

March 1998

Issue 318

BRUM GROUP NEWS

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The monthly newsletter of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group
(Honorary Presidents: Brian W Aldiss and Harry Harrison)

Group Chairman - Tony Morton, Secretary - Anne Woodford, Treasurer - Alan Woodford, Publicity Officer - Rog Peyton,
Newsletter Editor and Novacon 28 Chairman - Martin Tudor, Novacon 29 Chairman - Carol Morton.

An interview with **GRAHAM JOYCE** Friday 13th March 1998, * 7.30pm for 7.45pm, in the Board Room of Bennetts, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham.

The Board Room is on the ground floor - on your left as you enter the bar from Bennetts Hill, the room past the Library.

Food will be served until 7.30pm.

Admittance: Members £3.00 (£2.00 Unwaged), Non-Members £4.00 (£3.00 Unwaged). *(Unwaged discounts are at the discretion of the Committee and will depend on satisfactory proof of status being produced.)* (*VB: the second Friday of the month.)

**COMING SOON: BSFG EGM on 3rd April;
Tom Holt on 17th April; Robert Holdstock on 8th May.**

The BSFG meets from 7pm in the Board Room of Bennetts on Bennetts Hill (off New Street), Birmingham city centre on the second Friday of each month (unless otherwise notified). The annual subscription rates (which include 12 copies of this newsletter and reduced price entry to formal meetings) are £15.00 per person, or £20.00 for 2 members at the same address. Cheques etc. should be made payable to "The Birmingham Science Fiction Group" and sent to: Alan Woodford, The Treasurer, 81 Harrold Road Rowley Regis, Warley, West Midlands, B65 0RL, (e-mail enquiries via: bsfg@bortas.demon.co.uk). Book reviews, review copies and other contributions and enquiries regarding the Brum Group News to: Martin Tudor, Newsletter Editor, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX (e-mail to martin@empties.demon.co.uk).

**This Month's Guest:
Graham Joyce**

GRAHAM (WILLIAM) JOYCE was born in 1954, but having idled away his younger years as a social worker, he finally quit work and moved to a Greek island to write. His first novel, the sf tale of lucid dreaming DREAM-SIDE, was published to critical acclaim in May 1991 - just before the money ran out.

He followed it with the chilling DARK SISTER (November 1992, winner of the British fantasy award) and HOUSE OF LOST DREAMS (June 1993), before producing the impressive REQUIEM (April 1995) winner of the British Fantasy Award for best novel. He again won winner of the British Fantasy Award for best novel with the horrific THE TOOTH FAIRY in 1996. More recently, SPIDERBITE, his contribution to Orion's juvenile series "The Web" has appeared (Orion, £3.50).

His latest work, THE STORM WATCHER (Penguin, £5.99), is again a psychological thriller. Set a carefully restored farmhouse in the Dordogne: "James, an English advertising executive, his French wife Sabine, their two children and their friends sit uneasily around the dinner table. This should be the beginning of a wonderful holiday except that sexual and personal conflicts, secrets and lies, beckon the approaching storm. They are soon all implicated in a tragedy which will sweep aside the web of

deception and artifice they have built around their lives."

A three-time winner of the British fantasy award for best novel, Graham has had several short stories published in INTERZONE, including his collaboration with Peter F Hamilton - "Eat Reecebread" which was nominated for the Tiptree award. His work has also appeared in anthologies such as IN DREAMS, EUROTEMPS, DARK VOICES and NEW WORLDS, and for some time he wrote the "society" column for the late CRITICAL WAVE.

A popular speaker at conventions for a number of years, Graham first spoke to the BSFG in May 1991, since then he addressed the Group again in April 1993 and was Guest of Honour at Novacon 24 in 1994.

NOVACON 24
Programme Book



(Thanks to the Novacon 24 Programme Book for much of the above information and the illustration by Tim Groome.)

Colophon

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This issue was printed on the CRITICAL WAVE photocopier. For details of WAVE's competitive prices contact Martin Tudor at the editorial address on the cover.

Many thanks to: ALAN & ANNE WOODFORD for producing the address labels; the reviewers for their book reviews; thanks also to WHAT'S ON, the Andromeda catalogue, the BBC and the EXPRESS & STAR for the news in the Jophan Report and Events Listing.

Forthcoming Events

10-14 March 1998: RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET at the Old Rep, Station Street. Call 0121 616 1519 for further details.

