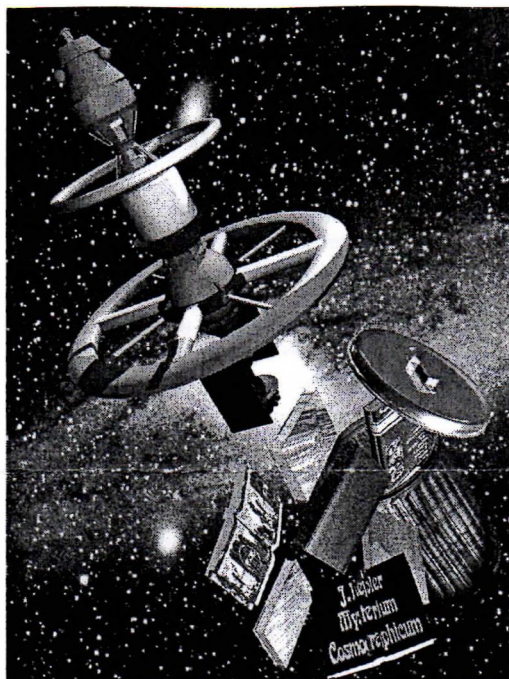


Out of the Bin



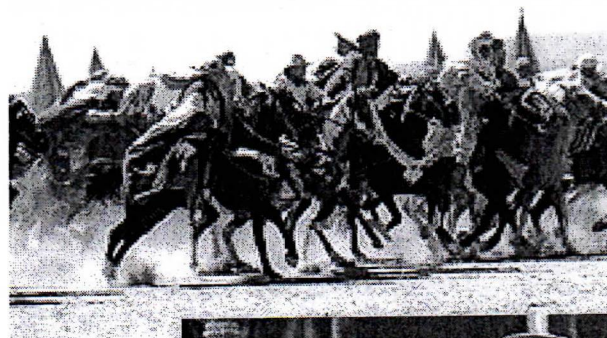
'Space Station Memory Alpha Discards'
Artwork by Ditmar

This month's *Out of the Bin* features another Ditmar variation on the 'Space Bin' heading theme. Since this one depicts a space station as well as the book-spilling Bin, it reminds Helena of Star Trek's 'Memory Alpha', a vast spaceborne library complex containing the sum of all human knowledge, including comprehensive data about a multiplicity of alien worlds and cultures. We don't really think they would throw *anything* away. (As any conscientious SF fan knows, the Prime Directive is to keep at least one copy of *everything*!) Though by now the perceptive reader will have noticed that one of the discarded publications Ditmar has chosen to depict is Kepler's *Mysterium Cosmographicum*, which was cutting-edge stuff in its time, but might be considered a little out of date in the 23rd Century

Well, we have finally got some rain in April and not only will my lawns and garden start to look a bit better, I hope that my garden customers will also now have lawns that will finally need mowing and I can earn some money.

MOVIES & TV

Hidalgo



Viggo Mortensen and Omar Sharif in *HIDALGO*

Issue #23

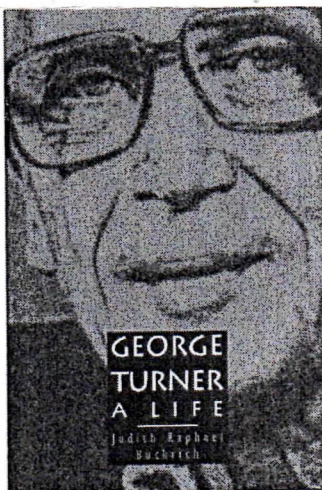
April 2004

A Newsletter from MERV BINNS
(edited and produced by Helena Binns)
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Dear Readers,

How time flies! It seems only a year or two back that our friend George Turner died (though it was in 1997) and all Melbourne fandom was there for his funeral, as they were for John Foyster last year. We provided a large percentage of the photographs for Judith Buckrich's biography of George, which was published in 1999. However as was the way with Melbourne University Press publishers, we did not even get a copy in recompense for the use of our photos. So we were pleased to be told recently that copies were being sold at the remainder book fair for only \$7.00 and we are very pleased at last to have a copy to read and to see our photos in print.



