

AUSTRALIAN



NEWS

Special Issue 2

October 2001

News

Reviews

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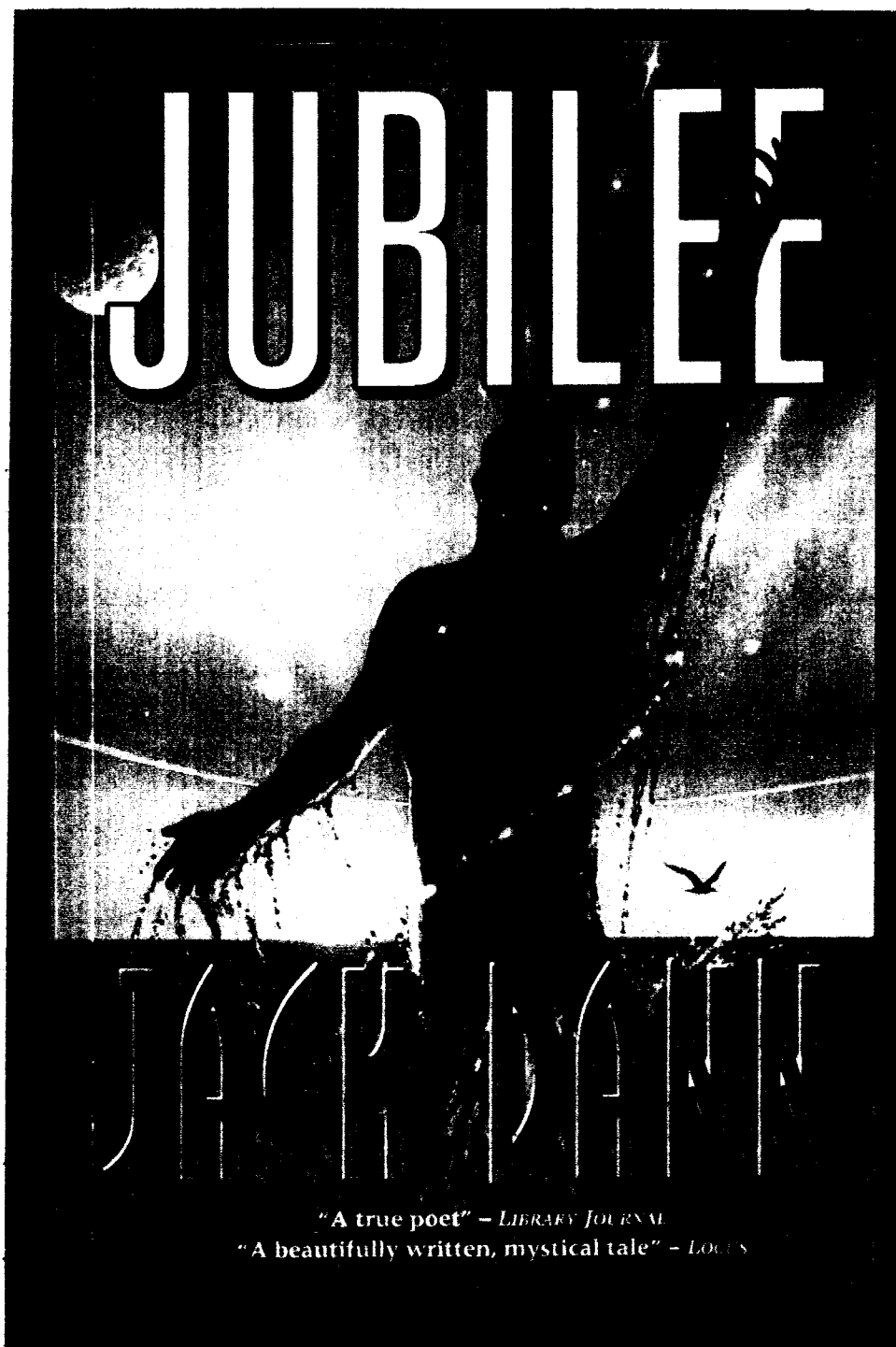
**SCIENCE
FICTION**

FANTASY

&

HORROR

**BOOKS
RELEASED IN
AUSTRALIA**

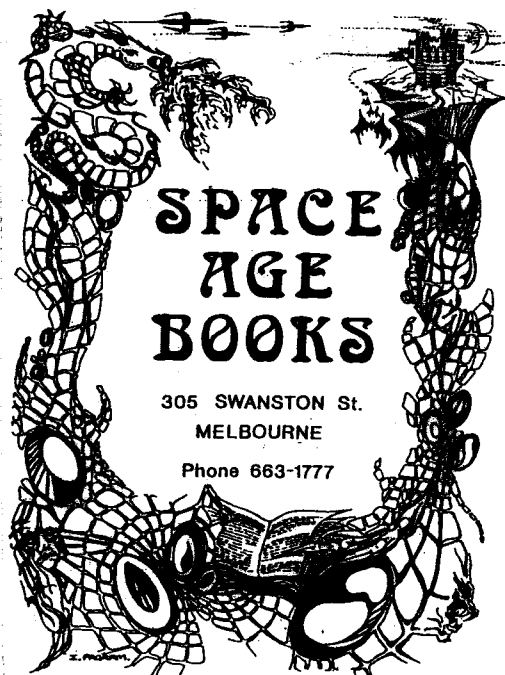


AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS SPECIAL ISSUE OCTOBER 2001

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

I have been producing Australian SF News in various forms since the 1970s, not that it contains much news now, but as part of *THYME* my co-editor Alan Stewart and I thought that it was nice to keep the tradition going by combining it with *THYME*, which does cover sf news, even if we have been a bit late recently. I like to do a separate issue from time to time, such as this one, and include some stuff that Alan does not have room for in *THYME*. Recording my memories of my time spent in science fiction random and the book trade has been taking up most of my time since acquiring a computer and I have decided to briefly cover my time in book selling and a little about the books I have read over the years, for this issue.



