

SCIENCE FICTION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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31ST WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

Almost 3000 people attended Torcon II, the 31st World Science Fiction Convention, which was held at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto over the Labor Day weekend. Altho the convention program contained less to interest the academic community than have those of most recent world conventions, there was a considerable amount of informal academic activity, especially among the many librarians present.

THE HUGO WINNERS

At the Torcon banquet, the following Hugo awards were given for the best science fiction of 1972:

Novel	<u>The Gods Themselves</u> , by Isaac Asimov
Novella	"The Word for World is Forest", by Ursula K LeGuin
Novelette	"Goat Song", by Poul Anderson
Short Story	"Eurema's Dam", by R A Lafferty (tied with) "The Meeting", by Frederik Pohl and C M Kornbluth
Dramatic Presentation	<u>Slaughterhouse-5</u>
Editor	Ben Bova
Pro Artist	Frank Kelly Freas
Fanzine	<u>Energumen</u> (edited by Michael and Susan Glicksohn)
Fan Writer	Terry Carr
Fan Artist	Tim Kirk

BISNAAK:

a column, conducted by Leslie Kay Swigart

Suggestions of things that "someone really ought to do" should be sent to me at: Box 8570, Long Beach CA 90808.

1. Someone really ought to do an index to the foreign-language SF professional magazines. (LKS)
2. Someone really ought to do an anthology of definitions of fantasy and science fiction. (LKS)
3. Someone really ought to do complete bibliographies (all the writing, not just SF) of:

Poul Anderson	Ursula K LeGuin
Samuel R Delany	Fritz Leiber
Philip K Dick	Robert Sheckley
Gordon R Dickson	Robert Silverberg
Philip Jose Farmer	Theodore Sturgeon
Damon Knight	Kate Wilhelm
R A Lafferty	Roger Zelazny
and many, many more...	(LKS & Fred Lerner)
4. Someone really ought to do an index to the illustrators in the SF magazines. (Hal Hall)
5. Someone really ought to do an index to the SF magazine letter-columns, since many SF writers have been published there. (LKS & Hal Hall)
6. Someone really ought to do a sort of "Science Fiction Master-plots", so that one can refresh one's memory without having to read an entire novel over again. (Janet Kagan)
7. Someone really ought to do an updated and thoroly revised version of W R Cole's Checklist of Science-Fiction Anthologies which would not only bring it up-to-date but would also account for all of the variant editions of anthologies (paperback, foreign, abridged, etc) and their contents. (LKS)
8. Someone really ought to do a similar checklist of foreign-language SF anthologies. (LKS & Fred Lerner)

32ND WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

DisCon II, the 32nd World Science Fiction Convention, will be held over Labor Day Weekend (29 August - 2 September) 1974, at the Sheraton-Park Hotel in Washington DC. The Guest of Honor will be Roger Zelazny, with Jay Kay Klein as Fan Guest of Honor. Membership is \$5 attending, \$3 non-attending; the Convention's address is: DISCON II, Box 31127, Washington DC 20031.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Reviews and annotations by Hal Hall, Texas A&M Univ Library (HH);
Fred Lerner, Columbia University (FL)

Brian W Aldiss, Billion Year Spree: The True History of Science Fiction. (Garden City: Doubleday, 1973). 339p \$7.95

Billion Year Spree is a serious attempt to describe the origins and growth of science fiction as a literary genre. Brian Aldiss combines personal experience as a science fiction writer with a strong literary background; the resulting book is the best general account of SF that is available in the English language.

Altho he devotes the obligatory chapter to Lucian of Samosata and other "pilgrim fathers", this is only because their writings contain "much that in content prefigures science fiction". To Aldiss, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus is the true literary ancestor of the genre; Aldiss finds science fiction's intellectual origin in the fact that "the evolutionary revolution and the Industrial Revolution occurred in the same period of time".

In his discussion of twentieth-century science fiction, Aldiss defines two poles: the "thinking pole" of Wells and his followers, and the "dreaming pole" of Burroughs, Lovecraft, and their descendants. Aldiss' preference for the former over the latter is obvious; those who regard the fantasy story as an integral part of the science fiction universe will be disappointed at the short shrift he accords it.

When he comes to discuss postwar science fiction, Aldiss' treatment is condensed but even-handed, save for a disproportionate emphasis on Harry Harrison (with whom Aldiss co-edited SF Horizons and other publications). But then Kingsley Amis had his Frederik Pohl.

Aldiss writes a snappy prose; my favorite example is the pit, in a Hodgson novel, "from which swine-things...emerge and go through the traditional uncanny, nocturnal, and nauseous antics of all swine-things".

Tho written for a popular audience, Billion Year Spree would be a good reference for the student or scholar. Aldiss gives extensive references, tho his citations are not as complete bibliographically as one would desire. (Imprint information is particularly necessary to those who must obtain books thru interlibrary loan.) There is a critical bibliography and an index.

Billion Year Spree is a valuable addition to the literature about science fiction, well-informed and eminently readable. In one of his footnotes, Aldiss contemplates a companion volume devoted to the contemporary SF scene. I am looking forward to it. (FL)

The Alien Critic #5, May 1973. (Richard E Geis, Box 11408, Portland OR 97211). \$4/year.

Dick Geis has returned to the Science Fiction Review format with issue #5, and again has a magazine of potential interest to most SF fans and scholars. This issue contains an article ("The Literary Dreamers") by James Blish, and an interview with Fritz Leiber. (HH)

Howard Phillips Lovecraft, Supernatural Horror in Literature. (New York: Dover, 1973). 111p pb \$1.50 ISBN 0-486-20105-8

Supernatural Horror in Literature is a narrative history of the genre, tracing its origins to the beginnings of Western literature, and emphasising the development of the Gothic novel. Over 100 works are listed, with a brief description of each; there is a special emphasis on American works.

This is an unabridged and corrected republication of the 1945 edition (New York: Ben Abramson), with a new introduction by E F Bleiler. An index has been added. The publication of this Dover edition makes Lovecraft's essay readily available for classroom use in courses dealing with the evolution and development of weird fiction. (FL)

NOTES AND NOTICES

A special session on Geography's role in Futures Studies is being proposed to the Program Committee for the forthcoming annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers to be held in Seattle. The session will focus upon themes and approaches in Futures Studies used by geographers at their respective universities. The purpose of this session is to bring together geographers who are currently teaching and/or doing research in the area of Futures Studies so that they may exchange information and more systematically advance Geography's contribution in this growing field. Those interested in participating in such a workshop are asked to notify Dr Gary A Klee, Dept of Geography, University of Wisconsin - Superior, Superior WI 54880 by 1 November 1973.

Mark Rich (391 S Tucson Way, Aurora CO 80012) is starting a magazine of fantasy and science fiction poetry, to be called The Silent Planet.

According to Sanders' Peoples' Republic of Mongolia: A General Reference Guide, there is a Mongolian science fiction novelist named D Darjaa. Requests for further information to the State Publishing Committee and to the Ministry of Culture have gone unanswered. Has anyone any information on this writer? Replies to: Fred Lerner, 7 Amsterdam Avenue, Teaneck NJ 07666.