

EASTERCON 22

The 22nd British Science Fiction Convention

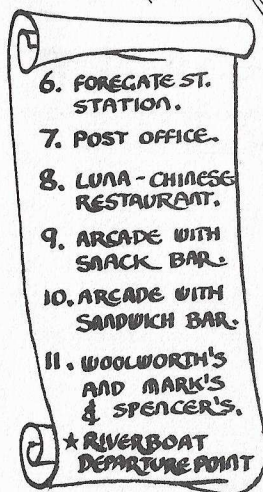
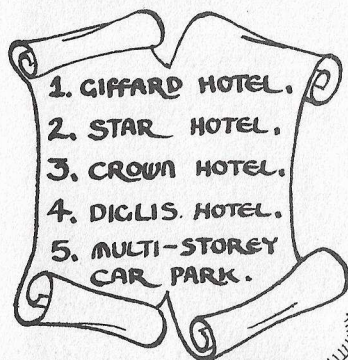


PROGRAMME BOOKLET

9—11 APRIL 1971

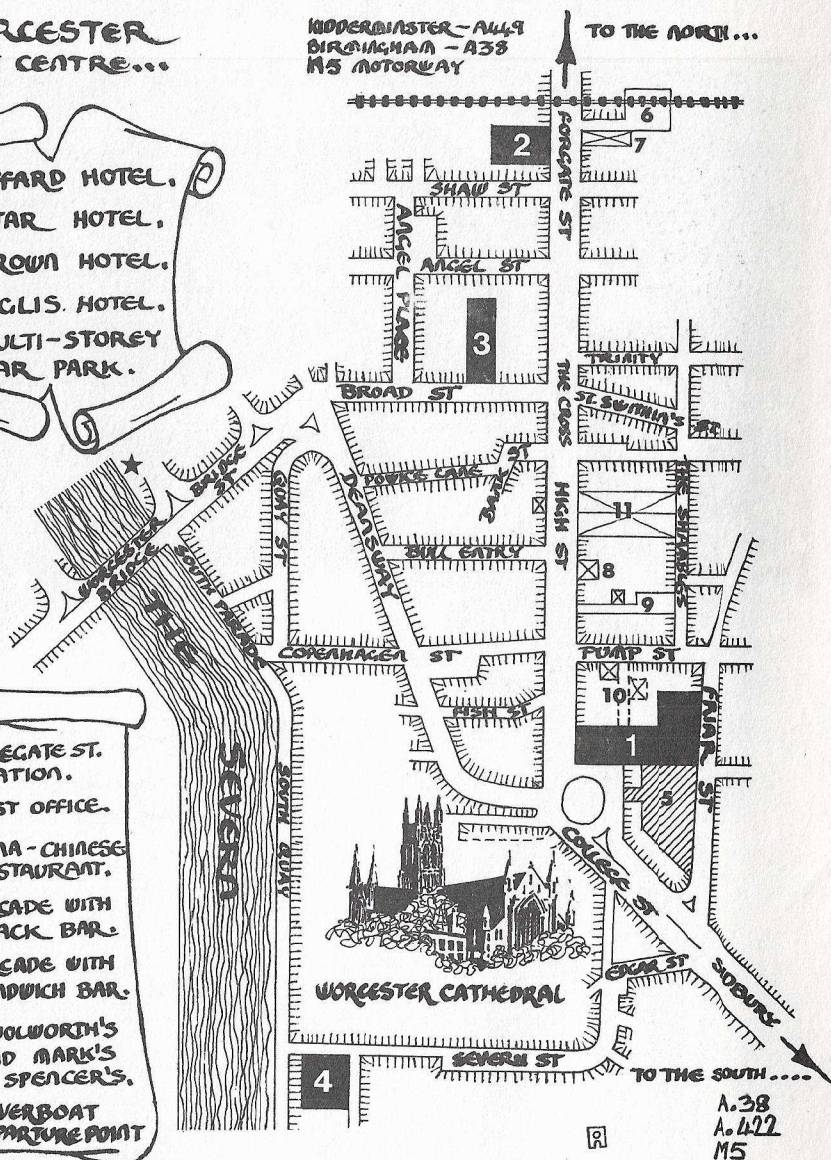
GIFFARD HOTEL, WORCESTER

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TO THE NORTH...



EASTERCON 22

THE 22nd BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
GIFFARD HOTEL, WORCESTER 9—11th APRIL 1971

PROGRAMME BOOKLET

Map of Worcester	<i>facing</i>
Plan of Hotel	<i>inside back cover</i>
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THE B.S.F.A. HOSPITALITY ROOM (1st FLOOR) IS OPEN FOR
THE DURATION OF THE CONVENTION. PLEASE CALL IN.

*Cover of programme booklet, badges, and commemorative envelopes
designed by Vincent DiFate.*



ANNE McCAFFREY -- Guest of Honour
Specially-imported for the convention from Eire at very short notice, Anne McCaffrey has received much praise for her *Dragonrider* stories.



ETHEL LINDSAY -- Fan Guest of Honour
Fifteen year's publishing to her credit; past convention organiser and regular attendee, Ethel is one of fandom's best-known and best-liked people!



PHIL ROGERS -- Toastmaster
Who better Master of Ceremonies than genial Phil, Heicon Parliamentarian, chairman of innumerable BSFA meetings and Grand Master of the Order of St. Fantony!

EASTERCON 22 -- The 22nd British Science Fiction Convention

Committee: Vernon Brown, Roger Peyton, Bob Rickard,
Peter Weston (Chairman)

U.S. Agent: Andy Porter

Address for correspondence: 31 Pinewall Avenue, Birmingham 30

**WITH THIS BOOKLET YOU SHOULD RECEIVE YOUR FREE TICKET
FOR THE RIVERBOAT TRIP ON MONDAY, 12 APRIL, 1971**

The Convention Office on the first floor will answer any queries you may have

What a way to run a Convention!

Peter R Weston

Struggling as I am with this, the obligatory Chairman's Welcome, I'm beginning to realise just how difficult it is to look ahead even five weeks into the future. So much can happen between the end of February as this programme booklet goes to press, and *now*, when you have arrived at Worcester and are taking your first look at the 1971 Convention.

If you *do* arrive, that is. Have the trains stopped running? Has the postal strike finally come to an end? Will the roof fall in on us all? Lacking even a small time-machine I don't know the answers, but welcome, anyway. I hope we all enjoy EASTERCON 22.

When Ken Bulmer recently asked me what we were going to do about the convention, in view of the postal strike, I said "We've arranged to postpone Easter" Good fast answer perhaps, although that sort of thing is really not possible; for one reason we didn't have enough notice! But there's no doubt that some of our plans have been seriously affected by the absence of normal postal communications.

Still, this is *science fiction* we're talking about, and dastardly blow that it was I can't imagine a little thing like a postal strike proving fatal. Fortunately we had the main convention hotel fully booked before the troubles began, and much of the programming and other details well in hand.

This booklet itself has been affected, however, and I don't know even at this late date how many it will contain of the forty-odd pages of advertisements which were ordered. Some will certainly not reach us in time, and many other items — including some manuscripts — only arrived through efforts of epic proportions!

For instance, worried at the lack of material from the United States I looked into the possibility of asking American agent Andy Porter to send packages by air freight, direct from New York. That seemed an excellent idea until as an afterthought the BOAC girl mentioned that minimum charges were around £15.

Then I did things the hard way, and put together a furtive and complicated route by which Andy could send his advertisements through my company's representatives in Paris. But how to contact him rapidly?

Ahah! Didn't he used to have some sort of connection with Lancer Books? Presumably they could pass on a message, and as a publisher Lancer would have a cable address.

A call to Western Union confirmed that cables could still be sent despite the post office, and another quick call to John Bush at Gollancz in London gave me the code to use. Crisis resolved, I thought, and sent off a message to Lancer, for them to contact Andy Porter for me. I needn't have bothered. Andy rang me at 9.00 a.m. the following morning.

"You've had my cable?" I said. "What cable?" replied Andy. "No, but I'm getting worried about sending these advertisements to you, and I've thought of a plan."

Needless to say, his plan was better than my own and so we arranged an illicit little transaction which, if it works, should save the day. You'll know that it did in fact work if this booklet contains advertisements for enterprises like Walker Books, *F&SF* and Leland Sapiro, but as I said before, I don't have that time-machine!

Subsequently I discovered at least two other clandestine ways of receiving mail from the United States, all of which have the great point in their favour that they cost nothing to operate. At least they don't cost *me* anything, which is all that matters!

There's no doubt that various means of communication are still open for those devious enough to find them, and in fact a number of imaginative individuals have found odd little ways to get in touch with me. Who knows?, maybe we don't need a post office for the 1972 Convention. How does that strike you, Harry Nadler?

Looking back through the twelve months since last Easter, when we were awarded the job of staging this present event, I'm surprised how quickly time has flown. And yet in another way it seems that Bob, Roger, Vernon and I have always been working on EASTERCON; writing letters, collecting money, and issuing the occasional *Progress Report* in case you'd forgotten us!

Most of our original plans have worked out well, although we have had some disappointments, particularly when working out programme items. But what can be done when people refuse to commit themselves even to appear on the day? It's not possible to make plans on a basis of "we'll let you know three days before Easter whether we're coming."

Striking a slightly sour note for a moment as I step down from the firing line, if there is one thing I'd like to see changed, it is the present system under which some individuals — not all professionals — seem to think that they do the convention some sort of honour by attending. This is one area where British organisers could use the co-operation their U.S. counterparts appear to enjoy — although I must specifically exclude here such people as James Blish, John Brunner, Ken Bulmer, Philip Strick and many fans who go out of their way to be helpful, year after year.

Please allow me this one gripe; but despite this problem we have tried to put together a varied and entertaining programme of events which should complete the reversion back to Ken Bulmer's boyhood days when convention attendees sat on hard wooden benches listening to talks about science fiction. Not that seating arrangements are uncomfortable at Worcester — far from it — but we do actually hope to say interesting things about science fiction, an idea both obvious and slightly overlooked in the past!

We have, however, had a great deal of support from the various science fiction publishers this year. I must thank in particular the five concerns — Ace, Faber, Gollancz, Granada and Lancer — who are acting as our sponsors, and whose kindness has allowed us to provide some of the more costly facilities for the convention.