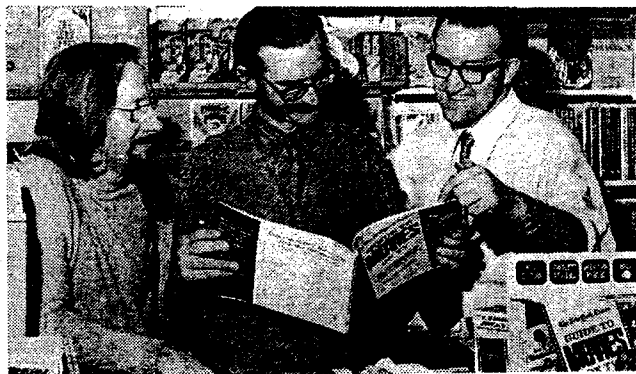
MY LIFE IN BOOKS

Last year my wife Helena and I went to see the movie *YOU'VE GOT MAIL*, starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks. It is about bookselling to some degree, in that Meg Ryan owns a small children's book shop and is forced to close when the big book chain comes along and establishes a super store just around the corner from her "Shop Around the Corner" store. People who know me and know that I had a small bookshop selling science fiction will see the parallels in the movie and Space Age Books' demise. Not a great deal really, but enough to make me pretty nostalgic when we watched it. I was selling books for about fifty years and I still am to a small degree, with a few second-hand books on mail order. So I would like to tell you how I started in the book business and how it paralleled the progress of my interest in SF and the Melbourne SF Club in particular.

I cannot recall when I actually began reading, but it was as a fairly young child. My interest in science fiction began with comic strips and in particular *Buck Rogers* in my mother's 1930s issues of the *New Idea*. In the early days of the Second World War comics were not being published due to paper shortages and my parents bought me a copy of a small magazine format booklet titled *Strata Rocketeers*. It was based on a radio serial which was being aired in Sydney at the time, but not in Melbourne as far as I knew. Years later I met the author, journalist Vol Molesworth, at an SF convention in Sydney. My father bought me second-hand books from a shop in Smith Street Collingwood, as he worked at Foy and Gibson's knitting mills a block or two away. The shop I think was called Franklin's but I do not know if it was the same man who ran the shop in the old Eastern Market, where the Southern Cross Hotel was built. Incidentally Melbourne SF fans haunted Franklin's shop in the market for SF books and a lot of bound magazines turned up and many found their way into the Melbourne SF Club Library. Amongst the books my father bought me at the Smith Street Shop included *The Swiss Family Robinson* and its sequel which I loved, also *The Gorilla Hunters*, a nineteenth century British naval adventure called *Midshipman Easy* and a few other titles including a factual book titled the *The Boy's Playbook of Science* by Professor Lyon Playfair, which had an inscribed date of "Sydney 1863". When I started school I looked for science books at the Preston Municipal Library, but not knowing what Science Fiction was I did not know exactly what I wanted and the librarians gave me more books on science for young readers. Meanwhile I discovered the British boys' weekly magazines such as *Champion*, *Hotspur* and *Adventure*, which did not carry SF, but some stories I now realise came close. I still had to rely on comics such as *Speed (Flash) Gordon* and *Legion of Space* which I later discovered was based on a story by a leading American SF author Jack Williamson and *The Eagle* featuring the *Dan Dare* comic strip.

When I got to High School I was still on the look-out for "science" stories, but Northcote High School library only had one or two Jules Verne's which I did read, but no H.G Wells for instance. Then the SF magazine *THRILLS INCORPORATED*, which I eagerly devoured, hit the news stands. It was, I found out years later, reprinting tales from the American pulp magazines and changing the titles and authors names, but I had found real if not poor, SF finally. My reading habits were of course being widened at High School with Thomas Hardy, Shakespeare and all and when I asked the English lit teacher for advice he recommended John Buchan. I read two or three Richard Hannay adventures. Why he never suggested Wells or even Verne, I will never know. So my efforts to find more SF to read were not fulfilled until I started working for McGills Newsagency in Elizabeth Street Melbourne. After three days into an apprenticeship as an electrician I went back the vocational guidance people who when they discovered that I was interested in reading and books, sent me off to McGills. There at last I had not only a job but access to the science fiction I had been seeking.

First of all it was the magazines such as *ASTOUNDING* and then second-hand American pulp magazines such as *STARTLING STORIES* and *THRILLING WONDER*, but in due course British published books, some reprinted from the American editions, began to appear. I read one or two tales by Edgar Rice Burroughs because I had always loved the *Tarzan* movies, but his Martian stories were terrible. I tried *TRIPLANETARY* by E. E. "Doc" Smith, but I found those just too ridiculous for words. While I was enjoying the magazines, particularly *Startling Stories* which featured authors such as Jack Vance, Henry Kutner and Jack Williamson, I read books by A.E. Van Vogt such as *The WEAPON MAKERS* and *VOYAGE OF THE SPACE BEAGLE* which I loved, and in due course I discovered Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein, Clifford D. Simak, Fred Brown, John Wyndham and others who were writing sf in the 1950s and before. I will not discuss in any detail all the books I read in those days, but I was never able to read all the SF books that I would have liked to, though I was starting a collection of books and I hoped to eventually read them all.

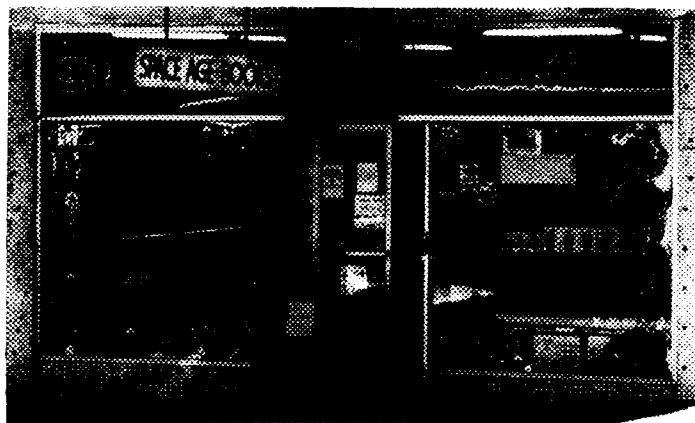


LEE HARDING, PAUL STEVENS and MERV BINNS
at SPACE AGE in the early '70s

In 1952, my second year with McGills, I was asked to join a number of other SF readers in forming a club, which we initially called the Melbourne Science Fiction Group. School teacher Bob McCubbin, photographer and later successful author Lee Harding, in due course University Meteorologist and operator of the first computer in Australia Dick Jessen and budding school teacher, later to become politician Race Mathews, were some of the founding memers of what was later called *The Melbourne SF Club*. Being a bookseller I eventually got the job of running the library and I set about to buy books and magazines for the library. Everything that I got in at McGills I purchased and I got in contact with people overseas and brought books in from the USA and Britain which were not available here. I bought all the top rank SF anthologies published in the USA from a man in Philadelphia, USA, who had been an industrial chemist working on the atom bomb project during the war and a full run of the American edition of *Astounding* magazine, which I kept for my own collection. Eventually I realised however that I would never read them all, not being a lover of short stories very much, tending more to complete novels. Running the club library, and getting books in for people in the club, helping to produce the club magazine *ETHERLINE* and eventually running the club almost single-handed took up much of my spare time.

