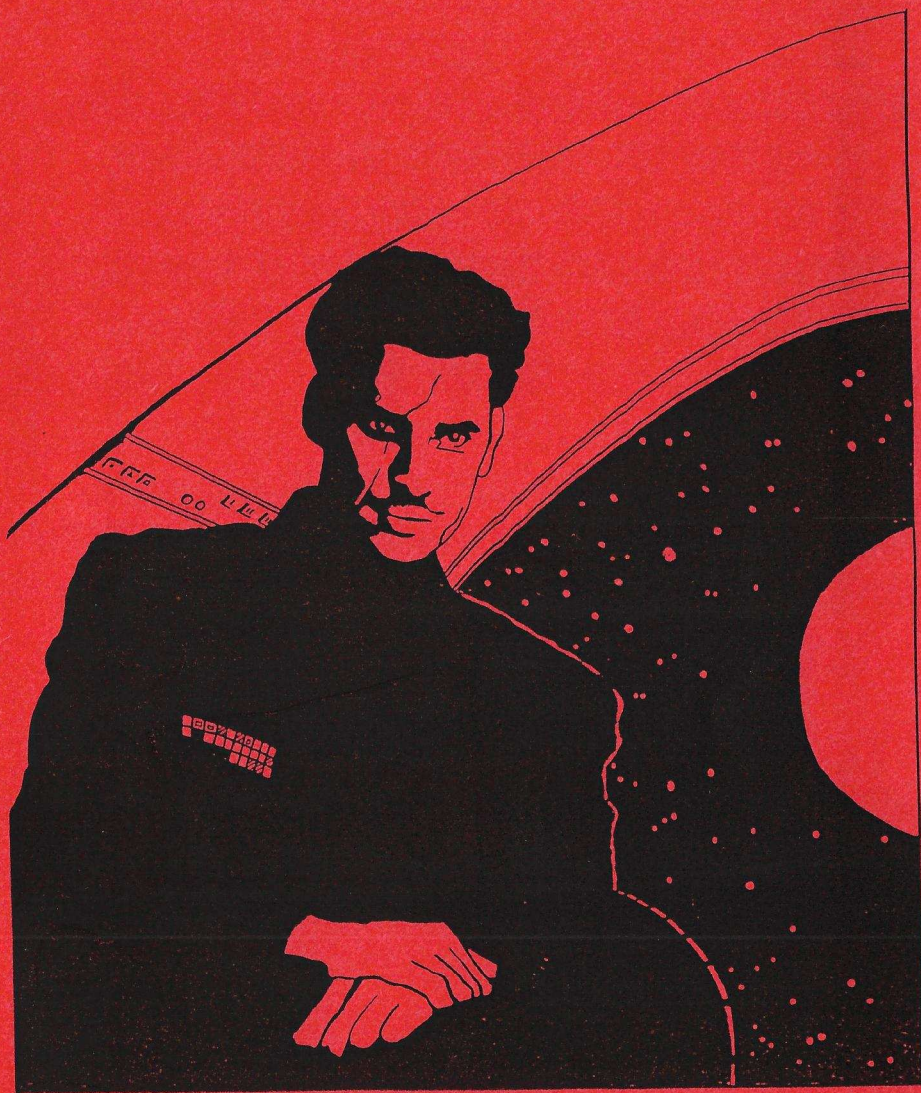


NOVACON 28

Progress Report 2



INTERESTED IN SCIENCE FICTION ? WHY NOT MEET THE AUTHORS!

**Brian W Aldiss, Iain Banks, Greg Bear, David Brin,
Ramsey Campbell, C J Cherryh, Dr Jack Cohen,
Storm Constantine, Neil Gaiman, Anne Gay,
David Gemmell, Simon R Green, Peter F Hamilton,
Harry Harrison, Mat Irvine, Gwyneth Jones,
Robert Jordan, Graham Joyce, Garry Kilworth,
Professor Lawrence Krauss, Stephen Lawhead,
Paul McAuley, Anne McCaffrey, "Grant Naylor",
Terry Pratchett, Robert Rankin, Kim Stanley Robinson,
Michael Scott Rohan, Dan Simmons, Sheri S Tepper,
Patrick Tilley, Freda Warrington, Ian Watson,
Tad Williams, David Wingrove and "Jonathan Wylie"
are some of the authors who have spoken to the
Birmingham SF Group in the last ten years.**

**The BSFG has met every month for over 25 years and,
as well as holding at least 12 meetings a year, produces
a monthly newsletter featuring book reviews, genre
news and convention reports. For further details and a
FREE copy of the newsletter call either Tony Morton
on 01384-825386, Alan Woodford on 0121-532-1110
or e-mail bsfg@bortas.demon.co.uk.**

NOVACON 28

Date: 13-15 November 1998.

