

AUSTRALIAN



NEWS

Special Issue

June 2000

News

Reviews

and
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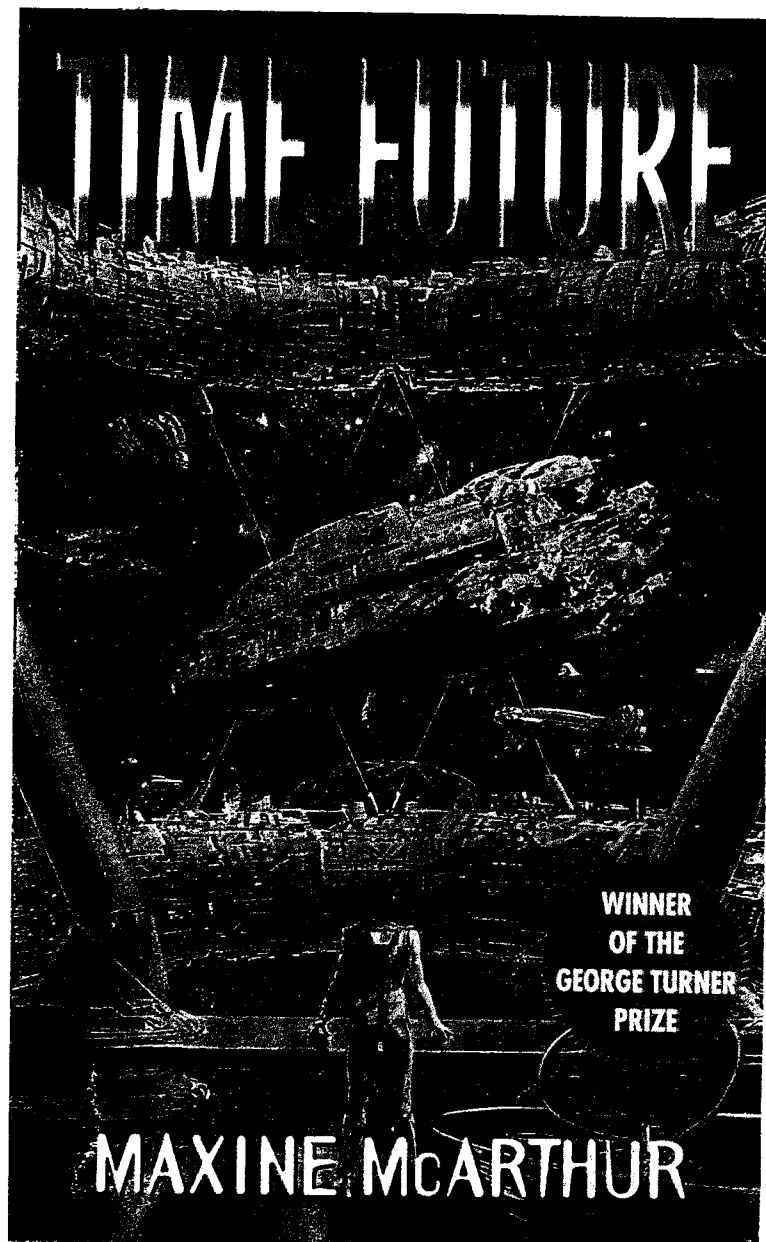
**SCIENCE
FICTION**

FANTASY

&

HORROR

BOOKS
RELEASED IN
AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN



NEWS

Edited by

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Special Issue

June 2000

Dear Readers,

Australian SF News began appearing in the heady days of sf fandom prior to the first World SF convention held in Australia, in Melbourne in 1975. Space Age Bookshop sponsored it, but following the demise of Space Age, its publication became spasmodic, to say the least. When Alan Stewart took over the editorship of the other zine covering sf fan news, THYME, he offered to combine ASFN with it, and I agreed. I continued to do lists of sf&f books released in Melbourne and whatever other information I considered appropriate, such as memoirs of my involvement with fandom. This has now been going on for about fifteen years, in which time THYME has received the Ditmar Award and was nominated for the prestigious world sf award, the Hugo, last year. All this is owed to Alan Stewart's efforts who has been doing 99% of the work. Most recently Alan has been tied up with money earning work and THYME, which is a labour of love, is way behind the time due for publication. Consequently I have decided to put out this brief special issue just to let our readers know that we are still alive, that issues of THYME are in the works, and an issue will be out soon.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our book reviewers and the publishers for sending books for review, as we do really appreciate your help. We all get to read the latest releases and hopefully with the lists and reviews, help the publishers to sell more books.



Ern and Merv Binns with ROBERT BLOCH
after CINECON 1981

One of the great benefits of running a bookshop and being a member of sf fandom, is that you get to meet all the authors that visit to promote their books or attend conventions. Arthur C. Clarke, back in 1953, when he was on his way to visit and write a book about, the Great Barrier Reef, stopped off in Melbourne, and was the first of many sf professionals I had the great privilege to meet. A long friendship with the late A. Bertram Chandler, began in the 1950s. He visited us often as an officer on merchant ships from England, which was his home, though eventually settled in Australia and became the captain of vessels plying the Australian coast and New Zealand. It was during this time that he wrote many of his novels featuring spacefaring captain Grimes and the alternate Australian history tale titled *KELLY COUNTRY*. Australian authors Eric North (Bernard Cronin) and Frank Bryning, were the Guests of Honor of the first two sf conventions we held in Melbourne in the 1950s, but science fiction was very limited in Australia, both in fandom, writing and publishing, until the late 1960s and 1970s.

It all changed as we started to have a lot more conventions leading up to 1975, during which time fandom grew and writers such as Damien Broderick and Space Age's Lee Harding were making themselves known. Ursula K. LeGuin was the GoH of Aussiecon World SF Convention in 1975. Prior to that I attended, along with other Australian fans, the 1973 World SF Convention in Toronto, Canada, where I first met Robert Bloch, the author of the famous thriller *PSYCHO*, whom I invited to be GoH of the convention I ran myself, CINECON, in 1980. TORCON was for me simply a 'who is who in sf', where I rubbed shoulders with all the big names such as Isaac Asimov, Poul Anderson, Harry Harrison, A.E. van Vogt, and many more including Joe Haldeman. Joe and his wife Gay had been amongst our strongest supporters in our bid to hold the 1975 World SF convention, they took me along to many of the room parties. We met again at cons here in Melbourne in 1980, when they were guests of UNICON VI and a Star Trek con, two weeks apart, and at world cons overseas and here in 1985 and 1999. We have remained in touch with Christmas cards, zines and their annual letter, so along with other fans in Melbourne we are very pleased to hear that they are Guests of Honor for the National Australian SF Convention to be held here in 2002.