Then I finished up in charge of the general book department at McGills, although I do not believe that I ever received recognition or adequate recompense for same. I needed to vary my reading habits so that I knew more about the books I was selling and I read books by Harold Robbins, which were appropriate as I have always been a big movie fan and his best books were about Hollywood, Irving Wallace, all the James Bond novels by Ian Fleming and all types of fiction ranging from Nino Culotta to Lobsang Rampa. My friend Ian Crozier insisted that I read *The Lord of the Rings*, which I steadfastly refused, saying I did not read fantasy, but I finally gave in and I did read *The Hobbit* and *LOtR* and did enjoy them very much, although I have not read any other Tolkien books and almost no other fantasy since.

By the end of the 1960s I was fed up with working for McGills, I was spending a lot of time getting books for club members, doing lists and all, and my personal life had suffered in consequence. So when talking to an SF fan friend and customer Ron Graham I mentioned that I should have a shop of my own, Ron offered to finance me. Consequently I opened *SPACE AGE BOOKS* in 1971. With friends Lee Harding and Paul Stevens we got things rolling in an office in the Beehive Building in Elizabeth Street, and when an old customer told me about a vacant shop opposite the public library in Swanston Street, it seemed a great place to open a shop and it was. After three years we moved to a bigger shop about five doors away and my friend and ex-employee Justin Ackroyd is now running *SLOW GLASS BOOKS* there.



SPACE AGE BOOKS – the 'big shop' at 305 Swanston Street.

I endeavoured to make Space Age an "SF Emporium", with not only books relating to the SF&F field, but comics, posters, records and games. Lee had suggested that we broaden the range of books that we offered, so as well as the movie books which were already a large part of our trade - I endeavoured to stock every movie book that was practical or at least tell people about them and order them in, with the then State Film Centre being one of our main customers and I was doing a list of new movie books for the magazine *Cinema Papers* - we put in, for want of a better term, a wide range of counter culture books. Everything from astral travel to zen, including philosophy, occult, UFOs, cooking, permaculture and I am sure you will get the drift. Of course we had always carried popular books on space travel and astronomy.

We took a bit of trade from other bookshops in that category such as *The Source*, in Collins Street, but in due course everybody got on the 'New Age' bandwagon, and SF&F as more and more became readily available and stocked by all bookshops, while specialist comic and games shops opened. So that, plus probably my bad financial management, eventually led to the demise of Space Age Books. Space Age became the centre of SF fandom in Melbourne in the early 1970s and acted as the hub of the bid mounted by Australian fans to run the World SF Convention here. Working at McGills I had been able to make contact with fans all over but at Space Age we were wholly involved in fandom in general. My business partner Ron Graham insisted that I attend the World SF Convention in Toronto, Canada in 1973, where we received the go ahead to run the 1975 World SF Con. I started producing *Australian SF News* to help publicise the convention and Space Age, with the help of various people including Paul Stevens, George Turner, Justin Ackroyd and other Space Age staff such as later to be fantasy author Beverley MacDonald. I continued publishing it until 1985, about the same time as the second World SF Convention in Melbourne, *AUSSIECON 2*. Space Age closed its doors the following December. But boy it had been fun for a while, until the financial aspects beat me down and I lost all my family assets. My father helped me build the shelving and numerous other things in the shop and was always there when I needed his help, and he had suggested the perfect name for the shop as well.



Space Age partner RON GRAHAM with Merv's father ERN BINNS.

We sold our house to keep Space Age afloat, which I do not think that we would have had to do if my partner Ron Graham had not died. The Graham family accountant insisted that I pay them what Ron had lent me to open the shop. Enough said. When I closed down I endeavoured to operate a mail order business, MERV BINNS BOOKS, from home while caring for my aging and ailing father, but that was not successful and I am now spending a lot of my time writing my memoirs in bits and pieces for my personal zine *Rubbish Binns*, which I am producing with the help of my wife Helena. And I am helping Alan Stewart a little by writing up the lists of all the new releases I can cover for our magazine *THYME/ASFNEWS*, and Helena and I are also providing the occasional review of books received.



Merv with Space Age assistants JULIE QUINLAN and SUSAN REDMOND

I have to thank all the people who worked for Space Age, including Lee Harding, Paul Stevens, Sue Redmond, who did all the book keeping and more, Anne Sydenham, Justin Ackroyd, John Breden, Maureen Walsh, Karen Tingwell, Therese Stuart, Julie Quinlan and her sisters and all the other short termers or part timers. It was great working with them all, but the best part of the operation was the contact with all the SF fans and meeting all the visiting authors. On one occasion Doris Lessing was in Melbourne for a lecture at Melbourne University, organised by a women's group there. It seems that she was at a loose end one evening, and

her then publishers, William Collins, rang me and asked me if I would like to talk to her and perhaps take her to dinner. I did, accompanied by my friend, the Miles Franklin Award winning author, and SF writer and critic, George Turner, and my assistant and Doris Lessing fan, Maureen Walsh. I met numerous authors at the shop for booksignings and at conventions who have been giants in the field



Author DORIS LESSING

including Robert Bloch, Harry Harrison, Larry Niven, Anne McCaffrey, Roger Zelazny, Frank Herbert, Brian Aldiss, Doris Lessing, Robert Silverberg, Ben Bova, Jack Chalker, Joe Haldeman, Harlan Ellison, Fred Pohl, Gordon Dickson, Gene Wolfe, Russell Hoban, and I could go on. I must not overlook all the other local authors such as Wynne Whiteford, Paul Collins, Terry Dowling, Sean McMullen, Lee Harding of course and Damien Broderick, who kindly dedicated his anthology *The Zeitgeist Machine* to me. I thank them all for their contributions to Space Age by providing us with all their wonderful writings for Space Age to sell and providing all us SF fans with the books we have read and enjoyed over the years.

