

# NOVACON

# 7



**PROGRAMME BOOK**

# NOVACON 7

ORGANISED BY THE BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

NOVEMBER 4th, 5th, 6th, 1977

ROYAL ANGUS HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM

GUEST OF HONOUR: JOHN BRUNNER

*The Committee*

Chairman: Stan Eling  
Registration: Liese Hoare  
Treasurer: Janice Maule  
Vice-Chairman: Martin Hoare  
Films, Programme: Ian Maule  
Publications: Dave Langford

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## ART CREDITS

Jim Barker: p.3, p.12, p.25 and beer mugs throughout. Liese Hoare: p.8  
Jon Langford: cover (from several of John Brunner's novels), p.5, p.7





**Gollancz**



Recently published

**Michael Bishop**  
STOLEN FACES

**Algis Budrys**  
MICHAELMAS

**Bob Shaw**  
WHO GOES HERE?

**Robert Silverberg**  
DOWNWARD TO THE  
EARTH

**William Tenn**  
OF MEN AND MOUNTAINS

**Ian Watson**  
ALIEN EMBASSY

To be published shortly

**Alfred Bester**  
STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

**Gregory Benford &  
Gordon Ekland**  
IF THE STARS ARE GODS

**Algis Budrys**  
ROGUE MOON

**Philip K. Dick**  
A SCANNER DARKLY

**George R. R. Martin**  
DYING OF THE LIGHT

**Robert Silverberg**  
CAPRICORN GAMES

## Second Experiment in the Writing of a Chairman's Welcome

Why do fen attend conventions? The answers are as numerous as those attending, ranging from "I am a psychologist carrying out research among minority groups who consume abnormally high quantities of alcoholic beverages" all the way through up to, "I actually read SF". It must be noted that the latter are sometimes very hard to find in large numbers.

If you are reading this *at* the convention there is a good chance that this is your first con and you naturally want to know what's going on and whether your £100 entrance fee was well spent. Firstly, SF conventions are renowned for what appears to be a total lack of organisation---this vogue started with minor snags way back when, but has so developed over the years with only an occasional backsliding into efficiency, that by now it has become almost impossible to outdo the previous committees by even greater displays of incompetence, so please do bear with us.

A programme will be found in the centre of this book which should be self-explanatory. Any alterations to this printed programme will be written up on the blackboard by the registration desk. Also near the centre is a plan (drawn to no known scale) of the Royal Angus, and without any indication as to the whereabouts of the toilets!

It has truly been said that if you stand in one place long enough the whole world walks by---well, at a convention that place is the bar. Only they don't walk by, they walk in and stay. Fact is if you can't find someone in the bar when they are supposed to be elsewhere, the chances are they are not at the con.

One of the big advantages of this hotel is the good long walk to the Art Room. This provides much needed exercise after several hours of ~~STANDING AT THE BAR~~ sitting in the Convention Hall.

**WARNING**---do not go stumbling through the restaurant after dark if it is unlighted; the Art Room will certainly be closed at such times and this kind of expedition can lead to accidents.

In the Book Room you will find dealers from all parts of the country, eager to dispense their wares and knowledge of latest and rare publications.





If you are accompanied by active adolescents please make sure they do not turn the lifts into a play area as this can be a great inconvenience to others and can be the cause of a most disturbing experience if the lifts happen to break down with someone inside them.

Try to attend all the programme items. Support the bar early in the day and it will support you late into the night. As the bar finally closes it is just possible that someone may whisper a number into your ear and tell you to saunter up in ten minutes or so when a fantastic party will be in full swing. Don't be surprised if after searching the hotel you discover there is no such room.

There will be certain weary looking individuals at the convention with expressions of dismay and wearing a badge with the strange device *COMMITTEE* emblazoned on it. This is a word of ancient origin, the nearest translation of which is *possessor of great thirst!* It is customary on approaching such a person to preface any comment with the enquiry "Have you got a drink?" and if the answer is in the negative to provide one forthwith. Such behaviour will often lead to lifelong friendships.

Should you be looking at this for the first time, with aching head and empty pockets, the day *after* the con (as old conventioners tend to do) I have absolutely no sympathy for you at all---you should have learned better long ago.

It is just possible, of course, that you have dug this yellowing article out from the bottom of your deceased great-grandparents' trunk; in which case fill a glass to our memory---who knows, this very convention may have played its part in bringing about your existence!

Returning to the here and now of this November of 1977, I welcome you to the seventh Novacon. The committee have done their best to set the scene for an enjoyable and relaxing convention. I hope our efforts prove adequate and that everyone has a rewarding time. Thank you all for your support and attendance thus making this convention possible.

