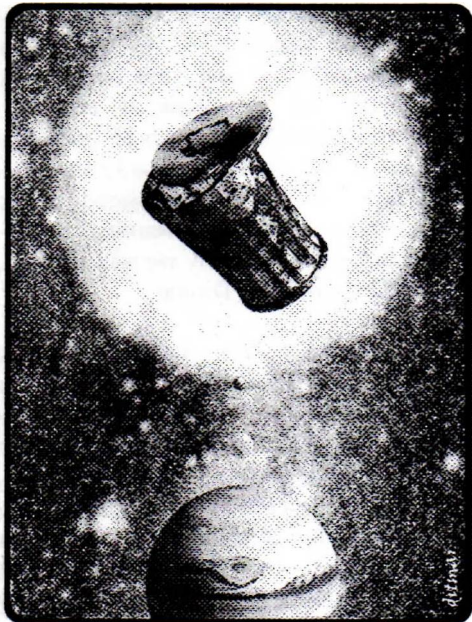


Out of the Bin



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A Newsletter from MERV BINNS
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'Space Bin' Artwork by Ditmar

Dear Readers,

It is now more than six months since we produced an issue of my zine *THE RUBBISH BIN(NS)*, due mainly to Helena and I being forced to move house. I had plans to write more about my experiences in SF fandom, conventions and trips, but at least I did manage to get my memoirs of the first twenty years of my involvement with the Melbourne SF Club done, after many attempts over the years. The members of the club held a party at the clubrooms in Brunswick in May, and Helena put together a version of my MSFC memoirs without illustrations, apart from the front page, which we called the 50th Anniversary edition of *ETHERLINE*, to tie in with the club's old magazine of the 1950s of that title. Then for the 41st National SF Convention, *CONVERGENCE*, held over the Victorian Queen's birthday holiday weekend, June 6th to 10th, we produced a fuller version with photographs of early members, conventions and such.

However, no fannish publication, particularly mine, when I start trying to remember things to write about, is ever perfect, so apart from the usual typos (*OLYMPICAN* convention rather than *OLYMPICON* for one), some of the captions on the photographs were wrong. Pages 18 and 19 photos should all read 1968 Easter SF Conference, not 8th SF Natcon, which was held in 1969, and Jack Wodhams was the GoH of the Conference, not the Natcon. Ho hum! So we produced a corrected copy fixing that up and, we hope, all the typos.

Although we did say that publication, part one of my Melbourne SF Fandom memoirs, was up to 1970, it was not quite, so I will start off Part Two by going back a bit into the late 1960s and then on into the 1970s. First up, I overlooked the 1970 *Ninth Australian SF Convention* held March 27th to 30th which was held at the *Capri Theatre* in Murrumbeena, Melbourne. I then intend to carry on remembering the '75 World Con Bid, the making of the *Aussie Fan vs Anti Fan* promotional movie, the conventions leading up to 1975, our trip to Toronto and *TORCON* World SF Convention where our winning bid for 1975 was announced, and in particular my tourist jaunts there and back, the beginning of the fannish venture *SPACE AGE BOOKS* and how Ron Graham's and my shop became the engine room for '75 and more. *AUSSIECON ONE* itself will come in there somewhere and that will be part two, although the *TORCON* trip alone may actually finish up on its own as part three.

So we do apologise to all the people who got copies of my *MEMOIRS* Part One at *Convergence*, with the errors and we will be happy to send you a revised copy on request. If you would like a copy of Part Two when we get it done, please contact us and let us know. As we are battling to cover the costs of these things any small donation would be appreciated. Our address by the way, which we also omitted from the *MEMOIRS Part One* is still PO Box 315, Carnegie, Victoria 3163, and home is now 21 Oakleigh Road, Carnegie, Victoria 3163, Australia and our e-mail is mervbinns@optusnet.com.au. Despite extensive alterations and improvements to our computers, we still had trouble connecting to the net properly, but we are now, as of August 2002 we are actually on line. Our phone number by the way is (03) 9502 8818.

In January this year 2002 I had decided that I had things to say that could not wait for another issue of *The Rubbish Bin(ns)* and I put together a series of reports on recent events at the time and other personal stuff. However before Helena could edit it and format it with illustrations, we had to move house. So "that" first issue of my "newsletter" titled *OUT OF THE BIN*, did not even get into print. Much of the content is now redundant but I will glean what I can from it and update it for the next issue of *RB*. My intention is to continue to do *OUT OF THE BIN*, which will cover things that I want to tell friends about quickly.