Venue: The Britannia Hotel, New Street, Birmingham.

Guest of Honour: Paul J McAuley.

Membership & Enquiries: Attending membership costs £32.00 until 1st November, after this time please join on the door - where the price of admittance will be £35.00. Supporting membership, which is only available until 1st November, costs £15.00. Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to "Novacon 28" and sent with your completed form(s) to: Carol Morton, 14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 8SS.

Room Rates: £35.00 per person per night for people sharing twin/double rooms, £30.00 pppn for those sharing a triple room and £40.00 pppn for single rooms (inclusive of full English breakfast). NB: Hotel booking forms, and deposits of £20.00 per person, must be received by Carol Morton no later than 30th September 1998. Cheques for room deposits should be made payable to "The Britannia Hotel". Enquires regarding hotel bookings should be sent to Carol at the address above or you can call her on 01384 825386 (before 9pm).

Advertising Rates: Advertising is welcome for both the next three Progress Reports and for the Programme Book. The rates are as follows (fan rates in brackets):
Progress Reports - Professional £25.00 (£13.00) full page, £14.50 (£8.00) half page, £8.50 (£5.00) quarter page.
Programme Book - Professional £60.00 (£31.00) full page, £32.00 (£15.50) half page, £18.00 (£9.50) quarter page.

Anyone interested in advertising should contact Martin Tudor at 24 Ravensbourne Grove, (off Clarkes Lane,) Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX (e-mail martin@empties.demon.co.uk).
Deadlines for camera-ready advertising copy are detailed below.

Deadlines: Progress Report #3: 18th July 1998, to be mailed early August 1998.

Progress Report #4: 12th September 1998, to be mailed mid October 1998.

Programme Book: 26th September 1998, distributed at Novacon 28.

Book Room Rates: Tables will cost £15.00 each for the whole weekend. To book a table (or tables) you must be a member of the convention and complete the booking section on the membership form enclosed with this Progress Report and mail it to Carol Morton at the address below.

Committee: Martin Tudor (Chair & Publications), 24 Ravensbourne Grove, (off Clarkes Lane,) Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX (e-mail martin@empties.demon.co.uk); Steve Lawson, 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ (tel: 0114 281 1572, e-mail dream@net.comuk.co.uk); Carol Morton (Hotel Liaison) and Tony Morton (Treasurer), 14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 8SS, (tel: 01384-825386 - before 9pm or e-mail morton@cableinet.co.uk); Pat McMurray (Programme), 28 Plaistow Grove, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3PB e-mail pat@cooky.demon.co.uk; Chris Murphy (Operations), 126 McKean Road, Oldbury, B69 4BA, (e-mail CSHM@compuserve.com).

Acknowledgements: Tony Berry, Helena Bowles, Steve Green, Pat McMurray, Carol & Tony Morton for their articles and Dave Mooring for his splendid cover and interior artwork. All uncredited contributions have been written by Martin Tudor. This Progress Report was printed on the CRITICAL WAVE photocopier, contact Martin Tudor at the above address for details of WAVE's competitive prices.

CHAIRMAN'S BIT by Martin Tudor

Following the avalanche of mail I received querying my article in Progress Report #1, well the two queries, I thought I had better admit to my mistake. I'm afraid I inadvertently deleted a paragraph whilst cutting and pasting my article (I *thought* it fitted too easily...).