Stan Eling

(A word about our Chairman: Stan, as the History of Novacon on the page opposite shows, has risen steadily in the Brum Group hierarchy since the fatal day when Vernon Brown lured him to his doom and caused him to join. Having now been tested in the fire of several Novacons, Stan's experience is such that the committee of the 1978 Eastercon has co-opted him for the sake of his learned advice---and enormous patience. His wife Helen is noted for her charm and her ability to bop tirelessly through every convention disco... become a true fan by dancing with her and buying Stan a drink, or vice-versa if you prefer.)



And special thanks to three people who have gone without the enormous kudos of being on the Novacon committee: Rog Peyton gave sage advice, Kevin Smith lent a hand with this Programme Book and long-suffering Hazel Langford carried all the Novacon material to the printers...



Here's to a fine  
Novacon!



## John & Marjorie Brunner

~~~~~

### THE HISTORY OF NOVACON

| NOVACON | HOTEL           | GUEST OF HONOUR | CHAIRMAN        | ATTENDANCE*                                                                                                              |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Imperial Centre | James White     | Vernon Brown    | 144<br>(Committee: Ray Bradbury, A. Denham, A. Donnelly, Pauline Dungate)                                                |
| 2       | Imperial Centre | Doreen Rogers   | Pauline Dungate | 144<br>(Committee: Stan Eling, Jeffrey Hacker, Richard Newnham, Meg Palmer, Hazel Reynolds)                              |
| 3       | Imperial Centre | Ken Bulmer      | Hazel Reynolds  | 146<br>(Committee: Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Meg Palmer, Geoff Winterman)                                                |
| 4       | Imperial Centre | Ken Slater      | Dr Jack Cohen   | 211<br>(Committee: Pauline Dungate, Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Robert Hoffman, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton, Hazel Reynolds) |
| 5       | Royal Angus     | Dan Morgan      | Rog Peyton      | 272<br>(Committee: Ray Bradbury, Pauline Dungate, Robert Hoffman, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton)                        |
| 6       | Royal Angus     | Dave Kyle       | Stan Eling      | 317<br>(Committee: Helen Eling, Laurence Miller, Arline & Rog Peyton)                                                    |
| 7       | Royal Angus     | John Brunner    | Stan Eling      | 278<br>(Committee: Martin & Liese Hoare, Ian & Janice Maule, Dave Langford)                                              |

\* figures taken from Programme Book listing



# John Brunner

## a renaissance man



If you have never heard of John Brunner, if you think *Stand on Zanzibar* and *The Sheep Look Up* are aspects of the Common Market agricultural politic, then this introduction won't mean much to you as you are attending this convention for sinister reasons of your own--- and with any luck, the police will take time out from confronting demonstrators and catch you at it. Bad cess to you.

For the *cognoscenti*, John's place in the front rank of British Science Fiction writers is indisputable, and though this introduction is supposed to be a personal one, I don't think it possible to separate the man from the writer. John is what he writes: a fastidious craftsman and a concerned and caring person.

For that faction within the Science Fiction readership who see SF as "*just a good read*", and who don't wish to exercise their minds with anything more strenuous than space westerns, John's consideration of political, ecological and sociological probabilities coupled with meticulous research and attention to style may well be wasted. They vigorously oppose the notion that the genre may indeed qualify as Serious Literature and its creators as Serious Writers. The fact is, good writing is good, and even compulsive, reading, and the world of books is large enough in any event to satisfy all tastes. Indeed, the spectrum of John's work is large and varied enough so that there is something for everyone.