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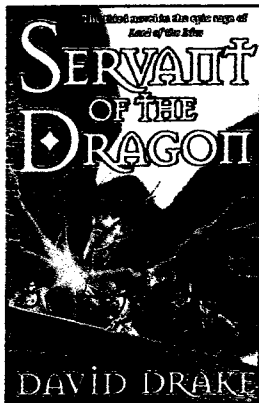
Authors GENE WOLFE and GEORGE TURNER at SPACE AGE

**SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY BOOKS
RELEASED IN AUSTRALIA**

January to June 2001

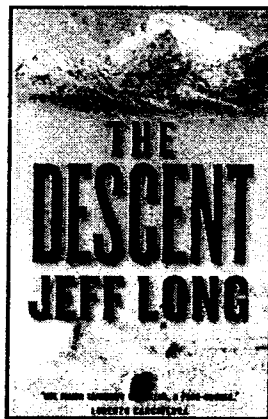
Allen & Unwin

The third volume in the *Book of Orokon* by Tom Arden, *SULTAN OF THE MOON AND STARS*, is another big volume fantasy epic, set in an Arabian Nights world, hc. *OWLKNIGHT* by Mercedes Lackey and Larry Dixon is the third in this series and is set six years after the second volume, *Owlsight* and the



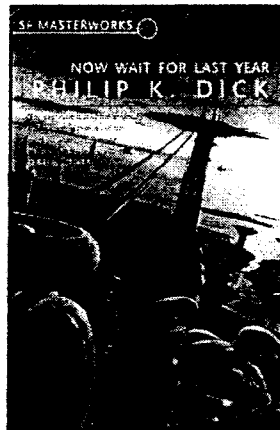
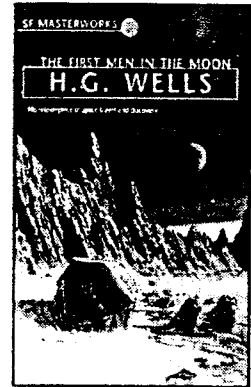
adventures of Darian, now Master Mage, continue, pb. Both of those are Millennium / VGSF publications. From Allen & Unwin themselves we have a short story collection of unique fantasy stories, some SF related, and all set in *WHITE TIME*, "wherein time is time out of time", by Margo Lanagan, tpb. Mickey Zucker Reichert gives us *FLIGHTLESS FALCON*, which is the tale of a man out to rescue his kidnapped wife and children, set in a medieval world, tpb. *SERVANT OF THE DRAGON* by David Drake is the third novel in the Lord of the Isles saga, in

pb. Of interest to fans I think is *THE INTERNET From A to Z* by John Cowpertwait & Simon Flynn, which is a beginner's guide, pb. *SISTERHOOD OF THE BLUE STORM* is the Fourth book of Orokon by Tom Arden, hc. The 3rd book is also released in pb. Tom Arden by the way is an Australian-born author, now living in the UK. *MARKET BLUES* by Kirsty Murray is a time displacement tale for young readers, pb. *THE DESCENT* by Jeff Long is a novel set in a world beneath the Earth, pb. Joe Haldeman's *FOREVER FREE*, follow-up to *Forever War*, is now available in pb. Terry Goodkind's *Sword of Truth* series continues and book 6 is *FAITH OF THE FALLEN*, tpb. Australian author Garth Nix has two fantasy novels, primarily for young readers. *SABRIEL* gained the Aurealis Award and a companion novel on co-release is *LIRAEI*, both pb.



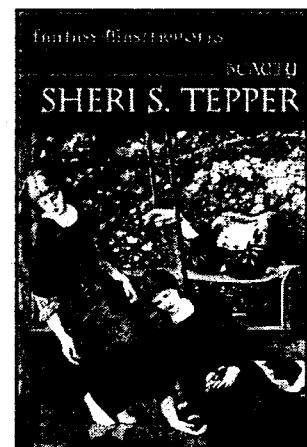
Most of those listed from A&U are published by Victor Gollancz Millennium, who have been doing a great service to fans by republishing a lot of the past great SF and fantasy works, as well as many new. They have three series of note and I will mention first SF COLLECTORS' EDITIONS, trade pb volumes, hard cover size, with the familiar Gollancz yellow covers. Recent titles include: *FURY* by Henry Kurner, *BEASTS* by John Crowley, *DARK UNIVERSE* by Daniel F. Galouye, *WAY STATION* by Clifford D. Simak, *THE WITCHES OF KARRIS* by James H. Schmitz, *FLOATING WORLDS* by Cecilia Holland, *THE WINDS TWELVE QUARTERS* by Ursula K. LeGuin, *THE DREAMING JEWELS* by Theodore Sturgeon, *WILD SEED* by Octavia Butler, *THORNS* by Robert Silverberg, *A WREATH OF STARS* by Bob Shaw, *TIK TOK* by John Sladek, *OF MEN AND MONSTERS* by William Tenn, *ORPHANS OF THE SKY* by Robert Heinlein, *EYE OF THE QUEEN* by Philip Mann, *THE SEEDLING STARS* by James Blish, *THE STOCHASTIC MAN* by Robert Silverberg, and *NEXT OF KIN* by Eric Frank Russell. Classics and ground-breaking ideas abound in this collection that gives new readers a wonderful opportunity to catch up with these great novels and one - author collections, and curmudgeons like me a chance to enjoy them again..