The paragraph in question (referred to at the top of page 4 in Progress Report #1) dealt with the hotels we had contacted who were unavailable on the weekend we wanted and asked us for alternative dates. Unfortunately (or, perhaps fortunately) having deleted the paragraph my original not-so immortal prose has been lost to posterity. However, it mentioned that several hotels were interested in hosting Novacon 28 if we could change the date to mid-late October etc. the hotels were the Britannia Hotel Wolverhampton, Quality Friendly Hotel Walsall, Novatel Birmingham and the Britannia Hotel Coventry.

Well, as mentioned in Progress Report #1, only one of the above Hotels - who had *requested* alternative dates - was actually available on any alternative dates! That being the Britannia in Coventry - which we eliminated because in its previous incarnation, as the DeVere, it had been one of Novacon's most unpopular venues (Remember Novacons 15 and 16? Remember the static charged carpets?) and because we arranged the deal with the Britannia in Birmingham the same week!

As for the Britannia Hotel in Birmingham negotiations are progressing nicely and we hope to have details regarding all important issues such as food and drink in Progress Report #3.

HOTEL BOOKINGS by Carol Morton

All I really need to say is that by the time you receive this Progress Report any hotel booking forms that have been sent to me will have been passed on to the hotel. The hotel will be sending out acknowledgements of the bookings.

If you have not yet sent a booking form in to me you will find a booking form with this Progress Report. Please send the form in to me as soon as possible so that I can pass your requirements on to the hotel. I would also appreciate it if you would tell me of any special requirements that you may have regarding diet, room near a lift, quiet area, no-smoking etc., again so that I can pass these on

to the hotel.

Please remember that hotel booking forms, and deposits of £20.00 per person, must be received no later than 30th September 1998. Cheques for room deposits should be made payable to "The Britannia Hotel" and sent to me, Carol Morton, at 14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 8SS, (telephone enquiries, before 9pm, on 01384-825386, or e-mail morton@cable-inet.co.uk).

Well that's all I need to say, I will be reporting back to you in the next Progress Report on how well the hotel are responding to our requests. Please send in those forms.

See you soon.

OPERATIONS

As we are sure most of you are aware Novacon, like most conventions in Britain, is run by volunteers and we can't have too many of them!

So if you are willing to help out at the convention - anything from moving chairs to helping with tech ops or working on the programme, please complete the relevant section of the form enclosed with this Progress Report, or contact our Ops Manager, Chris Murphy, directly at 126 McKean Road, Oldbury, B69 4BA, (e-mail CSHM@compuserve.com).

PASQUALE'S ANGEL by PAUL J McAULEY **Reviewed by Carol Morton**

This novel concerns a young painter Pasquale who's ambition it is to paint an angel and it is set during the High Renaissance period in Florence of 1518. But it is not the Renaissance Florence that any natives of that time would recognise as McAuley writes about a Florence that could have existed if Leonardo da Vinci, or The Great Engineer as he is known in this novel, had turned his talents to Engineering instead of Art.

The city states of Florence and Rome had been at war and only da Vinci's devices allowed Florence to defeat Rome. Consequently Rome has cut itself off

from Florence so when a visit to Florence by Pope Leo X - The Medici Pope, is announced the Signoria as the ruling council of Florence are known, lay on a welcome for him.

Because of the proliferation of "The Great Engineer's" devices, art in any form by all but a few of not necessarily the best but the most politically connected artists and sculptors, is becoming mere titillation or background to the artificers devices, thus there is little or no work for Pasquale or his master Rosso.

The novel opens with the remaining artists of Florence planning the celebration of their saint's day and hearing the news that the great Raphael is to visit the city ahead of the Pope's entourage and reputedly on a secret mission from him. Pasquale witnesses an altercation between one of Raphael's company Giulio Romano and da Vinci's catamite, Salai, during the celebration, and afterwards makes the acquaintance of Niccolo Machiavegli disgraced former member of the Signoria now broadsheet writer and of course as ever arch manipulator.

Whilst with Machiavegli, Pasquale hears that Romano has been murdered. People were alerted to the murder by horrifying screams and the smashing of furniture. Pasquale and Machiavegli arrive at the scene of the crime to find a locked tower room, with no way in or out other than by climbing the sheer sides of the tower, which is the signalling tower and thus entirely visible. When the door is opened all that is in the room apart from the mutilated corpse of Romano and the smashed signalling equipment is a small toy flying device that Pasquale picks up. Machiavegli is asked to investigate what seems to be a classic "locked room" murder and takes on Pasquale as his assistant.