John's later books predicate a bleak future for mankind. But those who deplore the "doom and gloom boys" as they call them, never entertain the proposition that the creative act is in itself an affirmation. Exposing the very real dangers that face mankind is, by definition, a plea for facing up to and solving the problems which confront us. It can scarcely be called scaremongering to point out the realities of pollution and the neutron bomb. Or do people seriously feel that a society willing to destroy millions of humans while leaving property intact has its priorities right?

I polemicize, but I do not digress. For John's work is a serious reflection of the honest concerns of his life. He puts his actions where his pen is.

He has been a CND supporter, upholder of civil rights (giving yearly Martin Luther King awards for writing of excellence in that area) and generally a champion of humane, just and often lost causes. He has, in fact, a strong social conscience---all the more interesting because his own background was not one of incredible deprivation. He has never had to suffer first-hand the contempt allotted to "inferior classes", nor has he had to endure the humiliation and uphill slog of oppressed minorities. More credit to him that, man and writer, he can empathize so thoroughly with those who have. Second-hand is better than none.

Downbeat? How does that square with a man who dresses like a Regency buck, enjoys the palate of a gourmet, chats wittily and knowledgeably on an impressively wide-ranging number of subjects (in a variety of languages) as is, in fact, as approachable and friendly a celebrity as one is likely to meet?

I don't pretend to give simple answers to complex questions, but I have known John since 1966 and I know this strong-minded, marshmallow-hearted man to have a great, voracious appetite for life---for himself and others. That *quality* of life is important to him and to Marjorie, his wife; perhaps seeing the erosion of it and sensing its possible destruction lends a desperation to him and to his work. That is only a suggestion to account for the feeling of urgency and purpose one draws from him.

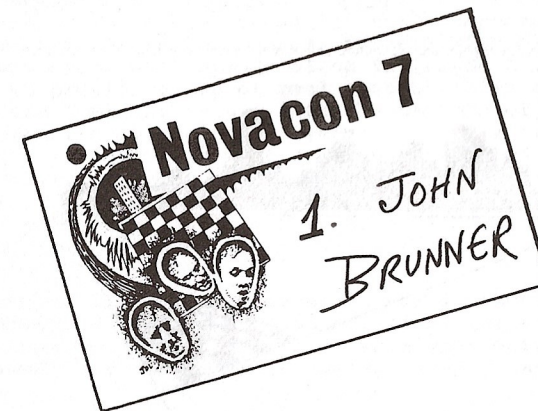
He's thin-skinned (for this, read "sensitive") and has a precariously balanced ego (what genuine writer hasn't?). The full measure of my respect for the man is that I don't always agree with him (7 out of 10 would be a generous estimate) nor he with me, but I find his conversation always stimulating and his writing constantly maturing.

British Science Fiction is lucky to have him among its number.

This is not the first convention at which John Brunner has been Guest of Honour, and if good sense prevails, it surely won't be the last.

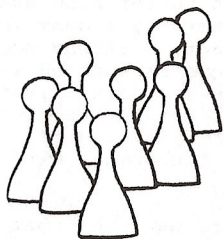
Read his books and chat him up. He's a man well worth knowing and a writer well worth reading.

Florence Russell



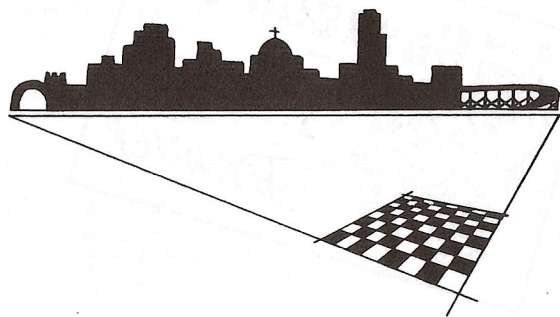


# 'squares of the city'



John Brunner's *The Squares of the City* is based upon a chess game (W.Steinitz vs. M.Tchigorin---Havana, 1892) which does not appear explicitly in the book. As a special item for chessplaying fans, the moves are given below. Each move of the game is mirrored in the book up to Black's 35th, which failed---and if you don't know why, read the book at once! The opening is Ruy Lopez, Morphy Defence.

| WHITE      | BLACK       |           |       |           |          |
|------------|-------------|-----------|-------|-----------|----------|
|            |             | 11. B-KR4 | Q-Q3  | 25. P-QB4 | R-R2     |
|            |             | 12. O-O   | N-KR4 | 26. P-B3  | N-KB3    |
| (Steinitz) | (Tchigorin) | 13. B-KN3 | B-KN5 | 27. B-N3  | K-B1     |