13 March 1998: An interview with **GRAHAM JOYCE** on the publication of his new novel **THE STORMWATCHER** (Penguin, £5.99). 7.30 for 7.45pm in the Board Room at Bennetts, Bennetts

Hill, Birmingham city centre (just off New Street).

13 March 1998: PHIL JUPITUS'S JEDI STEADY GO, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry. Call 01203 524524 for details.

13-16 March 1998: CORFLU UK US-style, fannish, relaxacon, in the Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds. £25.00 attending to Corflu, c/o Ian Sorensen, 7 Woodside Walk, Hamilton, ML3 7HY.

19-21 March 1998: LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS presented by the Backstreet Theatre Company at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Church Street, Cannock. 7.30pm, tickets £4.00 (concessionary £3.00). Call 01543 578762 for details.

21 March 1998: MULTIPLE SIGNING AT ANDROMEDA: featuring Harry Harrison, David A Hardy (Harry's cover artist), Graham Joyce (**THE STORMWATCHER**, Penguin, £5.99), Mike Chinn (**THE PALADIN MANDATES**, Alchemy Press, £6.00), Peter F Hamilton (the trade paperback of **THE NEUTRON-IUM ALCHEMIST**). From noon at Andromeda, 2-5 Suffolk Street. For confirmation/further details call 0121 643 1999.

21-22 March 1998: MEMORABILIA Europe's largest sf, film, cult tv, pop and comic collector's fair at the NEC. 10am-5pm. **BATGIRL**, Yvonne Craig, will be appearing on both days. Admission Adults £5.00, children OAPs £3.50. Call Made in Heaven on

The Newsletter of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

01899-221622 or the NEC Box Office
0121 767 4555.

24 March - 18 April 1998: Richard O'Brien's THE NEW ROCKY HORROR SHOW, the 25th anniversary production, at the Birmingham Rep. Tickets £12.00 and £17.00 call the box office on 0121 236 4455.

27-28 March 1998: Forkbeard Fantasy/The Barbers of Surreal "an evening of insanity set in a beauty parlour where the ex-lab rabbit has formed a liaison with the antique mirror and the egg shampoo is behaving strangely, possibly as a direct result." At the MAC, Cannon Hill Park, tickets £7.50 (£5.25), call 0121 440 3838 for further details.

3 April 1998: An Extraordinary General Meeting of the BSFG at 7.45pm, followed by an informal meeting where you will have an opportunity of meeting this year's North American TAFF winner Ulrika O'Brien. From 7.30pm in the Board Room at Bennetts, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham city centre (just off New Street). Please note that TOM HOLT will be addressing the Group on the 17th April instead.

10-13 April 1998: INTUITION, the 49th British National Convention, Jarvis Piccadilly and Britannia hotels, Manchester. GoHs: Ian McDonald, Martin Tudor, Connie Willis. Attending £30.00, supporting £15.00, to: Intuition, 1 Waverley Way,

Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, SM5 3LQ.

17 April 1998: TOM HOLT will address the BSFG from 7.45pm in the Board Room at Bennetts, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham city centre (just off New Street).

MAY 1998: IAIN BANKS and TERRY PRATCHETT will be doing signing sessions at Andromeda, 2-5 Suffolk Street. For confirmation and/or further details call 0121 643 1999.

8 May: ROBERT HOLDSTOCK will speak to the Group on the publication of **GATE OF IVORY (Voyager, £16.99)**, from 7.45pm in the Board Room at Bennetts, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham city centre (just off New Street).

JUNE 1998: ANNE McCAFFREY and RAYMOND E FEIST will be doing signing sessions at Andromeda, 2-5 Suffolk Street. For confirmation and/or further details call 0121 643 1999.

21-24 August 1998: THE WRAP PARTY to celebrate the conclusion of **BABYLON 5**, the Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow, London. Confirmed guests include: J Michael Straczynski, Harlan Ellison, Dr Jack Cohen, John Ridgeway, Bryan Talbot, Adam "Mojo" Lebowitz, John Matthews. Attending £65.00 (instalment scheme available), to The

Wrap Party, PO Box 505, Reading,
RG1 7QZ.

11-13 SEPTEMBER 1998:

FANTASYCON 22, the convention of the British Fantasy Society. At the Albany Hotel, Birmingham, Guest of Honour Freda Warrington, with more guests to be announced. Contact: c/o BFS, 2 Harwood Street, Stockport, SK4 1JJ. (This is a temporary contact address pending the organiser's house move.)