THE SF MASTERWORKS collection now includes over forty titles and these are a very attractively presented series of reprinted titles in paperback, with great cover illustrations. Some of the most recently released titles include *BLOOD MUSIC* by Greg Bear, *THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE* and *THE CITY AND THE STARS* by Arthur C. Clarke, *THE FIRST MEN IN THE MOON* by H.G.Wells, *NOW WAIT FOR LAST YEAR* by Philip K.Dick, *NOVA* by Samuel R.Delany, *JEM* by Frederk Pohl, and *BRING THE JUBILEE* by



Ward Moore. Previous titles have been by such giants in the field as Alfred Bester, Gene Wolfe, Jack Vance, Roger Zelazny and Cordwainer Smith. Not forgetting the fantasy we have the FANTASY MASTERWORKS series and recent titles there include: *THE KING OF ELFLAND'S DAUGHTER* by Lord Dunsany, *BEAUTY* by Sheri S.Tepper, *THE INCOMPLEAT ENCHANTER* by L.Sprague De Camp & Fletcher Pratt, *LUD IN THE MIST* by Hope Mirreles, *ELRIC* by Michael Moorcock,

RIDDLE MASTER by Patricia McKillip, and *THE FIRST BOOK OF LANKHMAR* by Fritz Leiber. These pb editions also are a joy to behold and make a wonderful uniform edition collection. I marvel at the job editors at Gollancz have done to secure the rights to publish all the titles, especially those which were not theirs originally, and they deserve a special award for a job well done. All are distributed in Australia by Allen and Unwin. Other releases from A&U this year include: *BLACK SWAN*, a fantasy novel by Mercedes Lackey, tpb. Two fantasy volumes by Elizabeth Haydon are *RHAPSODY* and the sequel *PROPHECY*, which Gollancz acclaim as a very outstanding debut by this author. Featuring a trio of memorable adventurers who set out to save their world



from evil magic and a fire demon called F'dor, tpb. *ASH A Secret History* is another fantasy novel (tpb) by Mary Gentle, the author of the acclaimed *Golden Witchbreed*. What looks like a great space opera novel is titled *VAST* by Linda Nagata, featuring ancient galactic wars, strange alien races, and humanity facing annihilation, pb. Another sf pb is *FINITY* by John Barnes, which is set in an alternate world, wherein history takes a different track from the way we know it, from the 1940s on.



Maybe not as good as Terry Pratchett's outpourings, but in the same humorous vein is James Bibby's *SHAPESTONE* in pb. Quite a few anthromorphic tales have now have been published, which feature animals including rabbits, deer, wolves and what have you, but the series by Stephen Baxter about ancient mammoths may well be the most outstanding. The second in the *Mammoth* series, *LONGTUSK* has now been released in pb. All Gollancz Millennium publications.

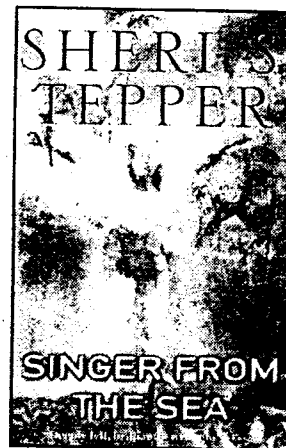
I will just point out that I have not listed these books in any order of publication and they range from late 2000 to June 2001. Continuing the fantasy titles from Gollancz Millennium we have *THE RIDDLED NIGHT* by Valery Leith, which is the second in the *Everien* sequence, tpb. *DARK TERRORS* is a collection of new horror stories by known and new authors, edited by Stephen Jones and David Sutton, tpb. In her inimitable humorous style we have Diana Wynne Jones' *YEAR OF THE GRIFFIN* (tpb) which is a sequel to *The Dark Lord Derkholm*, winner of the Mythopoeic Award. *THE COLLECTED STORIES OF ARTHUR C. CLARKE* includes all his short fiction from 1933 to 1999 in hard cover. *THE RINCEWIND TRILOGY* is an omnibus volume of Terry Pratchett's *Sourcery*, *Eric* and *Interesting Times* in hardcover. *BRIGHTLY BURNING* by Mercedes Lackey is a fantasy novel set in her imagined world of Valdemar, featuring Lavan Chitward who has the Gift of Firestorm and is so brought into the ranks of the Herald of Valdemar. He must harness his power, as only he can save the land from destruction, hc. *ON* is an SF novel by London academic and SF critic, Adam Roberts. His character Tighe falls off the place he knows, Worldwall, and tumbles into a part of his world that he never knew existed, hc & tpb. *THE WAY OF LIGHT The Chronicle of Magravandias Book 3* by Storm Constantine, is a tale of royal intrigue and conflict which awakens the great dragons of old, who rule the elements, hc & tpb. *RECKLESS SLEEP*, is a first novel by new author Roger Levy. What sounds like a highly original SF story, is set on a high tech future Earth in dire trouble as the indiscretions of the invaders of another world come back to haunt them, pb. Sir Arthur C. Clarke's three novels *Islands in the Sky*, *Earthlight* and *The Sands of Mars* are released in a new omnibus edition as *THE SPACE TRILOGY*, tpb. Paul Kearney's *THE SECOND EMPIRE* is the fourth volume in *The Monarchies of God* sequence, a fantasy novel new in pb. One of the most lyrical fantasists has to be Charles de Lint, whose *FORESTS OF THE HEART* is a tale based on Irish folklore set in North America, hc. The *Terminator* movie sequence has been followed up with a book by S. M. Stirling, *T2 INFILTRATOR*, and the humans must again combat the Terminators including the most dangerous yet, hc. A new novel by Jonathan Carroll, *THE WOODEN SEA*, features a man who learns that his decisions will influence the future of the world and most likely the fate of the universe, hc.

A new series of double novels from Millennium includes: Binary One *FOURSIGHT* by James Lovegrove with *LENINGRAD NIGHTS* by Graham Joyce and Binary Two *THE VACCINATOR* by Michael Marshall-Smith with *ANDY WARHOL'S*



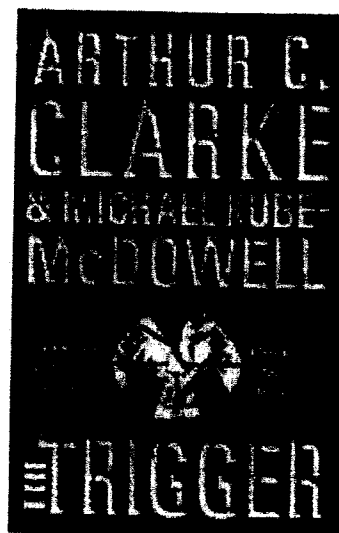
DRACULA by Kim Newman, pbs. *BRAZIL: The Evolution of the 54th Best British Movie Ever Made* by Terry Gilliam and Charles Alverson, is the script and more of this cult movie, in tpb. *FRESCO* by Sheri S. Tepper is an SF novel with a plot reminiscent of TV's *The X-Files*, in that two groups of aliens are on Earth, one to help and the other to exploit, hc & tpb.