|            |             | 14. P-N4  | B-N3  | 28. P-N5  | P-QR4    |
| 1. P-K4    | P-K4        | 15. P-QR4 | PxP   | 29. KR-Q1 | R-K1     |
| 2. N-KB3   | N-QB3       | 16. QN-Q2 | Q-B3  | 30. P-B5! | PxP      |
| 3. B-N5    | P-QR3       | 17. BxRP  | N-K2  | 31. R-Q6  | R-N1     |
| 4. B-R4    | N-B3        | 18. Q-B4  | B-K3  | 32. QR-Q1 | R(R2)-R1 |
| 5. P-Q3    | B-B4        | 19. BxP   | BxQ   | 33. P-N6  | P-R5     |
| 6. P-B3    | P-QN4       | 20. BxQ   | NxB   | 34. BxP!  | K-N1     |
| 7. B-B2    | P-Q4        | 21. NxB   | NxP   | 35. N-B6  | NxN      |
| 8. Q-K2    | O-O         | 22. NxB   | PxN   | 36. BxN   | N-K1     |
| 9. B-N5    | PxP         | 23. KR-K1 | P-B4  | 37. P-N7  | R-R2     |
| 10. PxP    | P-R3        | 24. N-K5  | KR-B1 | 38. R-Q8  | Resigns  |



# John Brunner

# an appreciation

John Brunner began selling science fiction while he was still in his teens and rapidly became one of the most prolific authors within the genre. He produced a great many novels for the Ace Doubles series in the USA and was a constant contributor to Ted Carnell's British magazines. Most significant, perhaps, was his contribution to *Science Fantasy*, for which he did a number of excellent short novels and lead novelettes, showing marvellous versatility. One remembers especially the ornate far-future fantasy "Earth Is But a Star" (revised as *Catch a Falling Star*); the novelettes "City of the Tiger" and "The Whole Man", which eventually became part of *Telepathist*; the allegorical myth-fantasy "Imprint of Chaos" which began the adventures of *The Traveller in Black*; the eerie "Father of Lies"; and---from *Science Fiction Adventures*---the three alternate world stories which became *Times Without Number*.

By the time he was thirty he had published more than a million and a half words of SF without ever submitting to the temptation of writing comfortably formulaistic series. Some of the work was hurried (much of it has been repaired and revised for reissue over the years) but its constant inventiveness is nothing short of astonishing. In the late sixties he revised his priorities and invested a good deal of time and effort in *Stand on Zanzibar*, a novel which presents a panoramic vision of the overpopulated world of the near future. The novel developed an inordinately detailed background, providing a more intricate and comprehensive sociological context for the main narrative and its subplots than had ever been attempted before in SF (though the literary techniques he used had been available for more than half a century, having been used in the construction of contemporary backgrounds by John Dos Passos since 1925). *Stand on Zanzibar* won a Hugo, and he continued to use similar methods of presentation in a sequence of novels dealing with the ominous possibilities of recklessness in technological growth and progress. The others are *The Jagged Orbit*, *The Sheep Look Up* and---most recently---*The Shockwave Rider*. Contemporary science fiction is, of course, replete with bitter cautionary tales, but Brunner's work stands alone in its detailed analysis and its attempt to provide a map of real possibilities and hazards that extend from the imminent future into the pattern of our daily lives. This social concern has come to dominate his work of the last decade, but he remains an inventive writer and has produced other work of considerable interest outside this main sequence---*Total Eclipse* and *The Stone That Never Came Down* spring immediately to mind. His constant reworking of old material has turned several moderate pieces into good books and at least one good book---*Times Without Number*---into an excellent one.

John Brunner is a man who cares intensely about his work---he has taken publishers to task on several occasions for editorial incompetence and butchery---and such a writer is always worth reading. A man who cares deeply about what he is saying usually has something worthwhile to say.

