



THE INSTRUMENTALITY

of the Australian Science Fiction Foundation

Vol 4. No 2, August 1992

P.O. Box 4024, University of Melbourne, Vic, 3052

CHANDLER AWARD:

WINNER:

VAN IKIN
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The Chandler Award recognises significant contributions to the appreciation of Science Fiction in Australia, via professional and/or fannish endeavours, carried out over a sustained period of time.

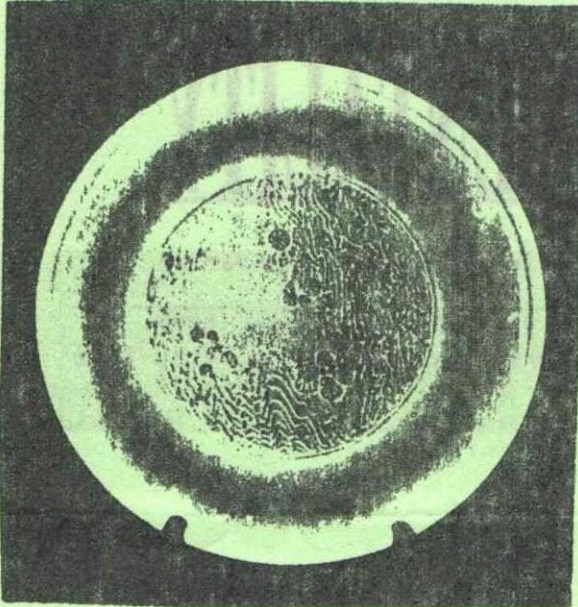
The inaugural Chandler Award was presented in April at Syncon '92 to Van Ikin in recognition of his continuing publication of the magazine Science Fiction; his editing of two collections of Australian Science fiction - one aptly named Australian Science Fiction, the other Glass Reptile Breakout and Other Australian Speculative Stories; and his contributions to fannish publishing both in Sydney and Perth.

The Chandler award will continue to be presented at irregular intervals, possibly in conjunction with a National SF Convention, should a deserving candidate be brought forward during a particular year.

Nominations for the next Chandler Award are NOW OPEN, and should be forwarded to:

Australian Science Fiction Foundation
P.O. Box 4024
University of Melbourne,
Victoria, Australia. 3052

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS FOR FOUNDATION. PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS FOR FOUNDATION.



THE CHANDLER AWARD ITSELF.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE WINNER, VAN IKIN

from Terry Dowling

It's probably impossible to give an accurate list of the shakers and movers, makers and doers, the voices of sweet reason, fair play and honest assessment that have helped make the F&SF phenomenon what it is in this country, harder still to list those who don't have an axe to grind somewhere or a chip on the shoulder about something, who manage to maintain commitment, excellence and proportion in what they do.

The announcement of Van Ikin as winner of the inaugural Chandler Award at Syncon '92, the 31st Natcon held at Sydney's Shore Inn over the Easter long weekend, was greeted with resounding applause. It was a welcome and very popular choice. Susan Chandler, Bert's widow, was delighted with it.

I've known Van as a close friend and colleague since our undergrad days at Sydney University, when he was editing and single-handedly publishing the SUSFA fanzine, Enigaa. He is presently a lecturer in English literature at the University of Western Australia, a husband and father and - too rarely these days for those of us who know his stories - a writer whose fiction has appeared in everything from Adam to Omega. Since 1977, he has published and edited Science Fiction: A Review of Speculative Literature, now at its 32nd issue, plus two impressive anthologies, Australian Science Fiction, UQP, 1982 and Glass Reptile Breakout and other Australian Speculative Stories, CSAL, 1991. As well as being resident genre reviewer for the Sydney Morning Herald since 1983, he makes regular appearances at genre-related conventions and seminars, such as the 1991 Legends Seminar in Sydney (1991) and this year's Imaginings Conference in Brisbane for which he was Keynote Speaker.

This is not to say Van doesn't rob graveyards at midnight or swing from the bells when Quasimodo is on leave. It means that he is dedicated and professional enough to keep standards and hide the Zorro suit, committed enough to keep publishing even when the gods have made it patently obvious they have it in for him, one of those sly low-key bon vivants who couldn't possibly take another glass of wine at dinner but will then souvenir your best bottle of red and leave money on the fridge. He has a sense of humour to be reckoned with, a charm and goodwill second to none.

