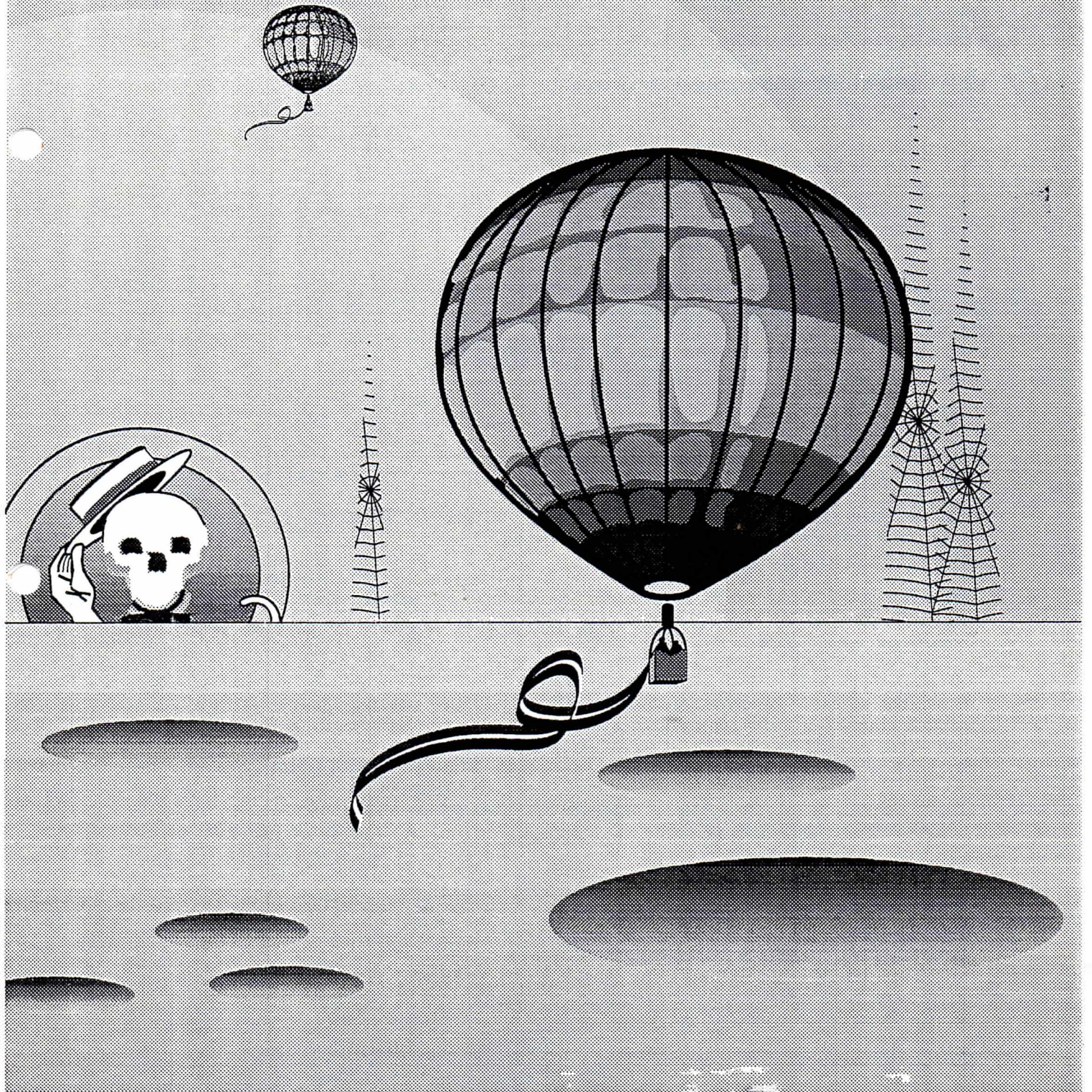


Bizarre 4



BIZARRE is the magazine of the 29th Australian Science Fiction Convention, **Danse Macabre**. The copyright to all contents is retained by the authors.