We will get another issue of *RB* done as soon as we can, but there is a ton of stuff written and deciding what to keep and what to add, plus formatting and illustrating, will take some time. Movie reviews alone would run to about twenty pages. I have now written up the Melbourne SF fandom memories up to 1975, with a separate bit on the rise and fall of my bookshop *Space Age Books*, and I am working on my first overseas trip to the World SF Convention *TORCON* in Toronto Canada. All of which will see the light of day in due course. We are still settling in to our new home, but we are finally finding time from unpacking boxes and building shelves, tending to our large garden and such to think about our publications.

PEOPLE, PLACES and PERFORMANCES

Our last trip to Race Mathews' home for a DVD movie show on his large TV was mainly to see John Foyster and Yvonne Rousseau, who were over on a brief trip from Adelaide, but unfortunately John was not well enough to come along. However the word is that he has been feeling somewhat better following treatment for a brain tumour. A long letter in Bill Wright's zine, *INTERSTELLAR RAMJET SCOOP*, from John indicated that he was in fine form there. The movie we watched at Race's was the French classic, *LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS*, which I had seen a lot of references to in books over the years and I was, I must admit, a bit interested in seeing it. However I found it quite boring and basically dated, its only saving grace being the realisation of the work that must have gone into making it just after the war, with great scenes, large crowds of extras and all, but the story, what you would probably expect from a lot of French movies of the era, was pretty wet. What about something a bit more recent next time, Race and Dick!

Due to our worse than ever financial situation after moving home, we have not been seeing many movies. We caught up with *THE LORD OF THE RINGS* and loved it despite the obvious omissions and changes, but being so visually great we forgave all that. The *Harry Potter* movie we enjoyed, but I did not think that it was as good as all the hype that it has been getting. *MINORITY REPORT* has to be one of the best true SF movies that we have seen, both storywise and visually. This last week we saw Mel Gibson in *SIGNS*. I will not go into all the comparisons I could make with other movies featuring alien invasion, but the references are certainly there but approached with an entirely different perspective, in that the aliens in this movie have a very nasty intent. As in H.G.Wells' *The War of the Worlds* they do succumb to a very elementary problem in the end. The main aim of the movie though is how Gibson and his family react to the fact that their lives and world are being threatened. Not seeing the aliens in the early part of the movie reminded me of some of the best horror films of the past, such as *The Uninvited*, and unfortunately when we do see them they are not as frightening as might be expected. The premise of how they are defeated is also a bit weak, but in the long run these things are not the main features of the movie. Good, but perhaps not as good as it might have been.

On TV, if you like a good thriller, the 'real time' serial *24 HOURS* is very good. New local or revamped cops and robbers shows are keeping up the relatively good standard of production in this country. The biggest disappointment from visual-SF fans' point of view no doubt is *ENTERPRISE*. The story lines seem very similar in style to the old original *Star Trek* series, but over all the series does not fit into the universe created by Gene Roddenberry or those who came soon after. It just does not fit into the mythos of the series as we know it and is very disappointing. However there is not much SF on TV, so we have persevered with it. We did catch up with an episode of *THE OUTER LIMITS* and that was quite good, but as it is not on till the early hours of the morning, video and watching the next day is the only way we will see that, as I am not a night owl like our friend Ditmar.

I do not get much reading done these days but I did read Joe Haldeman's *FOREVER FREE*, which I found much more satisfying than *Forever Peace*. The three "Forever" books are not directly related, but they take place in the same universe and in general the people in the three books and the events therein are all products of the major changes which take place in human society. *Forever Free* seems to bring it all to a satisfactory conclusion. I have been reading some old *Star Trek* novels by William Shatner while travelling in the train, and it is interesting how he has been able to keep his Captain Kirk persona alive in this sequence of *The Ashes of Eden*, *The Return*, *Avenger* and *Spectre*. If you are a *ST* fan of old, even if you have not read any *ST* books, you might find these of interest.

One of the main reasons for doing this newsletter is to mention friends' letters and zines that I receive and that will be a feature in future. All I have received recently is Bill Wright's *INTERSTELLAR RAMJET SCOOP* featuring in particular reports on *CONVERGENCE* convention in June, including the *Ditmar Award* to Ditmar himself, looking very self satisfied in a photograph on the back cover of this issue. Race Mathews, retired politician, has not been resting on his laurels either. He has received the 2002 *AMERICAN CHESTERTON SOCIETY 'OUTLINE OF SANITY AWARD'* for his book *Jobs of Our Own: Building a Stakeholder Society*. The political philosophy theme on which the book is based was originated by G.K.Chesterton and Hillaire Belloc. Congrats Race! And congrats to Bill for another great issue!

Yes, our main problem as always is the lack of money, but we hope to produce our zines in due course, although distribution will be limited. We have hundreds of books which we hope to sell and we will have a garage sale in due course, but meanwhile I am putting one of my SF&F lists together and if you do not receive one please do ask us to send you a copy. Thanks again to all our friends who helped with our big move. Words cannot express how much we appreciate what you did for us.

MERV AND HELENA