13-15 November 1998: Novacon 28, at the Britannia Hotel, New Street, Birmingham. Guest of Honour Paul J McAuley. Attending membership costs £28.00, rising after Easter 1998. Contact: Carol Morton, 14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, DY9 8SS.

2-5 April 1999: RECONVENE, 50th National British Convention, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. GoHs: Peter S Beagle, John Clute, Jeff Noon. Attending £25.00 to Reconvene, 3 West Shrubbery, Redland, Bristol, BS6 6SZ.

27 December 1999 - 2 January 2000: MILLENNIUM. Venue to be announced, but definitely in Northern Europe (probably a BeNeLux country or UK), £3.00 (£10.00) per year, to be deducted from eventual membership fee. Contact: Malcolm Reid, 186 Casewick Road, West Norwood, London, SE27 0SZ.

Although details are correct to the best of our knowledge, we advise readers to contact organisers prior to travelling. Always enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope when writing to any of the above contact addresses. Please mention the BRUM GROUP NEWS when replying to listings or advertisements.

If you know of any events which you think may be of interest to members of the BSFG please send details to the Editor (e-mail martin@empties.demon.co.uk).

If you have attended any events or seen any films or videos that you would like to recommend to other members (or warn them about) please feel free to write a report or review and send it to the editorial address.

**The Jophan Report #113
by Martin Tudor**

So Galileo was right all along, well sort of, there is water on the Moon! The findings of the LUNAR PROSPECTOR, which was launched in January and went into orbit around the Moon, were announced at a press conference at NASA's Ames Research Centre in Moffett Field, California on Thursday 5 March.

In total there appears to be between 11 million and 330 million tons spread over the two poles, with the north having twice as much as the south. It looks like quite a bit, even at the lower end of the estimates - 33

million tons would support 1,000 two-person households for over a century!



(Cartoon from THE TIMES, 6.3.98.)

The Museum of Science and Industry in Birmingham will be holding a series of "Open Weekends" this year to give people a chance to view exhibits and update them on the progress of the transfer of exhibits to the new Discovery Point, opening in 2001 at Millennium Point. The first weekends will be on 9-10 May and 16-17 May from 10am-4pm.

Birmingham Museum and Gallery will be holding a weekend of events organised by the Planetary Society. This will be launched (*sorry!*) at 1pm on 14 March with a talk on "Mars the Myth" and followed, at 3pm by a look at spacecraft that have visited the planet. "Pathfinder", at 2pm on 15 March will review the latest data from Mars. The free talks, suitable for ten-year-olds to adults, will all take place in the Schools

Lunch Area. During the week, which runs from 13-22 March, Soho House will hold a free challenge for children of all ages in which they have to match Matthew Boulton's mineral collection to their labels.

Dreams, science fiction and the world of the surreal are among the themes of a new exhibition by Great Barr-born artist Ian Preston. The free exhibition, which runs until 14 March, at The Works Gallery, the Jubilee Trading Centre, off Hurst Street, includes paintings, photography, sculpture and found objects.

Book Reviews

THE FIFTH ELEMENT by Terry Bisson, (from the screenplay by Luc Besson and Robert Mark Kamen, based on a story by Luc Besson), Voyager, 250pp, pb, £5.99, Star Rating: **
Reviewed by Alan Woodford.

This is a novel that I just couldn't get into. I read the first couple of chapters and could get no further, having been put off by Sten Guns in 1913, and laptop computers with search engines that whine while looking for data.

I had problems with the style, which was far too close to a comic book, or a direct description of what happened on screen in the film. When I started to read the book, I hadn't seen the film, but when I did see the film,

the only difference I spotted was that the Sten Gun in the book had turned into a much more plausible Mauser.

I have read worse film novelisations, but I have also read much better, where background detail is filled in, and you get some insight into the minds of the characters. There is a good "Die Hard in Space" short story in there, but it doesn't show through in the book.

A Fisherman of the Inland Sea by

Ursula K LeGuin,

Vista, 191pp, pb, £5.99

Star rating: *****

Reviewed by Yvonne Rowse.

Actually I think this should probably have a six star rating: Buy this immediately and get a spare copy in case you misplace/lend out the first one. I have in fact got two copies.