The address for all correspondence relating to **BIZARRE** or to **Danse Macabre** is:

Danse Macabre
PO Box 273
FITZROY 3065

No other address should be used unless explicitly requested by the Committee member concerned. Please indicate on the top of your letter the nature of the contents, e.g. 'for **BIZARRE**', 'Memberships', etc.

Deadline for material to be included in the next issue of **BIZARRE** is 25 November, 1989. Nominal date of publication will be the 11th of December, 1989.

Current Membership Rates for the convention are:
Attending (Adult) \$60.00 till the end of Conjunction
Attending (Child) \$30.00 till the end of Conjunction.
Supporting \$15.00
Voting Only \$5.00

An Attending membership entitles the member to all benefits of membership (including the right to attend the Convention, to receive all issues of **BIZARRE** published after the date of acceptance of that membership, and to vote for the Ditmars). A Supporting membership entitles the member to all benefits of membership except for those associated with attending the Convention. Note: **Child** memberships do not include voting rights for Ditmars or site selection. A Supporting membership may be converted to an Attending membership at any time prior to midnight, 31st of March, 1990, or else at the Convention Registration, by payment of the difference between the supporting fee and the then-current attending fee. A Voting Only membership entitles you to vote for the Australian SF Achievement Awards ('Ditmars'). Voting members receive a copy of the Ditmar ballot. A Voting membership cannot be credited against the fee for any other rate of membership.

Thanks for this issue go to Mark Linnemann, Alan Stewart.

Editorial

This issue of **Bizarre** contains news on a number of matters. In particular, we'd like to welcome the sponsors of new Program Events:

The Australian Science Fiction Foundation. The ASFF has generously donated \$300 to fund a Short Story contest. See Page 3 for details.

Murfett Regency Games. See Page 3 for details. MR is supporting the Scrabble® competition. *Scrabble®* is a registered trademark of Murfett Regency Pty Ltd.

We also want to welcome **Ansett Airlines** as the official Convention Airline. The current state of Australia's domestic airways temporarily prevents us from supplying information on group and other discounts. We'll let you know those details as soon as possible.

There are several important notices about organisational matters as well.

I particularly want to attract the attention of artists and craftspeople: now is the time to contribute material for possible inclusion in the Convention Program Book. I also want to hear from artists from all disciplines (including artists in 3-D, textiles and ceramics) who want to exhibit their work at the Danse Macabre Art Show.

The only limitations are likely to be those of size. If you think there may be problems with displaying your work, please contact me as soon as possible.

There are also important notices about:

- child-minding
- hucksters. Potential hucksters should read the appropriate paragraphs in the *Con At A Glance* section.

Terry Dowling gives important news about the 1990 DUFF race, the winner of which will be announced at **Danse Macabre**.

With this issue of **Bizarre**, you're getting a flyer for **Conjunction**, the convention held later this year at the Diplomat Motor Inn (see also the *Con Listing* later in this issue). And note that, as well as being a worthy cause in its own right, **Conjunction** is also the last event at which you can join **Danse Macabre** at the current rate.

-- Dennis Callegari, 13 October 1989.

Murfett Regency Presents

The Teams Scrabble® Event

There will be a Teams Scrabble® tournament held at **Danse Macabre** and Murfett Regency, the makers of Scrabble®, have kindly agreed to provide ten copies of the Scrabble® Travel Version Game as prizes for the winning team.

All Attending Members of **Danse Macabre** are eligible to enter the tournament. To enter, please write to *Danse Macabre Scrabble® Game* care of the PO Box address given elsewhere in this issue. There are a limited number of places available in the game. Entry will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis with the following amendment:

Because members in Victoria may be able to respond more quickly than those interstate, all interstate applications postmarked 10 November or earlier will be given preferential entry.

If there are more than forty applicants, the "extras" will be allocated a place in the emergency list, just in case something prevents one of the first forty from taking part.

Draft rules for the *Danse Macabre Teams Scrabble® Tournament* are as follows: There will be a maximum of four teams in the Scrabble® tournament, each team being composed of approximately ten players.