Early in April we saw *HIDALGO*, starring Viggo Mortensen after his stint as Aragorn in *The Lord of the Rings*. It was loosely based on a character said to have performed in Buffalo Bill's *Wild West* shows in the late 19th century and featured him competing in a horse race in Arabia. It was quite entertaining, though the claim that it is 'based on a true story' turns out to be shaky indeed. ('Pony Baloney' was the heading of one among numerous scathing articles on the subject found on the Internet.) This differently placed Western was nicely filmed, though, and had some spectacular scenery, even if it was not actually filmed where the story was set. It was great to see Omar Sharif as the Arab chieftain and it reminded us of his role in *Lawrence of Arabia*. It will appeal to horse lovers, with the hero's pinto pony Hidalgo a real scene stealer, along with his efforts to save the wild mustangs used by the American Indians. The mistreatment of the Indians, in particular at Wounded Knee, as depicted also in *The Last Samurai* and *Dances With Wolves*, was a significant part of the plot.

I did see *THE HAUNTED MANSION*, the Disney production which was obviously aimed at kids, but had some quite adult angles to it. Then what could you expect from Eddie Murphy, but Terence Stamp as the butler ghost was great and certainly did look like death warmed up. The witch in the glass ball was also great, but the mansion itself was the real star of the show. It almost deserved an Oscar for set design. Over all a bit silly and it obviously pinched ideas from various other movies featuring ghosts in haunted houses.



Well, we have certainly seen a host of movies in March and April 2004, but obviously our normal finances will not allow this to happen again for a while, so we will have to be more careful in deciding on what to see from now on. There will be a few movies I/we will particularly want to see over the next few weeks and I hope to mention them all herein. We still don't know why March seems to be the choice for the big movie chains to make their special offers, but it was the same last year - all of the cut-price deals came in March, coinciding with the special offers during Seniors week, with nothing else throughout the rest of the year. As much as we like going to the movies, we wish they'd spread it out a little!

It is getting hard to find much on the TV to watch apart from our regular shows, but we did catch an episode of *FARSCAPE* on cable channel 8, which we presume may be the last. As always it was very spectacular, both the scenery and the costumes. It must have cost a mint to make, so I am not surprised that it was finally axed. About the only sitcom we watch is *FRASIER* and we see that the final episode of that was made recently, but that has had a long run and the situation ideas are no doubt running out. We enjoyed it very much while it lasted. I saw the actress playing Daphne's mother in *Frasier*, Millicent Martin, with Jerry Orbach - who has just completed a very long stint in the TV series *Law and Order* - on Broadway in the musical stage show *42nd Street* in 1983.

FRIENDS AND EVENTS

Friends Robin Johnson, Adrienne Losin and Robert Kemp have been in New Zealand for the Rotorua convention at Easter. Robin and Adrienne also went to the Anzac Day weekend Australian National Convention, CONFLUX, in Canberra, as did Bill Wright and Alan Stewart. We did catch up with Robin just before that, on a brief stopover in Melbourne on his way from Tasmania to New Zealand, and managed to see with him some of the paintings in the National Gallery of Victoria that we had missed out on in our first visit - the 19th and early 20th Century ones, which by happy coincidence were those Robin also wanted to see. Adrienne visited us after Conflux, and showed us some nifty photos she took at Rotorua and Canberra with her tiny videophone, or perhaps we should call it a communicator. (Star Trek lives!)

Robert's dad Peter Kemp is recovering from a knee reconstruction and is almost ready to get back into his acting work.

FANZINES RECEIVED

Thanks to **Bill Wright** for number 218 of *I.R.S.* dated April 2004. As usual a wide variety of information about things that perhaps we did not really want to know about, and some very interesting trip reports and intellectual ramblings. Bill does a great job producing one of the most original fanzines I have seen. **Murray Moore** has sent me a copy of his zine *MOZ One* from Ontario, Canada, which is an interesting survey of his contacts with fans and things he has done, movies and plays seen and such. **Bruce Gillespie's** *brg* for April 2004 talks about cats - with nice photos - John Foyster as critic, and the disastrous problems Bruce and Elaine are having with their home. It is a fairly old house in Collingwood, a very inner suburb of Melbourne (where my father grew up, incidentally, and I do not think that he lived very far away from Bruce and Elaine's place). Consequently the convenience for them is coming to an end as repairs needed to their house are so expensive they are being forced to sell and move to the not so inner suburbs. Having moved myself quite a few times I know the problems involved, so I do sympathise and very sincerely hope the move is not too traumatic. I also received some more copies of *VANAMONDE* and thanks to **John Hertz** in Los Angeles for those.

Last but not least, everybody reading this is invited to my **70th Birthday Party** in July this year, 2004. Weather permitting, it will probably be our usual barbecue affair, on the afternoon (from about 1pm) of **Sunday the 11th of July** following my actual birth date on the 8th. If you could let us know in advance that you're coming, that would be helpful. Our home number is **9 502 8818**. Our street address is **21 Oakleigh Road, Carnegie 3163**.

Merv B