We entertained a whole group at Space Age Books during the World Con in 1975 including Fred Pohl, Larry Niven and Robert Silverberg and more again, such as David Brin and Gene Wolfe in 1985 during AUSSIECON 2.

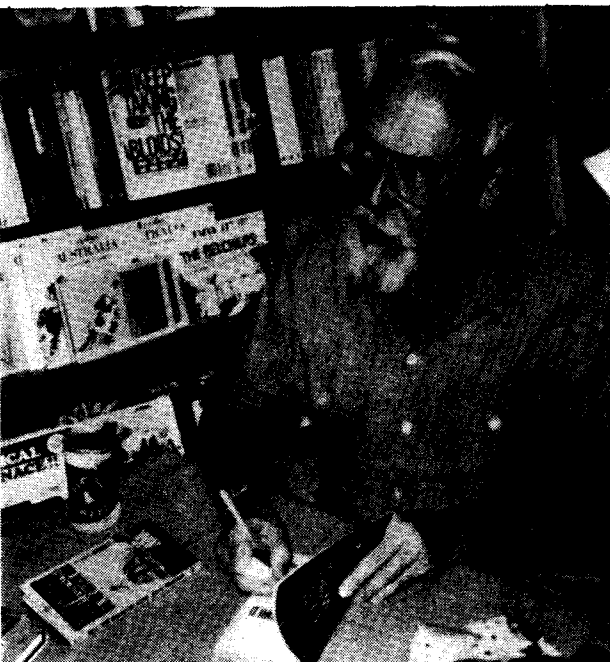
AUTHORS AT SPACE AGE

Photos by Merv Binns

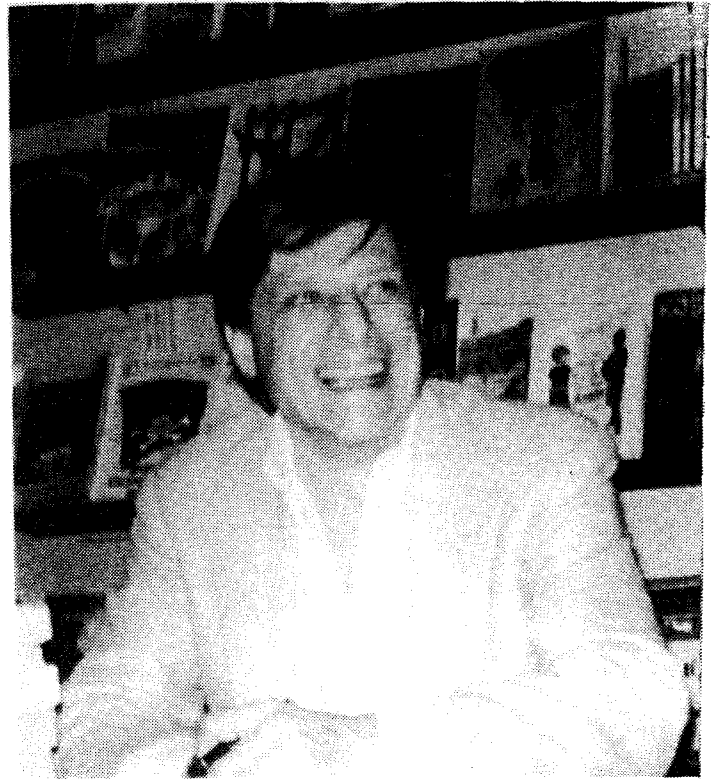


FRANK HERBERT

Over the years Space Age looked after many visiting authors such as Frank Herbert, Terry Carr, Harry Harrison, Brian Aldiss, Roger Zelazny and Harlan Ellison, and I met many others at cons and during promotional tours such as Jack Chalker (who I spent some otherwise boring evenings with at the British world con, SEACON in Brighton in 1979), Ben Bova, Alan Dean Foster, Greg Bear, Gordon Dickson, Tad Williams, Christopher Priest, Vonda McIntyre, David Gerrold and Russell Hoban.