Brian Stableford



ASIMOV  
BRADBURY  
CLARKE  
KUTTNER  
LOVECRAFT  
TOLKIEN  
VONNEGUT  
VERNE  
STURGEON  
HEINLEIN  
HERBERT  
LE GUIN

ALL ON  
SF  
RECORDS & CASSETTES  
FROM CAEDMON

NEW

The most influential and best-selling science-fiction of this decade is unquestionably the Dune trilogy of Frank Herbert. Mr. Herbert has created a planet which may lack moisture, but is certainly not lacking in the milk of human kindness. His people are real, his scenery is vivid and his reading is alive and vibrant. The excerpt Mr. Herbert has chosen to read is his vivid description of the Ducal Hall and delineation of many of the principal members of the cast.

**FRANK HERBERT**

**Dune**

*Frank Herbert*

LP: TC1555

Cassette: CDL51555

NEW

Ursula K. Le Guin is one of America's foremost writers. Although best-known as a science fiction author — she has received outstanding reviews for her fiction in other modes. Here are two stories so disparate as to be very contrasting. *Gwilan's Harp* may be termed pure fantasy, while *Intracom* is pure slap-stick science-fiction, with no apologies to Star-Trek. Miss Le Guin takes all five voices in the latter story, including that of the alien.

**URSULA LE GUIN**

***Gwilan's Harp and Intracom***

*Ursula Le Guin*

LP: TC1556

Cassette: CDL51556

NEW

The first volume of *Foundation* was the subject of immense praise and, indeed, has been nominated for a Grammy. With Dr. Isaac Asimov himself in the cockpit, here now is the story of the first of the great mayors — Salvor Hardin and his adventures with the planet Anacreon. This selection was excerpted by Dr. Asimov, who has also written new material especially for the album from the *Encyclopedia Galactica*.

**ISAAC ASIMOV**

***The Mayors from Foundation***

*Isaac Asimov*

LP: TC1527

Cassette: CDL51527

## A Brunner Checklist

### SF Novels

*Age of Miracles (revision of Day of the Star Cities)*  
*The Altar on Asconel*  
*The Astronauts Must Not Land*  
*The Atlantic Abomination*  
*Avengers of Carrig (revision of Secret Agent of Terra)*  
*Bedlam Planet*  
*Black is the Colour \**  
*Born Under Mars*  
*The Brink \**  
*Castaway World*  
*Catch a Falling Star (revision of The 100th Millennium)*  
*Day of the Star Cities*  
*Double, Double*  
*The Dramaturges of Yan*  
*The Dreaming Earth*  
*Echo in the Skull*  
*Endless Shadow*  
*Enigma from Tantalus*  
*The Evil That Men Do*  
*Father of Lies*  
*The Gaudy Shadows \**  
*Give Warning to the World (revision of Echo in the Skull)*  
*Into the Slave Nebula (Slavers of Space)*  
*The Jagged Orbit*  
*Listen! the Stars*  
*The Long Result*  
*Meeting at Infinity*  
*More Things in Heaven (revision of Astronauts Must Not Land)*

*A Planet of Your Own*  
*Polymath (revision of Castaway World)*  
*The Productions of Time*  
*Quicksand*  
*The Rites of Ohe*  
*Sanctuary in the Sky*  
*Secret Agent of Terra*  
*The Sheep Look Up*  
*The Shockwave Rider*  
*The Skynappers*  
*Slavers of Space*  
*The Space-Time Juggler*  
*The Squares of the City*  
*Stand on Zanzibar*  
*The Stardroppers (revision of Listen! the Stars)*  
*The Stone that Never Came Down*  
*The Super Barbarians*  
*Telepathist*  
*Threshold of Eternity*  
*Timescoop*  
*Times Without Number*  
*Total Eclipse*  
*To Conquer Chaos*  
*Traveller in Black*  
*Web of Everywhere*  
*The Whole Man (Telepathist)*  
*The World Swappers*  
*The Wrong End of Time*  
*The 100th Millennium*

\* fringe or borderline SF

### SF Novels as Keith Woodcott

*I Speak for Earth*  
*The Ladder in the Sky*  
*The Martian Sphinx*  
*The Psionic Menace*

### SF Collections

*The Book of John Brunner*  
*Entry to Elsewhen*  
*From This Day Forward*  
*Interstellar Empire (3 novels)*  
*No Future In It*  
*No Other Gods but Me*  
*Not Before Time*  
*Now Then*  
*Out of My Mind*

### Non-SF novels

*Blacklash*  