Also from Tepper, *SINGER FROM THE SEA* in which an heiress finds out some bitter truths about her world, the seemingly backward planet of Haven, pb. *COURAGE OF FALCONS; The Secret Texts Book 3* by Holly Lisle, is a series featuring wizardry, magic and a heroine who must face evil and treachery on every front, tpb. *THE CURER: Whiteblade Saga 3* by Adam Nichols is the final volume in this epic fantasy sequence, featuring Elinor Whiteblade and her shining sword, pb. *THE VOICES OF TIME* is the reissue of a collection of J.G. Ballard's short stories, pb.



Harper Collins

First up is an SF title co-authored by Arthur C. Clarke and Michael Kube-McDowell, *THE TRIGGER*, the premise of which is the discovery of a procedure that triggers all explosives, making guns and wars irrelevant. In due course the fate of mankind depends on who controls The Trigger, tpb. *THE LIGHT OF OTHER DAYS* by Arthur C. Clarke and Stephen Baxter, who join to produce an "awesome" novel set in 3001, tpb.



Another big fantasy novel draws on medieval British history for its background, the first in *The Grail Quest* series, *HARLEQUIN* by Bernard Cornwell. Set in France mainly, during the Hundred Years War, featuring an archer, a 'hellequin' as the French call them, in the service of King Edward III, tpb. *SEA AS MIRROR* by Australian author Tess Williams is a story about interspecies communication, set in a world on the verge of environmental disaster, but at the same time giving hope for a new future, tpb. South Australian co-authors Sean Williams and Shane Dix have produced a great space opera adventure in their *Evergreen Trilogy*, with *The Prodigal Son* and *The Dying Light* already published, and now *THE DARK IMBALANCE*, the third in their trilogy, in which the secrets of the alien intelligence known as 'the box' are revealed, pb.



Yet another Australian sf author, Joel Shepherd, has been discovered by Harper Collins and his novel *CROSSOVER*, featuring a more than human heroine with special abilities named Katia Neiland, who is endeavouring to stay ahead of government agents wanting to learn her secrets, Voyager pb. *The Crucible* fantasy series by Sara Douglass is strongly based on medieval history, in which she comes up with her own explanation for the social changes that took place in the 14th century. Volume One, *THE NAMELESS DAY*, was a new release in pb, simultaneously with volume two, *THE WOUNDED HAWK*, in hard cover. Sydney author Traci Harding's science fantasy sequence, *The Celestial Triad* continues with part two, *TABLET OF THE DESTINIES*, and the mystery of the changeling babies continues, pb. *JUBILEE* by Jack Dann is a collection of his stories from magical realism to fantasy and SF and horror, tpb. *TREASON KEEP* by Jennifer Fallon, is Book Two of the Demon Child Trilogy, a tale of intrigue and power in a land ruled by kings and warlords, pb. *SHIP OF DESTINY*, by

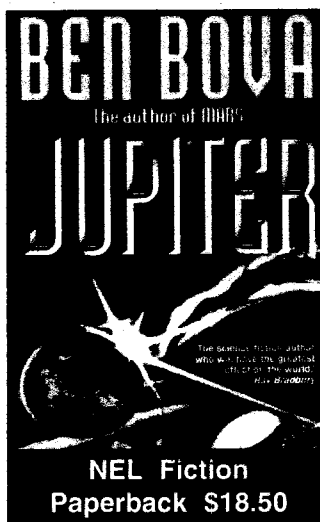
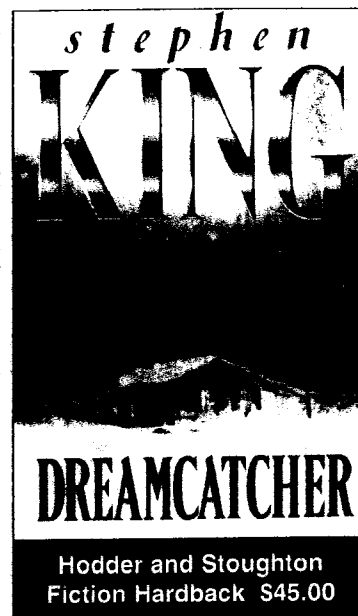
Robin Hobb, is Book 3 of *The Liveship Traders* series. Anne Bishop has written *The Black Jewels Trilogy* which have all been published here in Voyager pbs. The first is *DAUGHTER OF THE BLOOD*, followed by *HEIR TO SHADOWS* and *QUEEN OF DARKNESS*. The late Marion Zimmer Bradley's *PRIESTESS OF AVALON* is the third and final volume in her Arthurian Avalon sequence, published posthumously with the aid of her friend and collaborator Diana Paxon, new in pb. The third in Raymond Feist's series, *KRONDOR: TEAR OF*