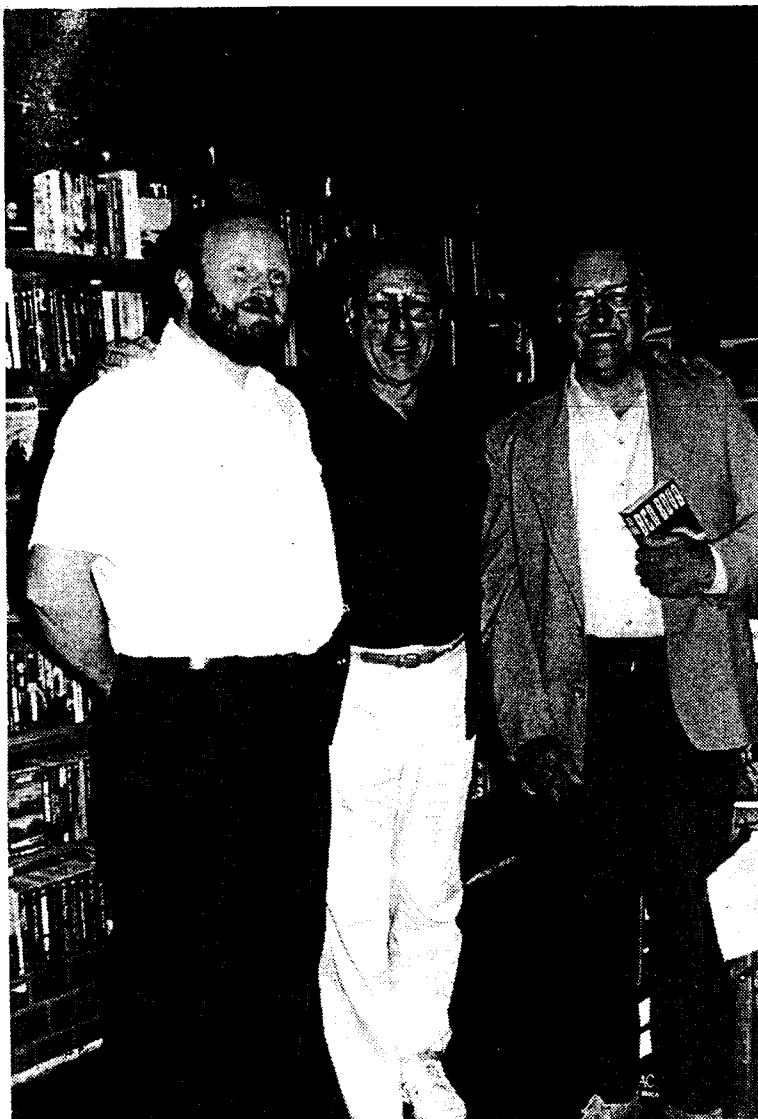


HARRY HARRISON



HARLAN ELLISON

The biggest turn-up we had for a book signing at Space Age was for Anne McCaffrey. The fans queued right out the front door and down the street. Doris Lessing was in town for a women's conference at Melbourne University and found herself at a loose end one evening. Her publishers then, William Collins, rang me and asked if I would like to take her to dinner and I jumped at the chance, but being aware of my own inadequacies in the circumstances, I took along reinforcements – a teacher of literature and Doris Lessing fan Maureen Walsh from Space Age, and the budding *sf* author, but already Miles Franklin Award winner, my friend George Turner. George and Ms Lessing got along very well and I breathed a sigh of relief. It was great to be around as George developed his *sf* writing and all Melbourne fandom were wrapped at having not only an incisive critic of the field, but an author receiving world acclaim. More recently the Australian *sf* writing talent has come to the fore, such as Sean McMullen who has been a member of Melbourne fandom for quite a while and another early *sf* club member, Damien Broderick, who surely should wear the laurel as our leading *sf* author and critic now. Paul Collins, author, editor and publisher has been a friend for many years along with others such as Lucy Sussex, Russell Blackford, Leanne Frahm and Terry Dowling.



Justin Ackroyd, BEN BOVA, and Merv Binns at SLOW GLASS (the bookshop formerly known as SPACE AGE).

Photo by Helena Roberts Binns

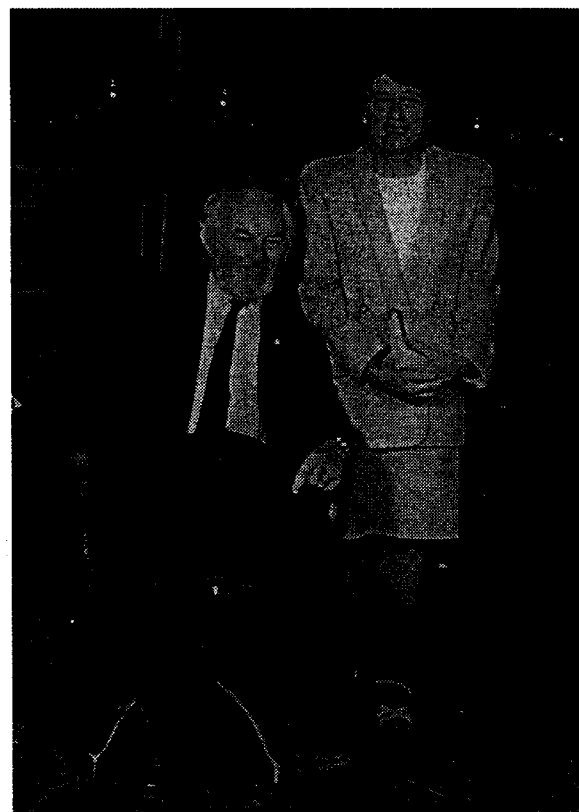
Since Space Age books closed down, my activities have been very limited, but my wife Helena and I did get to meet Ben Bova again, GoH of this year's world con to be held in Chicago. That was at Slow Glass books during a book signing in '98. Ben was another of our major supporters for the '75 bid, along with Roger Zelazny. But it was wonderful to renew acquaintances at AUSSIECON 3, in the every day hustle and bustle of the con and particularly during the parties given by the publishers such as Harper Collins and Transworld, at the con. It all revived some great memories that I will always cherish.

M.B.

COLIN WATSON

Our friend, librarian and sf fan Colin Watson, passed away in August last year 1999. As an indication of the high regard in which he was held by his compatriots the organisation called *Friends of Libraries Australia* have initiated THE COLIN WATSON MEMORIAL ORATION. The initial presentation was held at the Unitarian Church in East Melbourne on the evening of May 16th, to which Helena and I were invited. The initial speaker was another old acquaintance, academic and politician Barry Jones. After outlining the work of Colin Watson and his great efforts to promote the growth and establishment of libraries throughout the country and the battle for funding by governments, Mr Jones went on to outline the situation now, quite clearly indicating that the fight is still on. He said he believed that despite the growth of the electronic media, the printed word is still very much alive and well and will remain so for years to come. Having missed Colin's funeral, we were pleased to be able to attend this evening, and to pay our respects to Colin's widow, Marie Dowling.

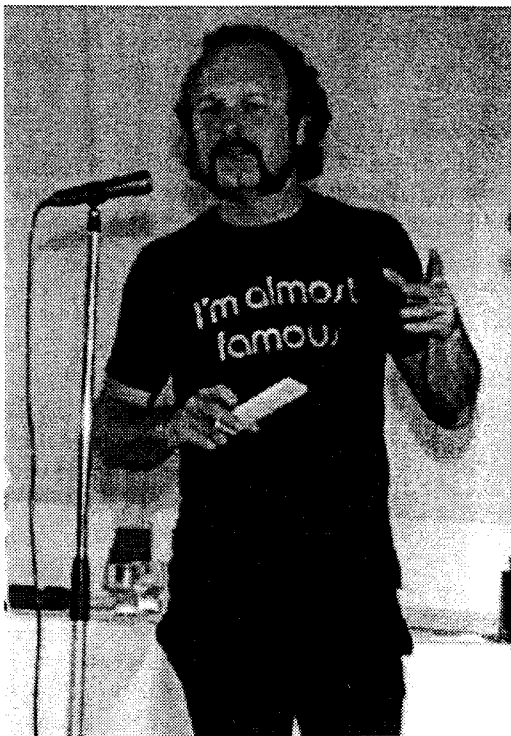
M.B.