Some things have not happened as we had hoped, one being the special reduced-rate party which was going to fly in from the United States. I have not heard from either of those involved for some months now, but what probably went wrong is that Worcester comes just too soon after Heicon to allow even American fans (with the exception of Dave Kyle, of course!) to afford another transatlantic trip. But I'm sure this could easily be arranged another year, and in compensation we do have large numbers of European visitors as a result of the 1970 Heidelberg World Convention.

I could probably say much more about this term in office as Convention Chairman for a year, but our programme booklet only awaits for me to finish before going to press. After that our committee will have a month's grace to tie up all remaining loose ends before welcoming you, *now*, to EASTERCON 22.

Organising a convention carries responsibilities but can be a lot of fun as well. I recommend it as an experience to live through at least once. Vernon Brown, now, really is keen since he will run the new November NOVACON later in the year. Come to think of it, I have the June SPECULATION conference to look forward to myself. Maybe we'll see you there at both?

Peter Weston, Chairman

QUICKSILVER *sf discussion & criticism*

**"Easily the best new
fan magazine I have
seen since PSYCHOTIC
(now SFR) was revived"**

— James Blish

featuring —

**Aldiss.....Blish.....
Charnock.....Disch.....
Platt.....Priest.....etc**

FREQUENCY?

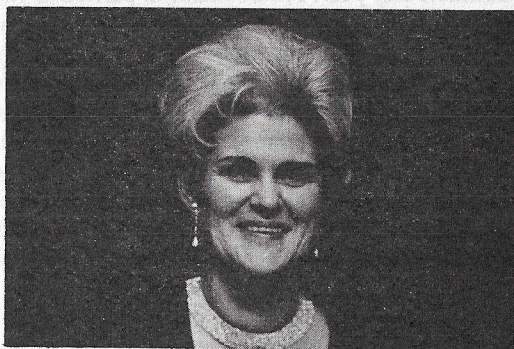
**Irregular, but about
4 times a year**

COST?

**Only 10p a copy; 50p
for 6. Or for trades etc**

**from
Malcolm Edwards
236 King's College
CAMBRIDGE CB2 1ST**

Anne McCaffrey



THE SHIP WHO SANG

£1.80

Helva had a brilliant mind but a crippled, useless body. Technology was able to utilise the brain and discard the body by incorporating her into a space ship where she functioned in partnership with a human being of her choosing. Helva could recite Shakespeare, do incredibly complicated calculations in split seconds, fall in love and even sing! What happens to the personality that develops in this sort of environment? Anne McCaffrey explores Helva's relationships with men, her 'brawns', and thrillingly and movingly describes her various and courageous exploits in Space. This is indeed a worthy successor to the author's three previous novels described below.

Dragonflight

The magnificent Dragons of Pern for many years had defended men from the dreaded Silver Threads that periodically descended on them from space. Times changed however, and they were needed less and less. Their defences weakened, the dragon's numbers lessened and their strength declined—but still there would be a time when the Threads would come again.

Dragonflight won both the 'Hugo' and the 'Nebula' award for Mrs. McCaffrey, the first time they have ever been awarded to a woman. £1.50

Restoree

Suddenly Sara was not what she had been when she started her stroll through Central Park. She had a beautiful new body and seemed to be a nurse in a hospital taking care of a man who appeared to an idiot. And yet she knew that she was not a nurse, and the man was not an idiot; he was Harlan, Regent of Lothar—but what and where was Lothar? £1.25



The Simultaneous Man

Ralph Blum

A terrific suspense novel about brainwashing carried to its ultimate—and horrifying—conclusion of which Mark Kahn of the Sunday Mirror said: 'Mr. Blum . . . has written the last word in suspense novels.'



ANDRE DEUTSCH

Decision at Doona

Tension heightens when rebellious colonials are exiled from an already overpopulated Earth to Doona, an alien planet. Regulations forbid any meeting between the new colonists and non-humans—a regulation, however, that is unknown to the colonists. How will they react when confronted with it? £1.40

Brian W. Aldiss

Isaac Asimov

J. G. Ballard

James Blish

Ray Bradbury

John Carnell

Arthur C. Clarke

John Elliot

Daniel F. Galouye

Robert A. Heinlein

Fred Hoyle

George Clayton Johnson

Damon Knight

Richard Matheson

Anne McCaffrey Restoree, Dragonflight, Decision at Doona

J. T. McIntosh

Walter M. Miller Jr.

Dan Morgan

Kenneth Robeson

Clifford D. Simak

George R. Stewart

Theodore Sturgeon

Jules Verne

James White

IN PAPERBACK FROM CORGI BOOKS



Guest of Honour:

ANNE McCAFFREY

James Blish

Our Anne seems to have entered science fiction, characteristically, like a skipping stone. Can it be possible that she is the same Anne McCaffrey who signed a short-short called *Freedom of the Race*, way back in the October 1953 *Science Fiction Plus*? Surely she must have been not far out of nappies then; but for one reason and another, stories in SF+ did not make much of a mark, no matter who signed them. Nobody is likely to forget her next story, *The Lady on the Tower*, which really marked her debut; that was in the April 1959 *F&SF*, and it was like nothing that anybody had published before. There have been several largely unfortunate attempts to inject what is usually called “the women’s point of view” into science fiction, but only Anne McCaffrey and C. L. Moore have managed to show, successfully, that this point of view involves something more serious, and more interesting, than pleating drapes, patting one’s self dry, and wiping up after babies.

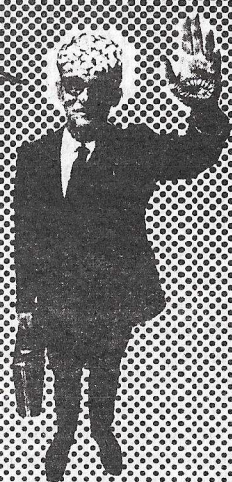
Two years went by after that, but the

appearance of *The Ship who Sang* — now, at long last, grown from a single story into a memorable book — showed that the voice of *The Lady on the Tower* was not only unique, but could be sustained. To some of us who had noticed *The Lady*, the wait for *The Ship* seemed very long. We were to have longer to wait; Anne did not show up again, with two more stories in the “ship” series, until 1966. Then there was another wait, culminating in 1968 in *Weyr Search* and *Dragonrider*, which together were to win her the first Hugo ever awarded a woman writer. By then, Anne seemed to have decided to stay with us: there were five stories in 1969 — including the final “ship” chapter, a novella called *Dramatic Mission* which won both Hugo and Nebula nominations (*Dragonrider* had won a Nebula, too), and, just to remind us of how all this was being done, a story proudly titled *A Womanly Talent*.

Anne has not stopped skipping —

continued on page 13

THE
**ASTON
SF GROUP**
WISHES THE ORGANISERS
& ALL THE MEMBERS OF
EASTERCON 22
A MEMORABLE CON
AND EVERY SUCCESS!!!



ROGER G PEYTON (Books)

**131 Gillhurst Road,
Harborne, Birmingham B17 8PG**

WE HAVE LARGE STOCKS OF NEW AND SECOND-HAND BOOKS
AND MAGAZINES, INCLUDING MANY SCARCE ITEMS. SEND
SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE (9" x 4") FOR A
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COMING SHORTLY - OUR SECOND GREAT AUCTION! YOU
DECIDE WHAT YOU PAY. MANY PRE-1950 PULP-MAGAZINES
WILL BE INCLUDED AS WELL AS EARLY 'AUTHENTIC' SF.
DON'T DELAY! ASK TO BE PUT ON OUR MAILING LIST
NOW!

A SHIPBOARD ROMANCE A cautionary tale
Words: *John Brunner* Air: traditional, "Far Away"

Around the sun rotates an incubator,
And what it's incubating -- well, I really cannot say,
But if you ask me where the hell it came from
I will blame it on a Martian and an effing cosmic ray.

Cosmic ray! Cosmic ray!
I will blame it on that effing cosmic ray!
Yes, if you ask me where the hell it came from
I will blame it on a Martian and an effing cosmic ray!

He wooed and won me on a ship to Venus --
I'd met some other Martians and I should have been blasée,
But when he blinked his nictitating eyelids
I let him in my cabin and we went all the way.

All the way! All the way!
Don't let a Martian boy go all the way!
Not though he blinks his nictitating eyelids,
Don't let him in your cabin or he'll go all the way!

I've heard about genetic variation,
I've read about the chromosomes and also RNA,
So when I learned about my odd condition
I went to see the Martian and he told me, "Cosmic ray!"

Cosmic ray! Cosmic ray!
How I wish the cosmic rays would go away!
That must explain my very odd condition --
But who wants to be married to an effing cosmic ray?

So now my son -- or possibly my daughter --
Counts stars upon its tentacles to pass the time away.
I wish it looked a bit like dad or mother,
It should be pink or purple but it's all greenish-grey!

Greenish-grey! Greenish-grey!
Was that the actual colour of the ray?
It's learned to talk, in fact it calls me mother,
But when it calls me mother I go all greenish-grey!



ANNE McCAFFREY

continued

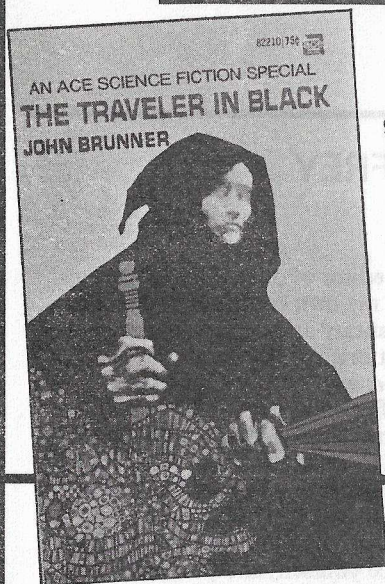
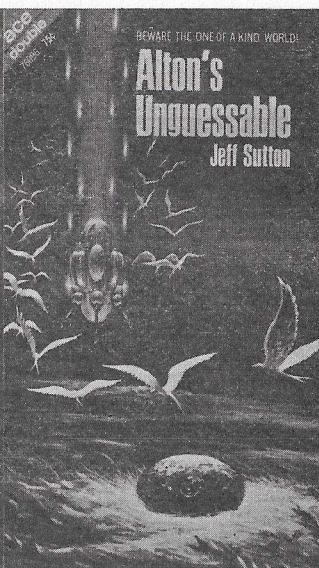
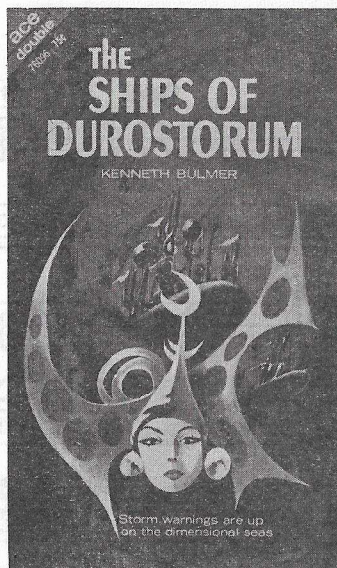
just lately, from the United States to Ireland — and nobody who has encountered her flashing eyes, her skirling voice, and her magical Italian cloak is likely to entertain much hope of pinning her down. But there is, as the record shows, the persistence of an artist under her flamboyance. Even during her years of silence she was a regular attendee of the Milford Science Fiction Writers Conference and one of the best critics in its workshop sessions; she was the best secretary/treasurer the Science Fiction Writers of America had after the redoubtable Lloyd Biggle, Jr., created that office from scratch; she

was the editor of one of the finest (barring my own contribution) of all recent fantasy anthologies, and one of the most original, *Alchemy and Academe*; and there are very few science fiction writers to whom she has not been the welcomest of friends.

