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NEBULA AWARDS

The Nebula Awards for 1972 were presented at the Nebula Award Banquets in New York, Berkeley, and New Orleans on 28 April 1973:

Best Novel

The Gods Themselves, by Isaac Asimov (Doubleday)

Best Novella

"A Meeting with Medusa", by Arthur C Clarke (Playboy)

Best Novelette

"Goat Song", by Poul Anderson (F&SF)

Best Short Story

"When it Changed", by Joanna Russ (Again, Dangerous Visions)

CAMPBELL AWARD

The first annual John W Campbell Memorial Award competition resulted in the selection of Beyond Apollo by Barry Malzberg (Random House) as the best science fiction novel of 1972. The awards committee, headed by Prof Leon E Stover of the Illinois Institute of Technology, cited the novel's "excellence of technique which represents a major step forward in the development of the science fiction genre". Members of the committee include SFRA Chairman Thomas D Clareson; Brian Aldiss; Harry Harrison; and Willis E McNelly.

NOTES AND NOTICES

There was a certain eeriness about the meeting, on 8 April 1973, of the Fantasy and Science Fiction Section at the annual conference of the Northeast Modern Language Association, held at the Parker House in Boston, owing to the absence of the chairman and secretary of the Section and of two of the expected speakers. However, a small but highly appreciative group listened to William H J Kennedy of Queensborough Community College, who analysed the two versions of The Moon Pool in a paper on "A Merritt: The Poetry of Fantasy". Dr Kennedy will serve as chairman of the Section for 1974; papers for presentation at next year's meeting may be sent to him (Dept of English, Queensborough Community College, Bayside NY 11364) by 30 September 1973. Further details about the meeting will be given in a future SFRA NEWSLETTER.

The Reference and Adult Services Division of the American Library Association has announced that Thomas D Clareson's Science Fiction Criticism: An Annotated Checklist (Kent State Univ Press) has been selected as one of the outstanding reference books published during 1972. (Frederick Siemon's Science Fiction Story Index was similarly honored in last year's list.)

Henry Jewell (PO Box 244, Warrensburg MO 64093) is looking for a bibliography of the writings of Curt Siodmak.

Lorraine Costa (5257 Canterbury Drive, San Diego CA 92116) is collecting "inventions of various alternative urban scenarios for the next century", to be presented for public display as part of a museum exhibit on 21st century environmental design.

D Reid Powell (17 Riverside Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M6S 1B5) is writing a dissertation on identity myths in science fiction/fantasy novels. He is attempting to show that "the dominant theme of a great deal of SF is one of integrity and transformation: wherein the central character(s) becomes changed in some respect following a traumatic event, to emerge on another level of being or consciousness, but retaining his essential self-vision. The myth-pattern of integrity and transformation is contrasted to the Biblical/Classical one of separation and return, or the Judaeo-Christian pattern of conflict and vindication.

Secondary Universe VI will be held at Pennsylvania State University on 14-17 September 1973, with its topic "The Writer and Science Fiction". For information write to:

Dean Arthur O Lewis or Prof Philip Klass
410 Keller Building
University Park PA 16802

We have encountered the customary technical difficulties in getting the SFRA NEWSLETTER out on time; we are in the process of resuming our monthly schedule. This April issue is published in early May. The February-March and May issues will be published, hopefully, by June 1. As always, letters and contributions (especially for this "Notes and Notices" column) are sought from readers.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Chris Steinbrunner and Burt Goldblatt, Cinema of the Fantastic. (New York: Saturday Review Press, 1972). 282p illus. \$9.95

Messrs Steinbrunner and Goldblatt have prepared in Cinema of the Fantastic a visual feast for the connoisseur of movie memorabilia that is also a provocative and stimulating essay on films that may broadly be described as fantastic, whether they be those usually classified as SF, like Lang's Metropolis (1927); those that are purely fairy-tale, like Korda's Thief of Bagdad (1940); or those that are generally classed as horror films, like Browning's Freaks (1932).

The authors of this remarkable book have included fifteen films ranging from the archaic (Méliès's Trip to the Moon, 1902) to the fairly recent (Wilcox's deft plagiarism from Shakespeare, Forbidden Planet, 1956), and including a serial (Flash Gordon, 1936). Each film is discussed in an essay that recalls the main aspects of the plot, gives something of the facts behind the making of the movie, and presents personal reasons for the authors' particular choice. But with full cast-lists and credits to please purists comes perhaps the most valuable aspect of the book, its profuse illustrations that capture the flavor of the films and enable one to review old favorites in the theatre of the mind. We are given, besides those films already mentioned, studies of King Kong; The Black Cat; The Bride of Frankenstein; Mad Love; Things to Come; Beauty and the Beast; The Thing; Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea; and Invasion of the Body Snatchers. The choice reflects the catholicity of the authors' tastes and their wide appeal to film-lovers. And, until we can freely get the TV cassettes of our favorite films, we must make do with this splendid book.

Of course the inevitable fate of those who compile anthologies is to be criticised for not including the reviewer's own pet: this reviewer especially missed, for example, Kenton's Island of Lost Souls (1932), and wished that more recent films had been included. The tantalising Epilogue, touching so briefly on 2001; Dr Strangelove; Planet of the Apes; Fantastic Voyage; and Barbarella, leads one to hope that Messrs Steinbrunner and Goldblatt will perhaps present a companion volume to delight the mind and eye.

-- Veronica M S Kennedy
St John's University

Elizabeth Calkins and Barry McGhan, Teaching Tomorrow: A Handbook of Science Fiction for Teachers. (Dayton: Pflaum/Standard, 1972). viii, 103p paperbound.

This purports to be a handbook for high-school teachers who find that their students are apathetic about standard high-school textbooks with their extracts of material from the classical literature of America and England. To quote: "The most obvious reason for using SF in high school hardly needs stating: it provides students

with interesting written material through which their skills in reading and writing can be improved". A few pages further along there is a statement which seems to speak against the development of the latter of these skills: "Successful writing is partly a matter of conforming to a set of accepted practices, but if students rebel, arrangements can be made for some papers to be evaluated on a basis that deemphasizes the formal aspect of writing." Nor does one get the impression, from the case histories cited, that reading skills were improved. It is rather as if the writers had said: well, we'll use science fiction with those who are too dopey to handle standard texts, and if it turns out that they are still too dopey to read and write well, they will get a pat on the back anyway. This is not the kind of publicity that science fiction needs. Over and over again when those who teach SF at college level talk about their courses they emphasise that theirs are not gut courses, and that both literacy and literary standards are maintained.

Apart from one disastrous list headed "Science Fiction for Girls", the reading-lists provided in the book are extremely useful; they are based on recommendations by Alexei Panshin and Damon Knight.

-- Florence Brand
Teachers College,
Columbia University