The Scrabble® tournament will adhere to the rules published in the commercially available version of the game, with the following exceptions:

1. The official Scrabble® board will be a large-scale facsimile of the standard board, mounted on a wall of the competition hall. The official tiles will be of a size appropriate to this board, and will be attached to it during the progress of the game.

Each team will be provided with a "working" board and tiles.

2. One, and only one, captain must be appointed for each team.
3. Every team will have a set time limit of three minutes per move.

During the first two minutes, the previous team's move may be challenged. The present team's move must be given to the referee *before* the end of the three minute time limit.

(The "official suggestion" is that the first two minutes be used for calculation, and the last for the captain to decide the team's move.)

4. No-one may be a member of more than one team.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Murfett Regency Pty Ltd.

DANSE MACABRE SHORT STORY CONTEST - FUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION - DANSE MACABRE SHORT STORY CONTEST - FUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION - DANSE MACABRE SHORT STORY CONTEST - FUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION - DANSE

Short Story Contest

A short story contest, funded by the Australian Science Fiction Foundation, will be held with the convention. Original unpublished stories not over 5000 words in length are eligible. A first prize of \$200 and a second prize of \$100 will be awarded. All entries must be typed and should not have any author identification except on a cover sheet.

To enter send three copies of the story to:

Danse Macabre Short Story Contest
PO Box 273
Fitzroy, Vic
3065

Entries must be received by **18 March 1990**. Entries will not be returned; to receive notification of their receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Decisions of the judges are final.

The Convention may arrange publication for the winning stories. First publication rights to the winning stories will be retained by *Danse Macabre*. Thereafter all rights revert to the authors.

The winning stories will be announced during the convention.

Mark Linnemann

DANSE MACABRE SHORT STORY CONTEST - FUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION - DANSE MACABRE SHORT STORY CONTEST - FUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION - DANSE MACABRE SHORT STORY CONTEST - FUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION - DANSE

- Negotiations towards the appointment of an Official Convention Airline were completed in early September, and **Ansett Airlines** is now officially the **Danse Macabre** Convention Airline. This so incensed the Pilots' Federation that they decided there and then to go on strike. You may have noticed. Nevertheless, when things get back to normal, we'll bring you a complete list of Group Discounts and other benefits that will be available to you as members of **Danse Macabre**. Meanwhile, keep building up your collection of beeswax and eagle feathers

The Con at a Glance:

Guests of Honour:

George R R Martin (professional)

Eric B Lindsay (fan)

Convention Dates: Friday 13th April 1990 to Monday 16th April 1990 inclusive.

Con Hotel is the **Diplomat Motor Inn**, in Acland Street, St Kilda. A second hotel nearby, the **Spaceline**, has been completely booked by the Convention for the weekend.

Membership rates per person:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Attending (Adult) | \$60.00 till after Conjunction . |
| Attending (Child)* | \$30.00 till after Conjunction . |
| Supporting | \$15.00 |
| Voting | \$ 5.00 |

Make all cheques, etc, payable to '**Danse Macabre**' and mark them 'Not Negotiable'. A receipt will be mailed to you; please keep it and bring it with you to the Con.

* 'Child' must be less than 15 years old on 13th April, 1990. Children under 5 on this date may attend free.

Hotel Bookings: Please make all bookings through **Danse Macabre**. Please enclose at least one night's room rental with each booking. Make all cheques, etc, payable to '**Danse Macabre**' and mark 'not negotiable'. **Room rates** per night are:

Single room (Diplomat only) **\$54.00**
 Double/Twin (Either Hotel) **\$59.00**
 Triple (Diplomat)/Suite (Spaceline) **\$80.00**.

Note that only the **Spaceline** has two-room Suites.

Banquet: There will be a Banquet, price \$20--\$25 per head. To help us gauge numbers, if you are interested in this event, please tick the box on the membership form.

Hucksters: There will be a separate Hucksters' Room.

Because of concerns expressed about the difference between Professional and Fan hucksters, we have re-defined the status of Huckster Membership.

