

SCIENCE FICTION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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SFRA NEWSLETTER #1

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The SFRA NEWSLETTER is published irregularly by the Science Fiction Research Association, a nonprofit scholarly organization. It is edited by the Secretary-Treasurer of SFRA (Fred Lerner, 7 Amsterdam Avenue, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666 USA) and is sent to all voting, supporting, student and institutional members. Contents are copyright 1971 by the Science Fiction Research Assn.

SECCON IV SCHEDULED FOR TORONTO IN OCTOBER

The 4th annual Secondary Universe Conference will be held in Toronto on the weekend of 9-11 October 1971. Monday the 11th will be celebrated as Columbus Day under new American legislation, as well as being the Canadian Thanksgiving holiday, so a three-day conference will be feasible. No details of site or program are available yet, but Conference Committee Chairman Madeleine Morton can be reached at:

Secondary Universe IV
566 Palmerston Avenue
Toronto 174, Ontario
CANADA.

SecCon III was held at Queensborough Community College in New York City on the weekend of 16-18 October 1970. SFRA Chairman Thomas D Clareson gave the welcoming address, "Critical Reception of Science Fiction". A highlight of the Conference was the presentation of the SFRA's Pilgrim Award to J.O. Bailey, the Guest of Honor at a buffet dinner.

Both the program and the attendance were interdisciplinary, with participation from within and without the science fiction community, including many Queensborough students and faculty members. The proceedings of the Conference are being edited for publication by Conference Chairman Virginia Carew of the Queensborough English Department.

MINUTES OF FIRST SFRA BUSINESS MEETING

The first annual business meeting of the Science Fiction Research Association was held at Queensborough Community College in New York City on Saturday morning, 17 October 1970. Thomas D Clareson (SFRA Chairman) presided; Fred Lerner was secretary; and Ivor Rogers was parliamentarian.

After Prof Clareson's welcoming remarks, Ivor Rogers assumed the chair, and Mr Clareson read, and moved adoption of, the statutes of SFRA. This was approved unanimously. Prof Clareson resumed the chair.

Darko Suvin reported on publications. He had contacted three trade publishers with negative results. Contact with other publishers is continuing. The SFRA

book program is planned to include six volumes per year: a yearbook containing a collection of essays, and five monographs. By the end of five or six years, this would constitute a basic monograph library for the teaching of science fiction. The eventual success of this program will probably depend on subsidies from outside sources. Members were requested to notify Suvin of their potential books.

Virginia Carew moved that the Executive Committee be given a mandate to continue along these lines. This was approved.

Andrew Adams Whyte reported on the 28th World Science Fiction Convention at Heidelberg, and the Symposium at Osaka. He and Ivor Rogers had held a meeting at HeiCon, which was attended by thirty people from several countries. The meeting was bilingual (English and French). The following countries were represented: Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Rumania, Sweden, UK, USA. There was considerable enthusiasm for SFRA, especially from the French.

There is also much interest and activity in Japan. The Japanese are conversant with both Western and Soviet SF. Contact was made at Osaka with Kagorlitski and other Russians. SFRA will be a worldwide organisation from the beginning.

Prof Suvin added details of contacts with Eastern Europeans which he made on behalf of SFRA.

Ms. Carew read the report of the nominating committee. There being no nominations from the floor, Prof Suvin moved that the nominations be closed. This was accepted unanimously. Those elected to the Executive Committee were:

Clareson, Lerner, Suvin	thru 31 December 1973
Carew, Rogers, Whyte	thru 31 December 1972
Livingston, Morton, Mullen	thru 31 December 1971.

Two invitations were received for the 1971 Secondary Universe Conference (SecCon IV). Madeleine Morton presented a bid on behalf of McGill University and the Toronto Public Library. Glenn Sadler presented a bid on behalf of the Mythopoeic Society to hold SecCon IV jointly with MythCon II.

