

EAST FANGLIAN TIMES

Issue #4

Friday, 23rd November, 1962

International

G.O.H.

FNS, 27 Oct 62, Oxford. BSFA President Brian Aldiss today confirmed that Bruce Montgomery (Edmund Crispin) had accepted the invitation to be Guest of Honour at the Peterboro Convention, Easter '63

PRO SUPPORT

FNS, 22 Nov 62, Wisbech. A general letter of invitation to professional publishers, asking them to display at the Convention, is reported to be showing good results. Among publishers so far expressing interest are Messrs Abelard-Schuman, George Allen & Unwin, Faber & Faber, Mayflower Books, and Pan Books.

FANCY DRESS

FNS 30 Oct 62, Wisbech. Voting on the FANCY DRESS PARTY showed a six to one balance in favour of continuation of this event. Ken Slater said "If the proportion of fancy dress to mufti is the same, it will be a flipping miracle".

FILMS

FNS 14 Nov 1962, London. Films for the Convention have been (provisionally) settled as the good old silent film "METROPOLIS".....!...and Jean Cocteau's "ORPHEE".

ART COMPETITION

Rules for ART COMPETITION

1) Entries for the competition will be accepted from any member of the BSFA, or from any person attending the Convention.

2) Entries will be classed in three groups; colour work, black & white work, and "cartoons". A prize will be awarded to the entry judged the best in each class.

3) An entrant may place work in more than one group, but any one entry will be considered in one group only.

4) Entries may be handed in at any time up to 10 a.m. Saturday of the Convention week-end, but an entrant should signify his intention (with as much information as possible) by the 28th February 1963.

5) Entrants may offer their entries for sale after the judging of the competition, or may arrange for the entries to be "auctioned". Further details will be given on request.

6) Judging will be done by three judges, to be chosen by the Convention Committee, and their decisions will be final.

7) A "Special Class" of work to cover entries in sculpture, modelling, or even gesso-work will be arranged if a minimum of five entries are received. Rules as for other classes will apply.

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On this vexing question of every one wanting the Fancy Dress party to be continued, but quite a few people dreaming up reasons why they in particular will not be able to attend in Fancy Dress, a few thoughts.....

In order to be in the spirit of the thing, your fancy dress need not be any elaborate thing. "After the End" can in one sense easily be depicted by ordinary clothing and one of those very easy to obtain flexible masks in the form of a vampire or ghoul.....

This fairly simple device also cuts out the complaint that when one is travelling light a fancy dress is impossible, it takes up too much room.

Alternatively, there is other scheme of buying your FD on the spot - this can be expensive, but can be cheap. According to pocket.... Ron Buckmaster once managed a quite effective "Burning Man" with the aid of a packet of pins and some crepe paper. Whilst this wouldn't fit the theme of the Peterborough Convention a similiar idea or two springs to mind. The most obvious one is a mummy - ~~rthis~~ could be done with a bob's worth of off-white crepe....or even some old bandage if you have a few scruffy ones in the first-aid box.

A couple of yards or so of unbleached linen, with a little judicious discolouring, will turn you into a nice graveyard haunt for less than a pound. Or into one of the aliens who may inhabit the earth after the passing of mankind - if that is the end you choose.

There is only one thing to bear in mind..... whatever "End" you are "After", you will be asked to defend it on grounds of logic, or grounds of myth....or on some grounds ! In other words, if you hope to win a prize, you can't just be a ghost - you must be a specific ghost for a specific reason....

To encourage the FANCY DRESS PARTY, a prize has been offered for one class of Fancy Dress by an anonymous fan... he or she or it has sent us two pounds cash to be awarded to the best MONSTER in Fancy Dress. Now, as we don't know who sent the money, we can't be too certain whether we have interpreted the note correctly. It does say just that ... "the best MONSTER in Fancy Dress". We take this as being the best Fancy Dress in the class of Fancy-Dress-representing-a-Monster. So far as we know we have no actual Monsters registered....and if there are any attending, well, we assume they will be disqualified because they won't be in Fancy Dress....or will they ? Brian, do you wear a mask all the time ?

CON THEME

Several folk commented that the Con Theme was rather CND-ish. At the meeting when we decided on the theme we had considered this possible interpretation, and we thought that Dave Barber's explanation of the theme in EFT #3 cleared this up.

However, just to make it quite clear, what we want is "YOUR" interpretation of "AFTER THE END" - we don't mind which "End" - it may be the end of "your" life - many philosophers consider that the world ends with the end of each man (or fan). It may be after humanities end - what will replace Homo Sap ? What is your idea of Homo Sup ? It may be after Earth's end - what type of human would survive elsewhere ?