THE GODS was released in large format pb. It is based on Feist's bestselling computer game. *THE FIRE DRAGON* by Katherine Kerr was a new release in pb. *REDEMPTION OF ALTHALUS* is by David & Leigh Eddings, and features a bronze-age burglar and armed robber who goes on a trip to the House At The End of the World to steal a book, tpb. *MYSTIC ROSE* by Stephen Lawhead is book 3 in his *Celtic Crusaders* trilogy, following *The Black Rood*, and set in ancient Scotland, pb. *WELL OF DARKNESS* by Tracey Weis and Margaret Hickman is book 3 in their *Sovereign Stone* series. A unique fantasy tale told from the point of view of the evil characters in the story, pb. *SAGITTARIUS WHORL* by Julian May is the third and concluding volume in the *Rampart Worlds* trilogy. A space opera of tremendous scope and thrilling adventure, tpb. *WOLF KING* by Alice Borchardt is the concluding volume in the *Celtic Invaders* trilogy. An historical fantasy set during the reign of Charlemagne, tpb. *KING OF DREAMS* by Robert Silverberg is a story of the origins of The King Of Dreams, from the Prestimion trilogy, which is set in the same world as the *Valentine* books, but many years before, tpb. *THE BONE DOLL'S TWIN* by Lynn Flewelling (tpb) is book one of the Tamir Triad by an author whose books are described in glowing terms as part high fantasy and part political intrigue, with memorable characters and enthralling plots. High praise upon high praise for this author indicates that her writing is something special. SF author George R. Martin's venture into fantasy, *Storm of Swords, Volume 3 A SONG OF ICE AND SHADOW Part one*, is being published in two pb parts. *PERIL'S GATE* is book 6 in Janny Wurta *War of Light and Shadows* series, third in *The Alliance of Light* and the brothers Arithon and Lysaer struggle to maintain the Natural Balance and stop the Mistwraith from gaining power, tpb. Hugo winning author Connie Willis' SF thriller *PASSAGE*, explores the mystery of life after death, tpb. Megan Lindholm's fantasy novel *REINDEER PEOPLE* was new in pb. *THE RING OF FIVE DRAGONS* is the first in *The Pearl Saga* by Eric Van Lustbader, is an SF tale about a planet enslaved by alien invaders, and a hero who is destined to gain freedom for his people against all odds, hc. Finally from Harper Collins I should mention two books of interest that were published last year and I previously overlooked. *MARA*

AND DANN by Doris Lessing is set in a future world where life is threatened by drought and wild animals, but it succeeds in telling us "a great deal about the present we only dimly perceive..", pb. Our friend Jack Dann's mainstream novel in the style of Jack Kerouac or Hunter S. Thompson, *COUNTING COUP*, was also published by Harper Collins mid 2000 and if you have been reading his SF works, you may want to catch up with this one. Both of these were in Flamingo imprint pbs. As might be expected, with the movie coming up, new printings of *The Lord of the Rings* will be released in September. To tie in with the movie we have *THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING COMPANION* along with *THE LORD OF THE RINGS OFFICIAL MOVIE GUIDE* with information and photos of the cast, sets, locations, monsters and costumes, along with an interview with the director Peter Jackson.

Hodder & Stoughton

I do not have much information on releases from Hodder for the first half of the year but I can report another new Stephen King novel, *DREAMCATCHER* which features four friends who find themselves in the midst of a remarkable event, hc. For readers always interested in the Arthurian legends we have *ARTHUR THE DRAGON KING* by Howard Reid, which expounds some new theories on the origins of King Arthur, tpb.



Ben Bova's *JUPITER* is a new release in pb, as he continues his sf novels featuring the planetetary bodies of our solar system. My next listing will hopefully cover more from Hodders.

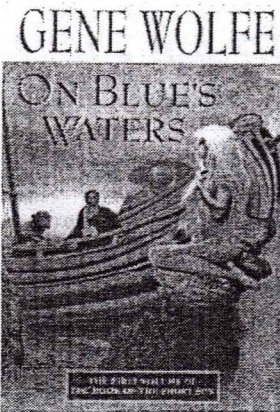
Pan/MacMillan

Tales set in the world of animals, who act and communicate human-like, have a fascination to many readers and such a tale is *FIRE BRINGER* by David Clement-Davies, about deer, pb. *IN LEGEND BORN* is a fantasy novel by Laura

Resnick in which a people must overcome their own differences, while confronting vicious invaders, Tor pb. *DRACONIAN MEASURES* by Don Perrin and Margaret Weis from Wizards of the Coast publishers, which MacMillan distribute here and will be of interest to interactive games players. This title is a sequel to these authors' *The Doom Brigade*, pb. *THE MERLIN OF ST GILLES' WELL* by Ann Chamberlain is a fantasy novel based on the real historical events in the life of Joan of Arc, saint or practitioner of ancient pagan arts, Tor tpb. *THIEVES' GUILD* by Jeff Crook is set in the *Dragonlance* world, involving the intrigues of the thieves in the city of Palanthas, pb. *POOL OF RADIANCE: The Ruins of Myth Drannor* by Carrie A. Berris is set in the land of Faerun featuring four reluctant heroes, pb. *SHADOW'S WITNESS* by Paul Kemp is a Forgotten Realms tale, pb, and *CRANE* by Ree Soesbee is a Clan War title in the Legend of Five Rings sequence, pb. *DRAGONS OF A FALLEN SUN* by Margaet Weis and Tracy Hickman is the first in *War of Souls* series, set in the land of Krynn, pb. *CITY OF RAVENS* by

Richard Baker is the first in a series featuring the cities of *Forgotten Realms*, pb, *SILVER SHADOWS* by Elaine Cunningham is a *Songs & Swords* tale book 3, pb, *SHATTERED ALLIANCE Ice Age Cycle 3* by Jeff Grubb is set in the world of *The Magic: Gathering*; game, pb, *IF WHISPERS CALL Dark Matter 2* by Don Bassingwaite is the second in a dark sf series, pb and all of those are from *Wizards of the Coast*.

The British publisher *Box Tree*, specialising in movie and TV associated titles have begun a series based on our home grown SF series *FARSCAPE*, with the first two titles distributed by Pan/Mac being *SHIP OF GHOSTS* and *DARK SIDE OF THE SUN*, pbs. A horror title from Tor that reminds me of the recent movie *Tomb Raider* is *CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE* by Steven



Siebert, pb. We usually watch movie gossip journalist John Michael Howson on Bert Newton's *Good Morning Australia* program on Channel 10, and we were quite surprised to discover that he is enjoying writing horror tales. *Ten Tales With A Twist*, *DEADLY DREAMS* is in Pan pb. New author Karen Michaelson's novel *ENEMY GLORY* is a fantasy tale featuring a new angry young magician, ready to take on the world, tpb. Still in the universe of *The Book of the Short Sun*, Gene Wolfe's *ON BLUE'S WATERS* features the narrator of the

earlier book, Horn and is set some years later, Tor tpb. *DARKLOST* by Mick Farren is a vampire horror tale about a group in Los Angeles building a nice little relationship with Hollywood glitterati, only to be threatened by the ancient entity Cthulu, Tor pb. More *Wizards of the Coasts* titles are *MESSENGER Icewall Trilogy 3* by Niles Douglas, *THORNHOLD Songs & Swords 4* by Elaine Cunningham and *PLANESHIFT Invasion Cycle 2* by Robert J. King, *WAR OF THE TWINS Dragonlance Legends 2* and *TEST OF THE TWINS Dragonlance Legends 3* by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman, all pbs.