We are now introduced to many authentic historic figures including Raphael, Leo X, Lisa Giocondo - who's famous portrait was never painted, da Vinci himself but basically what we have now is an intricate murder mystery, with a knowing-all detective and a bewildered and confused sidekick.

As the murders continue with Raphael himself becoming a victim, the threat of invasion by the Spanish-backed Savonarolistas who seem to be invading with the intention of acquiring the latest of da Vinci's devices that could possibly be a prototype camera, Pasquale finds himself drawn into the centre of the action and seemingly being hunted by agents of all sides, but he doesn't know why.

Fantasy novels and, to a lesser extent SF works, rely on the "what if...." principal, McAuley has certainly come up with a gem of a "what if" here. It is all so

possible, if da Vinci had turned to engineering not art, we in our century would possibly be living in a world that we only read about in other writers SF novels.

But as I say this novel is a very complex political thriller cum murder mystery and set in a Renaissance Florence that could possibly have existed. On that level it really does work but I feel that even with the genius of da Vinci behind the artificers and their inventions, the devices and their results would not be as widespread as McAuley indicates. I know our own industrial revolution mushroomed and spread over our country, but this is just one city state. I don't think that in the time period between da Vinci painting the last supper, having a falling out with the Pope and the last year of his life even though he died in 1519 at the then relatively old age of 61, that his influence would have resulted in what McAuley has described.

On the whole I enjoyed the novel but didn't feel entirely comfortable with it.

THE INVISIBLE COUNTRY by Paul J McAuley

Reviewed by Tony Morton

The stories that make up McAuley's second short story collection seem to fit into three (or four) themes; these being far future, convicts and Fairies (and the fourth being stories that link into other books/stories). Perhaps 'themes' is a bit of a misnomer for McAuley's work, for even within a 'theme' the storylines and plots are so diverse as to be totally individual, stand-alone tales. Take the fairies. "Prison Dreams" starts as a 'straight' convict story (cross-theme here) with the lead character, Lianna chipped and incarcerated due to having killed her husband. She worked as a meditek, so her skills are put to use by the authorities applying triage to dolls. The cross-themes of convict, who are chipped to aid punishment and prevent escape, and fairies 'enhanced' dolls set free into the wastelands surrounding the secure archologies, provides many plotlines McAuley easily handles leading to his preferred climax. "Children of the Revolution" tackles the fairies from a different angle, using the media of VR programmes to make his points on human interaction, perceived security, influencing society and those who survive therein. Throwing in yet another scenario, "Slaves" explores the possibilities of 'fringers' setting up as environmental task forces gaining grants to replant trees in the world. The women's group the story centres on doing so to show their own concerns but also highlighting the conflicts within even those outside society - greens versus techno users. Here the meeting and consequent

survival of a teenage girl from the environmental women's group and a rogue fairy sets up the story; although again McAuley throws in sub plots of flower farming, the VR-net and 'beings' that exist therein, all story matter in their own right!

The fairies act as a catalyst in these stories, showing other ways of doing things, leading characters astray or using them for their own ends. Always adding further to the plot but without losing the threads of the storyline; getting in close to the characters emotions and reasoning, showing the alien amongst us, McAuley doesn't miss a trick to find that good old sense of wonder here.

Conversely, the convict theme stories throw up a very believable future. Those with becoming more estranges from those that don't. "Prison Dreams" above suggests one possibility, "Dr Luther's Assistant" a similar yet tangential variant. The chipped convict (Mike) is given his role as assistant rather than 'risking' the work pool. Dr Luther proves a strange being who runs an establishment in the sex arcades in Amsterdam. He surgically alters dolls to satisfy his human customers perversions. Mike becomes too involved when the doctor reprogrammes his chip for a 'special' customer delivery. These turn out to be liberationists seeking a drug to enhance dolls to help set them free. The liberationists numbers includes a fairy who further leads Mike astray for their own ends which result in him "seeing the light".

