul Vincent	153	Steve Devaney
47	Paul Kincaid	100	Chris Murphy	154	Caroline Millan
48	Rochelle Dorey	101	Anthony Heathcote	155	Richard Hughes
49	Alan Dorey	102	Yvonne Jenkins	156	Debbie Jelphs
50	Brian Hennigan	103	John Meaney	157	Paul Berry
51	Lord A' John	104	Jonathon Coxhead	158	Mike Scantlebury
52	Lord A' Graham	105	Maureen Porter	159	J. Nevin
53	Janice Maule	106	Julia Matheson	160	Tony Ibbs

161	Martin Reed	192	Brian Wilson	223	Mike Cheater
162	Linda Hutchinson	193	Sue Wilson	224	John Fairey
163	Mike Hutchinson	194	Chrissie Donaldson	225	Dave Hibbert
164	Charles Mawdsley	195	Graham Charnock	226	Carol Willcocks
165	June McGaw	196	Lisanne Norman	227	Allen Boyd-Newton
166	Peter Tyers	197	Stuart Andrews	228	Eric Bentscliffe
167	Dave Ellis	198	Gerry Webb	229	Dai Price
168	Bruce Saville	199	Chrissie Pearson	230	Nigel Wheeler
169	Tony Berry	200	Pauline Morgan	231	Bob Whitaker
170	John Brunner	201	Chris Morgan	232	John Whitton
171	Joe Gibbons	202	Colin Langeveld	233	Steve Gallagher
172	Mike Strain	203	Edward Ward	234	Tom Taylor
173	Trev Biggs	204	Peter Mabey	235	Cameron Mitchell
174	Cliff Heeley	205	Ye Gerbish	236	Terry Summerskill
175	Mickey Poland	206	Simon Beresford	237	Stan Nuttall
176	Neil Hepple	207	Malcolm Davies	238	M. Shenington-Gunn
177	Sue Richardson	208	Kate Davies	239	Karen Rawes
178	Chris Jennings	209	Jeff Suter	240	John Butcher
179	Paul Dormer	210	Laura Wheatly	241	Rune Forsgren
180	Mike Walshe	211	Nick Mills	242	Jimmy Robertson
181	Brian Ameringen	212	Christina Lake	243	Barbara Rudyk
182	David Row	213	Chris Bursey	244	Simon Rudyk
183	Linda James	214	Simone Walsh	245	Adrian Snowdon
184	Graham James	215	Steven Lawson	246	Chris Mayers
185	Ro Pardoe	216	Joan Paterson	247	Keith Freeman
186	Darroll Pardoe	217	Richard Allen	248	Jan Huxley
187	Roy Macinski	218	Paul Stewart	249	Chris Hughes
188	Nick Trant	219	Phil James	250	Martyn Taylor
189	Stephen Coffin	220	Geoff Kelsall	251	Rod Milner
190	Alison Cook	221	Aidan Woodger	252	Bonnie Milner
191	Lawrence Dean	222	Tricia Gardener	253	John Brosnan
				254	Roy Kettle

Any correspondence about NOVACON 11, apart from that mentioned within, should be sent to one of the following addresses:

Registrations, hotel booking forms, etc. to Jean Frost,
49 Humber Tower, Francis Street, Birmingham B7 4JX.

Nova Award and advertising to Joe Nicholas, Room 9,
94, St. George's Square, Pimlico, London SW1Y 3QY.

Art Show to Pete Lyon, 2 New Row, Old Micklefield, Leeds LS25 4AJ.

All else to Paul Oldroyd, Garforth House, 118 Domestic Street,
Holbeck, Leeds LS11 9SG.

Advertisers please note:

Artwork must be supplied camera ready, size A4 suitable for reduction to A5 - black on white. Any half-tones, reversals, bleed-offs, etc will be charged extra at printers cost + 20%.

All copy to be sent to Joe Nicholas, Room 9, 94 St. George's Sq., Pimlico, London SW1Y 3QY. Payment to be included with copy - cheques, etc to be made payable to Novacon 11. Deadline for copy - September 18th.