COLIN WATSON and MARIE DOWLING

BOOKS WE HAVE READ

Over the years I have made an effort to read all the Hugo winning novels, but I have not caught up with them all. Some I have on my shelves though others I have not been able to afford, but I did get hold of Joe Haldeman's *FOREVER PEACE*, as a review copy from Allen and Unwin, which, like its predecessor, *FOREVER WAR*, won both the Hugo and Nebula awards. A further title, *FOREVER FREE*, is on my want list. *Forever Peace* is not a direct sequel to *Forever War*, though it seems that *Forever Free* is.



I guess Joe's involvement in the Vietnam war has induced him to write about wars, which he obviously did not get out of his system with his first novel, a non-sf war novel that was published in the early 70s, as besides the afore mentioned titles he has written or edited other books with a war theme. One anthology was of stories relating sf alternatives to war, and all his writing can certainly be classified as anti-war with strong emphasis on the futility of it. While *Forever War* did deal primarily with the futility of it, *Forever Peace* comes up with a radical way of stopping all future conflicts on Earth, but it leaves you wondering if this cure is even worse than the complaint. I did not read *Forever War* again, however I know that I did like it when I read it in the '70s, but I was not so impressed with *Forever Peace*. The protagonists reach their objective in the end, but it leaves you with the strong feeling that their way of stopping all future wars is *not* necessarily the best thing for mankind.



Another Hugo winner was *ENDER'S GAME* by Orson Scott Card, which was published in 1984, featuring a young man named Ender Wiggin, who unwittingly wipes out almost a whole race of alien creatures, as the people running things let him believe he was only playing space war games. In two following books, *Speaker for the Dead* and *Xenocide*, Ender endeavours to atone for the dreadful thing that he was tricked into doing, and in the process not only establishes a super computer mind, with the help of a remaining hive queen of the race he almost totally destroyed, and he travels at relativistic time throughout the universe, seeing the establishment of human colonies over three thousand Earth years. Just when I thought that it was all over, Card brings out another Ender novel titled *CHILDREN OF THE MIND*. People who are created as extensions of Ender's "being" by the super computer mind Jane - who only exists in the net that she has created linking the whole galaxy of human civilization - endeavour to save the planet Lusitania, which is a place where Ender has found some final peace, and Jane from destruction by Earth government. They believe that a virus established on Lusitania, if let loose, will destroy all humanity and that Jane has too much control of human communication. All's well that ends well however and although a bit long winded, it was a satisfying conclusion to the saga and if you have read the earlier books, you must read *Children of the Mind*. But just when I thought it was all over again, a new title, *ENDER'S SHADOW* turns up, which goes right back to the beginning and is the story of another young man, who they called Bean, contemporary with Ender in the Battle School. I will get to that soon.

In 1998 Random House publishers established a competition for Australian writers of sf&f, which they called THE GEORGE TURNER PRIZE FOR SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY. The first winner was Tansy Rayner Roberts with her humorous fantasy novel, *Splashdance Silver*. This year's winner is Michelle Marquet for a novel with the working title of *Blue Sky and Silence*, and the prize was presented to the author on the 26th of May in Sydney. At AUSSIECON 3 last year the second year's prize winner, Maxine McArthur, received her prize for *TIME FUTURE*, which I have just read, and I was suitably impressed with this sf thriller.



GEORGE TURNER

Photo by Merv Binns



MAXINE MCARTHUR, author of 'TIME FUTURE', receiving her 1999 GEORGE TURNER PRIZE FOR SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY from Random House representative Shona Martyn at the Random House bash at AUSSIECON 3, the 57th World Science Fiction Convention.

Photo by Helena Roberts Binns

Between them, Random House and Harper Collins have discovered a wealth of writing talent in the sf&f fields in Australia, a large portion of it being female. Sara Douglass for instance by Harper Collins, the above mentioned ladies by Random House and Isobelle Carmody by Penguin, to mention a few. Unfortunately I have not read any of these ladies' books apart from *TIME FUTURE*, partly because most of them are fantasy and I am strictly an sf addict, and partly because of time, but if Maxine's book is any example, let us see many more.

Time Future is a space station tale, which owes a lot to TV's *Babylon 5* and *Star Trek Deep Space Nine*, but that does not detract from it at all. A space station out in far space, in a galaxy full of different types of alien races, is under siege by one of these races. The reason for the siege is unknown and the woman in charge has to survive repeated contact with the aliens who seemingly interrogate her, though she has no real memory of it. She is getting no help from Earth or the members of an alliance of various races, the station is badly run down and in need of major repairs and she has to cope with the mysterious arrival of an old ship from Earth, while trying to deal with the numerous aliens on the station and the murder of one of them. The appearance of a genetically engineered alien monster, as a killing machine, is the last straw. The author conveys the frustration of the woman commander, and the description of the run-down station and the bizarre aliens, with great detail and perhaps too much detail. It seems to take a long time to get to the point, but the commander's frustrating situation is continually dragging on and the author's style only emphasises this, drawing the reader on, desperately wanting to see the mystery resolved. With some reservations about the long-windedness of the writing, I thought that it was great, and a very promising first novel.