The overwhelming changes in society explored in both fairy and convict themes (continually linked in the stories) with the wealthy locking themselves away and the rest forced to work for them on their terms or become outsiders/fringers living in squalor at the edges of society. This in fact gives rise to the volumes title and first story. Those at the edge or outside of society are not recognised as necessary to that society and hence "invisible" to its functioning. "The Invisible Country" story itself concerns a freelance bodyguard (Cameron) in a futuristic London socially split by rich fortress suburbia and street dwellers. His case to protect a man defecting from his cartel - an R&D biologist on the run with a secret to sell. The fail-safe (him needing a specific protein in his diet) of his former employers triggers and he dies, but not before Cameron gets the secret - and thereby HIS way out of the slums. Cameron tries to deal with the New Families, but the secret is rather more and rather different than anyone realises until its too late.

The far future stories each follow unique plots, not having any obvious connections to the other tales. "Gene Wars" tells how a keen boy grows up to graduate as a molecular geneticist just as the wars "go public" and his prompt conscription

into the new army as sergeant. Evan becomes successful and we follow his life as gene warfare becomes the economy - enhanced crops resistant to plague but needing company genes to survive, expensive specially produced strains causing trade imbalance and famine. His success allows his rise in the company, of course attracting rival retaliation with an assassination attempt that fails due to his biologist background. Such ability leaves Evan powerful and almost immortal, him witnessing the evolution of mankind with such strange diversity to a strange end. On the other hand "Recording Angel" tackles the viewpoint of a far future, much evolved humanity and their reaction to a returning spacecraft that has spent millions of years crossing the galaxy. The resulting culture shock for both sides and the curiosity of the 'locals' setting the tone. Mr Nayan is the Archivist whose job it is to record for prosperity events that occur and he attempts to find out and tell the story of one of the crew who jumps ship. Typically, McAuley steers at a tangent and the resulting revelation changes the future.

It is the remainder of the stories that link together through the common character of Dr Pretorious (mad scientist played by Ernest Thesiger in James Whale's 1935 film "Bride of Frankenstein") that perhaps display the more "normal" route through fiction - though with McAuley direction! "The Temptation of Dr Stein" concerns a Jewish doctor of that name the in Renaissance Venice of PASQUALE'S ANGEL (that is, da Vinci's choosing engineering over art alternate world scenario). The strange Dr Pretorious claims to have discovered the secret of reviving the dead, which links him to respected Dr Stein who has recently lost his daughter but won't believe her dead. The story culminates with a showdown between the two doctors that presents reality to Stein. "The True History of Dr Pretorious" moves us on into the 'present day' as a journalist gets his teeth into the story of the doctors past and threatens revelation in the tabloids. Dr Pretorious, however, says he welcomes a chance to reveal the truth and invites the journalist (Cochrane) to his clinic/estate. It unfolds the good doctor is in fact over four hundred years old and Cochrane suspects a life lengthening serum. The truth he's told is far stranger; and as Dr Pretorious leaves to 'start over' Cochrane is left to survive on the hostile estate knowing where the secret lies if only he can get to it. Here McAuley not only ties in his own stories but lots of other legends and tales are also successfully slipped in.

Overall McAuley has the ability to tell a number of stories within each tale, the background making the whole seem believable. A tremendously diverse set of stories relying on his biologist background to give another 'edge' to 'hard' SF other than physics. Seemingly obvious scenarios develop and deepen into strange worlds as McAuley goes exploring. I can't wait to read on.

(Further books by our Guest of Honour, Paul J McAuley, will be reviewed in the next two Progress Reports.)

THE PROGRAMME HISTORY - PAST, FUTURE and ALTERNATE by Pat McMurray (and Steve Green)

[In Progress Report #2 Pat Mc Murray said:]

SF conventions of the past had a very simple structure - a single stream with lunch and dinner intervals, tea and coffee breaks. This civilised pattern allowed and encouraged the engagement of the entire membership with the convention. Of course, Novacons have drifted away from this type of involvement, but it's still possible to glimpse an alternate Novacon with a structured pattern. We're considering giving Novacon 28 this pattern of involvement in the hope that the course of future Novacons will be improved.