The *Professional Huckster Membership* will apply to hucksters who do not intend going to any program items. Pro Huckster Memberships cost \$100 for the full convention, or \$25 per day. The professional membership entitles you and two assistants to obtain entry to the Hucksters' room only for the duration of the convention.

If you're an Attending or Day Member of **Danse Macabre**, you are a Fan by definition -- you do intend to see one or more program items. For the additional sum of \$15 per day (or \$60 for the full convention), you can take out a *Fan Huckster Membership*. There is no provision for assistants in the Fan Huckster Membership; they'll have to pay their own way.

Confused? Let's take the most expensive example: say you want to set up your huckster's table for all four days of the convention.

As a *Fan Huckster* you'd pay **\$120** in total (60 for your Attending Membership plus 60 for the huckster's table). You can attend program items, too.

As a *Professional Huckster* you'd pay **\$100** in total. You can bring along two assistants, but none of you is entitled to attend program items.

Area allocation is approximately 2 x 3 metres per huckster table. If you have questions, please write.

Fan Lounge and Party Suite: There will be a Fan Lounge in the Diplomat and a Party Suite in the Spaceline, where members can go to sit and talk, rest, or think.

Art Show: See separate Art Show ad. Send any suggestions to D. Callegari, 22 Waltham Street, Richmond 3121.

Ditmars: The 1990 Australian SF Achievement Awards will be voted on by **Danse Macabre** members before and during the con. Nomination forms will be distributed later this year. Anyone may nominate for the Ditmars but you

- Child Minding

If enough interest is expressed, a *co-operative child minding arrangement* will be established for the convention. Parents would agree to take their turn looking after a number of children in space provided by the convention. This will be done if enough people require child minding and are willing to do their bit. If interested, contact Karen Small at 19 Barunah Street, Glenroy, 3046. [Telephone: (03) 300 1631]

must be a member of **Danse Macabre** to vote. Details in a later issue.

1992 Site Selection: The site for the 1992 Australian SF Convention will be decided at a meeting at **Danse Macabre**. Groups interested in bidding for the right to hold the 1992 Natcon should contact us before the start of **Danse Macabre**. As with the Ditmars, you must be a member of **Danse Macabre** to vote on Site Selection.

Program Book Cover: We want to see your ideas for a cover for the convention's Program Book. Interested? Scratch up a design and try it!

Creche: See the short article elsewhere in this issue of *Bizarre*.

Weapons Policy: Put baldly: no exposed edged weapons, no projectile weapons. See also: **Code of Behaviour:** Individuals engaging in unacceptable behaviour may be expelled from the Con without refund of membership. At discretion of Committee, membership fee may be refunded and any individual expelled with or without reason being stated.

Smoking: Only in the lobby adjacent to function rooms at rear of the Diplomat.

Our Committee: Here is the list of people doing things for the convention, and their jobs. If you think that you can help in any way, please do contact the appropriate person. If in doubt, ring Alan on (03) 889 7862 or Roger on (03) 689 6427 or else drop us a letter.

Agents:

Adelaide: Carol Woolmer
Perth Grant Stone
Sydney: Gerald Smith

Art Show: Dennis Callegari
Mail: Roger Weddall
Ditmars: Roger Weddall
Equipment: Andrew Murphy
Fan Lounge: Michelle Muijsert
GOH Liaison: Stephen Boucher
Hotel Liaison: Roger Weddall
Programme Book: Phil Ware / Dennis Callegari
Programming: David McDonnell
Secretary: Alan Wilson
Treasurer: Phil Ware
Videos: Richard Freeland

News and Reviews

Danse Macabre recently approached Penguin Books to ask if Graeme Base, illustrator/author of the books *Animalia* and *The Eleventh Hour*, would like to speak at the convention. Unfortunately, Graeme was unable to attend, but agreed to be interviewed instead. Short excerpts from the interview will appear in later issues of *Bizarre*, and the complete interview in the **Danse Macabre** Program Book.

Penguin has also sent *Bizarre* copies of several of its recent releases. They are:

The Red King, Victor Kelleher (*Viking Kestrel* \$17.99)
Song of Gondwana, Craig Robertson (*Penguin* \$12.99)
Chantry Guild, Gordon R. Dickson (*Sphere* \$9.99)
The Man Who Never Missed, Steve Perry (*Sphere* \$8.99)

The first two of these are new books by authors resident in Australia.