What more can you say about someone who publishes articles on SF reading protocols then packages same between fluoro-yellow covers? Just this - he is a fine choice, a wonderful and most deserving choice, for which the 1992 jury as much as Van himself deserve congratulations. They could not have chosen better, and the Chandler Award is established in fine style.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF VAN IKIM: (as supplied by Van)

Born Sydney, 1951; educated Ashfield Boys' High School and the University of Sydney (B.A. Hons I, 1974, Ph. D. 1980); currently a Lecturer in English at the University of Western Australia.

Chief research interests: Australian literature (mainstream fiction as well as SF and utopian writing); bibliographical research; Australian drama; espionage fiction. Senior co-compiler (since 1976) of the Annual Bibliography of Australian literature published in The Journal Of Commonwealth Literature (UK), listing the entire year's output of Australian fiction, poetry, drama, and criticism.

Academic duties include: coordinator of several Australian literature courses, and (for several years) Supervising Examiner for the WA state English Literature Examination.

BOOKS and MONOGRAPHS:

(editor) Australian Science Fiction (Brisbane, 1982 and 1983; Chicago 1984); Characterization in Science Fiction (Sydney 1981); The Plays of David Williamson (Sydney, 1986); Espionage Fiction: From Popular Novels to Serious Literature (Sydney, 1990); (Editor) Glass Reptile Breakout and other Australian Speculative Stories (Perth, 1990).

MAGAZINES:

1971-79: Editor of Enigma, a multi-colour fanzine published by the Sydney University of SF Association; winner of 1978 Ditmar Award.

1977- : Editor/publisher of Science Fiction: A Review of Speculative Literature; winner 1983 Ditmar Award.

ARTICLES, ESSAYS, BOOK REVIEWS:

Articles on Australian Mainstream and SF Writers (including John Baxter, Frank Bryning, Peter Carey, A. Bertram Chandler, Terry Dowling, Robert Drewe, Sumner Locke Elliott, Lew Harding, Frank Hardy, David Ireland, George Turner) have appeared in Contemporary Novelists (London, 1981 and 1991), Australian Dictionary of Biography (Melbourne, 1981), The Routledge Encyclopaedia of Commonwealth Literature (London, 1992) and Perceiving Other Worlds (Singapore, 1991).

Articles dealing specifically with the history and significance of Australian SF have also appeared in Contrary Modes (Newcastle, NSW, 1985), Aussiecon Two Convention Handbook (Melbourne, 1985), Island Magazine, and The Penguin New Literary History of Australia (Melbourne, 1988).

Other articles and book reviews have appeared in numerous publications: Australian Literary Studies, The Australian Horror and Fantasy Magazine, Brave New World Review, CANLE Reviews Journal, Editions Review, Eidolon, Enigma, Island Magazine, The National Times, New Zealand Books, Nation Review, Quadrant, SF Commentary, Southerly, Westerly.

NEWSPAPER REVIEWING:

SF/Fantasy book reviewer for The Sydney Morning Herald since 1984, reviewing Australian and overseas SF and producing reviews with titles like: "Those heady days of '69 revisited", "Even escapism balks at emerald green legs", "Sex is a problem to an alien tree", and "Is it a bird? Is it a bat? Holy Mackerel, it's a vampire!".

SHORT STORIES:

The Earliest Ikin stories were published in his teens in Pocket Man and Adam (1968-69); subsequent stories appeared in Void, Boggle, Envisaged Worlds, Other Worlds, Alien Worlds, Island in the Sun 2: An anthology of Recent Australian Prose, and Omega Science Digest.

Van Ikin considers his main literary-critical publications to be:

Australian Science Fiction (Brisbane, 1982 and 1982, Chicago 1984)

"Dreams, Visions Utopias". The Penguin New Literary History of Australia, ed. L. Hergenhahn (Ringwood, Vic.: Penguin, 1988)

Espionage Fiction: From popular Novels to Serious Literature (Sydney, 1990)

Glass Reptile Breakout and other Australian Speculative Stories (Perth, 1990)

"Mirror-Reveries and the Tolkien-Nating Game", Science Fiction: A Review of Speculative Literature Vol 9, No 1 (March 1987). Winner of 1988 William Atheling Jr Award.

