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T H E C O S M I C D U S T B U G

NUMBER THREE : APRIL 17 1967

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Published (if that's the word) by John Bangsund, 19 Gladstone Ave., Northcote N.16, Melbourne, Australia, as a supplement to AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW. This issue is going to all ASFR subscribers since ASFR9 was distributed to them before the enclosed Hugo Nomination material came to hand. Future issues may be had if you are interested. (You might even get them if you're not. C'est la vie.)

Hugo Nominations

Enclosed is a nomination form. Please read the rules - and send your nominations quickly. MAY 1st IS THE DEADLINE. Here is your chance to have a say in the awarding of science fiction's top honours - but you'll have to act fast.

Far be it from me to advise you what to nominate, but you may be interested to see Buck Coulson's suggestions from YANDRO 168: (and I will place in parentheses my own nominations, without comment, where Buck omits them) -

BEST NOVEL: Swann: Day of the minotaur.
 Brunner: The long result.
 Brunner: The productions of time.
 Davidson: The Kar-Chee reign.
 (Davidson: The enemy of my enemy.)

BEST NOVELETTE: Budrys: Be merry.
 Swann: The manor of roses.

BEST SHORT STORY: Roberts: The Lady Anne.
 Roberts: Corfe gate.
 (McKenna: The secret place.)

BEST MAGAZINE: IF ANALOG GALAXY F&SF (NEW WORLDS)

BEST ARTIST: Jack Gaughan

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: Star Trek (which we haven't seen, of course: I left this one blank, since the best sf show I've seen lately was an edition of I DREAM OF JEANNIE; I've forgotten its title, and it was probably made during '65 anyway)

BEST FANZINE: Dynatron Australian Science Fiction Review (no kidding: it's second on Buck's list) Speculation Scottische The Scarr Pulp Era Double Bill Riverside Quarterly (Yandro: well, I couldn't very well nominate my own fanzine, could I? - but don't let me stop you from nominating ASFR - it's about time Australia had another Hugo anyway. Even if it's called a, ugh, Pong.)

BEST FAN WRITER: Harry Warner Bob Leman Bob Shaw Ethel Lindsay
 Alexei Panshin Roy Tackett Dick Lupoff (Buck Coulson)

(You didn't maybe think I was going to nominate Dr. Widdershins...?)
 BEST FAN ARTIST: Jim Cawthorn Bjo Trimble Arthur Thomson ("Atom")
 George Barr Dave Prosser Jerry Burge

Talking about pongs...

No explanation (that I have seen) has been given for replacing the fanzine Hugo with a "Pong" award. However, it has been brought to my attention that years (oh, years) ago a certain fan used to write to the promags under the nom-de-plume of "Hoy Ping Pong" (and I'm not even sure if that's spelled correctly). Said fan was none other than the Nycon fan guest of honour, Bob Tucker.

It occurs to me to wonder if the word "pong" carries in America the same colloquial meaning as in Australia...

1968 World Convention

I think I'll give my support (little though that is worth) to the Los Angeles bid for Worldcon '68 site. For one thing, Los Angeles is closer to Australia than other bidders. For another, we get a free cover out of it... And how about MELBOURNE IN '69? (Imagine Ike Asimov handing out Hugos in the Myer Music Bowl: wouldn't that be something?)

The wild West

Talk about an immoral state... Bunbury, Kalgoorlie, Albany - hell, Western Australia is becoming the sin state of Australia. If you believe all you see in the 'papers, that is. My sojourns in Albany and Bunbury at any rate have been very very dull. My wildest exploit in WA on this trip was turning up at the Commercial Travelers' Association with a beard. (If it's not too young yet to deserve that appellation...) Or, perhaps, drinking port with Brian Richards until 2 a.m. one morning.

I managed to read ten books, write thirty letters and one story - oh, and sell some books for Cassell's - while in Perth. The story (since I'm the editor, and who edits him?) you will see in ASFR 10, along with stories by Bert Chandler, George Whitley (hmm), John Baxter, John Foyster, Jack Wodhams, Frank Bryning - and maybe even others. The reply to one of my letters I will re produce here...

Young Pat Terry, move over...

Unless Bertrand Russell (or some doddering bi-centenarian in Azerbaijan) can beat his record, I think I have discovered the world's most senior sf fan. And he is a man whose name is known and respected throughout Australia. He is aged 93. Here is his letter:

"Many thanks for your letter and for the kind things you say about my writings. They go back at least 65 years. Yes, I am interested - very much so - in your project. My acquaintance with science fiction began with my reading of various stories by Jules Verne - does anyone read him today? - and, much later, by the early books of H.G. Wells, who was surely a pioneer. Yes, I would be very

pleased to see any spare copies of your Review. As for taking any active part in your enterprise, my handwriting will have revealed to you the fact that I have reached the grey ultimate decrepitude. This letter is written in bed! It doesn't seem likely that I shall ever again write anything worth reading. Thank you all the same for the invitation.

Yours sincerely, WALTER MURDOCH "

Etherline & & Gryphon Canto ASFR Fenattica - and now...?

And now, dear readers, you are about to witness the birth of yet another Australian fanzine. Another - for goshsakes - Victorian fanzine.

Paul Stevens (Flat 1, 4 Irwell Street, St. Kilda S.2, Victoria) and Philip Butkus are co-editors of the new venture, which as yet is un-named. (I know the feeling. How close ASFR went to being THE INVISIBLE WHISTLING OCTOPUS...) Paul writes that SCIENCE FICTION FORUM and THE LITTLE SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW are being considered. Personally, I prefer one of the names we talked about when we were stapling ASFR 8 - THE SOMERSET PLACE GAZETTE. But maybe that sounds a little too imitative of a certain Canadian fanzine... ASFR would perhaps be a little confusing - and I don't know how the Business Names Registration people would feel about it. I have told Paul that my attitude to his magazine will be "all co-operation, no interference" so I don't propose to suggest any alternative titles. But, if you are interested (and I hope you are), I'm sure Paul would be delighted to hear your ideas on the subject.