HEAVEN'S REACH

by David Brin

Orbit Paperback \$16.95

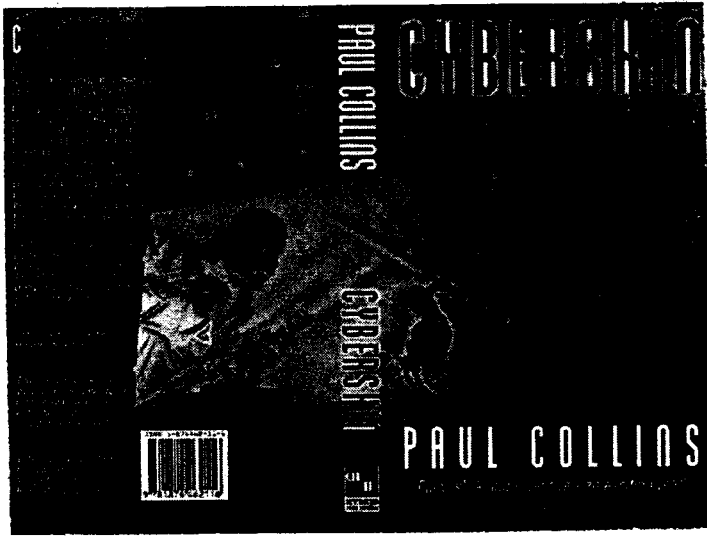
Back in the nineteen seventies David Brin invented with his book *SUNDIVER* a universe inhabited by many different races, wherein many of the advanced races endeavoured to find lesser developed worlds and "uplift" them. They passed on their advanced knowledge and virtually took them under their wing. Earthlings were a pretty smart lot however and uplifted themselves so to speak, by developing long range space travel, and they ran into these other characters when they got going. When the sequence begins with *SUNDIVER* we find that the humans have uplifted their own, the dolphins, and the crew of the Earth ship featured in the story is composed of both humans and dolphins. Later volumes in the series feature the chimpanzees. While on a mission to "seek new worlds" and such, the ship *Streaker*, discovers a very ancient group of space ships orbiting a small star, which throws the rest of the starfaring races into a tizzy, and *Streaker* becomes their target. After numerous trials and tribulations, they survive but the reason for the whole alien fraternity being so upset is never fully explained.

Two other books followed in the series, *STARTIDE RISING* and *THE UPLIFT WAR*, but not until we saw a trilogy which began with *BRIGHTNESS REEF*, followed by *INFINITY'S SHORE* in 1995 and 1996, did Brin get back to the mystery presented in *SUNDIVER*. I have been holding those two titles waiting for the third to be published so that I could read them all together, but partly because I forgot and partly due to financial reasons, it was not until a paperback edition turned up of volume three, *HEAVEN'S REACH*, that I have finally caught up with this great treat of super science fiction writing. On the face of it the "uplift" system seems to be motivated by high idealistic intentions, but the truth is that most of the avaricious alien races are in it for what they can get out of it, and exploit the races they uplift to a large degree, and do not get on with one another either. So it is most unusual that we find a group of six entirely different races, including humans, living and co-operating wonderfully on a world called *Jijo*. Authorities have deemed that *Jijo* was not to be settled at all and the whole population is continuously concerned that they will be discovered and meet terrible retribution. At the beginning of the trilogy, a spaceship has turned up and as panic sets in, plans to convince the expected presumed authoritative visitors that the *Jijoans* are not the naughty people they seem to be, are set in motion.

The cultures that have developed on *Jijo* have been strongly influenced by the human group who have the full gamut of human knowledge in their library, which the other races have absorbed in the three hundred years since the humans arrived there. The various characters, both human and alien, are wonderfully imagined. The things they have done together are greatly influenced by their efforts to convince the ever expected authorities that they are simple people as a whole and possibly due for uplift and so negate any punishment due for being on *Jijo* at all. However the ships that have landed turn out to carry not whom they expected, but probably even worse, with one group of *Jijoans*, to whom they are related, being their main target as well as *Streaker* which they have been pursuing. As the tale continues, jumping from one group of characters to another, chapter by chapter, we find that *Streaker* is actually hiding at the bottom of a very deep part of *Jijo's* ocean. I enjoyed reading the first two books, getting to know and sort out the multiple characters, waiting for all the people on *Jijo* to turn the tables on their tormentors, and for *Streaker* to get away and pass on the artifacts they have gathered to the authorities, and so end their long and tortuous adventures.

In *HEAVEN'S REACH* the planet is finally left in peace, as all action is transferred to deep space. *Streaker* blasts off with their enemies the *Jophurs* in pursuit, heading towards a red giant star and the jumping point that will hopefully allow them to escape their tormentors once and for all. Things get very complicated from here on as a much higher form of aliens, with a hydrogen life cycle enter the picture and take control of both *Streaker*, the *Jophur* and thousands of ships carrying millions of other life forms, endeavouring to survive as their fractal habitats are destroyed. Periodically it seems the whole universe gets a bit of a shake up and if you are into cosmology you will lap up all the theories on the existence of the universe that Einstein, Hawking and every other cosmological theoretician has come up with. I have been put off a little in the past by so many good yarns at the end getting lost in the authors attempt to completely bedazzle us with science and the end and the beginning again of everything and 'wow, this story has the biggest and most grandiose bang I have ever read!'. If David Brin set out to describe the most cataclysmic event beyond all others that sf authors have ever written about, he has surely succeeded. The characters find themselves towards the end of the story in the most incredible situations, but it all comes to a logical conclusion, though life in the universe will never quite be the same again. Some to find peace and contentment back home on Earth and others facing adventures beyond belief. In a final denouement even life back on *Jijo* has found peace and tranquility. All in all a most satisfying read that I have no reservations in recommending to all readers.

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY BOOKS RELEASED Up To April 2000

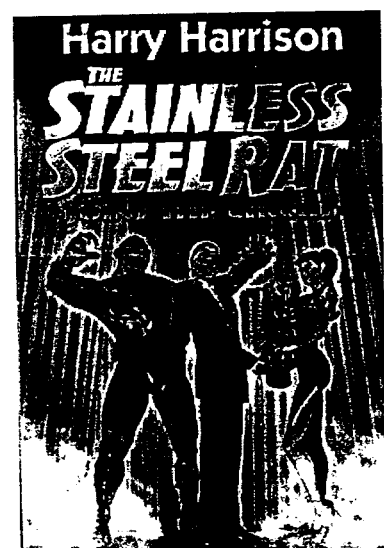


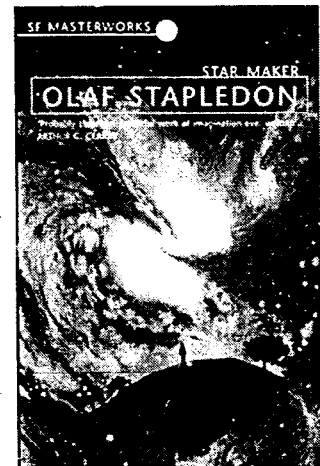
First up this column I have a brand new novel and an anthology edited by our most prolific author and editor of sf and more, Paul Collins. The novel titled *CYBERSKIN* is an sf thriller, set in a rather nasty future, where our put upon hero sells himself to appear in a "splat" movie and he is most unlikely to survive the ordeal. The anthology titled *TALES FROM THE WASTELAND* includes stories by a number of authors including Jenny Pausacker, Archie Fusillo and Lucy Sussex who will read from their stories at a launching in Melbourne by Peter Nicholls. Both paperback editions by Melbourne publisher Hybrid books, they will be distributed by Hodder.