(With Sean McMullen and Graham Stone). "Science Fiction Magazines in Australia", Australian and New Zealand Journal of Serials Librarianship (USA) Vol 2, No 1 (1991)

"Steel Rudd as failed Artist", Southerly, Vol 36, No 4 (1976)

"The Political Novels of Katherine Susannah Prichard" (a series of 3 articles), Southerly Vol 43, Nos 1,2&3 (1983)

- and, from The Sydney Morning Herald reviews:

"Science Fiction is back in the Swin", SMH March 5, 1988. (Review of Louise Cooper's Mirage, S. J. Van Slyke's Downtide, and Peter Tremayne's Nicor!)

"Comics of the Cosmic Kind", SMH May 20, 1989. (Review of Damien Broderick's Striped Holes, and Terry Pratchett's Wyrd Sisters)

"Deep Space Confessions", SMH June 24, 1989, p82. (Review of Arthur C. Clarke's Astounding Days)

"Lee's Waves in a Fantasy World", SMH Saturday, March 9, 1991. (Review of Janith Lee's Forests of the Night and Women as Demons)

"Spirits of the Future", SMH Saturday, January 18, 1992. (Review of Terry Dowling's Woraxood)

(The full synopsis of Van's activities takes many many more pages! A very accomplished Guy. - Ed)

SHORT STORY COMPETITIONS: (funded by The Australian Science Fiction Foundation)

The winners for the short Story Competition held by Syncon 92, the Natcon, were:

1st Prize: Lyn McConchie "The Third Storey"
2nd Prize: Ron Ward "Some Things Won't Change"

And an "Encouragement Award" went to David Clancy.

The Winner for the Short Story competition held by HongCon, the National Media Convention, was Sean Williams with "The Nightmare Stars".

PICO-REVIEWS:

by Cath Orlieb

Dania

Anne McCaffrey

(Bantam, UK, 1992 - Hard Cover Release)

Dania is Anne McCaffrey's sequel to The Roman though it back tracks a little to provide background to Roman's assistant on Callista, Alfra. It then follows the Roman and Jeff Raven's union, particularly their third child, Dania. More talents are developed and there are also more contacts with aliens.

If you enjoyed The Roman, you'll probably enjoy this too. If, however, you found parts of The Roman too much of a soap opera for you, you won't like this at all. If you must have a complete collection of McCaffrey's books, buy it, but wait until it comes out in paperback. If you enjoyed earlier stories about talents and want more, you'll probably be disappointed.

Teklords

William Shatner

(Corgi, UK, 1992 - Paperback Release)

I enjoyed William Shatner's sequel to Tekwar even less than McCaffrey's sequel. I'll state from the beginning that I'm not a Shatner fan, and I haven't read Tekwar. Reading Teklords has definitely not inspired me to read any other books in the series.

Jake Cardigan is free, though some still mistrust him, and he has a new love. Things get complicated when his son gets kicked out of school for taking Tek and Jake is asked to investigate a murder. The story follows the Tek connection with the murder and a terrible plague that begins to sweep the country.

I found the story line rather thin and predictable, the violence often too graphic and gratuitous, and the way everything fell into place so quickly at the end was just too contrived. It's a very light read and left me dissatisfied.

COMMITTEE CHANGES:

As Mark Loney, the current Secretary is leaving shortly for a three year stint in the U.S.A., he has tendered his resignation. Mark has served in this capacity on the Foundation committee for many years, and a trademark of his time has been regular, concise minutes, agendas, and regular and timely correspondence processing. The Foundation thanks him for his dedication and responsibility. He will be missed.

Clive Newall has (somewhat reluctantly) agreed to try and replace him as secretary for the Foundation.

Jane Tisell has been invited to join the committee as an ordinary committee member, and has accepted the invitation. We welcome her, and look forward to her participation.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION
MEMBERSHIP FORM**



Name: _____

Address: _____

I, _____, desire to become a member/renew my membership of the Australian Science Fiction Foundation. In the event of my being accepted as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force.

(Signature of Applicant)

(Signature of Nominator)

Fees: Annual Membership \$5.00 / Joining Fee (extra) \$5.00 enclosed

Post completed form to: ASFF Memberships, P.O. Box 4024, University of Melbourne, Vic, Australia, 3052

(Victorian regulations for incorporated societies require that memberships be approved before taking effect. New members pay both annual & joining fees, i.e. \$10.00)