*The Crutch of Memory*  
*Good Men Do Nothing*  
*Honky in the Woodpile*  
*A Plague on Both Your Causes (Blacklash)*  
*Steamboat on the River*

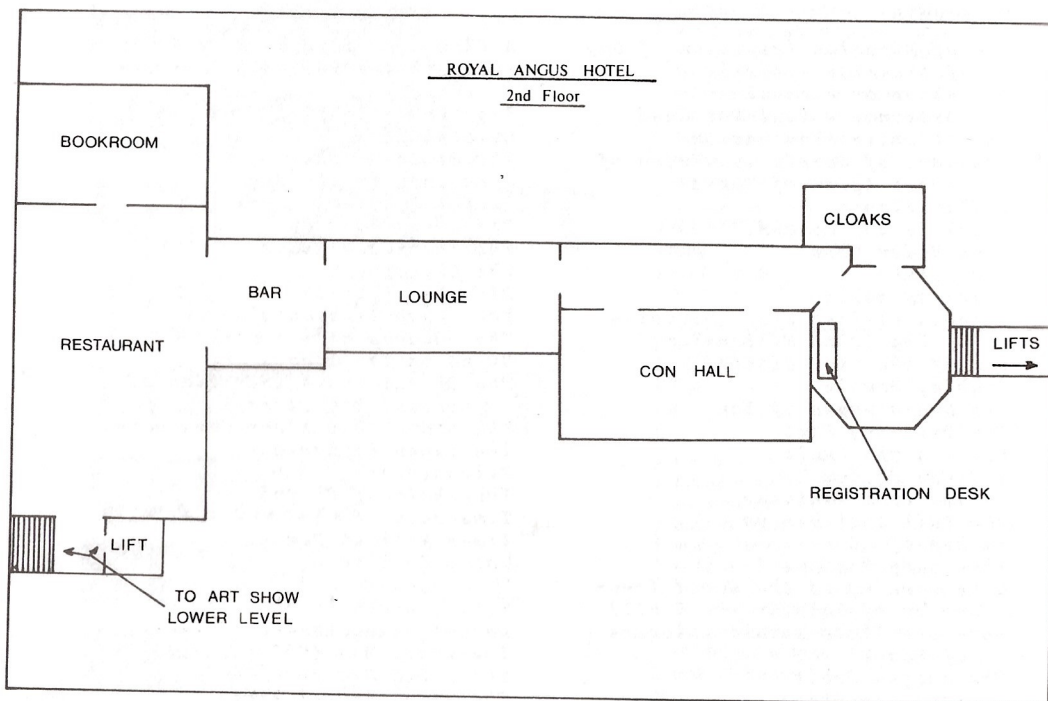
### Poetry

*A Hastily Thrown-Together Piece of Zork*  
*Life in an Explosive Forming Press*

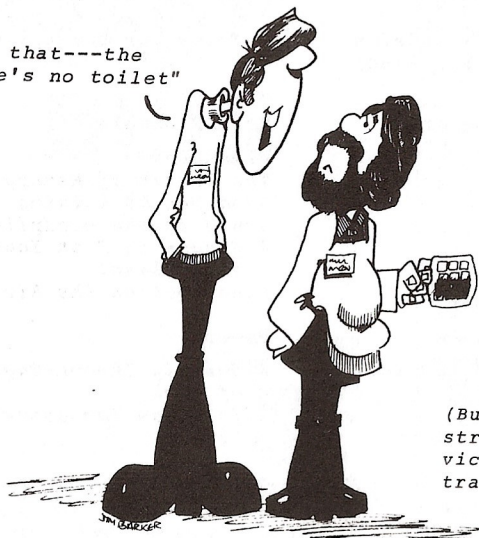
Information from the BSFA (Phil Stephensen-Payne)



# Hotel Plan



"Go easy with that---the map says there's no toilet"



(But should desperation strike, search in the vicinity of the Registration Desk...)

# NOVACON 7

ORGANISED BY THE BIRMINGHAM  
SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

NOVEMBER 4th, 5th, 6th, 1977  
ROYAL ANGUS HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM

## PROGRAMME

ALL PROGRAMME ITEMS WILL BE HELD IN THE CONVENTION HALL WITH THE SOLE EXCEPTION OF THE BANQUET. THIS WILL BE IN THE HOTEL RESTAURANT.

### FRIDAY

#### 8.00 pm Chairman's Welcome

Convention Chairman Stan Eling opens the proceedings.

#### 8.45 Suncon Slide Show

Returning heroes Rob Jackson, Peter Weston et al display their records of the World Convention.

#### 9.30 Film: THE DAY THE WORLD ENDED

Directed by ROGER CORMAN.  
"When the world is destroyed by nuclear wars, seven people only remain. The battle for survival brings about a clash of personalities among the group. Then appears a monster---a creature who has thrived on the very forces which destroyed mankind."



## SATURDAY

### 10.30 am The Jim White Chat Show

Fandom's answer to Michael Parkinson talks to artist Brian Lewis and book-dealer Rog Peyton.

(11.15am: COFFEE BREAK)

### 11.30 Quiz

conducted by Ian Maule.  
Fans from around Britain compete in a quiz loosely based on Celebrity Squares.

### 12.30 pm Lunch



### 2.30 Guest of Honour Speech John Brunner

Many strange and esoteric facts about John Brunner and all his works may be found elsewhere in the book.

(3.30pm: COFFEE BREAK)

### 4.00 Writers' Workshop

Well-known fans and authors dissect a short story written specially for this convention.

### 5.00 Auction

Books and magazines at knock-down prices!

### 7.30 for 8.00 Banquet

### 8.00 Film: IT CONQUERED THE WORLD

Directed by Roger Corman. (For those not attending the Banquet.)  
*"A scientist, obsessed with his discovery of contact with the planet Venus, assists a being to reach Earth in the belief that the being's superior intelligence will be beneficial to mankind. But the creature has other intentions--- to gain control of the world!"*

### 10.30 Fancy Dress & DISCO

A prize for the best "punny" costume---after which Graham Bullock once again provides music to let your hair down by...

## SUNDAY

### 10.30 am Closed Universes — Mental & Physical Tom Shippey

A talk by the famous question-setter from *Mastermind*.

### 11.30 Art Auction

---Plus anything remaining from the previous auction.

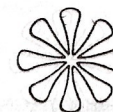
### 12.15 pm Lunch



### 1.30 Film: HEX

Directed by Leo Garen.  
*"A group of youngsters California-bound on motorcycles break their journey in Bingo, Nebraska. Run out of town by outraged citizens, they take refuge at a lonely farm run by two sisters, Acacia and Oriole. Their presence fires the latent powers Oriole has inherited from an Indian parent, and one by one the intruders begin to die unpleasant and inexplicable deaths."*

End of Convention approx. 3.15pm





# FABER SF

CHRISTOPHER PRIEST

A Dream of Wessex

Recent winner of The Ditmar Award  
for THE SPACE MACHINE

ROBERT HOLDSTOCK

Earthwind

GARRY KILWORTH

In Solitary

ROGER ZELAZNY

Sign of the Unicorn

HARRY HARRISON

Skyfall

ANTICIPATIONS

edited by Christopher Priest

a collection of new stories from  
Brian Aldiss, J. G. Ballard, Thomas Disch,  
Harry Harrison, Christopher Priest,  
Bob Shaw, Robert Sheckley, Ian Watson

(Spring '78 publication)