ALLEN & UNWIN (Australia) lead the field by a mile this list with the many releases of both sf and fantasy from Millenium and Gollancz in the U.K. I am not sure if it marks any anniversary, but we have a new, illustrated edition, of Frank Herbert's sf novel *DUNE*, which was first published in 1965, hc. Herbert also wrote a number of sequels and his son has recently done a prequel, but nothing has equaled the impact that *Dune* had on readers in general and I would imagine that it is still the biggest selling sf novel of all time, though it did have many critics. Arthur C. Clarke put together a number of essays on scientific subjects in 1962 titled *PROFILES OF THE FUTURE*, which Gollancz have reissued with suitable comments by Clarke, mainly relating to his "predictions" and how things have worked out in reality, hc. *FINITY* by John Barnes is an alternate reality tale, set in the year 2063 in which the Nazis won the Second World War, hc in February and tpb in April.

Joe Haldeman won both the Hugo and the Nebula Awards for his novel *THE FOREVER WAR*, published in 1975. He won the awards again for his novel *FOREVER PEACE*, which is not called a sequel, but rather a companion. It deals with a similar concept, with young people using computer enhanced and cyber connected minds, remotely operating robot soldiers, which they call "soldier boys", while the earlier novel, which was set in a different time, has the young soldiers fighting in sophisticated body armour, in which they were transported instantly to where they had to meet the enemy. *FOREVER PEACE* was a new in pb release in February, and followed a third title, *FOREVER FREE* which was January release in hc. It takes the concept of the computer linked minds a step further, in that all of humanity has become a group mind and the returning space faring protagonists in this story decide that there must be a better place than Earth to live and set out to find it.

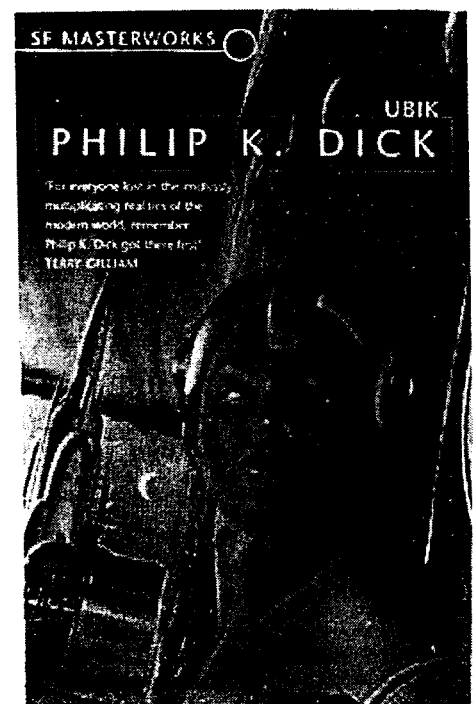
FOURSIGHT is a collection of four stories, set in the four corners of the world, edited by Peter Crowther, contributing authors being Graham Joyce, Jane Lovegrove, Kim Newman and Michael Marshall Smith, hc. *RECKLESS SLEEP* by Roger Levy is set in a nasty future, where in soldiers who survived a planetary war are being mysteriously murdered, tpb. *REVELATION SPACE* by Alistair Reynolds is a super-space opera in which humans find a world, where the original inhabitants were mysteriously wiped out nine hundred thousand years before and the humans think they may be next, hc. In a new *Slippery Jim* novel by Harry Harrison, *THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT JOINS THE CIRCUS* he sets out to catch a thief.





MILLENNIUM'S Science Fiction Master Works series continues, and we are seeing many classics of the sf field being reissued. Recent releases by Allen & Unwin include: *THE GODS THEMSELVES* by Isaac Asimov, *UBIK* by Philip K. Dick, *FLOWERS FOR ALGERNON* by Daniel F. Keyes, *THE BOOK OF SKULLS* by Robert Silverberg, *BEHOLD THE MAN* by Michael Moorcock, *STAR MAKER* by Olaf Stapledon, *EMPHYRIO* by Jack Vance and *THE TIME MACHINE / WAR OF THE WORLDS* by H.G. Wells, with more to come. These uniform slightly larger pb editions of award winning books are a great addition to anybody's shelves, giving old readers and new a chance to catch up with them.

Stephen Baxter continues his mammoth sequence with *LONGTUSK: MAMMOTH Book 2*, which follows *SILVERHAIR*, being set in prehistoric times and featuring the gigantic hairy creature, *Longtusk*. *SILVERHAIR* is an April release, new in pb. The *CITY WATCH TRILOGY* is a *Discworld* Omnibus, containing Terry Pratchett's *Guards! Guards!*, *Men At Arms*, and *Feet of Clay*, in one hc volume. *LEGION OF THUNDER* by Stan Nicholls is the second book in his *First Blood* series, which features the Orcs as the goodies instead of their usual role in most tales as the villains, hc in January, while the first book, *BODY OF LIGHTNING* was released in pb the same month. *SHAPESTONE* by James Bibby is a humorous fantasy tale in which a woman wants to discover who killed her husband, but the Shapestone keeps getting in the way, tpb in March. *SULTAN OF THE MOON AND STARS* by Tom Arden is the 3rd in the *Orokon* series and our hero Prince Jean finds himself in an Arabian Nights like world, as his quest for the crystals of Orokon continues. This was a February hc release, along with book 2, *THE KING AND QUEEN OF SWORDS* in pb and Book 1, *HARLEQUIN'S DANCE*, was reissued in pb in April. *FREEZER BURN* by Joe R. Lansdale features a man on the run after a botched robbery, who joins a freak show and what this has to do with sf or fantasy I do not know, tpb. *CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT* by Tony Thorne is yet another book about vampires and a history in literature and cinema of the subject, hc in January.