This is a book of short stories. Although I'm a long term LeGuin fan I haven't always found her short story collections to be as good as her novels. That isn't to say that she doesn't write good short stories. I have reread 'The Day Before the evolution' more times than I care to remember and 'The Ones who Walk Away from Omelas' has been a light in my darkness but generally I have found her shorter work less satisfying. This book is so good I've read it three times.

The first six stories are good stories. I particularly enjoyed/loathed Jerry, the quintessential American tourist, in the first story and 'Newton's

Sleep' brought into focus my uneasiness with all the bright people flying off into adventure and leaving everyone else to die in a massive environmental failure. Most SF of this type inevitably leads the reader to identify with the leavers. Perhaps some of my unease is due to my suspicion that I'd be one of those left behind. As cautionary tales go this is a pretty good one.

The last three stories and the largest part of the book are based around 'churten theory' which allows instantaneous transportation.

'The Shobies' Story' starts on Hain. I've long wondered how LeGuin would deal with a world that had hundreds of thousands of years of history. Brilliantly of course; "Liden was a fishing port with an eighty thousand year history and a population of four hundred" where children play at space ships "passing behind the half circle of adults at the driftwood fire on the wide twilight beach." The crew of the Shoby is mixed, mixed race, mixed age. They churten to an uninhabited planet where they have to build their reality by telling their stories to save themselves from nothingness and despair.

In 'Dancing to Ganam' four Terrans churten to a planet inhabited by an apparently primitive people where one man is greeted as a god and mates with the beautiful princess. The charismatic hero lives out the fantasies of many of the men I know, wrenching the story to fit his needs. Eventually the remaining three crew find a mean-

ing closer to reality but not before tragedy strikes.

The final story, 'Another Story', is set on O. It is a love story, a time travel story and a story of another wonderful world. I'd like to know more of O. The hero leaves his home for studies on Hain. He leaves more than he realises knowing that his family will age while he travels. In an apparent failure of churten technology the hero returns to an earlier time and saves his life from disaster. I liked this story a lot. I liked the permanence of the society, the integration of technology into a rural life and I particularly liked the marriage/sexual relationships.

LeGuin's work resonates with me like good poetry. Her books are full of people I want to meet, places I want to live. Her SF is human in a way very few SF books are. If you want all-action thrillers with high technology weapons this won't suit you. If you want to find unforgettable characters this is the book to buy.

TIMELIKE INFINITY by Stephen Baxter, *Voyager*, 253pp, pb, £5.99, Star Rating: ****
Reviewed by Tony Morton.

Excellent HARD science fiction from Baxter, this novel incorporates several themes - mainly quantum based, to divulge the story. The story itself initially cover fifteen hundred years, the time "gained" from the central characters (Michael Poole and Miriam Berg) experiment with wormholes.

This set up by "Towing" one end of a wormhole towards the centre of the galaxy, before returning a subjective hundred years later, extended because of time dilation to fifteen hundred years in Earth's future.

In "real time" Earth has been conquered by the Qax, a race involved in galactic trade who subjugate mankind for their own ends. They destroy technology to keep humanity isolated: Both "AntiSenescence" treatment, enabling longer life through the treatment, and space travel are eliminated. However, as mankind has numerous ships across space some survive in hiding.

One group of rebels escape into the wormhole into the past to attempt "The Project". This elusive Project is assumed to be a way of defeating the Qax and restoring mans independence - or is it more? The Qax, after constructing further wormholes into their future, follow to annihilate humanity to prevent future events. Present day humans must prevent this, but their capability to attack the Qax Spline ships is limited. Human initiative prevails and Poole not only devises ways to save mankind but works out the significance of the Project and what it entails. Should he stop it?

Baxter introduces numerous ideas and subplots to enhance the story, explaining the intricacies of quantum physics with well placed dialogue or asides. The overall effect gives a well balanced story interwoven with well thought out characterisation and action. Watch out for the end,

it's somewhat unexpected! A pleasure to read.

Vivia by Tanith Lee

Warner Books, pb, pp395, £6.99

Star Rating: Technique: ****

Star Rating: Content: *

Reviewed by Yvonne Rowse

I found this book fascinated me. This is not a compliment.

On the front cover Tanith Lee is described as 'the undisputed queen of dark fantasy'. So this is "dark fantasy". It's not to my taste.

Almost inevitably the heroine is slender, beautiful and virginal. A dark fantasy (D.F.) heroine's C.V. should include an eating disorder (anorexia for preference; bulimia is so messy) and long hair black as night. Blondes are inevitably in for a messy death, as are fat people. No need to take it personally though. Everyone but the heroine is in for a messy death and she's in for a long, hopeless and unpleasant life.