Whatever happened to Sooper-Dooper Man?

As I recall, S-D Man was an Emile Mercier creation, and a genuine (if satirical) Australian super-hero. I don't know if our local comic fans have given him their attention...

This reflection is sparked off by the memory of my visit last Friday night (it seems ages ago: Perth is only 190 minutes from Melbourne, but it seems a month away the moment I'm home) to John Brosnan. John is a comics fan, quite a talented artist, publisher of BABBLE-ON - and a thoroughly nice bloke. From the little I read of his sf writing, he might just possibly have a future in that direction, too.

John seemed rather delighted to learn that there are other Australians who read sf. Anyone who would like to write to him would, I feel sure, be welcome. His address is Flat 3, 4 Pearson Street, Floreat Park, WA. (And what a job I had finding the place: Westralians don't believe in street lighting or house numbers. I had no trouble getting back into Perth, but on the corner of Hay and Hill Streets the hired Holden ran out of petrol. I stood there in the rain, sweating, as the hastily-'phoned RACWA patrol car crawled from god knows how far away... and the minute-hand on my perhaps-slow watch shouted "33 minutes until the plane leaves ... 32 minutes... 31 minutes..." At last the car came, exactly

half an hour before Flight 515 was due to depart. I covered the distance to the airport, through the drizzling rain, in nine minutes. Thank heaven Perth is such a small place: if this had happened to me in Melbourne, I wouldn't have had a chance - and sleeping in a car 1700 miles away from a nervous wife who expects you on the 6.15 a.m. plane is not my idea of a good night's rest.)

ASFR schedule

On May 14th I have to go to Tasmania for a fortnight. And issue no.10 - the anniversary issue - will be a big one. Therefore, there will be no May issue.

Depending on finance, no.11 - the Cordwainer Smith memorial issue - will appear either in July or August. Thanks to John Foyster and Dr. Arthur Burns, this will be a memorable issue - and, though both these men would demur, a fine tribute to a great writer and a great man.

THE COSMIC DUSTBUG no.3

- the ASFRedzine

from John Bangsund
19 Gladstone Avenue
Northcote N.16
Melbourne Australia

TO:

PRINTED MATTER ONLY

Contents: THE HUGO NOMINATIONS (if you wish to make nominations, and haven't done so, HURRY!)
Talking about pong : 1968 World Convention
: The wild West : Young Pat Terry, move over
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happened to Sooper-Dooper Man? : : : : : :

"Outside every thin man there's a fat man struggling to get in!"

I might have known that something interesting would turn up in this morning's mail and make another page necessary...

NEW WORLDS

Nos. 171 and 172 have arrived. Very attractive covers, bearing the sad legend "NEW WORLDS and sf impulse". No.171 contains a complete novel by Brian Aldiss, a fascinating short piece by Ballard - THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY CONSIDERED AS A DOWNHILL MOTOR RACE, and stories by Chris Priest and Robert Cheetham. No.172 has a complete novel by Judith Merril, a penetrating guest editorial by Samuel Delany, three stories by Tom Disch, and others by P.F. Woods and Arthur Sellings, plus a book review by Brian Aldiss - AND the following announcement: "In our next issue we hope to be seen in an entirely new format (11 X 8½) with an even higher standard of material. The first of these new issues will contain the start of a serial by Thomas M. Disch which, though conventional in technique, we feel is the finest sf novel we have ever published... The novel is called CAMP CONCENTRATION..."

MAURICIO KITAIGORODZKI, our man in Buenos Aires, writes:

"I am writing to Walt Willis, asking him what the hell is meant by GOD IS NOT DEAD. HE IS ALIVE AND WELL IN ARGENTINA. I would think the Lord would be a little smarter than that. I mean about coming around here. There are better places to go to, including Hell..."

SVEN EKLUND, one of our men in Sweden, has just attended the Scandinavian Easter Convention, and has written for ASFR an 8-page article about Scandinavian sf. He thinks ASFR resembles the Spanish fanzine CUENTA ATRAS. Brainy chaps, these Scandinavians: all write good English, and now here are two who read Spanish. The first was JANNICK STORM, of Denmark, who not only reads it but has an article in CUENTA ATRAS...

DICK WITTER, of F&SF Book Co. New York, has sent me an airmail copy of Ursula K. LeGuin's CITY OF ILLUSIONS, which I will review next issue. In an accompanying letter he praises Keith Laumer's THE MONITORS, comparing it to Vonnegut and CATCH 22.

He reports that ASFR is beginning to sell. Answering my query about some "Australian pamphlets" he advertised in his latest booklist, he writes: "They were old Vampire series if I remember rightly. They all sold out right away, surprisingly. Not the best Australian publications."

JACK WODHAMS writes, and encloses a further short short, which means ASFR 10 will have two contributions from him.

STEPHEN COOK should be added to that note on ASFR 10 contributors on p.2. Even as I typed it I thought I'd left someone out. Sorry, Stephen. That list, incidentally, contains only people who have written stories for that issue: there will be the usual articles and reviews, of course. (At least, I hope there will be reviews; I have only one on hand at the moment, by Leigh Edmonds.)

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a supplement to
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REVIEW no.9

from John Bangsund
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