## The Transatlantic Fan Fund, Hurrah!

TAFF exists to enable worthy fans in America and the UK to visit their contemporaries across the Atlantic. Not *all* fans, you understand; it relies on fandom's generosity for its existence and can only afford to send a fan in one direction or the other when funds are available. It hasn't been affected by devaluation, though: we still get one American fan for every British fan we send over.

As I write, the *current* TAFF delegate, PETER ROBERTS, is either attending the Florida World SF Convention (SUNCON), or being fed to alligators in the Okeefenokee Swamp (for failing one of those little initiation tests which Delegates face when meeting American fandom). Part of the charm of TAFF is its little uncertainties. Either way, I'm sure he'll have a time to remember!

You'll possibly have gathered from the foregoing that a TAFF Delegate has to be made of pretty firm stuff, not one of your jellotypes who slurps up against a bar all the time and whose fannish endeavours never get beyond the second pint. He/She (It?) has to be well-known---and liked---and to have been continuously active in fandom---publishing fanzines and attending conventions---to be deemed worthy of election, and of survival!

Since we've sent Peter Roberts to Suncon this year, next time it's the turn of Stateside fandom to elect a suitable representative to attend a British convention. How soon depends on *your* support and generosity, and it's *not* too soon to start thinking who you'd like to meet. If you've a favourite *active* American fan you'd like to see here, and share with the rest of us... well, it's not too soon to start letting everybody know of his/her (its) virtues. Spread the word in your fanzine, shout it out at the bar---it doesn't matter if you wake someone up, TAFF *should* be shouted about. It's probably fandom's finest achievement!

For further information seek out or write to the current TAFF administrators Peter Roberts (38 Oakland Drive, Dawlish, Devon, UK) or Roy Tackett (915 Green Valley Road NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107, USA).

Eric Bentcliffe

1954  
Vincent Clarke

1955  
Ken Bulmer

1956  
Lee Hoffman

1957  
Bob Madle

1958  
Ron Bennett

1959  
Don Ford

1960  
Eric Bentcliffe

1961  
Rob Elik

1962  
Ethel Lindsay

1963  
Wally Weber

1964  
Arthur Thomson

1965  
Terry Carr

1966  
Tom Schluck

1968  
Steve Stiles

1969  
Eddie Jones

1970  
Elliot Shorter

1971  
Mario Bosnyak

1973  
Len Moffatt

1974  
Peter Weston

1976  
Roy Tackett

1977  
Peter Roberts



# SEACON '79

37th World Science Fiction Convention

As you have probably already heard, the British bid to hold the 37th World Science Fiction Convention (in Brighton on August 23rd to 27th 1979) was accepted at this year's convention, Suncon. (No voting figures were published, and the result was announced as unanimous.)

The Seacon '79 Steering Committee would like to say

## Thank you

to all the kind fans, pros and others who have given their help, advice and support, whether moral, practical or financial (through pre-supporting memberships and other donations).

Of course, we still need your further help, advice and support — we've now got to see if we can put on the best con ever!

### The Seacon '79 Steering Committee

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Eve Harvey, Secretary  
John Steward, Treasurer  
Graham Charnock  
Malcolm Edwards  
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Leroy Kettle  
Roger Peyton  
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For details of our National Agents around the world, and for information on advertising in our Progress Reports, see the Fact Sheet available at this con.

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**FRITZ LEIBER**

British Guest of Honour

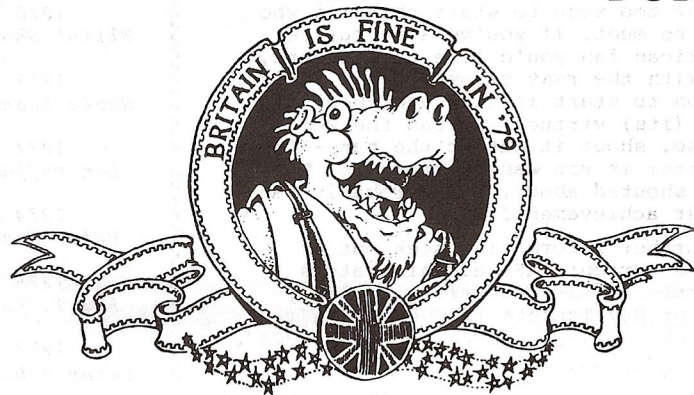
**BRIAN ALDISS**

Fan Guest of Honour

**HARRY BELL**

Toastmaster

**BOB SHAW**



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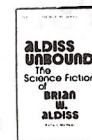