The Red King, a children's fantasy, is set in a forest kingdom governed by a tyrant who rules by force of arms and by the terror of the deadly red fever that he controls. He is opposed by a small band of travelling entertainers, and the story tells of their challenge to his dominion. Although entertaining, *The Red King* will be disappointing to those expecting the high standards set by this prize-winning author. Characters are unmemorable, and the plot is poorly developed and episodic. *Bizarre* highly recommends Kelleher's earlier books *Master of the Grove* and *Taronga* to its readers.

Song of Gondwana arrived too late to be reviewed in this issue of *Bizarre*; it will appear in our *Australian Page* next issue. Good cover art by Brendon Hill.

The last two are local editions of novels published previously in the US; both employ the theme of individual responsibility in the face of titanic forces. I can only describe *Chantry Guild*, the latest in Dickson's Childe Cycle books, as a philosophical adventure novel. Dickson has a unique, if sometimes inarticulate, voice.

The Man Who Never Missed is a more prosaic novel than Dickson's, but more tightly written. A standard adventure novel, the first in a series.

DUFF - The Down Under Fan Fund

Information supplied by Terry Dowling

Duff 1990 - Australasia to North America

DUFF

The Down Under Fan Fund was created in 1972 to encourage closer ties between fans in Australasia and North America. With host countries alternating each year, there have been 17 exchanges of fan representatives since, supported entirely by voluntary contributions from fans all over the world. DUFF delegates visit a major SF convention in the host country and visit with fans they might otherwise never meet in person. DUFFers are treated as special guests and are always well looked after.

DONATIONS

DUFF exists solely on the donations and contributions of fans and always welcomes material for auction and donation of money. There will be auctions of DUFF material at future cons. Contributions can be brought to the con or sent to the local administrator. Anyone may contribute, even if ineligible to vote, and any donations in excess of the voting donation are gratefully accepted. Cheques should be made out to John D. Berry (in North America) or DUFF Australia (in Australasia). Money should always be sent in the administrators' home currency.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being called for the 1990 DUFF Race, Australasia to North America. All candidates must post a \$10 bond, supply a brief written platform statement, provide the names addresses and signatures of three Australasian nominators and two North American nominators, and promise (barring acts of God) to travel to the 1990 NASFiC in San Diego, 1-3 September 1990. In cases of multiple candidacies, DUFF pays for one set of fares, accommodation and expenses.

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST REACH AN ADMINISTRATOR NO LATER THAN 15 JANUARY 1990

VOTING

Voting for eligible candidates will be opened late January 1990 and closed at *Danse Macabre* (the 1990 Australian Natcon) 13-16 April 1990. Any fan active in fandom before January 1989 may vote. Ballots must be signed and accompanied by a donation of at least \$2. Each person is allowed only one vote. If, at the time of voting, you think your name may not be known by an administrator, you will be asked to include the name of a fan (not to include

any of the candidates) or fan group who can vouch for you. Unverifiable votes will not be counted. The present DUFF administrators are:

DUFF Australasia:

Terry Dowling
11 Everard Street
Hunters Hill, NSW, 2110

DUFF North America:

John D. Berry
525 Nineteenth Ave East
Seattle, Washington 98112

DUFF RACE 1989 - VOTE DISTRIBUTION

| | Australia | Nth America | Total |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| John Berry | 17+3+4=24 | 46+8=54 | 78 |
| Tara Wayne | 10+1=11 | 42+9=51 | 62 |
| Greg Ketter | 4 | 18 | |
| Holdover | 0 | 1 | |
| Write-In | 4 | 1 | |
| Total | 35 votes | 108 votes | 143 votes |

Write-In:

Cy Chauvin (Wendy Hirsh)
Tim Jones (Michelle Muijsert)
Bill Bowers (Roger Weddall)
Wilson da Silva (Garry P. Dalrymple)