If we do this the programme will run from after dinner to late on Friday, all day Saturday and until before dinner on Sunday. Time will be left free for lunches on Saturday and Sunday and for dinner in the evening on Saturday. There will be tea breaks in the mornings and coffee breaks in the afternoons. We would appreciate your thoughts on the matter, the contact address is below.

[Of course, no one was foolhardy enough to rise to the challenge, no one that is except Steve Green (footnotes by Pat McMurray):]

"Talking to Martin<1> tonight, and he mentioned your plan to bring back such cherished Novacon traditions as huge gaps in the programme for folks to get food, shop, etc (actually, the truth was, we 70s fans were too feeble to take more than three or four items per day: the first disco, in '78, left many of us permanently scarred - not to mention one (rather well-known '90s) fan's swimsuit floating in the Holiday Inn pool, but I digress..)<2>."

"Anyhow, in keeping with the idea Greg <3> and I have discussed several times about ensuring old fanzine articles are archived and, if necessary, reprinted for wider distribution later <4>, it occurred to me that certain memorable live fannish events (no, not the Novacon 14 closing ceremony <5>) could well deserve similar treatment."

"Mike Siddall's cross-exam of Martin was, from what I heard, highly amusing, <6> and his position as chair of N28 would mean the slightly fluffed punchline could easily be restored (call it "the director's cut"). Hay, maybe Malcolm Edwards would return and run his bid for the 1987 worldcon (no, then again, perhaps not). But there are plenty of highlights of cons that folks at N28 will have missed first time out, which could be re-run. <7> "

- <1> Tudor, Chair of Novacon 28, TAFF winner, Guest of Honour at Intuition and general all round fannish hero and good guy. [Creep... Ed.]
- <2> Go on, you know you want to tell us...
- <3> Pickersgill, I presume, tolerant, easy going, you know the sort of thing.
- <4> I'm doing something similar with convention materials, see <http://www.cooky.demon.co.uk/index.html>
- <5> The infamous surprise stripper for Rob Holdstock.
- <6> As Guest of Honour at Intuition, this year's Eastercon
- <7> Suggestions welcome

[But as you all know the best way to provide a better, tighter, more enjoyable programme is for you, the member, to get involved with your ideas at an early stage. Please feel free to contact our programme organiser, Pat McMurray at pat@cooky.demon.co.uk or 28, Plaistow Grove, Bromley, KENT BR1 3PB.

[As mentioned above Pat McMurray is also responsible for The Memory Hole Annex an Archive and Repository of Convention Materials which can be viewed at <http://www.cooky.demon.co.uk/index.html>]

NOT THE CRECHE: A BABY SITTING & CHILD MINDING SERVICE by Helena Bowles

Richard Standage, registered nurse working at the highly prestigious Birmingham Children's Hospital, and Helena Bowles, registered nurse at the totally non-prestigious Birmingham Heartlands hospital, will both be attending Novacon with their four-year-old son and one-year-old daughter.

Whilst recent government legislation decrees that they cannot provide a creche, both are willing to provide baby sitting/child minding on a privately arranged basis. This requires parents to contact them in advance on 0121-558-7591 (or in writing to 116 Shireland Road, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands, B66 4QJ).

They will be caring for their own, and any other children with whose parents a private arrangement has been reached, in an allocated suite in the hotel which will have a bed, a cot and a kettle. They recommend all children be supplied with a selection of carefully labelled favourite toys/books. Babies will require nappies and changing equipment in a carefully labelled bag. Recently potty trained children will require a change of underclothing and trousers or skirt.

Richard and Helena will be happy to feed babies/young children if milk and baby food is supplied. Baby milk/food must be in pre-packaged bottles, as refrigeration facilities may not be available.

As there is no charge made for this service, extra pairs of hands on a voluntary basis will be greatly appreciated.

[Because this service was not used last year we should mention that unless it is used this year we will not be offering it again. As ever, feedback is invited to Martin Tudor at 24 Ravensbourne Grove, (off Clarkes Lane,) Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX or via e-mail martin@empties.demon.co.uk.]

THE NOVA AWARDS by Tony Berry

Denting my doormat so far this year are:

ANSIBLE #123-131. Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU.