Prof Suvin moved that, as an extraordinary measure in light of the Canadian political crisis, the Executive Committee be empowered to choose the site for SecCon IV, this choice to be made by 15 January 1971. This passed.

Peter Fitting moved that the Executive Committee determine the sentiment of the membership as to place and date for SecCon IV. This passed. The consensus was that SecCon should be held during the academic year; Canada was preferred to California. It was also felt that the SFRA annual business meeting should not be held at a convention jointly sponsored with another organisation. The meeting was then recessed until the following morning.

Prof Clareson called the meeting back to order on Sunday morning, 18 October 1970, and called for new business. Andrew Whyte circulated among those present a list of members, on which their projects and works in progress were to be listed.

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PILGRIM AWARD TO J O BAILEY

At the SFRA Banquet, Saturday, 17 October 1970, Thomas D Clareson presented the first Pilgrim Award to Professor J.O. Bailey. The presentation letter read as follows:

On this occasion, 17 October 1970, the first meeting of the Science Fiction Research Association, we wish to recognize the achievement of one scholar in particular.

When the field of science fiction was yet in its infancy, he began research that culminated in the publication of the first academic study of the genre as a whole, Pilgrims Through Space and Time (1947).

In doing so, he proved to be the first scholar to recognize the significance of science fiction, both for itself and for its relationship to the main body of twentieth century literature. In describing the genre, he gave lasting names to some of the motifs. His work has remained as an authority and a guide to the ever-increasing number of students in the field.

So that his accomplishment will be well remembered, we name the SFRA annual citation for outstanding scholarship, The Pilgrim Award.

On this occasion we pay honor to Professor J.O. Bailey of the University of North Carolina.

Thomas D. Clareson
Chairman

SFRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Since SFRA is a widely interdisciplinary organisation, there is a rather good chance that many of its officers will not be well known to many of the members. For this reason, we are including in this first issue brief profiles of our Executive Committee:

Thomas D Clareson, SFRA Chairman, is Professor of English at the College of Wooster in Ohio. Since 1959, he has been editor of Extrapolation, the newsletter of the Modern Language Association's Seminar on Science Fiction. He is co-editor of a book of Victorian Essays, and has three books in preparation: Charles Reade: A Biography; The Other Side of Realism; and An Annotated Bibliography of SF Criticism. Prof Clareson is interested in Victorian and American literature, particularly the novel.

Fred Lerner, SFRA Secretary-Treasurer, works at the Research Foundation of the City University of New York, where his title is Information Specialist. A librarian by training, he is the compiler of An Annotated Checklist of Science Fiction Bibliographical Works, and founder of the Conference on the Bibliography of Science Fiction. His major research interests are in Rudyard Kipling and in the bibliography and librarianship of specialised collections.

Darko Suvin is Associate Professor of English at McGill University in Montreal. Educated in Yugoslavia, he is the author of Possible Worlds -- An Outline of Science Fiction Literature, which was published in Serbo-Croatian, as were several books on poetics. A recent English-language publication, Other Worlds,

Other Seas, is an anthology of SF from the Socialist countries, edited by Prof. Suvin. He is interested in science fiction, modern drama, and poetics.

Ivor A Rogers has his training in theatre and film, where he has credits as Director, Designer, Actor, and Author. The first two Secondary Universe Conferences were held under his direction. He is now Instructor in Communication-Action at the University of Wisconsin (Green Bay), where his major interests are the relation of science and technology to the arts, and the teaching of Popular Culture.

Madeleine Morton, Chairman of the 1971 Secondary Universe Conference, is Collection Librarian at Toronto's Spaced Out Library. She is teaching a course in science fiction at York University in Toronto.

Richard Dale Mullen is Professor of English at Indiana State University in Terre Haute. The author of several articles in Extrapolation, his major interest is in science fiction as a part of English literature.

