

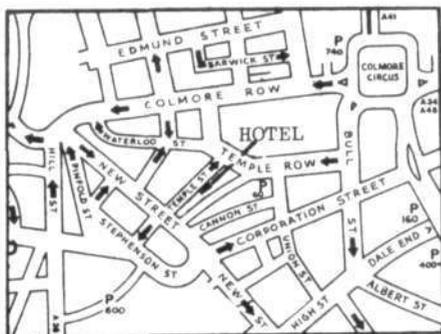
Birmingham Science Fiction Group

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FEBRUARY 1979

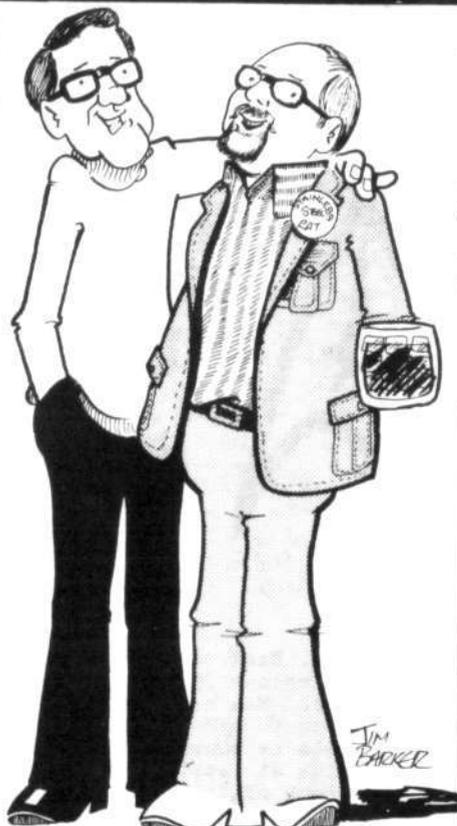
The Birmingham Science Fiction Group meet on the third Friday of every month, at 8 p.m. in the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham City Centre. Guests at recent meetings include Fred Pohl, Colin Kapp, Bob Shaw and Joe Haldeman.

Non-members are always welcome.



RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET ?

Membership for 1979 is unchanged - £1.50 for the year, which includes half price admission to meetings and monthly newsletters ; special rates for members willing to share mailings. Send cash to Treasurer Dave Holmes at 103, Chinnbrook Road, Billesley, Birmingham, now !!



(Honorary Presidents: Brian W. Aldiss and Harry Harrison)



Ken Bulmer

Our special guest this month is writer and fan Kenneth Bulmer, a familiar face to regular con-goers and one of the mainstays of British sf magazines during the 1950s.

Born in London in January, 1921, Ken produced 7 issues of his fanzine Star Parade during 1941. After the war, Ken returned to sf and, following an apprenticeship on Hamilton's Panther series, sold his short story "First Down" to the April 1954 issue of Authentic. Soon, he was appearing in sf magazines on a regular basis under his own name and aliases like Nelson Sherwood and H. Philip Stratford ; collaborations with research chemist John Newman used the name Ken Johns.

In 1970 Ken edited a fantasy companion magazine to Vision of Tomorrow entitled Sword and Sorcery, but the same problems over distribution that killed Vision of Tomorrow caused Sword and Sorcery to be cancelled after two issues were set in type.

In 1972 he took over New Writings in SF, the original sf anthology series, following the death of John Carnell.

Ken will be joined on Friday by his wife, sf reviewer and convention panelist Pam Bulmer.



Chris Priest

NOVACON

November 2 - 4, 1979

The ninth annual convention of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group will feature as Guest of Honour Christopher Priest, whose outspoken views have livened up many a panel discussion. Among Chris's excellent novels are A DREAM OF WESSEX (just out in paperback) and THE SPACE MACHINE ; he last spoke to the BSPG two years ago.

Supporting membership, which entitles you to progress reports and convention literature, is £2, payable to Stan Eling at 124 Galton Road, Smethwick, West Midlands.

THE STAR TREK MOVIE!

After a decade of pressure from fans, one of the most popular sf shows of all time is returning...

Complete with its original crew and a budget far in excess of its tv predecessor, the STAR TREK movie is already being mooted as having better special effects than either STAR WARS or CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND. ..but is it the answer to ST fandom's prayers -- or another example of media overkill..?

Here's the story so far -- not rumour, but fact...

UPDATE

To begin with, the full crew are to appear ; after a lengthy period of "will he's" and "won't he's", Leonard Nimoy has definitely joined the cast, and film featuring Mr. Spock are already in the can -- shooting began late last year... Also back are the characters of Kirk, McCoy, Scott, Uhura, Rand, Chekov, Chapel and Sulu. The character of Xon (originally created to replace Spock) has been deleted, with the plot adapted slightly to include Spock. New crew are executive officer Willard Decker and navigator Ilia (pronounced eye-lee-ah)... Principal photography (the non-sfx part of the movie) should be completed by now ; post-production (sfx, music etc) will take twelve months at least... Creator Gene Roddenberry has admitted to Inside Star Trek that some of the basic opticals - space scenes, etc - could be used again in any future ST movie, if a sequel is made, cutting post-production time... A large number of new sets have been built, and this time the studio has promised not to destroy them at the end of filming, like last time -- redecoration by Harold Michelson... Robert (DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL) Wise is directing, and Gene's told Janet Quarton of the ST Action Group: "the film we've shot so far is definitely STAR TREK..."... Some minor changes have been made - new costumes have been designed ; a shielding room has been added to the transporter area ; the sickbay is larger ; the corridors are now metal instead of styrofoam ; the Enterprise's capability to split into two sections (command saucer and engine core) - mentioned but never seen to date - may be featured ; Kirk's quarters are now painted in cinnamon and beige ; the budget has passed \$15m and \$18m limits, and looks like making it one of the most expensive sf movies of 1980...