Vivia is the daughter of Vaddix, a petty lord, brutal, violent, mad. The typical home-life, I would imagine, of a D.F. heroine. At the beginning of the book a squalid war is giving way to plague as the death of choice for the D.F. 'other characters'. Plague is fascinating hence the popularity of such books as *The Coming Plague*. This novel generously gives you all the details that most books tastefully leave out. Vomit and pustules abound. Yummy.

Vivia escapes this sordid death. She is seduced by a dark prince/god, becomes a vampire (no! really?) and waits around to be captured by Zulgarris, beautiful golden prince with the inevitable unsavoury habits. And so on.

Lee has created a world to delight the eye. Her images are bright, vivid. Beauty is described in loving detail. Underneath, though, inside this gorgeous surface is corruption, desolation, ruin. An interesting PhD thesis could probably be written on the psychology of this worldview.

As I said before, this book fascinated me. I was revolted by it but at the same time I was unable to put it down. It's like eating chocolate (something a D.F. heroine wouldn't do of course). You know it's doing you no good, it makes you feel sick but you keep going anyway. Substitute your favourite 'drug' if chocolate doesn't affect you this way. I don't usually read books to do me good. I do need to care about at least one character to make it worth reading a book. I didn't care for any of them. Apparently neither did the blurb writer who doesn't seem to have read the book.

THE HOUSE IN THE BORDERLAND by William Hope Hodgson, NEL, 188pp, £5.99,

Star Rating: *

Reviewed by Alan Woodford.

I was really looking forward to reading this book, having heard about it from

several people. Unfortunately, I never got to the end of it.

The book was first published in 1908, and it shows in many ways. At the very start, the description of the Irish villagers is, to my eyes at least, offensive. The reader is left with the impression that all the Irish are ignorant thieves, who should feel themselves honoured to be in the presence of the English.

The second problem I had with the book was the incredible inconsistency of pace. Far too often, the drama builds, and then the narrator sleeps for a few days to recover. The fact that the horrors at the window do not take over at this point is probably the most fantastic idea in the book.

To sum up then, a book I'm glad I tried to read, if only to show how far some things in fiction have advanced.

ORACLE by Ian Watson,
Gollancz, 287pp, hb, £16.99,
Star Rating: ***

Reviewed by Tony Morton.

An unlikely sounding tale begins with a Roman centurion plucked from AD60 into the present and of his "exploits" here. He is found by Latin speaking historian Tom Ryan, who befriends this unusual "visitor" - assuming he's with a re-enactment society but lost. Ryan returns home to Milton Keynes with Roman Marcus, now convinced of his authenticity but startles his sister Mary with his story.

Events reveal to the reader the Oracle project and its aim to anchor a

focus in the past to project a search of the future. Its past sweep inadvertently also locking onto Marcus and pulling him into the twentieth century. Further, the Ryan's story of losing parents in a terrorist bombing which they discover was instigated by British intelligence to discredit the IRA. All link and the story moves forward with the Ryan's embarking on a complex adventure where are after them to see what they know of the Oracle project, the IRA pursue them uncertain if they are aiding the British and an unscrupulous journalist becomes involved in the mix when he inadvertently picks up references to Marcus.

The newspaper revelation of a Roman in present day Milton Keynes causes immense public scrutiny that the Ryan's - and Marcus clearly do not want. They decide to go into hiding, choosing Brussels as the place to do so because Tom has a friend there working for the EU and an unlikely place to be immediately found. This ties together several sub plots as the IRA are planning a bombing in Brussels and the security forces know this from the Oracle project's abilities.

A fast moving story neatly diverting the reader from the technological advances and moral dilemma of the Oracle project via the personal interaction of the displaced Roman and the Ryan's. The inclusion of the security force/IRA angle adds numerous angles well exploited by the author and the journalist revelation/media circus an excellent backdrop to build the story to its climax. This is some-

what diverse. With the IRA/security forces entangled in gunfire, the Ryan's and Marcus again stuck in the middle Watson takes a strange line to culminate the tale. Well thought out, but leaving the reader to wonder at what was left undone.