ATTITUDE #12. Michael Abbott, John Dallman and Pam Wells, c/o 102 William Smith Close, Cambridge, CB1 3QF.

BALLOONS OVER BRISTOL #12. Christina Lake, 12 Hatherley Road, Bishopston, Bristol, BS7 8QA.

BANANA WINGS #8-10. Claire Brialey, 26 Northampton Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 7HA and Mark Plummer, 14 Northway Road, Croydon, CR0 6JE.

BLIP #1. Hazel Ashworth, 16 Rockville Drive, Embsay, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 6NX.

BOB #13-14. Ian Sorensen, 7 Woodside Walk, Hamilton, ML3 7HY.

BUMPER SNUFKIN. Maureen Kincaid Speller, 60 Bournemouth Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5AZ.

BW: A PAIR OF WOMBATS. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer (addresses as above).

DID I SAY THAT OUT LOUD? Debbi Kerr, 38 Bankfield Terrace, Burley, Leeds, LS4 2RE.

DRAGON'S BREATH #50. Tony Lee, Zine Kat, c/o Pigasus Press, 13 Hazely Combe, Arreton, Isle of Wight, PO30 3AJ.

FANS ACROSS THE WORLD #69. Bridget Wilkinson, Ground Floor Flat, 8 West Avenue Road, Walthamstow, E17 9SE.

GOTTERDAMMERUNG #11. Marl McCann, 40 Deramore Avenue, Belfast, BT7 3ER.

GROSS ENCOUNTERS #20. Alan Dorey, 9 Haywards Farm Close, Verwood, Dorset, BH31 6XW.

INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GARDENER #1. Judith Hanna and Joseph Nicholas, 15 Jansons Road, South Tottenham, London, N15 4JU.

NEVER QUITE ARRIVING #6. Christina Lake (address as above).

ODDS, SODS AND HOGWASH. Ken Cheslin, 29 Kestrel Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 2PH.

PLOKTA Vol 2 #5 - Vol 3 #2. Steve Davies, 52 Westbourne Terrace, Reading, Berkshire, RG30 2RP and Alison Scott, 42 Tower Hamlets Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 4RH.

PIPS #2. Jim Trash, 16 Harlington Court, Morley, Leeds, LS27 0RT.

POGONOPHOBIA #5. Alison Freebairn, 41 Kendal Road, Newlandsmuir, East Kilbride, G75 8QT.

SALIROMANIA #11-12. Michael Ashley, 15 Howgill Green, Woodside, Bradford, BD6 2SE.

SNUFKINS BUM #2-3. Maureen Kincaid Speller (address as above).

SQUIGGLEDY HOY #2-3. Bridget Hardcastle, 19 Wedgwood Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 0EX.

STANDING IN THE SHADOWS. Simon Ounsley, 25 Park Villa Court, Leeds, LS8 1EB.

TAFFLON TUDOR #3. Martin Tudor, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, (off Clarkes Lane), Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX.

THUNDERBOX #0. Steve and Ann Green, 33 Scott Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7LQ.

YEAR OF THE VANISHING TIGER. Judith Hanna (address as above).

All of the above fanzines are available for "The Usual", which means in exchange for other fanzines, contributions, or in response to letters of comment. In the first instance a polite letter of request accompanied by postage or a large stamped, self-addressed envelope, works fine.

[If you have any enquiries about the Novas or you want a copy of the Rules (50p to cover copying and postage), contact Tony Berry at 55 Seymour Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 4EP.]