We are fortunate that she was able to become Guest of Honour at this year's Eastercon. But don't let the honour put you off, much though she merits it; introduce yourself, and you will have made a friend you won't forget.

Ave, Anne; may your stay be fruitful and happy.

With love to
ANNE McCAFFREY
 by James Blish



ace books
greet its readers
and writers
in the
British Isles
and is pleased
to be among
the sponsors of
EASTERCON
22



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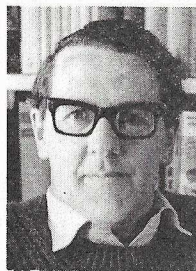
Donald A. Wollheim, Vice President in charge of Editorial

PERSONALITIES AT THE CON

we hope!

BRIAN W. ALDISS

Well-known face at British conventions, Brian was Guest of Honour this year until forced to resign late in the day through personal circumstances. Author of many popular books such as *Non-Stop* and *Hothouse*, he is currently in the news with *A Soldier Erect*, latest novel in the *Hand-Reared Boy* masturbation epic! Recent travels have taken him from his Berkshire home to Osaka, Japan; Rio de Janeiro; and Trieste, with possibilities of visiting Hong Kong later in the year.



ALDISS



BLISH

BRUNNER



JAMES BLISH

American author now resident near Henley-on-Thames, Mr Blish is one of the most well-known and respected SF authors with over 30 books to his credit. Particularly remembered are his *Cities in Flight* series and the Hugo-winning *A Case of Conscience*. Guest of Honour at the 1970 Scicon, his new books include *The Day after Judgment*: revised edition of *Dr Mirabilis*; and the *Quincunx of Time*. He also edits *Kalki*, journal of the James Branch Cabell Society.

JOHN BRUNNER

No Future in It: Telepathist: Squares of the City: Stand on Zanzibar — these are just four of John Brunner's 70-odd books published since he began writing at the age of thirteen. But science fiction is only one of his activities.

He has been closely involved with CND for many years and founded the Martin Luther King Memorial Prize. He plays the recorder, saxophone, banjo and guitar and tours Britain and Europe in his 120 m.p.h. sports convertible.



DENNIS DOBSON

Some New

SCIENCE FICTION

The Caves of Karst by LEE HOFFMAN
Novel with a sinister underwater locale.

Double Illusion by PHILIP E. HIGH
A thriller set in a cybernetic city.

Catastrophe Planet by KEITH LAUMER
A chase to the lost city under the Antarctic.

The Plantos Affair by JOHN RANKINE
The third Dag Fletcher novel.

New Writings in SF 17 Edited by JOHN CARNELL
More original stories in this much-praised series.

The War of Two Worlds by POUL ANDERSON
Another complete short novel.

The Players of Null-A (The Pawns of Null-A) by A. E. VAN VOGT
The sequel to the classic *The World of Null-A*.



Some Forthcoming

SCIENCE FICTION

Timepit by BRIAN BALL
Novel. Follows this author's *Timepiece*.

Domino by RICHARD COWPER
Novel. From the very literate author of *Breakthrough* and *Phoenix*.

The Yellow Fraction by REX GORDON
A new novel from the author of *No Man Friday*, etc.

Envoy to New Worlds by KEITH LAUMER
The start of Retief-Machiavelli of Cosmic Diplomacy.

Rogue Star by FREDERIK POHL & JACK WILLIAMSON
Sequel to *Starchild* and *The Reefs of Space*.

Assignment in Nowhere by KEITH LAUMER
Third of the series begun with *Worlds of the Imperium* and *The Other Side of Time*.

Ipomoea by JOHN RACKHAM
Brainless immortality produced by a new addictive drug.

further details from Dobson Books Ltd

80 Kensington Church Street

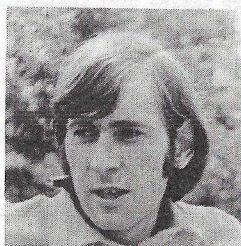
London W8

BULMER**LAUMER****KENNETH BULMER**

Many years a freelance, Ken was one of the leading members of British fandom after the last war and has attended almost every convention since 1948. Well-known for his many science fiction novels, he has recently turned to Sword-and-Sorcery, the latest title being *The Electric Sword-Swallow*, which in his own words "is a bit of a chuckle about Waterloo, although it is very definitely *not* the book of the film!" Ken's attractive wife Pamela, also a fannish veteran, is presently making her name with SF criticism.

KEITH LAUMER

We have not yet heard for certain whether Mr Laumer will be present but hope he and his family will make the journey from Florida to Worcester this year. The prolific Mr Laumer is noted for his Retief stories, although these are only part of his output of three dozen books. Dobson and Faber have published Laumer titles in this country such as *Galactic Odyssey*, *Nine by Laumer*, etc. Latest books are *The House in November* and *The Infinite Cage* for Putnam.

MOORCOCK**PRIEST****MICHAEL MOORCOCK**

Mention *Tarzan Adventures* to Michael Moorcock and stand well clear! From these early beginnings however, he has gone on to become one of Britain's most popular authors, with twelve titles currently in print from Mayflower. In 1964 he took over editorship of *New Worlds* and has continued the magazine against innumerable obstacles ever since. Its current incarnation as a paperback quarterly will appear from Berkeley and Sphere. His novella *Behold the Man* won a Nebula Award in 1968.

CHRISTOPHER PRIEST

Although beginning his writing career quite recently, Chris's first novel *Indoctrinaire* has already been accepted by four publishers, no mean achievement for even a well-established author! Active in fan-circles since 1963, Chris edited his own fanzine *Con* and the BSFA fiction-magazine *Tangent*, and later initiated the BSFA *Writer's Bulletin*. He gave up an accountancy career for professional writing and now lives with his wife Christine at Harrow.

Birmingham is the centre of the Universe!

Birmingham certainly is the centre of the universe for science fiction events. Here are two more special occasions this year. Why not come to both? Remember, we are only 90 minutes from London, Liverpool and Manchester. Trains every hour from 7.15 a.m. mean you can be here and back in a day - and day-return costs only around £2.00.

SPECULATION II - June 12

Last year's SPECULATION conference in Birmingham attracted over one hundred people and was a great success. On June 12 1971 will be held the second of these one-day occasions when prominent authors will conduct talks and discussion on science fiction. There will also be an exhibition of SF books and material on an international scale, presented by the National Book League & The Science Fiction Foundation.

Authors taking part include James Blish : John Brunner : Philip Strick, among others. Chairman Peter Weston.

Tickets £1.25 per person, including full lunch. 10.00 - 6.00
Application for tickets should be made to The Secretary,
Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham 3

NOVACON - November 13-14

What a marvelous idea! The first - but not last - of an entirely new series of full-scale science fiction conventions in that dead, November time of year. Full programme, films, Banquet and lots of good company in the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham. Specially-reserved for our use the hotel offers very low rates (the manager reads SF) and is ideal for the purpose. Guest of Honour is James White. Register now by sending 50p. to Vernon Brown, Chairman, Room 623, University of Aston, Birmingham.

TWO FULL DAYS — COME FRIDAY NIGHT, GO SUNDAY NIGHT !

BOB SHAW

In the early 1950's Bob Shaw was a member of the Belfast Triangle — the other two prominent Northern Irish fans being James White and Walt Willis — whose writing talents were known throughout fandom. Bob still writes for fan-magazines such as *Warhoon*, but some years ago turned to professional writing with considerable success. His story *Light of Other Days* attracted tremendous notice, and he followed with novels *Nightwalk: Palace of Eternity* and *The Two-Timers*. A special fund is presently being raised to take Bob to the Boston World Convention this year.

SHAW



STRICK



PHILIP STRICK, M.A.

At present Head of Film Distribution at the British Film Institute, Philip Strick has been a science fiction fan for as long as he can remember. He organised a season of SF films at the National Film Theatre in 1967, and as a result became an extra-mural lecturer in SF for London University. He has run two 20-lecture SF courses in 1969/70 and 1970/71 at the City Literary Institute, and at present is co-authoring a book of science fiction criticism (working title: *The Billion Year Spree*) with Brian Aldiss. Regular visitor to conventions, he also frequently appears on television.

JAMES WHITE

Entering fandom in 1949 through meeting Walt Willis in Belfast second-hand bookshops, James White first worked upon fanzines *Slant* and *Hyphen*, primarily as an illustrator. Turning to professional writing he sold to *Astounding* in 1954 and has since written many novels including the *Sector General* series, the third novel of which is currently due from Ballantine. Recent major works include *The Watch Below* and *All Judgment Fled*, among a total of more than one dozen books. James White will be Guest of Honour at the Novacon convention in Birmingham later this year.

WHITE



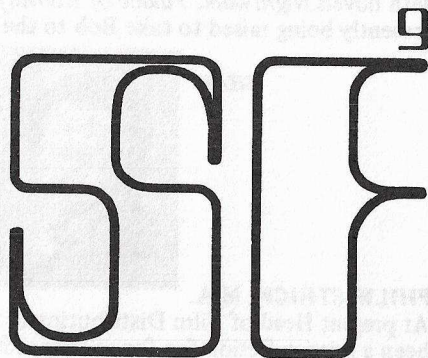
WOLLHEIM



DONALD WOLLHEIM

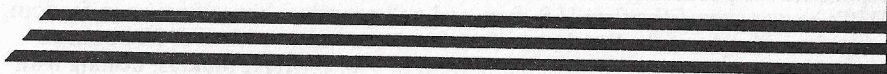
As vice-president and editor-in-chief of Ace Books, Mr Wollheim must be personally responsible for publishing more science fiction than any other individual. In the 1930's he was one of the first U.S. fans, and still considers himself active in fandom, being also a Knight of St. Fanthony. He is himself a writer with over 20 books to his credit, and this Spring will see publication of *The Universe Makers*, dealing with SF, its background, concepts and major writers. With his wife Elsie, Mr Wollheim is now a regular attendee at British conventions.