Australians who voted in the 1989 DUFF Race: Wendy Hirsh, Michelle Muijsert, Roger Weddall, Garry P. Dalrymple, Cindy Clarkson, Robin M. Pen, Chris Nelson, Justin Ackroyd, Nick Stathopoulos, Marilyn Pride, Lewis Morley, Rod Kearins, Mark Loney, Craig Hilton, Alan Stewart, Roy Ferguson, Eric Lindsay, Jean Weber, Leigh Edmonds, Valma Brown, Grant L. Stone, Yvonne Rousseau, John Foyster, Roman Orszanski, Sally Beasley, P. Darling, Gerald Smith, Carey Handfield, Don Ashby, Derrick Ashby, Christine Ashby, Bruce Gillespie, Joanna Handfield, Irwin Hirsh, Kerrie Hanlon.

Introducing

George R R Martin

As well as giving you relevant information about *Danse Macabre*, **BIZARRE** wants to introduce those of you unfamiliar with George R R Martin's writing to some examples of his work.

Corgi/Bantam Books will re-issue his first novel *Dying of the Light* early next year; but George R R Martin made his first impact in SF with his short stories, novellas and novelettes.

Alan Stewart introduces us to one of George's more elusive recent works.

Portraits of His Children

by George R R Martin

Reviewed by Alan Stewart

Through a variety of circumstances, George R R Martin's latest Nebula-winning fiction -- his novelette **Portraits of His Children** -- is virtually unobtainable in Australia.

The last issue of *Isaac Asimov's SF Magazine (IASFM)* distributed to Australian newsagents, along with its sister publication, *Analog*, was September 1985, just in time for the Melbourne Worldcon. Distribution of *IASFM* in Australia then ceased until January 1989, although *Analog* continued to be available. **Portraits of His Children** was published in the *IASFM* November 1985 issue. Most fens in Australia found out about this when the Nebula nominations were announced, including original publication information, in March 1986 or on the Hugo final ballot later in the year. However the original issue just never reached these shores.

Hopes for an easily available reprint were dashed. Both Wollheim's *Best SF 1985* (sort of available here) and Dozois' *Third Annual Collection* (very limited import availability only) didn't carry the story. Neither did the 1986 collections from these sources -- perhaps the November publication enabled it to 'slip through the cracks'.

Only the well-heeled, or well-connected, fens managed to see the story, either by obtaining a copy of *IASFM* or by buying Dark Harvest's 1987 **Portraits of His Children** h/c collection or *Nebula Awards 21*, edited by George Zebrowski, 1987, h/c or trade pb, from Harcourt Brace

Jovanovich. At the time of writing I am not aware of an Australian-distributed or cheap paperback issue of the story. And this for a Nebula winner! What hope do we have of seeing obscure stories by favourite authors?

Anyway, the story itself earned a cover by Hisaki Yasuda and top billing on the November 1985 *IASFM*. It ran from pages 144 to 178, the last fiction in the issue, with pages lost to illustrations only (p. 151, pp 144-5 double) by Stephen Gervais.

The story is not really SF, more realistic fantasy, concerning as it does a present day author. One who lives alone in a large house, and whose divorced, now dead, wife and estranged daughter departed years ago. The portraits of the title are an original by and of his daughter, and a series of four based on characters in some of his novels. The latter arrive one by one in the post and Richard Cantling, the author, engages in conversation with imaginary embodiments of them, interspersed with flash-backs dealing with his real wife and daughter. Only at the end does his extreme isolation become apparent.

Portraits of His Children has very much a 'there, but for the grace of God, go I' feel about it, similar to such works as *Herovit's World* by Barry Malzberg. It is not really surprising that it appeared on the Nebula final ballot, given its prominent exposure in *IASFM* towards the end of the year and the fact that the Nebula is voted for by authors. The popular fan vote, the Hugo, went to Harlan Ellison's *Paladin of the Lost Hour* for the same year, although **Portraits....** made the final ballot.