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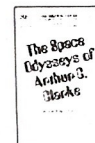
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# SF 1978

## The Nova Award

The Nova Award is presented at each Novacon to the SF fanzine judged best of the preceding year's productions. It's the only award of the kind in Britain, though an informal (but respected) poll is also conducted annually by the newszine *Checkpoint*. The first presentation of the Nova Award was made at Novacon 3, and in each subsequent year a different panel of judges has decided upon the worthiest fanzine as listed below. That the award is worthwhile is shown by the atmosphere of hot debate surrounding more than one of the presentations!

This year your friendly Committee has made some changes in the rules, copies of which have been sent to all convention members (they are also available at Novacon itself). In short, the selection of the best fanzine has been thrown open to all of you, a ballot being provided with each copy of the rules. Any member of Novacon is entitled to vote provided he or she knows something about the state of fanzines in Britain---and can prove it by having published a fanzine of his/her own, or by having had contributions or letters printed in other 'zines. Details appear in the rules and on the ballot form; please note (if by some chance you're reading this at Novacon) that the voting closes with the registration desk on Saturday evening.

And what is a fanzine? Efforts to answer this question result in definitions as tortuous as the innumerable ones of science fiction itself. For the present, we offer the sixth of the new Nova Award Rules---

*"For the purposes of this award a fanzine shall be defined as an amateur publication which is concerned with science fiction, fantasy, science fiction and fantasy fans and/or associated subjects, and copies of which may be generally obtained in exchange for other amateur publications or in response to letters of comment. Any paid professional advertisement in the current year shall disqualify the publication in which it is printed. The Nova Committee (see below) shall have the final decision upon whether a given publication is a fanzine."*

The Nova Committee---replacing previous years' judging panels---will strive to interpret this fairly, while upon the Administrator falls the vast burden of ballot collection. If you have a vote, use it!

| NOVACON | WINNER                                                                                    | EDITOR                      | JUDGES                                                              |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3       | <i>Speculation</i>                                                                        | Peter Weston                | Jim Linwood, Phil Rogers, Ina Shorroch, Andrew Stephenson           |
| 4       | <i>Big Scab tie</i><br><i>Zimri</i>                                                       | John Brosnan<br>Lisa Conesa | Jim Linwood, Greg Pickersgill, Ina Shorroch, Keith Walker           |
| 5       | <i>Maya</i>                                                                               | Rob Jackson                 | Malcolm Edwards, Greg Pickersgill, Peter Roberts, Andrew Stephenson |
| 6       | <i>Maya</i>                                                                               | Rob Jackson                 | Graham Boak, Leroy Kettle, Mike Meara, Dave Rowe, Ian Williams      |
| 7       | Administrator: Liese Hoare. Nova Committee: Rob Jackson, Greg Pickersgill, Dave Langford. |                             |                                                                     |



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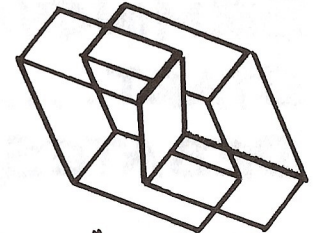
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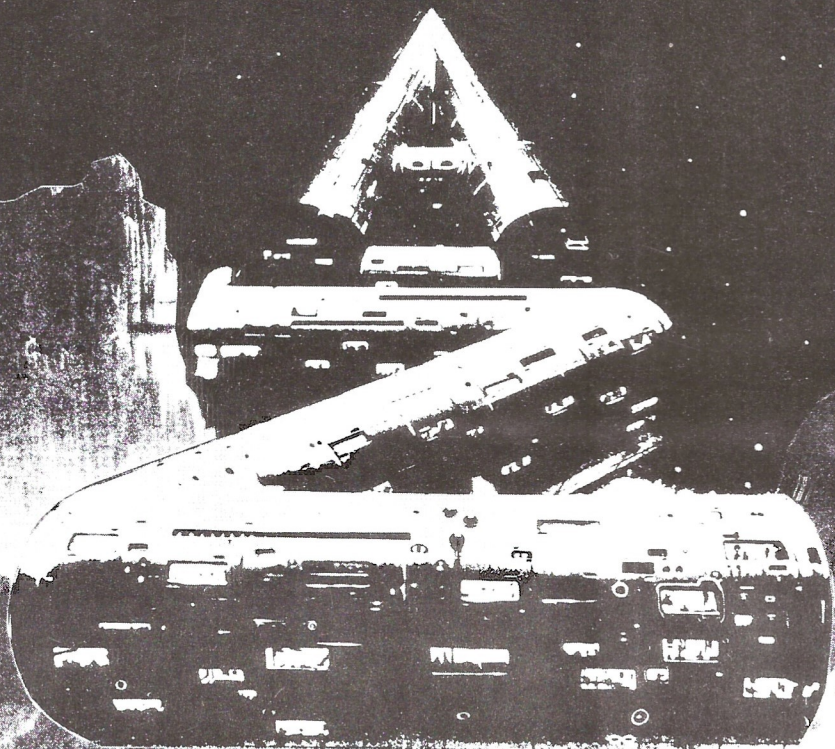
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