CON COM

To help Ken Slater handle the mail arising from the Convention, Miss Pauline Jackson has been co-opted onto the Committee. Letters signed by her count as signed by Ken.

GUEST OF HONOUR:—

EDMUND CRISPIN

Edmund Crispin is a man of many existences and few appearances. It is a fine streak of fortune to have persuaded him to come to Peterborough next year.

In a notable career in crime, he has produced at least eight detective novels, many of them featuring that most eccentric of detectives, Gervase Fen, who is an Oxford professor of poetry as well as an investigator. Under his own name, Bruce Montgomery, Crispin lives the life of a composer, and has written the score for a score or more British films, the Richard Gordon 'Doctor' series among them.

These are accomplishments enough for any man. But the name of Crispin will go down to posterity heavily encumbered with the honour of being Britain's premier sf anthologist, despite healthy competition from messrs Amis, Doherty, and the chap who turns out the collections for Penguin.

It's worth recalling that Bruce's first Anthology, modestly labelled BEST SF, appeared in 1955. In other aspects, 1955 was a bad year for the genre. The ill-fated boom had fizzled out, and several publishers who had burnt their fingers printing rubbish were swearing never to touch hard cover sf again. Then Faber brought out BEST SF with its wonderful introduction and carefully selected stories, and the situation was retrieved. In fact, there is more sf being published now than there was during the boom, but for a long while during the interregnum the Crispin flag flew almost alone - until Faber, encouraged by the reception of the Best Sfs, brought forward other authors, such as Blish, Simak, and myself.

Bruce Montgomery is not only a composer, a writer, and an anthologist. He is also a bon viveur. His tastes in drink and women are rumoured to be fabulous. Let's hope that next Easter the Bull may be induced to flow milk and honies for him.

Brian Aldiss.

DELAY - APOLOGIES

Unforeseen occurrences prevented this EFT coming out on the headlined date. It was finally issued on 10 Dec 1962

HOTEL BOOKINGS

Hotel Bookings will not commence until after Christmas. The reason for this is that some of the junior BSFA members have intimated that they might find it a little difficult to produce the necessary spondulicks this side of the festive season. It makes no difference to the actual bookings, which will still be called for in order of registration.

THE DOC WEIR MEMORIAL AWARD

The following rules were received from B.S.F.A. Chairman Terry Jeeves, with a request that they be included in a newsletter. They will also be printed in the Programme Booklet when this is issued.

"a) Anyone is eligible for this award regardless of club, nationality, or any other barrier.

b) Voting is open to all registered Convention members who have paid the five shillings registration fee. There is no other voting condition, and voting is open to any fan of any country, creed, age, class...and even to non-fans who have paid the registration fee.

c) Voting may be on a postcard, or letter addressed to Terry Jeeves, either at his home address (30 Thompson Road, Sheffield, 11, England), or c/o the BSFA ConCom, 75 Norfolk Street, WISBECH, Cambs., England, or c/o the Convention Hotel. It must be in writing to facilitate counting and checking. This will take place Sunday morning before the BSFA Annual General Meeting, so closing time for votes will be midnight on Saturday.

d) You are asked to vote simply for the person, pro, fan or nonfan, who you would most like to see win the Doc Weir Memorial Award. Naturally, we hope to get some outstanding fan win this, but we want a minimum of conditions to

Doc Weir Memorial Award, cont.

avoid haggling. This, if you vote for your Uncle Joe, it is a valid vote if you have paid your Con Registration Fee. Naturally, your Uncle Joe wouldn't stand much chance (we hope) ...

e) A specimen voting card would be as follows (but you can vary it within reasonable limits) provided you name ONE person only.

"I give my vote for the Doc Weir Memorial Award to:

.....

Signed:

Please print your name in blocks below your signature to avoid any confusion. If you quote your Convention Registration Number it will also be helpful.

FILLUMS

After considerable head-scratching, back-biting, and general disagreement the ConCom have attempted to give you the best of both worlds.....

This is mainly because, on the one hand, your President stated he particularly liked one film and thought that all fans would enjoy it; and on the other hand your Chairman (BSFA proper, not ConCom) said he'd heard a lot about another film, but he for one had NEVER seen it. And he wouldn't mind having the chance.

Incidentally, neither the chairman nor the president usually use their hands for talking, but this case was exceptional.....

If you don't like the programme, tell us. We don't mind.....

So....

Jean Cocteau's ORPHEE ...

Fritz Lang's METROPOLIS (scripted by Thea Von Harbou)

The former we hope will appeal to the modern/fantasy folk, the latter to the historical/science fiction folk.