The story is effective, with Cantling's problems revealed with each conversation and incident narrated. Traits such as dating past events by which novel he was working on at the time; claiming 'Edward' was already used as a character's name in his novel and so was unavailable for their first child, if male; exaggerated perhaps, but familiar to all authors. **Portraits....** is a more understated story than, say, his *Sandkings*, and is a good example of Martin's writing. Strong central character, events his readers can identify with, and very striking images, such as that of a slashed portrait, contribute to the entertainment value of **Portraits....**, with its comment on the human condition. Martin seems to write well about solitary estranged individuals, such as Lya, Simon Kress from *Sandkings* and **Portraits....** Cantling to name a few.

Hopefully we will see a more accessible printing of **Portraits of His Children** before *Danse Macabre*.

Con Listings

If any of the following info is wrong or out-of-date, or you know of a con not listed here which should be listed, please let us know.

1989

Dec 1--Dec 3: Conjunction
Diplomat Motor Inn, Melbourne.
Theme: The Meeting of Two Worlds.
GoH: Wendy Ratter, Michelle Muijsert.
Sup \$5, Att \$30 (Door \$40), Sup \$5.
Rooms: \$52 single, \$54 twin/doub.
PO Box 41, West Brunswick 3055.

1990

Apr 13--Apr 16: Danse Macabre
29th Australian SF Natcon.
Diplomat Motor Inn, Melbourne.
GoH: George R R Martin. FGoH: Eric Lindsay
Sup \$15, Att \$60.
Rooms: \$54 single, \$59 twin/doub, \$80 triple.
Box 273, Fitzroy 3065.

Apr 13--Apr 16: Kiwicon
Gateway Lodge, Mangere, Auckland.
GoH: Harry Harrison.
Sup \$?, Att \$40, Door \$45.
PO Box 711, Pukekohe, NEW ZEALAND.

May 11--May 13: Conflagration '90
Waiwera Resort Hotel, Waiwera.
GoH: I believe several are planned --
one of whom is the Wizard of Christchurch?
13 Juniper Rd, Auckland 1310, NEW ZEALAND.

Jun 1--Jun 4: ConVerge II
1990 NZ Natcon.
Airport Hotel, Wellington.
GoH: Richard Arnold. FGoH: James Benson.
Sup \$15, Att \$35, Door \$40 (after 1mar90).
Rooms: \$79 sgl, \$99 dbl, \$109 trp, \$119 qad.
PO Box 30905, lower Hutt, NEW ZEALAND.

Aug 23--Aug 27: Confiction
48th World SF Convention.
Netherlands Congress Centre, The Hague
GoHs: Joe Haldeman, Andy Porter,
Wolfgang Jeschke, Harry Harrison.
Toastmaster: Chelsea Quinn Yarbro.
Sup \$A35, Att \$A85.

PO Box 95370, 2509 CI, Den Hague,
THE NETHERLANDS.
Australian Agent: Justin Ackroyd,
GPO Box 2708X, Melbourne 3001

Aug 30--Sep 3: Con Diego
1990 North American Natcon.
Marriott Hotel, San Diego.
GoH: S R Delaney. FGoH: Ben Yalow.
Box 15771, San Diego, CA 92115, USA.

Nov 23--Nov 25: Huttcon '90
1990 Australian National Mediacon.
The Diplomat Motor Inn, Melbourne.
GoH: Simon Jones. FGoH: tba.
Sup \$25, Att \$45 (\$50 after 30jun89).
12 Flinders St, Matraville 2036
or PO Box 41, East Brunswick 3055.

1991

Easter 1991: SunCon
30th Australian SF Natcon.
GoH: Harlan Ellison.
FGoH: Leigh Edmonds/Valma Brown.
Sup \$ Att \$

Aug 29--Sep 2: Chicon V
49th World SF Convention.
Hyatt Regency, Chicago.
GoH: Hal Clement, Richard Powers,
Martin H Greenberg. FGoH: Jon & Joni Stopa.
Sup US\$20, Att US\$75 to 31dec89.
Box 218121, Columbus, OH 43221-8121, USA.

MORE INFORMATION:

For more (or updated) info on any of the above, please write to the convention concerned. To correct, update, or add to the information listed here, please write to **Danse Macabre**.