THE BEST OF



**An International Exhibition
of Science Fiction Literature**

MAY 17-31



Presented jointly by
THE NATIONAL BOOK LEAGUE and
THE SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION*
from May 17th to May 31st 1971
(open 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
at 7 Albemarle Street,
London, W1X 4BB. Tel: 01-493 9001

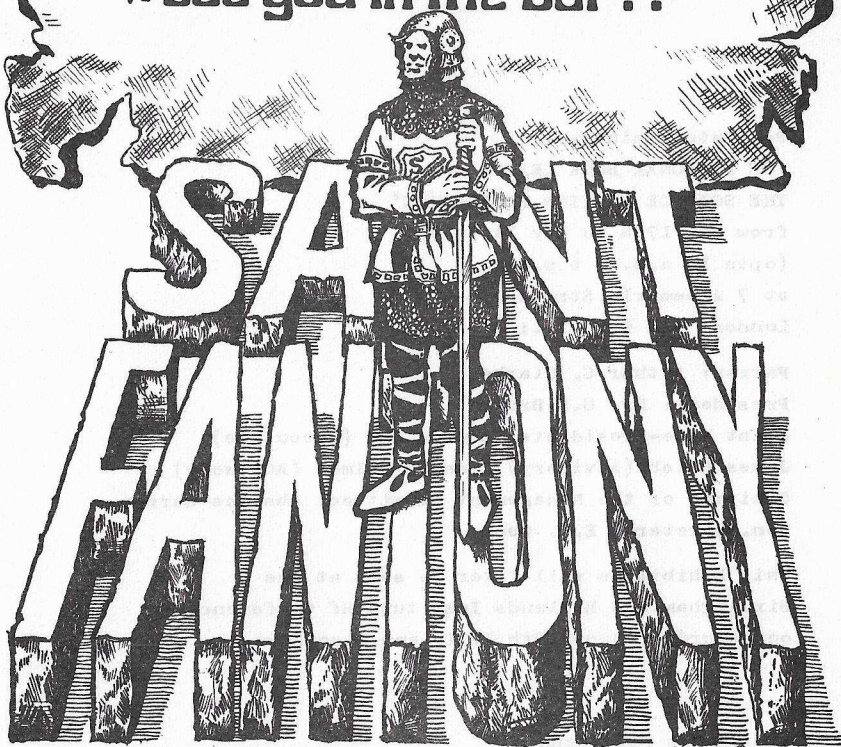
Patron: Arthur C. Clarke
President: Dr. G.S. Brosan
Joint Vice-Presidents: George Hay (Executive)
James Blish (Advisory) Kenneth Bulmer (Advisory)
Chairman of the Management Committee: Charles Barren
Hon. Secretary: E.R. Cook

This Exhibition will later be seen at the
Birmingham and Midlands Institute Sf Conference
on Saturday, June 12th 1971, and elsewhere.

*North East London Polytechnic,
Barking Precinct, Longbridge Rd., Dagenham Essex RM8 2AS

**The Knights
and Ladies
of St. FANTONY
send Greetings to
EASTERCON 22**

***see you in the bar!?**



• St. Eddie Jones •

THE ORDER OF ST FANTONY

KEITH FREEMAN

In 1957 the Cheltenham Science Fiction Circle realised that science fiction fandom lacked something. Throughout fandom many people were working hard and receiving no recognition for their efforts. The Trans-Atlantic Fund and similar awards were not discounted but these could only be awarded to a very small percentage of the people who deserved them.

Just how the idea of a mock semi-medieval type of order came about I'm not sure — and I was there at its inception! The Cheltenham fans gathered, drank, talked, drank and talked some more . . . and the idea appeared! Kettering and the 1957 Worldcon in London saw initiation ceremonies which were happily received as colourful and entertaining highlights of a convention and, more important, as ceremonies which bestowed honour upon the recipients.

Since those early initiations the Order has evolved — partly through deliberate guidance by its members and partly by force of events. During the years that have passed the Order has grown in number and although these years have been mainly happy ones for the Order, they have not been without sad moments. Four members; two founders (Bob Richardson and Eric Jones) and two other members (Ron Ellik and Ken McIntyre) have tragically died.

Those elevated to the Order are chosen for two reasons — one being

the amount of work they have done for fandom, and secondly their conviviality and sociability. Luckily the two aspects appear to go hand-in-hand in the fannish world.

One criticism that has been levelled at the Order is that it takes itself too seriously, but I can assure you that nothing is further from the truth. The ceremonies are carried out in a serious manner as we feel that to treat them any other way would distract from the effect we try for. The parties afterwards (to which all are invited) are for sheer enjoyment.

There is one point which we *are* serious about. Everyone in the Order, almost by definition, loves fandom and we all remember attending our first convention. Because of this we offer our services freely. — if this is the first convention you are attending and you would like help, find one of our members (look for the SF badge of the Order) and he, or she, will do their best to help you, answer your questions and/or introduce you to anyone else you wish to meet.

"Let newcomers (and others) know what it's all about", said Rog Peyton. The foregoing has only shown that it can't be done in the space available here . . . however, I can only finish by repeating my offer. The members of the Order will only be too pleased to help you, so . . . ASK.

Keith Freeman

SF GOLLANCZ

Poul Anderson
Piers Anthony
Jim Ballard
Howard Berk
Jim Blish
John Boyd
A. J. Budrys
Arthur Clarke
Chip Delany
Lester Del Rey
Philip K. Dick
Dan Galouye
Joseph Green
Robert Heinlein
Zenna Henderson
Frank Herbert
Vincent King
Damon Knight
Ursula Le Guin
Fritz Leiber
William F. Nolan
Andre Norton
Fred Pohl
Bob Shaw
Bob Sheckley
Bob Silverberg
Clifford Simak
Theodore Sturgeon
Kurt Vonnegut
Roger Zelazny

Friday

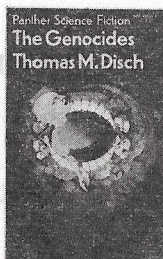
(Programme session sponsored by Victor Gollancz Ltd.)

- 10.00 a.m. Registration Desk opens (entrance fee 75p)
- 2.00 p.m. Chairman's Welcome
- 2.15 p.m. "Meet the Celebrities"
introduced by Toastmaster Phil Rogers
- 2.45 p.m. "All in a Knight's Work"
talk by James Blish
- 3.45 p.m. Coffee
- 4.00 p.m. "Life on Other Planets"
illustrated talk by Dr Jack Cohen
- 5.00 p.m. "Galactic Alarm"
special "Star Trek" episode
arranged by Gerald Bishop
- 6.00 p.m. Dinner
- 8.00 p.m. "Meet the Celebrities – at Leisure"
- 9.00 p.m. Film programme:
"Into Orbit with Apollo (NASA)"
Manchester Movies (Delta Group)
"Tenth Victim" – feature film
Flash Gordon (two episodes)
"Destination Moon"

Ken Bulmer will operate his "Quick Quiz" in between programme episodes:
your chance to win Big Prizes!

To avoid interruptions please note that whenever possible programme items will indeed begin at the times advertised!

THE BEST OF S.F.



Panther

**Brian Aldiss
& Henry Anderson (Eds.)**
Nebula Award Stories 2

30p

Isaac Asimov

The Martian Way
The End of Eternity
The Stars Like Dust
The Rest of the Robots

30p
25p
25p
25p

J. G. Ballard

The Crystal World

30p

Thomas M. Disch

Echo Round His Bones
Under Compulsion
Camp Concentration
The Genocides

25p
25p
25p
30p

Michael Moorcock

Best S.F. Stories from New Worlds 3
Best S.F. Stories from New Worlds 4
Best S.F. Stories from New Worlds 6

17p
25p
25p

Roger Zelazny

The Dream Master
A Rose for Ecclesiastes
Nebula Award Stories 3

25p
25p
30p

Panther

Mayflower

Fritz Leiber

The Swords of Lankhmar

30p

Judith Merril (Ed.)

The Best of Science Fiction 5
The Best of Science Fiction 9
The Best of Science Fiction 10
The Best of Sci-Fi 12
S.F. The Best of the Best
S.F. The Best of the Best part 2

25p
35p
35p
35p
25p
30p

Michael Moorcock

The Final Programme
The Black Corridor
The Runestaff
The Eternal Champion
Phoenix in Obsidian
The Sword of the Dawn
Behold the Man
Stormbringer
The Singing Citadel
The Stealer of Souls
The Mad God's Amulet

25p
25p
25p
25p
25p
20p
25p
25p
25p
25p
17p

**S.F. right across The
spectrum from Panther
and Mayflower**



Granada Publishing

Saturday

(Morning session sponsored by Granada Publishers)

- 9.45 a.m. Assemble in Convention Hall
- 10.00 a.m. "Writing Science Fiction in Theory and Practice"
talk by John Brunner
- 11.00 a.m. "Criticising Science Fiction in Theory and Practice"
talk by Pamela Bulmer
- 11.45 a.m. "Fanzines Past and Present"
discussion chaired by Peter Weston
(Ethel Lindsay, Graham Boak, Peter Roberts,
Malcolm Edwards)
- 12.30 p.m. Auction
- 1.00 p.m. Lunch

(Afternoon session sponsored by Lancer Publishers)

- 2.30 p.m. "The Case for and Against Philip K. Dick"
Philip Strick vs Tony Sudbery
- 3.30 p.m. "Publisher's Panel"
chaired by Ken Bulmer
- 4.15 p.m. Coffee
- 4.30 p.m. "Science Fiction in the Cinema"
excerpts from notable films with
discussion by Philip Strick
- 6.00 p.m. Dinner
- 8.00 p.m. Fancy Dress Party
(with Fashion Parade of the Future)
- 9.00 p.m. St. Fantony Ceremony
- 11.00 p.m. Film programme:
"Alphaville"
Flash Gordon (two episodes)
"Incident at Owl Greek Bridge"
"Tomb of Ligeia"

Please note that the BSFA Hospitality Room will remain open for the duration of the Convention.