Still with Pan MacMillan we have an sf novel, *GRIDLINKED* by Neal Aser, which is an action-packed space opera, MacMillan tpb. Another *Farscape* novel from Boxtree is titled *HOUSE OF CARDS* by Keith Decandido, pb. *KINGLESS LAND* is a fantasy from Tor by Ed Greenwood, in which four diverse characters join together to restore their monarch to his throne, pb. *SHIVA 2000* by Jan Lars Jensen, the fantasy set in an Indian, Hindu locale, is new in pb from Pan. More *Wizards of the Coasts* releases include: *DOWNFALL Dhamon Saga 1* by Jean Rabe, *SUMMONING* by Troy Denning, a tale of wizardry and the rescue of a land from evil, *PHOENIX Clan War 4* by Stephen Sullivan and *IN FLUID SILENCE Dark Matter 3* by G.W.Tirpa, all pbs. *ILL-MADE MUTE* by Cecilia Dart-Thornton is book one in the Bitterbynde fantasy trilogy, set in a place where creatures of legend haunt the lands of man, MacMillan tpb. *PERDIDO STREET STATION*, an sf novel by China Mieville, is new edition in small pb. *SONG OF THE AXE* by John R. Dann is a prehistory fantasy in the Jean Aul style, in tpb from Tor/Forge. Finally, two more *Wizards of the Coast* titles: *FLOODGATE Counselors and Kings 2* by Elaine Cunningham and *JOHAN Magic Legends 1* by Clayton Emery, pbs.

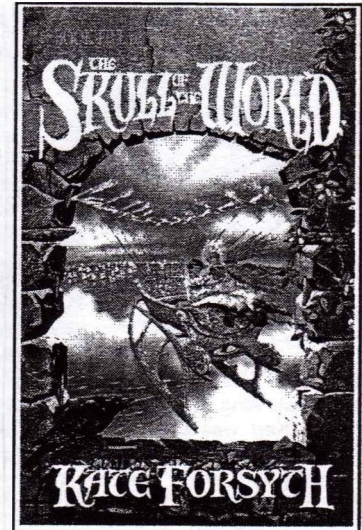
Penguin

Two recent sf adventure novels come in the *Sten* series from Orbit: Number 2, *THE WOLF WORLDS* and number 3, *THE COURT OF A THOUSAND SUNS*, both by Chris Bunch and Allan Cole, pbs. Gut wrenching space opera at its best. In Little Brown tpb we have *KILLING TIME* by Caleb Carr, the author of *The Alienist*. A nasty-near-future thriller novel that delves into the concepts of time. *CHILD OF TIME* by Kate Elliot, is the fourth in the *Crown of Stars* sequence, set in the warring lands of Wendar and Varre, where a royal tyrant is out to conquer all, against the wishes of his subjects and powerful sorcerers, Orbit pb. *ENDER'S SHADOW* by Orson Scott Card, is the first in a

sequence featuring Bean, who was another recruit at the Battle School with Ender Wiggin, who featured in *Ender's Game* and the four novels that followed. This first one in the new sequence and the second, *SHADOW OF THE HEGEMON* are both now available in Orbit pb. *LOOK TO WINDWARD* by Iain M. Banks is another very original novel by this author, set in a far distant future against a backdrop of ancient intergalactic war, Orbit pb. Any time Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle get together on a tale you can expect something special, but I think a fantasy is something new for them. Their *THE BURNING CITY* is an epic adventure story of magic, gods, wizards and heroes, Orbit pb. *SEA OF SILVER* is book 4 in Tad Williams epic story of the virtual reality universe *Otherland*, and a June release in hc. Finally from Penguin we have *THE MUSIC OF RAZORS* which an original Australian publication of this fantasy/horror story by Cameron Rogers. A tale of possession with some very original ideas, tpb.

Random House

One of the most enduring series has to be Anne McCaffrey's about the Dragons of Pern. I think the latest, *THE SKIES OF PERN*, is the 16th, in which a new threat must be met by all, but eventually solved by the dragons, Bantam Press hc. David Gemmell has *RAVENHEART* in the third *Rigante* story, following *Sword in the Storm* and *Midnight Falcon*, tpb. Another one from Anne McCaffrey is *ACORNA'S WORLD* which is the fourth in the Acorna series, is co-authored by Elizabeth Scarborough, new in Corgi pb. *ZODIAC* is the reissue of a 1988 novel by the author of *The Cryptonomicon*, Neal Stephenson, who tackles genetic engineering, among other things, in this Arrow pb. Fantasy epic series are all the rage and one of note is Australian author Kate Forsyth's *The Witches of Eileanan*, with book 5, *THE SKULL OF THE WORLD* out in Arrow pb.



Only one Australian living author that I know of has been writing sf longer than Damien Broderick, who also has penned a number of non-sf treatises, his reviews appear regularly in the *Australian* newspaper and he turns up from time to time in such programs in the media as *Aftershock* on the ABC. Damien was an early member of the Melbourne sf club and was editor of *Man Junior* magazine, which I would assume he would rather not be reminded of. He has had 27 books published, including *The Zeitgeist Machine* SF anthology, which I may add is the only book that any author has ever dedicated to me. He is now a freelance writer based at Melbourne University. The University of Western Australia recently released a new anthology edited by Damien titled *EARTH IS BUT A STAR*, named for the John Brunner title included with some other classic sf tales, accompanied by critical essays, and all told 31 individual pieces. Robert Silverberg at the launch I believe at Swancon SF convention this year, said "If I'd found this book when I was twelve it would have hooked me on science fiction for life. It would have been the very book that provided what I wanted s-f to show me - the world I would never live to see". TPB \$34.95.

The ABC have released a number of audio cassettes of the sf shows that they have broadcast including *Dr Who*, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *Blakes 7* and *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which are available from the ABC shops and bookstores.

And that is the lot for this issue.

AFTERWORD:

I am sorry that it has taken so long to get this out, but a lot of things have happened to delay it, including our being obliged to move house early in 2002. Coverage of SF book releases from July 2001 will continue in the next issue, hopefully not too long after this one.