NOVA WINNERS 1997

The 1997 Nova Awards were presented at Novacon 27 in the Abbey Hotel over the weekend of 14-16 November 1997. Some small errors crept into the original full lists of placings which was released by Tony Berry the Nova Administrator and published in THE BRUM GROUP NEWS. With sincere apologies from Tony Berry here, for the first time, is the definitive, corrected listing. The figure in parenthesis indicates the points scored under the voting system:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| Best Fan Artist | 22= | Marianne Cain (3) |
| 1. Sue Mason (107) | | Eve Harvey (3) |
| 2. Dave Mooring (84) | | Mike Scott (3) |
| 3. D. West (80) | 25= | Chuck Connor (1) |
| 4. Dave Hicks (47) | | Steve Davies (1) |
| 5. Steve Jeffery/Esjay (46) | | Tommy Ferguson (1) |
| 6. Anne Stokes (20) | | |
| 7. Jim Barker (19) | | |
| 8. Shep Kirkbride (6) | | |
| 9. Harry Turner (1) | | |
| Fanwriter: | | Fanzine: |
| 1. Mark Plummer (95) | | 1. Banana Wings (130) |
| 2. Claire Brialey (53) | | 2. Attitude (75) |
| 3. Dave Langford (39) | | 3. Plokta (67) |
| 4. Christina Lake (38) | | 4. BW (30) |
| 5. Mike D Siddall (30) | | 5. Bob (28) |
| 6. Alison Scott (26) | | 6. Gotterdammerung (26) |
| 7. Mark McCann (24) | | 7. Snufkins Bum (25) |
| 8= Maureen Kincaid Spellar (23) | | 8= Never Quite Arriving (19) |
| Ian Sorensen (23) | | Shooting Stars (19) |
| 10 Michael Abbott (20) | | 10. Ansible (15) |
| 11 Paul Kincaid (15) | | 11. Sqiggledy Hoy (10) |
| 12 Martin Tudor (11) | | 12. Year of the Cow (8) |
| 13 Alison Freebairn (9) | | 13. Wallbanger (7) |
| 14 Pam Wells (8) | | 14. TAFFlon Tudor (6) |
| 15 Tobes (6) | | 15. Strange Delusions (5) |
| 16= Tanya Brown (5) | | 16. FTT (4) |
| John Dallman (5) | | 17. Balloons over Bristol (3) |
| Bridget Hardcastle/Bug (5) | | 18= Babes with Attitude (2) |
| Steve Jeffery (5) | | Railings (2) |
| 20= Judith Hanna (4) | | 20= Immaculate Infection (1) |
| Dave Hicks (4) | | Pogonophobia (1) |
| | | Thingumybob (1) |
| | | Drunken Fuckwit (1) |
| | | Gerald (1) |
| | | Altitude (1) |

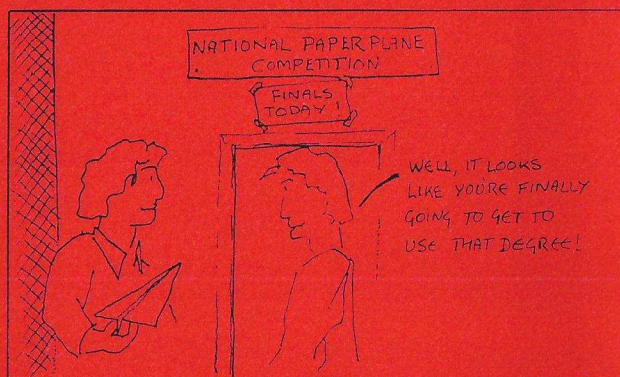
NOVACON 28

MEMBERS:

31st MAY 1998

096 Mark Plummer
 097 Roger Burton West
 098 Catherine McAulay
 099 Michael Abbott
 100 Dave French
 101 Shirley French
 102 Gerry Webb
 103 Mali Perera
 104 Alan Webb
 105 Laura Wheatly
 106 David Laight
 107 Sue Edwards
 108 Mark Bailey
 109 Dave Cox
 110 Sue Francis
 111 Anne F Wilson
 112 Krystyna Oborn
 113 John Harvey
 114 Eve Harvey
 115 Naomi Saunders
 116 Christina Lake
 117 Ken MacLeod
 118 Rog Peyton
 119 Sue Harrison
 120 Helena Tudor
 121 Steve Green
 122 Ann Green
 123 Steve Davies
 124 Gulia De Cesare
 125 Amanda Baker
 126 David Clements
 127 Gordon W Brignal
 128 Alison Henderson
 129 Sam Dodsworth
 130 Bob 'Fake' Shaw

131 Mike Scott
 132 Sarah Dibb
 133 Dave Mooring
 134 Steve Jones
 135 Tanya Brown
 136 Liam Brown
 137 Vikki Lee France
 138 Steve Jeffery
 139 Andy Richards
 140 Tony Berry
 141 Pat McGowan
 142 George Ternent
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