THE MOMENT OF ECLIPSE

BRIAN W. ALDISS

A new collection of stories – set in the present, the near future, the distant future, in this country, abroad, elsewhere; they are all entertaining and disturbing, resonating in the memory and the imagination. £1.50

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edited by HARRY HARRISON

An anthology of twelve original stories all set in the year 2000; the contributors include Chad Oliver, Keith Lamuer, Robert Silverberg, Mack Reynolds and Brian Aldiss. £1.50

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Underneath its elegant surrealism Peter Tate's new novel is highly readable and provoking; the story of Shem who, constantly running away from each new place and experience, runs into five Gardens in Tuscany where he meets men with no memory of the past, condemned to fantasies of peace. £1.70

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STANISLAW LEM

Translated by Joanna Kilmartin and Steve Cox

A brilliant and intellectually daring scientific fantasy by one of Poland's established writers; on reaching Station Solaris, Kelvin is confronted with mystery and uncertainty which even his own proven sanity does not help him understand. The book is at present being filmed in Russia under the direction of Andrei Tarkovsky. £1.70

BEST SF 7

edited by EDMUND CRISPIN

A selection of stories as ingenious and brilliantly entertaining as any that have appeared in this series since it began 15 years ago. £1.40

FABER & FABER

Sunday

(Morning session sponsored by Ace Publishers)

- 10.30 a.m. Annual General Meeting of the British Science Fiction Association Ltd. (Members of BSFA only)
- 12.00 noon "Future Conventions"
discussion of future British, European and World Conventions
(open to all Eastercon attendees)

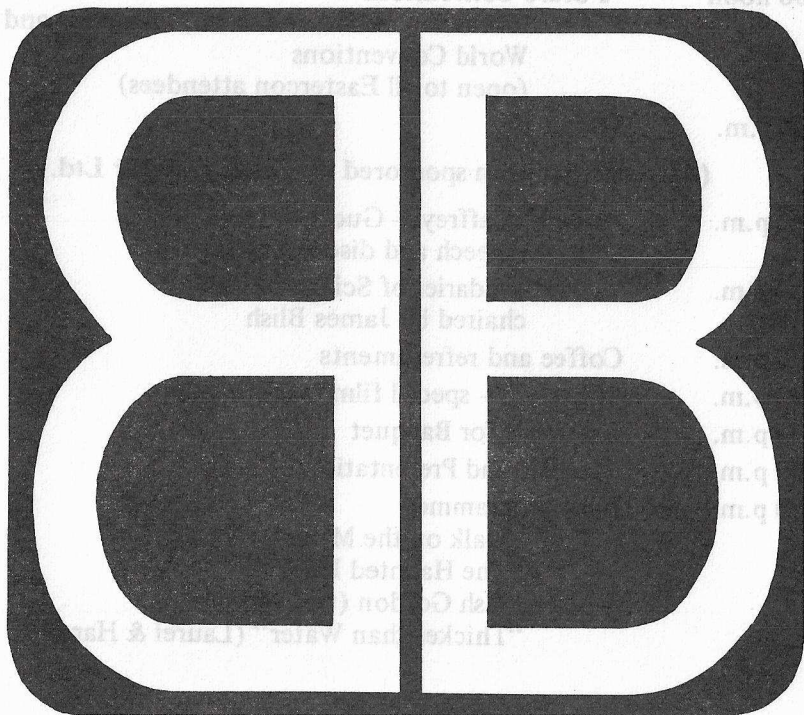
1.00 a.m. Lunch

(Afternoon session sponsored by Faber & Faber Ltd.)

- 2.30 p.m. Anne McCaffrey – Guest of Honour
(speech and discussion)
- 3.30 p.m. "The Boundaries of Science Fiction"
chaired by James Blish
- 4.30 p.m. Coffee and refreshments
- 5.00 p.m. "Charly" – special film performance
- 8.30 p.m. Assemble for Banquet
- 9.00 p.m. Banquet and Presentation of Awards
- 11.00 p.m. Film programme:
"Walk on the Moon" (NASA)
"The Haunted Palace"
Flash Gordon (two episodes)
"Thicker than Water" (Laurel & Hardy)

Monday

- 10.00 a.m. Assemble at Hotel for Riverboat Trip
- 10.30 a.m. "s.s. Belle" leaves North Parade (by bridge) for special two-hour free cruise for all convention members (fully licenced bar)
- 12.30 p.m. End of official programme



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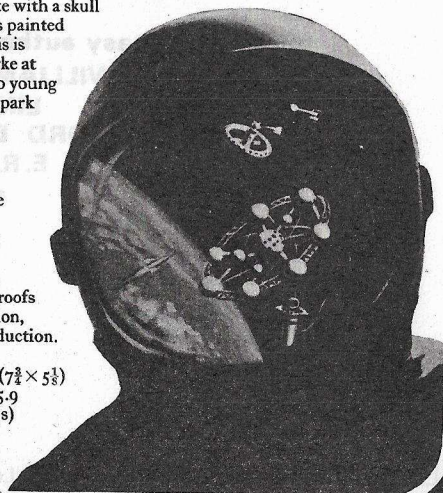
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Arthur C. Clarke Islands in the Sky Introduction by Patrick Moore

A science fiction story for young people

Roy Malcolm wins a TV contest, and his prize is a visit to the Inner Station – a rocket base thousands of miles above the earth. Instead of a sight-seeing jaunt, the trip turns into a terrifying marathon, plagued by a mysterious, drifting satellite with a skull and crossbones painted on its side. This is Arthur C. Clarke at his best, and no young person with a spark of imagination can fail to be enthralled by this space adventure. The book has been out of print for over ten years. Patrick Moore, who read the proofs of the first edition, writes an introduction.

224 pages
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Brian Aldiss Omnibus 2

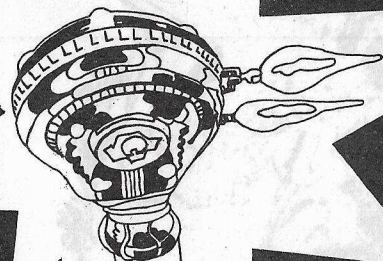
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18.4 x 12.3 cm (7 1/4 x 4 7/8)
SBN 283.48479.9
June £1.95 (39s)

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A *tour de force* by the author who has been described as 'the undisputed idea man of the futuristic field'. Grappling with the enigma of time, Van Vogt transports the reader to the furthest reaches of both the past and the future.

256 pages
18.4 x 12.3 cm (7 1/4 x 4 7/8)
SBN 283.48472.1
March £1.50 (30s)

The Mirror of Infinity

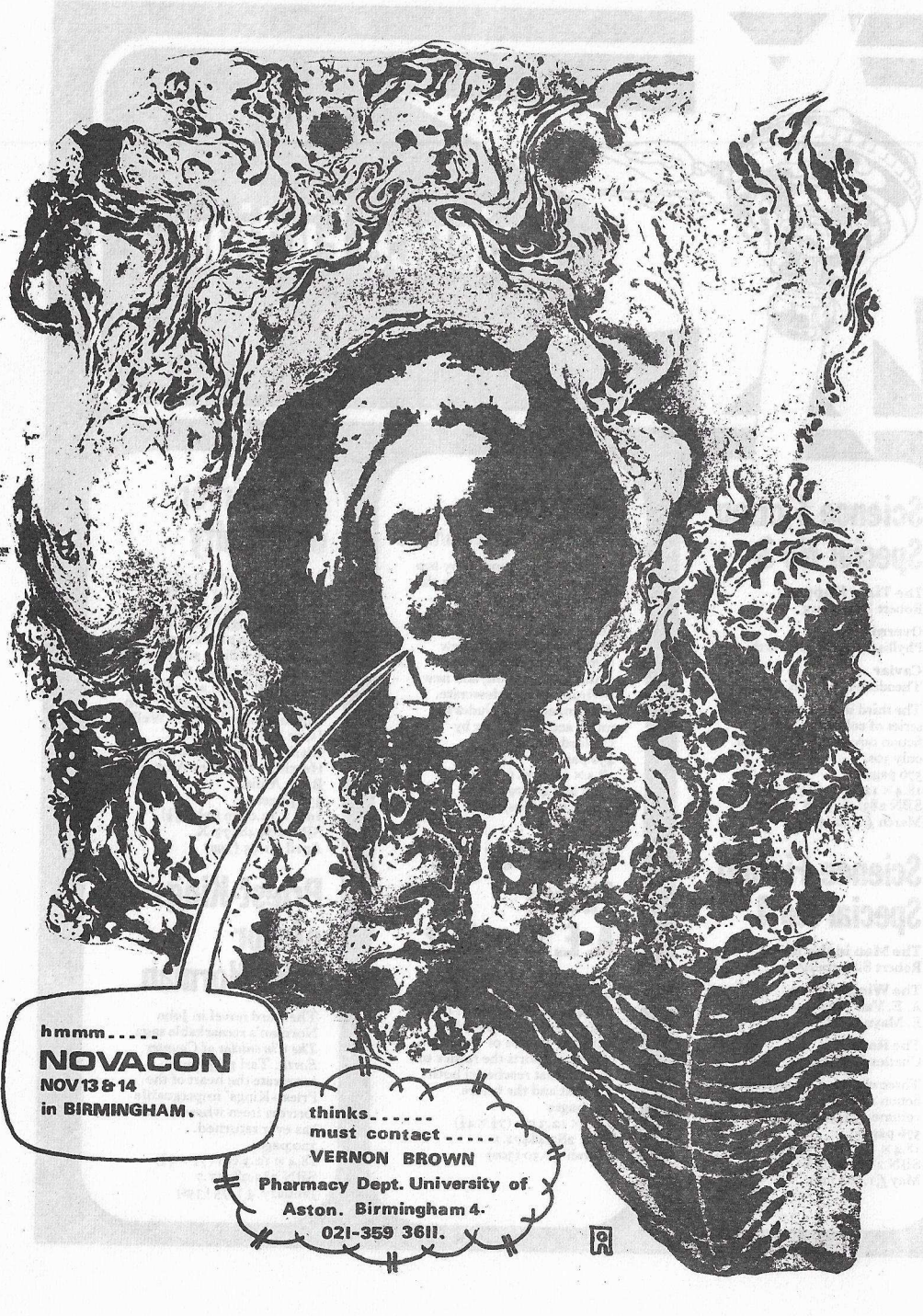
A critics' anthology of science fiction, edited by Robert Silverberg. This collection of awe-inspiring, funny, and chilling tales plus critical comments will be an enjoyable revelation for both the confirmed SF fan as well as readers new to science fiction. Authors include H. G. Wells, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke; critics include Harry Harrison, Kingsley Amis, and Brian Aldiss.

