

# YSEFG

NEWSLETTER No. 1

August 1960.

YOUNG  
SCIENCE  
FICTION  
READERS  
GROUP

A little over a year ago, Whitsun 1959, Brian Jordan, Alan Rispin, and myself (James Linwood) met to discuss the possibilities of forming a club for young science-fiction readers. We had become acquainted with each other through being members of the British Science Fiction Association, which at that time had only about a dozen members under 21. We felt that a junior equivalent of the BSFA was needed, with small or no fees, as most young fans are students or apprentices unable to pay high subscriptions.

The most concrete outcome of the discussion was a letter to Peter Hamilton, requesting publicity in "Nebula", in the hope that we could contact young fans unknown to us. Peter was more than helpful; he wrote:-

"Many thanks for your letter outlining the plans for a contact-bureau for newer science-fiction readers. I think this is an excellent idea, and if you can get enough people interested, it would certainly provide a much-needed infusion of new blood into the weary body of present-day science-fiction fandom.

"Certainly I will be delighted to do anything possible to help, and will be very glad to start by printing your letter."

Unfortunately, "Nebula" ceased publication soon after. However, the BSFA officials at the time gave the scheme a good deal of publicity, and helped me contact many young fans who were interested in the club. The majority were excellent correspondents, and equally excellent hosts to Alan and myself when we visited them.

The new Secretary of the BSFA, Ella Parker - who has always helped and encouraged young fans to take an active part in what is known as S-F "Fandom" - has given me invaluable help and publicity for the scheme, and was responsible for my making contact with a dozen or so young fans in the last month. At a BSFA meeting this Whitsun she suggested that I advertise in "New Worlds", and an advert. was placed in No 97, which should produce a large response.

The original scheme of Brian, Alan, and myself was a contact bureau amongst fellow BSFA members under 21, and has been quite successful in that form for over a year now. Due to the response and enthusiasm from the young fans known to me, I'm changing the policy to encompass as many young SF readers as possible. I dislike the idea of fees, and I feel I can continue in the same semi-anarchistic way.

"The Young Science Fiction Readers Group" is a club devoted to contacting young fans, and encouraging them to correspond with each other, and to contact local fans. If the response is healthy, I will continue this news-magazine, which will enlarge itself to become the club-magazine.

If you have read this far, you will, I hope, be interested. If you reply to this, Alan or myself will answer you personally.

Here's hoping to be hearing from you soon, and in the meantime, Brian, Alan, and myself offer best wishes and good reading.

Yours Scientifictionally,

*James Linwood*

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Typist's Note: Jim will probably murder me for saying this, but.....the name of the group is rather clumsy, and sounds very formal. So if you have any ideas for a better one, tell Jim, who, I'm sure, will be very pleased to hear of them.

Brian Jordan.

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