Further pbs released between January and May 2000 (published by Gollancz/Millennium) by Allen & Unwin Australia include: *BICENTENNIAL MAN* by Isaac Asimov - A collection including the title story now out as a movie. *ETERNITY* by Greg Bear - Super-science tale, sequel to *Eon*, along with his *HEGIRA* and *STRENGTH OF STONES* - In a decayed civilization, an ancient computer programme still runs, both reissues. *QUEEN OF DIAMONDS* by David Drake - The saga begun with *Lord of the Isles* continues. *SWORD OF TRUTH 5: SOUL OF FIRE* by Terry Goodkind - A plan to summon the magical Chimes back fires. *HAVEN OF LOST SOULS* by Simon R.Green - A Hawk and Fisher saga reissued. *BILL THE GALACTIC HERO* by Harry Harrison - Yet another edition of the classic humorous sf/n. *DARK TERROR #4* edited by Stephen Jones & David Sutton - An anthology of of the British Fantasy and International Horror Critics Guild Award Winning stories. *FAREWELL TO LANKHMAR* is a collection and last in these reissues of this series by Fritz Leiber, preceded by *RETURN TO LANKHMAR* and others. *SECRET TEXTS: DIPLOMACY OF WOLVES* by Holly Lisle - The clan wizards and the wolves plot to revive the hellish necromancies that once destroyed the world. *JACKAL OF NOR - Tyrants & Kings book One* by John Marco - A conflict of love and duty, new in pb. *THE SONGSTER ; PALADIN II* by Adam Nicholls - continuing the *Whiteblade Saga*, *HELL'S HORIZON* by Darren O'Shaugnessy - In a city ruled by The Cardinal, a man investigates a murder. Second in series following *Ayuamarca: Processing the Dead*. *THE DEMON SPIRIT* by R.A.Salvatore is a sequel to *The Demon Awakens*, in which our two heros battle againts the minions of darkness and the power of the magic gemstones. *CAVALCADE* by Alan Sinclair is due for May release and tells a tale about humans who accept an invitaion to join alien visitors and meet unexpected problems. *ANCIENT SECRET The Stones of Fire Book One* by Rick Wilkinson, is a tale apparently based on aboriginal legends, set in an ancient Australian land. It is followed by *TEETH OF THE STORM*. *THE DARK LORD OF DERKHOLM* is by Diana Wynne Jones, who has been a very popular author, specially with young readers, but this humorous sword and sorcery tale seems to be a bit of a departure from her usual style.

Still with A&U, published by Bloomsbury, we have *DICTIONARY OF IMAGINARY PLACES* by Albert Manguel and Gianni Guadaluppi in tpb. A 25th Anniversary edition of William Goldman's humorous fantasy adventure, *THE PRINCESS BRIDE*, in pb. *WARRIORS OF THE RAINBOW* by A.D.Harvey is set in a Europe that has been plunged into perpetual winter, where a man and his girlfriend defy the governments of a disintegrating human civilization, tpb.

DRAGONFLY by Bryan Burroughs (Fourth Estate publishers) is the story of the Russian orbiting space station MIR. A movie edition of Stephen King's *THE GREEN MILE* was released in the Orion imprint, pb. *THE INFLATABLE VOLUNTEER* by Steve Aylett is a Pheonix House publication - Eddie's world is a place where anything can happen and usually does - tpb.

Non-fiction titles from A&U include: *THE AGE OF SPRITUAL MACHINES* by Ray Kurzweil (Phoenix House) gives a view of the future of computers, as the difference between humans and technology blurs. Finally, two volumes of critical essays on sf movies. *ALIEN ZONE* and *ALIEN ZONE 2*, edited by Anette Kuhn (Published Verso) Looking at modern sf movies and their relationship to literature. Both tpb's alternatively on re-release and new in May.

HARPER COLLINS lists include a relatively meagre number of sf&f up to April, considering the big output of last year. Original Australian titles are still very evident, with the second half in pb of Jack Dann & Janeen Webb's anthology *DREAMING DOWN UNDER* at the top of the list, the full edition having won the World Fantasy Award for Best Anthology. Sean Williams and Shane Dix have a new sf series starting, with *THE PRODIGAL SUN, Evergence Book 1*, which is set in the far future, when humanity has spread to the outermost reaches of the galaxy, pb. Sara Douglass' last novel was *CRUSADER*, released last year and now she has a new series, starting with *THE NAMELESS DAY*, Book One of the *Crucible Trilogy*, due out in May. A fantasy set in a parallel medieval Europe, with some clever interpretations of the real events of the period, and real historical figures such as Joan of Arc and the Black Prince, against a backdrop of the 100 Years War, with ultimate battle of God against Satan looming. Book One features a man of God, who is given the task by the Archangel Michael of finding the means to send the Devil, and his minions, back beyond the gates of Hell, hc.

A title overlooked last year from Harper Collins was *DARK LORD OF GEERAGH* by Veronica Sweeney, in which a young man and the much maligned ruler of the land, join forces to put their land's problems to right, pb. Finally I will mention two titles due out in May: *SILVER WOLF* by Alice Borchardt is due in pb, while the second in the sequence, *NIGHT OF THE WOLF*, is due as a tpb. Set in Ancient Roman times, the first book features a shape changing woman, feared of being discovered and burnt at the stake, and the second features a man wolf named Maeniel, which appears to be a prequel to the first title.

Those readers who love anthropomorphic tales - stories with animals as the main characters to you uneducated types - will love *FIRE BRINGER* by David Clement-Davies, which features deer, and was a tpb from Pan MacMillan in January. Anthropologists Kathleen & Michael Gear, have written a number of novels recreating ancient races of the American continent mainly, but *THE VISITANT* is more a horror tale about a killer stalking victims over two centuries, in a native American village in New Mexico, Tor pb.