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THE GLORY AND THE SHAMBLES H KEN BULMER

A short history of British Science Fiction Conventions

The history of science fiction conventions in this country is a fascinating story of dedication, serious striving, ribaldry, massive enjoyment and massive neuroses, a tale of fantasy turning into fact.

The same reasons for the creation of fanzines applied to the emergence of science fiction conventions: people who read SF in the early days were isolated from one another in a sea of mundane ridicule. Fanzines and meetings inevitably followed the realisation that there were others of like mind, those who took their name from Wells' *The Star Begotten*. So on Sunday, 3rd January, 1937, the very first British SF convention was held at Leeds. The first London convention followed quickly in 1938.

This gathering at Worcester is the 22nd convention, although this numbering begins after the war, and so with a quick glance at the Bombcon in 1941 when we listened to John Beyon Harris in Lincolns Inn Fields, I pass on to that 1948 meeting in the upper room of the White Horse. This arose naturally from the weekly meetings of the London Circle at the White Horse and it drew a

respectable audience, so much so that when John Newman again organised for 1949 he had to find a venue with greater capacity, settling on the Lord Raglan.

There ensued a lull in 1950 and I can assert with some confidence that this is the only year since 1948 when an SF convention has not been held in this country. It was made up for in 1951 with the "Festiventon" – the truly International Convention – which attracted attendees from the Continent and the U.S. All the great names of early British SF were on the scene at this time – you name him and he was there!

The 1951 and 1952 conventions were held in the Royal Hotel – a venue to which George Hay took us back in 1970 – and the major organisation in these years was done by Charlie Duncombe, Frank Arnold, Fred Brown, Ted Tubb, Jimmy Rattigan, and Vince Clarke, who provided the work that bolstered the appearance of the "names". Perhaps their finest hour was the 1953 "Coroncon" held at the Bonnington Hotel.

A HISTORY OF BRITISH CONVENTIONS

01. 1937 Leeds
02. 1938 London
03. 1941 'Bombcon', London
04. 1944 Birmingham
 1. 1948 White Horse, London
 2. 1949 Lord Raglan, London
 3. 1951 Royal Hotel, London ('Festiventon' – 1st International Convention)
 4. 1952 Royal Hotel, London
 5. 1953 Bonnington Hotel, London ('Coroncon')
 6. 1954 Manchester ('Supermancon')
 7. 1955 Kettering ('Cytricon I')
 8. 1956 Kettering ('Cytricon II')
 - 1957 World Convention in London ('Loncon I')
 9. 1958 Kettering ('Cytricon III')
 10. 1959 Birmingham, Imperial Hotel
 11. 1960 London
 12. 1961 Gloucester ('Lexicon')
 13. 1962 Harrogate
 14. 1963 Peterborough, Bull Hotel
 15. 1964 Peterborough ('Repetercon')
 16. 1965 Birmingham, Midland Hotel ('Brumcon I')
 - 1965 World Convention in London, Mount Royal Hotel ('Loncon II')
 17. 1966 Yarmouth, Royal Hotel ('Yarcon')
 18. 1967 Bristol, Hawthorns Hotel
 19. 1968 Buxton, St. Anne's Hotel ('Thirdmancon')
 20. 1969 Oxford, Randolph Hotel ('Galactic Fair')
 21. 1970 London, Royal Hotel ('Scicon')
 22. 1971 Worcester, Giffard Hotel ('Eastercon 22')

Bert Campbell, of *Authentic* had joined the happy crew by then. At the Buxton Thirdmancon I revealed a little of the truth and hinted at even darker secrets; perhaps one day a neo-Gibbon may chronicle that drunken decline! Suffice it that the next convention, the "Supermancon" held in Manchester in 1954, was the first to be held outside London since the war.

The development of British SF conventions is divisible into clearly marked eras and types.

We began by meeting seriously and sitting on long rows of hard wooden seats, listening to talks about science fiction. We were all dedicated to SF in general and we took, I am sure, the most interest in talks by people like Bill Temple, Arthur Clarke, Ted Carnell

and Wally Gillings. The proceedings would terminate about eleven p.m. and we would go home.

Then, at the beginning of that fabulous 1950's period, all-night parties became fashionable – in enthusiasts' homes, of course. The decade saw the growth of the hotel as centre for nocturnal as well as diurnal activity, and closed with the convention functioning as an end in itself. Interest and fun came out of the apparatus of fanning (activity about SF) without the need for SF. Conventions became more intimate, more enjoyable in one sense and less in another. We became, in all honesty, cliquey.

Between 1955 and 1958 Kettering was the venue *par excellence*. When Ted Tubb and I revisited the George recently

with the St. Fantony crowd, we were shattered, after modern convention hotels, at the smallness of it all. And yet some of the great cons were held there. They were fannish conventions, and they would have existed even if science fiction had suddenly vanished.

But, even so, people like Vince Clarke and Ted Tubb and myself were concerned at the tightening of the circle of people interested in SF as a phenomenon of value. We felt that new blood was necessary and that some sort of society might help, although we'd had experience of the SFS, the last society, and of the BFS and the SFA, and were not too sanguine. But, at Kettering in 1958 and mostly through Ted Tubb's flaming enthusiasm, the BSFA was formed. As we know it did what it was formed to do — it did bring in "new blood."

Partly because of that and partly through an increase in SF publishing, together with changes in financial status and literary habits of devotees, (all connected with the new social trends of the 1960's), conventions once again grew in size. They have since tended to fluctuate greatly in style and atmosphere as well as in size; but anything between 150 and 250 people may be expected and more have been known to attend on popular afternoons.

Fantasy had become fact during that first change in the character of conventions. We had read circumstantially detailed accounts of conventions in the U.S. fan magazines, with tales of wild orgies, all-night room parties, clashes in halls and elevators, door-breaking and hotel detectives being outwitted — and we believed them. When we found ourselves in the position of over-night guests in a convention hotel we felt it only right and proper that we should uphold the dignity of SF in a way similar to that outlined in the U.S. accounts.

When, subsequently, visiting Americans tasted something of the 1950's British convention, they were flabbergasted. When we explained, *they* explained that their fanzine accounts were luridly exaggerated out of all recognition — and then limply added that in real life we'd surpassed the accounts, anyway!

A more sober turn of feature marks modern conventions; perhaps this is due to young enthusiasts no longer being regarded as either ignorant or insane for reading SF. And, too, the very increase in numbers of those interested makes the close relationship of bygone days much more difficult to achieve today when so many more people are involved.

Conventions exist to enable like-minded people — and people who differ radically over principles — to meet and talk and discuss their problems, enthusiasms, projects; but actually it is practically an impossibility to meet everyone at a modern convention with more than a casual greeting. This is one factor stifling the U.S. Worldcon and giving greater importance to regional meetings. At Worcester it is hoped to achieve just the right numbers — in the world of SF conventions biggest most certainly does not equal best.

Today the British National Convention is something of a showcase for science fiction; eminent publishers, editors and writers attend, the atmosphere is friendly and informal and yet formal sessions cover valuable ground. Visiting scientists urbanely disseminate the fruits of their research, the autograph hunter trembles at the ready with nylon fibre-tip poised. The whole scene is stereotyped in a new way. Can fans of the 1970's rechart the course of conventions as did the fans of the 1950's?

During this period two world conventions have been held in this country, both in London, in 1957 and 1965. The Worldcon bears little resemblance to a British convention and is outside the

scope here — save to say that there is a very good case for a British Worldcon in the 70's, and the idea of using the new Birmingham National Exhibition Centre bears marks of genius!

Science fiction is important and has a vital role to play in the shaping of this planet, whether you consider it escapist entertainment or as visionary prophecy or anything else between, and the conventions exist to serve the concept of SF as much as the needs of the attendees.

Any attempt at mentioning names here is foredoomed to failure, because so very many people have taken a hand at organisation. Rather than offend any single person, I can only point out that every convention attendee today, whether this is his first convention or his umpteenth, owes every one of those convention workers a debt, for without them he would not be enjoying the Worcester convention this year.

Commemorative Covers

Special souvenir envelopes have been produced for EASTERCON 22, designed in two colours by *Analog* artist Vincent DiFate. These are available to convention members and can be posted on Saturday, 10th April, to receive a special G.P.O. commemorative postmark.



SHADOW fantasy literature review

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The Amazing Family Life of Science Fiction!

BRIAN W ALDISS

Not until 1957 did I enter the somewhat amazing family life of SF, the clannish world of fandom which looks so ambivalently on the mundane world and often fails to see that, like the mundane world, it also is composed of destructive as well as constructive elements. Nobody has written an intelligent book about fandom; it would be well worth reading; but the author would surely be crowned with thorns!

The grand occasion in 1957 was the holding of the World Science Fiction Convention in London — the first time this annual event had been allowed to stray outside the North American continent — thanks mainly to the efforts of an Anglophile American fan, Dave Kyle. Dave married Ruth Landis, and they flew over to London as part of their honeymoon. That honeymoon feeling was infectious.

Was that nondescript year really 1957, and not 1947? The convention was held in a terrible hotel in the Queensway district. A distinctly post-war feeling lingered. Bomb damage was still apparent. Was sugar still rationed? It can't have been, but there was no mistaking the general American recoil from the ghastliness of plumbing and food, and their amazement at the prostitutes parading along the Bays-

water Road! The whores had not adjusted their make-up to the new sodium lighting, and looked as if they could offer mankind nothing better than necrophilia.

Timorous new writer, I knew before I reached the convention that I should never have gone, that it would not be my *métier*. I fell in with an English fan who was an old hand at these occasions, and we headed for the hotel together.

'You've got some pep pills?'

'No,' I said.

'You'll need pep pills. Got to keep awake somehow! You'll get no sleep at a con, believe you me Kettering.'

'You surprise me.'

'At Kettering last year, nobody in the whole hotel got any sleep for the entire weekend beer!'

'What's that?'

'Beer. I never saw so much beer consumed in all my life. You like beer?'

'I can take it.'