The new crew: Cmdr. Willard Decker (STEPHEN COLLINS) is in command of the Enterprise prior to Kirk's return to active service ; he bares Kirk slight resentment over his loss of command and is attracted to the alien navigator. Ilia (PERSIS KHAMBATTA). Ilia is a native of the planet Delta, a sensual, bald beauty who adds a touch of glamour to the ship's bridge... Persis, a former 'Miss India', is well known as a model in both her own country and in England ; she won the role over more than 100 other applicants... Stephen Collins, last seen on UK television as Farrah Fawcett-Major's fiancee in the forgettable US series CHARLIE'S ANGELS, starred in THE PROMISE for Universal...

The plot: A pack of three Klingon cruisers are confronted and destroyed by an unknown intruder, stunning viewers at Starfleet monitor station Epsilon 9 -- then the intruder heads for Earth at Warp 7.!: The Enterprise, totally rebuilt since its last mission, is immediately brought back into service and

Jim Kirk replaces Decker as captain.. He is joined by McCoy, disgruntled at his return to active duty, shortly before the ship leaves dry dock at San Francisco, and soon afterwards, Spock himself is beamed aboard.. before the 430-strong crew head into deep space to face the unknown enemy...

THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION YEARBOOK

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL

MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST

SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

Meanwhile...

The future is more than a little uncertain for Pierrot's INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION YEARBOOK ; 1978 editor Colin Lester told me on the phone: "At the moment I still haven't got a contr-

act for the second edition ; I'm sort of hanging fire on it, and finding it difficult to live.. A spokesman for Pierrot admitted that he didn't expect the second volume to appear before Spring '80, if at all ; he described early sales figures in the UK as "very good, but they were very early.." As for ISFY 2, he added: "It rather depends on American sales - we're still waiting for the american reports..." Watch this space for the next instalment in the ISFY saga...

STAR WARS 2

Latest on THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, sequel to George Lucas's STAR WARS:

Principal photography will commence in Norway (for the Iceworld scenes) on March 10 ; sfx sequences for the film have been completed. Release date around late Spring or early Summer of 1980, if SW2 keeps to its schedule. A spokesman told me the film has "..more characters, more worlds", but was unable to confirm whether or not Alec Guinness will return as Obi Wan Kenobi ; if he does, it'll probably take the form of his voice muttering inside Luke's head -- more information as it comes our way...

NEWS

BSFG chairman David Hardy was in the news this month, the SOLIHULL NEWS dated February 3 to be a bit more precise -- for a feature on the new sf art book he's working on, described by co-author Bob Shaw as "a sort of future travelog of the galaxy.. the kind of holiday booklet you might see in three hundred years time.." ... David is also currently involved with the British TV series BLAKE'S 7, supplying background planet art for all the sfx space scenes.. as well as having a portfolio of his work printed alongside an interview in the February (8) issue of the American magazine FUTURE ... Judy-Lynn Del Rey is the new vice-president of Ballantine Books -- she will remain editor-in-chief of the Del Rey sf imprint with husband Lester ... Novacon 9 will definitely be held at the Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham - other details on opposite page ... At the BSFG Committee meeting on February 5, Ian Warner confirmed his provisional election as Group Publicity Officer ... Anyone wanting a copy of the minutes of the BSFG AGM in January should send an s.a.s.e. to the editorial address ...

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Owing to innacurate source material, the schedule of the B'ham arts Lab sf movie season printed last month contained several errors - the same goes for the majority of publicity releases scattered around Birmingham.

The ammendments are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wed Feb 21 (9 pm) | WHO ? |
| Fri Mar 16 (2.30 pm) | FORBIDDEN PLANET / DEMON SEED |
| (8.30 pm) | 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY |
| (11 pm) | FORBIDDEN PLANET / DEMON SEED |
| Sat Mar 17 (2.30 pm) | " " / " " |
| (8.30 pm) | 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY |
| (11 pm) | FORBIDDEN PLANET / DEMON SEED |

Philip Strick will now give his illustrated talk on science fiction films at 6.15 pm on April 1.

Finally, I'm sure you'll join me in thanking Rog Peyton for his work on the BSFG newsletter over the past twelve months, and in wishing him luck for Novacon 9, whose committee he's chairing...

P.S. for those who have still not renewed membership: this will be the last issue you'll receive unless you renew immediately, okay ?

IT'S FOUR YEARS LATER...
WHAT DOES SHE REMEMBER?



JOHN BOORMAN'S FILM OF
EXORCIST II
THE HERETIC

A RICHARD LEDERER PRODUCTION

LINDA BLAIR
LOUISE FLETCHER



RICHARD BURTON

MAX VON SYDOW

"EXORCIST II: THE HERETIC"

KITTY WINN • PAUL HENREID as The Cardinal • and JAMES EARL JONES

Creative Associate ROSPO PALLEMBERG • Directed by JOHN BOORMAN

Produced by JOHN BOORMAN and RICHARD LEDERER

Written by WILLIAM GOODHART • Music Composed and Conducted by ENNIO MORRICONE

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Editor:

Contributing artist: Jim Barker

STEVEN J. GREEN

Film poster courtesy of Columbia-Warner