Dennis Livingston is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University. He is a futurologist, and has published papers in such journals as The Futurist, American Journal of International Law, and the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. He lists his interests as: the use of international law and organisation to manage the environmental crisis; social/political forecasting with emphasis on international relations; the social significance of science fiction; and educational reform.

Andrew Adams Whyte is a collector of science fiction and fantasy, and is associated with the forthcoming World Science Fiction Convention in Boston. He is the editor and publisher of SF Bulletin, and is interested in indexing and bibliography.

Virginia Carew is Instructor of English at Queensborough Community College in New York City, where she specialises in teaching mechanical, technical, and engineering students. She formerly worked at Funk and Wagnall's, as editor of the New International Yearbook. Her major scholarly interests are linguistics, Middle English, and SF. She is currently editing the Proceedings of Secondary Universe III, of which she was Coordinator.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE TO BE IN MARCH

The Third Annual Conference on the Bibliography of Science Fiction will be held on Saturday morning, 27 March 1971, at the Sheraton Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. The Conference will be held in conjunction with MarCon, an annual science fiction conference sponsored by Ohio SF fans. Further information will be given in the next issue. Those wishing to present papers should contact Fred Lerner, whose address is given on page 6.

SFRA MINUTES (continued from page 2)

The following committees were established, and chairmen appointed:

Teaching	Jack Williamson
Futurology	Dennis Livingston
Editorial Board	Darko Suvin
SecCon IV	Madeleine Morton
Bibliography	Dale Mullen
"Other Media"	Ivor Rogers
Proceedings	Virginia Carew
International Liaison	Andrew Whyte
General Liaison	Tom Clareson
Membership	Fred Lerner

It was decided that Prof Clareson, as SFRA Chairman, should be an ex officio member of all committees.

It was decided that a mimeographed version of the SFRA Directory should be published by the end of October (this has not yet been done). A questionnaire is to be prepared, to elicit information on the current and future research projects of the membership.

Dale Mullen moved to send to Sebastian Martinez and to the Spanish Ambassador in Washington the letters drafted by Fred Lerner and Darko Suvin [texts are printed below]. This was passed unanimously.

Darko Suvin moved votes of thanks, which were passed unanimously, to Queensborough Community College and to Virginia Carew for their cooperation and effort on behalf of SecCon III.

The meeting then adjourned.

TEXTS OF LETTERS ABOUT NUEVA DIMENSION

The following letters were sent as SFRA's reaction to the seizure of an issue of the Spanish SF publication Nueva Dimension by the Spanish authorities:

(To Sr Sebastian Martinez):

We have heard with dismay and shock that the issue #14 of Nueva Dimension, the science fiction magazine which you, Domingo Santos, and Luis Vigil have been editing and publishing with such distinction, has been seized by the Spanish Political Police, because it contained a science fiction story set in an imaginary future. We have also read that the future of the magazine and its publishers is in jeopardy because of this. We have found Nueva Dimension to be one of the finest periodicals in the field of science fiction in the world, and it has served as an example of international cooperation and fruitful exchange of information in science fiction. It has been a worthy representative in our field of the great Hispanic literary and artistic tradition. It would be highly regrettable for Spain to be deprived of her voice in the growing international science fiction community.

We hope that the Spanish government will make it possible for you to resume normal publication with no curtailment of the freedom of speculation necessary to all science fiction, i.e., without being subjected to ruinous fines or prison sentences.

We are therefore sending a copy of this letter from our annual general meeting in New York to the Spanish Ambassador in Washington, and we authorise you to use this letter as you see fit, as an expression of our deep sense of sympathy and concern at what Nueva Dimension and you are experiencing.

(To His Excellency, The Spanish Ambassador in Washington):

We enclose a copy of our letter to Sr Sebastian Martinez. We hope that it will convey to you our high regard for his work, and our hope that Nueva Dimension will be able to resume unimpeded publication in the immediate future.

SFRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ADDRESS LIST

Here are the mailing addresses of SFRA Executive Committee members:

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