'You'd better! Stick by me, you'll be all right!'

I lost him in the foyer of the hotel, but he caught me again as I was tip-toeing down from my room.

'There you are! It's going to be hell. Don't be nervous. Are you feeling hungry talk?'

'What?'

Peter Weston

for

TAFF

Peter Weston

edits SPECULATION
of which Amazing
says: "Is the best
fanzine of science
fiction discussion!"

organises the most
successful Specu-
lation conferences

is founder of the
Birmingham sf group

has enthusiasm for
the whole sf scene

is a fine fannish
fan

We want to send Peter Weston to the Boston World Convention in September as the winner of the 1971 TAFF contest. But to do this we need your help!

No one has done more for British fandom lately than Peter Weston; he deserves the trip. You may not think your vote important; but it matters a lot to the candidates. Get a TAFF form from the Administrator, Eddie Jones, and vote now.

Greg Benford
Chris Priest
Waldemar Kunning
Charlie Brown
Ken Bulmer

'Talk! We'll be talking all night! Ken Slater's got his stall up, Ron Bennett's checked in and the fans are kneeling round Walt Willis already Ghod.'

'Walt Willis is Ghod?'

'You believe it too? That's what the fans say. It annoys Walt. We'd better go and get a bite to eat. I know a good place to go. There won't be another chance unless we fill up well now. Yes, they call him Ghod.'

I trudged along with my new-found friend, knowing that I would never make the grade in his high-tension world, knowing that the great Willis would instinctively reject (and that with a pun) any clumsy genuflections I might attempt. As my friend regaled me with heroic tales of other cons, of drunken laughter, of awful Chinese meals, of fights with zap-guns, of bottles dropped from roofs down hotel-managers' chimneys, of old ladies complaining, young ladies losing precious possessions, of mini-cons held (hilariously, of course, always hilariously) in baths of cold water, realisation crept — stamped indeed — over me that in the great three-day sorting that was about to overtake the world, my shortcomings as to club-bability would be pitifully revealed.

My worldly friend and I marched into a small Greek restaurant in Queensway.

'Should be someone worth talking to in here,' said my friend loudly, looking round.

In the shadiest corner, a man and woman sat at a table. Both were toying with dishes of lukewarm food. She was smoking, with blurred lazy movements of her wrist. They were talking to each other in quiet voices.

'Told you, I told you!' exclaimed my friend, hurrying over to them. As I followed, he said — to me, to them, to the whole mundane restaurant, 'It's Forry, the Great 4E! How are you, Forry, remember me, remember Kettering, remember that comic taxi driver? This is Mr. Science Fiction,

Forrest Ackermann, you must have heard of him! I was just reading your column in *Nebula*, Forry. There are some great SF films coming along, by what you say.'

'Hollywood's doing its best for us,' Forry said, smiling. His spectacles flashed in my direction. 'And won't you introduce us?'

'Oh, yes, I forget, this is Brian Aldiss.'

'Brian W. Aldiss?' asked Forry.

Nothing has ever sounded more courteous to my ears. There was no bluster to Forry. He is one of the few men who has attended all the world science fiction conventions; since he was a spotty youth, he fought to help SF establish itself; and he has built up one of the world's largest private collections of SF; but none of this you learn from Forry.

We sat down with him and Mary. I believe I did have something to eat. I know I became completely under their spell, as the empathy started working overtime. My worldly friend disappeared somewhere along the line in search of other celebrities. Forry, Mary and I just sat and talked. Later, we strolled back to the hotel and met Val and Lee and other members of the entourage, and Dave and Ruth. I remained with them for most of the con, while the band played 'Dirty Old Town.'

So I saw little of other new writers who were present. I do remember John Brunner; at an incredibly early age, he seemed to be running everything. Most people begin SF activities scandalously young. Ted Carnell, then editor of *New Worlds*, who had advised me to write *Non-Stop*, ushered me into a bar where a press conference was being held and John Brunner was telling the reporters what was what. I do not recall that any of the reporters spoke to me.

I went to the bar and bought a drink. Standing next to me was a slim young man who told me that there were some

extraordinary types at the convention, and that he was thinking of leaving pretty smartly. He introduced himself as J. G. Ballard. I had already read his early stories in *New Worlds*; indeed, at that time, his were the only short stories (apart from my own) that I could read there with any pleasure.

The big guns were also present at that convention. Guest of Honour was John W. Campbell, one of the most influential men in magazine SF. I saw him talking gravely to Eric Frank Russell, whose laconic humour made him one of my admired writers. John Wyndham was there, gentlemanly and quiet as ever amid the *mêlée*; and Robert Abernathy, an excellent writer; and Arthur C. Clarke, who flew over from Ceylon to dazzle us with a few tricks from his magic briefcase; and the all-knowing and genial Sam Moskowitz, who even today fights valiantly for the kind of fiction he read and enjoyed as a boy.

Oh, and many more, as the memory splutters faultily into life. I find my Evans-Newman de-programming system did a fairly thorough job on that convention. Ken and Pamela Bulmer, very gay; and Irish writer, James White, dashing about firing zap-guns at people; John Christopher, who gave me good advice which I actually took, and whose brilliant novel, *Death of Grass*, made the London of those days seem more dangerous than it was; John Boland, who was yet to write *League of Gentlemen*, and had produced a nice catastrophe, *White August*; Robert Silverberg, looking even younger then than now; a chubby and smiling young man called Tom Boardman Jnr., whose publishing firm was bringing out some good hard-core SF. And many other young giants, no doubt, for the times they were a-changing!

(excerpted from Brian's book —
THE SHAPE OF FURTHER THINGS)

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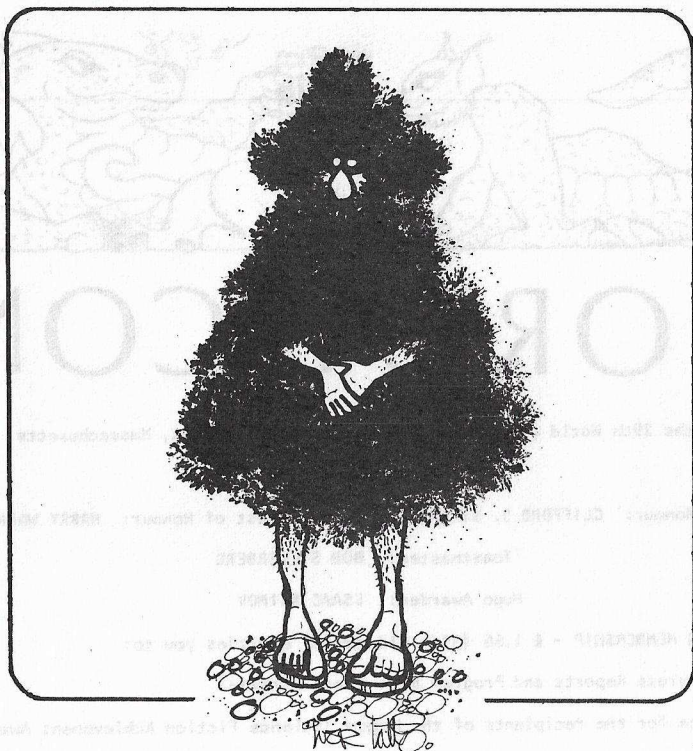
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The "Doc" Weir Award, named in memory of the late Dr Arthur Weir, is presented every year at the annual British SF Convention.

Doc's name was Arthur Rose Weir, D.Sc., of Prague University and he was by profession a schoolteacher, with a strong literary interest both in "hard" science fiction and in general fantasy. As a professional sideline he used to translate scientific things from Czech into English, and his wife (who survived him) was Czechoslovakian by birth.

He was in his sixties when he discovered fandom — via the Cheltenham SF Circle, which was in full flower at the time — and he thoroughly enjoyed the resulting social and epistolatory contacts which this brought him.

He was secretary of the BSFA at one time but had to resign owing to chronic ill-health. The Award was started in his memory, after a scheme to purchase his collection for the BSFA Library had fallen through.

The annual winner does not get the Award for any particular activity, but

simply for being the person thought by the electorate at the time to be most deserving of the distinction. Past winners have been:—

1963 Peter Mabey
1964 Archie Mercer
1965 Terry Jeeves
1966 Ken Slater
1967 Doreen Parker
1968 Mary Reed
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1970 Michael Rosenblum

For the 1971 Award, all members of the British Science Fiction Association will be entitled to vote: also, all those (whether members of the Association or not) who attend Eastercon 22. Nomination and voting forms will be distributed at the convention, and by post to BSFA members.