THE BIG IDEA series by Paul Strathern: CRICK, WATSON & DNA; TURING AND THE COMPUTER; HAWKING AND BLACK HOLES; NEWTON AND GRAVITY; PYTHAGORAS & HIS THEOREM; EINSTEIN AND RELATIVITY, Arrow, 88-96pp each, £3.99 each, Star Rating: ** each, Reviewed by Alan Woodford.**

Now this is more like it. Half a dozen small paperbacks, each containing a brief biography of a well-known scientific figure, and details of their contribution to science.

They are all well written and illustrated, and I would judge them to be aimed at teenagers doing GCSEs or perhaps in the sixth form. The science in each one is clearly presented, but what caught my attention was the detail of the life and times of each scientist.

It is fairly well known that Sir Isaac Newton was a nasty piece of work, and that Alan Turing was a repressed homosexual, but these books fill in the detail and provide a much clearer understanding of these people.

The scientists featured are Pythagoras, Sir Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, Alan Turing, Francis Crick

and James Watson, and Stephen Hawking. While there have arguably been others who have contributed as much to science, it is fair to say that they have all had the big ideas referred to in the series title.

I would recommend them to anyone looking for a cheap introduction to the subjects, with the caveat that the gory details of some of the private lives may not be entirely suitable for younger children.

* * * * *

The "Star Ratings" are:

- * = *Crap, beyond belief.*
- ** = *Crap, but readable.*
- *** = *Not too bad, really.*
- **** = *Pretty good actually.*
- ***** = *BUY IT!*

Also Received

THE X-FILES: ANTIBODIES by Kevin J Anderson (Voyager, £5.99); FOGHEART by Thomas Tessier (Vista, £5.99); MINOR ARCANA by Diana Wynne Jones (Vista, £5.99); LIFE DURING WARTIME by Lucius Shepard (Millennium, £5.99); BARNACLE BILL THE SPACER & OTHER STORIES by Lucius Shepard (Millennium, £5.99); GREEN EYES by Lucius Shepard (Millennium, £5.99); EXILES RETURN by Kate Jacoby (Gollancz, £16.99); BLOOD OF THE FOLD by Terry Goodkind (Orion, £6.99); TEMPLE OF THE WINDS by Terry Goodkind (Orion, £17.99).

The Rules

Please remember that reviews of books should reach Martin Tudor at 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, WV13 1HX (or by e-mail at martin@empties.demon.co.uk), within ONE MONTH of your taking the book.

All contributions are preferred on 3.5 inch disks in Works, Word, RTF or Text format.

Please note that in future no one who owes THREE or more reviews will be allowed to have further review copies and no more than three review copies may be taken at one time.

The List of Shame

A number of people still owe reviews, please ensure that these, along with reviews of books picked up at the last two meetings are mailed to Martin Tudor by this month's meeting. The following list includes the name of the person, the title and author of the book and in brackets the month when the book was picked up for review:

Robert Jones: TIMESCAPE by Gregory Benford (2/97).

Steve Jones & Friends: THE RUINS OF AMBRAI by Melanie Rawn (3/97); MAGNIFICAT by Julian May (3/97); THE REALITY

DYSFUNCTION by Peter F Hamilton (3/97); THE SANDMAN BOOK OF DREAMS ed Neil Gaiman & Ed Kramer (4/97); MILLENNIUM ed Douglas E Winter (6/97); THE DISCWORLD COMPANION by Terry Pratchett & Stephen Briggs (6/97); BABYLON 5: TO DREAM IN THE CITY OF THE SORROWS by Kathryn M Drennan (7/97); THE FIFTH SACRED THING by Starhawk (9/97); THE PAVILLION OF FROZEN WOMEN by S P Somtow (9/97); WALKING TO MERCURY by Starhawk (10/97); JOVAH'S ANGEL by Sharon Shinn (10/97); 3001: THE FINAL ODYSSEY by Arthur C Clarke (11/97).

Adrian Middleton: ALIEN: RESURRECTION by A C Crispin (11/97); SERVANT OF THE BONES by Anne Rice (11/97).

Carol Morton: SORCERIES ed Katherine Kerr (2/97); RAGE OF A DEMON KING by Raymond E Feist (3/97); SORCERERS OF MAJIPOOR by Robert Silverberg (3/97); THE SEER KING by Chris Bunch (10/97); JACK FAUST by Michael Swanwick (10/97); MAGISTER by Jonathan Wylie (12/97).

Yvonne Rowse: THE STONE CANAL by Ken MacLeod (9/97).

George Ternent c/o Dave Cox: MILLENNIUM: THE UNOFFICIAL COMPANION, VOLUME 2 by N E Gense (1/98).