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SHIVA 3000 by Jan Lars Jensen is an innovative fantasy novel set in a mythical India and based on the colourful legends and mythology of the people of the sub-continent, tpb from Pan Mac in May. *PERDIDO STREET STATION* by China Mieville is the story of a city called New Crobuzon, which is part of a decayed civilization that must face extinction unless a group of outcasts can save the day, Pan/Mac tpb. *SILVER SCREEN* by Justina Robson, which has been nominated for the Arthur C. Clarke award, is a cyber-sf novel which explores the relationship of human and artificial intelligence. Pan/Mac pb.

Boxtree Publishers, whom Pan MacMillan Australia represent, specialise in cinema and TV related publications, and we have two titles from them: *THE COMPUTERS OF STAR TREK* by Gresch and Weinberg deals with the role that computers have played in *Star Trek*, and their place in the real world, tpb. *SCREAM: Unofficial Companion to the Trilogy* is by our old expatriate friend John Brosnan. It tells you all you didn't want to know about the three WesCraven directed horror movies, tpb. Finally two more non-fiction books of interest to sf readers, published by MacMillan: *VIRTUAL ORGANISMS* by Mark Ward covers the state of the art in computers and artificial intelligence and the things to come, pb.

THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN BOOK OF THE COSMOS by David Levy brings together articles from the magazine, on the science and origin of the universe, (which the sf stories we have been reading recently might indicate that writers have been studying closely) in one comprehensive volume, hc.

The predominance of fantasy from all publishers continues with PENGUIN releases, including Orbit and DAW. First up is *ANGEL OF FIRE* by Terry Brooks, author of a whole string of popular fantasy tales and the novelization of the latest *Star Wars* movie. This novel is the third in a trilogy following *The Running Demon* and *A Knight of the Word*, which is a contemporary fantasy, featuring a struggle against evil forces called the Void, and a dark magic that must be defeated against all odds, tpb. *THE WARRIOR KING* by Chris Bunch is the third in a story of empire and magic, following *The Seer King* and *The Demon King*, pb. A Hugo Winning novel by Orson Scott Card, *Enders's Game*, was first published in 1985. It was followed by two sequels, *Speaker for the Dead* and *Xenocide*, being a very innovative and unusual tale featuring Ender Wiggin, who saved the world from alien invasion and then lived to regret it. Having lived for thousands of years and travelling about a universe, which human civilization has conquered, he is still endeavouring to come to terms with his past in this fourth novel, *CHILDREN OF THE MIND*. Jane, the super artificial intelligence he invented, has been instrumental in helping spread humanity, but now, when they need her help most of all, her existence is threatened. Will this be the last Ender tale? Well sort of, because in another Card title on current release, *ENDER'S SHADOW*, we return to Earth and the Battle School, where Ender trained and we meet a contemporary, the master strategist and Enders right hand man, Bean, another Orbit title in tpb.

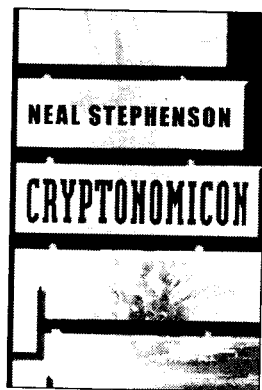
From Penguin themselves we see the fourth in the *Oberwynn Chronicles*, by Iosbelle Carmody, *THE KEEPING PLACE*, in which our heroine, Elspeth Gordie and the Misfits are forced to join a rebellion, new in pb. Back to Orbit with a pb edition of *THE BURNING STONE*, *Crown of Stars* book three, by Kate Elliot, featuring the unwilling sorceress Liath and her battle against the curse of Bloodheart. A rare DAW title release in Australia is *RING OF DESTINY* by Jane S.Fancher, *Dance of the Rings Book 3*, in which the Rhomandi family fight to defend their city against others, pb. *CAVERN OF ICE* by J.V.Jones is the first in a trilogy from Orbit, features a man who must defeat the enemy who murdered his father and clan chief, while protecting a woman from growing forces within her.

COLOURS OF CHAOS by L.E.Modesitt Jr. continues the Saga of Recluse, in which Cerryl is a now a full magician of the white order, Orbit pb. **ONCE A HERO** by Elizabeth Moon is the space adventure series, *The Serrano Legacy*, book 4, Orbit pb. **RAINBOW MARS** is a very innovative, often humorous tale about time travel, in Niven's inimitable entertaining style, pb. Finally from Penguin, **MOUNTAIN OF GLASS** by Tad Williams, which the third book in his *Otherland* series, about a parallel world where people who are trapped there endeavour to unravel the mystery they are part of, tpb.

And that is the lot for this issue.

Please note that I do not pretend that this listing is all the sf&f related books released in Australia. I can only cover the titles that are on the lists, or books, that I do receive from the local publishers and distributors and I cannot rely on even the major publishers to keep me informed, let alone some of the small ones. I suggest you ask Justin Ackroyd at *Slow Glass Books*, 305-307 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 for his excellent, very comprehensive list of all the sf&f from all over, which he is offering for sale.

M.B.



From RANDOM HOUSE, the cyber-thriller **CRYPTONOMICON**, by Neal Stephenson, previously published in tpb from Heinemann, is now available in Arrow pb.

The pb edition of **STARWARS**, *Episode One, THE PHANTOM MENACE*, the novelization of the movie by Terry Brooks, was a pb release from Random House in March. In May we will see a new *Waylander or Drenai Saga* novel by David Gemmell, **HERO IN THE SHADOW**, tpb, and a new in pb edition of his **MIDNIGHTFALCON**, which is book 2 in the *Rigente* sequence. **PEGASUS IN SPACE** is a new release in this series following *Pegasus in Flight* and *To Ride Pegasus* by Anne McCaffrey, in which Peter Reidinger becomes involved with the orphans from a Bangladesh flood and realises his full talent and potentials, which leads to him sending space ships to the stars. RH are now distributing the BBC *Dr Who* titles and recent releases include: **FRONTIER WORLDS** by Pete Angelides, **PARALLEL 59** by Cole Dellaire, **LAST OF THE GADERENE** by Mark Gatiss, **CORPSE MARKER** by Chris Bucher and **THE TAKING OF PLANET FIVE** by Bucher, Jones and Chapman, all pbs.