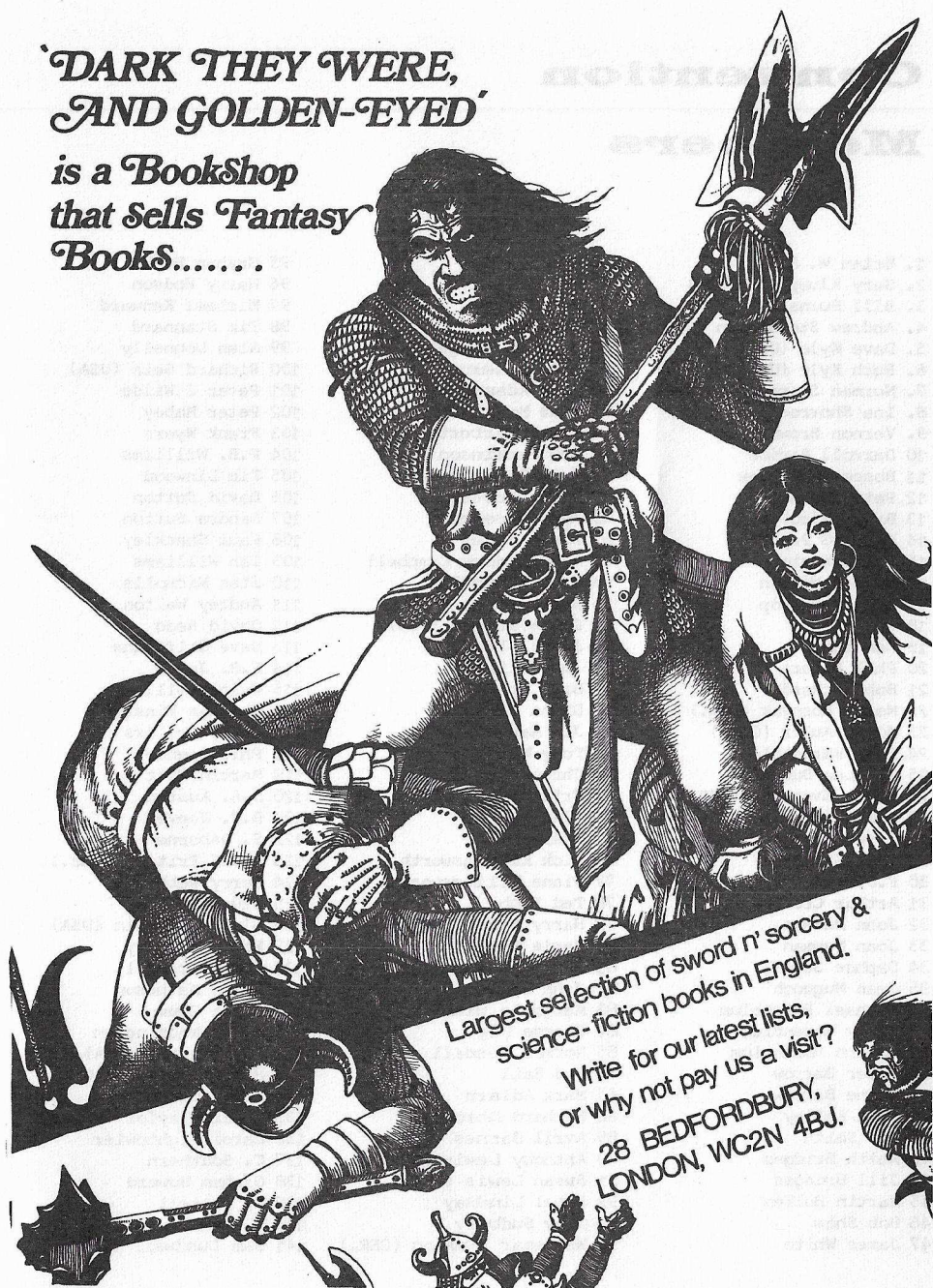
Vote counting will take place towards the end of the convention and the Award presented at the Banquet. It is not too late for you to nominate a candidate of your choice if you have not already done so.

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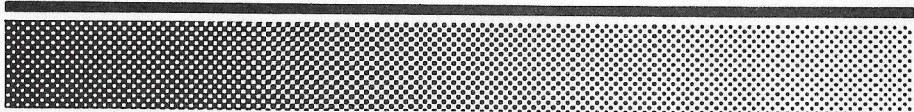
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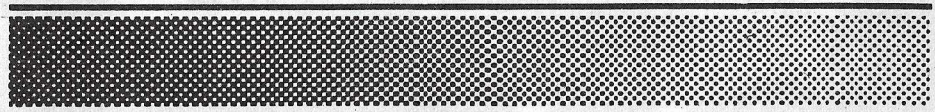
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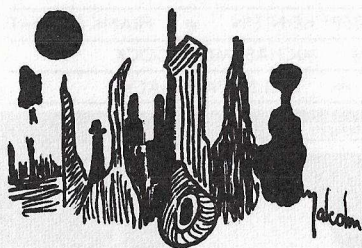
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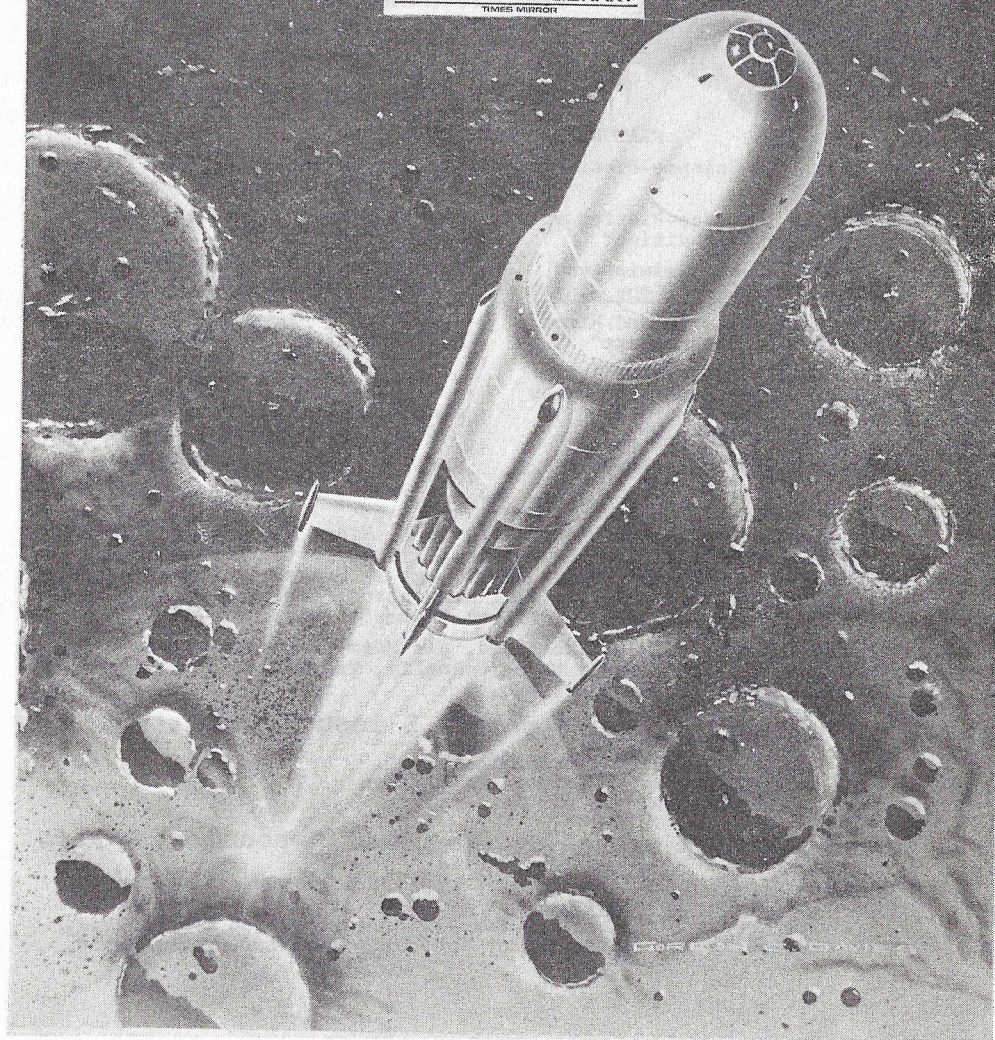
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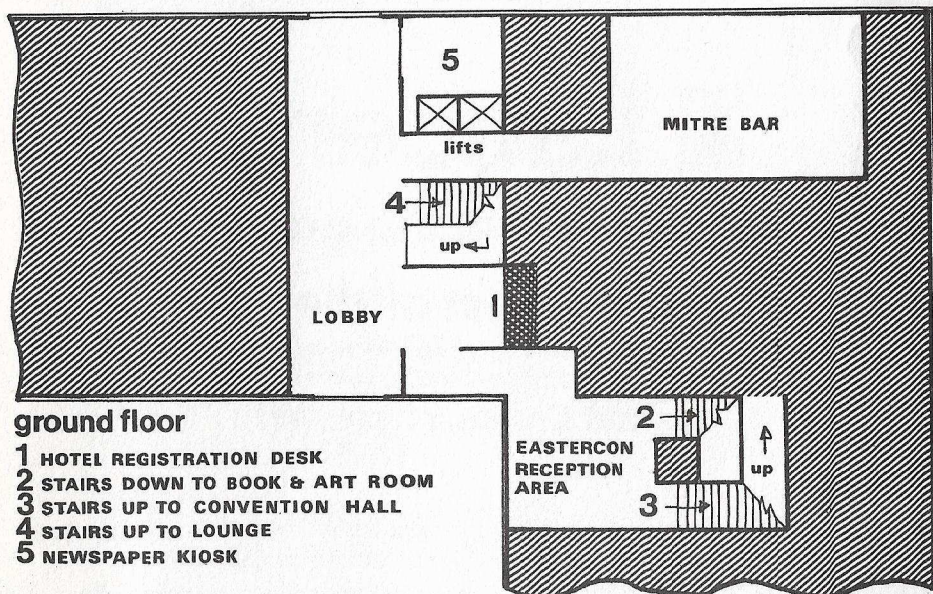
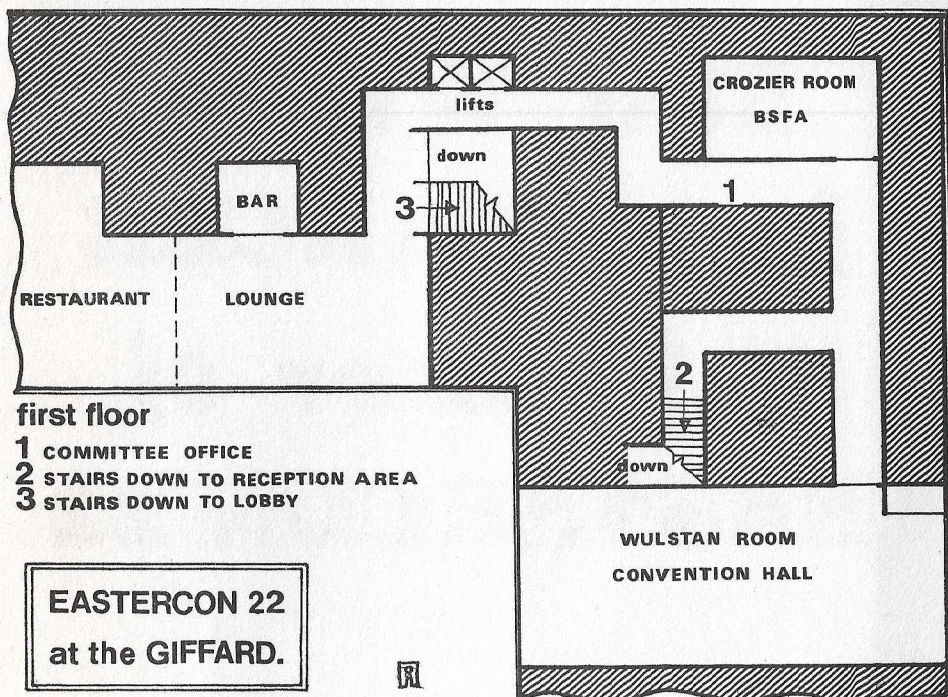


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