

# Quandry

Thanksgiving Day 1978 #4

The Newsletter of the Columbia Science Fiction Society

The Columbia Science Fiction Society's Library has reached the 2000 mark in total magazines, paperbacks, and hardcovers. In fact, it has gone beyond that mark and is now has 2011 items. This includes 1315 paperbacks, 525 magazines and 158 hardcovers. Isaac Asimov leads with the list for having the most books by him or edited by him with 45. In second place is Robert A. Heinlein with 25, third Andre Norton, 24, and following are Poul Anderson, 17; Robert Silverberg, 16, Philip Jose Farmer, 15, and Arthur C. Clarke, 11.

The library was started in September 1976 with its first donation, The Craft of Science Fiction edited by Reginald Bretnor, from Harold Lehman. It had reached the 300 mark by the end of the calendar year and after its first year of existence had 565 books and magazines. With an influx of new members the library increased its rate of growth and reached the 935 mark by December of 1977 and at the end of the school year was at 1700.

Magazines are a basic part of the collection with Galaxy Magazine leading the list with 170 different issues. Analog takes the show position with 119 and The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction takes third with 73. Other magazines that the library has more than 10 are Fantastic Stories, Amazing Stories, If, and Locus.

Shelves are now being named for people and publishing houses which have donated more than 25 paperbacks, 40 magazines, 15 or hardcovers or any combination of the above. Shelves named so far are the Margaret Purdy shelf, the first and second Edward W. Horre Jr. shelves, the first, second, and third Dave Cook shelves, the 1st and 2nd Steven Scott Moss shelves, the first through third Daniel Burxstein shelves, and the Imran Ahmed shelf. Publishing houses with shelves named after them are Ace Books, Ballantine Books, and Bantam Books. There are also categories for larger donations including the following:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Paperbacks</u>	<u>Magazines</u>	<u>Hardcovers</u>	<u>\$</u>
shelf	25	40	15	27.50
cabinet	200	100	50	100.00
collection	500	250	100	233.33
library	3000	1500	500	1333.33

The celebration for this historic mark occurred on November 21st with more than 20 people attending the occasion in the East Wing of Ferris Booth Hall. Another group went to see The Lord of the Rings at the Ziegfeld on the 19th. Their reactions to the movie are on page two.

The convention committee continued with its work picking the six movies that will be the main part of the film program during the day. The six are Slaughterhouse-Five, The Point, Frankenstein, Metropolis, Doc Savage and Dark Star. The committee has also received acceptances from P. J. Flauger, C.L. Grant, and Barry Malzberg for appearances at the convention.

The Society will be sponsoring the movie Yellow Submarine with the first part of a Flash Gordon serial on the 27th of November at 8 and 10 pm. in Wollman Auditorium in Ferris Booth Hall. Admission is one dollar.

The referendum on the Student Government passed so there is a good chance of getting more funding next year than we did this year. (\$200)

Reviews of Lord of the Rings

Although the animation was beautifully done, it's not fair to show half of a movie.

--Susan

I couldn't say whether Conkling and Beagle's is faithful to Tolkein's novels, never having read the trilogy, but it did rivet my attention to the screen for two hours and a quarter and didn't utterly confuse me as I was afraid it might. Despite the film's length and its coverage of only the first half of the trilogy, I had the feeling that so much could have been shown if only Ralph Bakshi could committ several more years of his life to this mammoth project. In any case, I've found several more books to add to my "must read" list.

--Dave

Bakshi thinks of Tolkein's characters as cute? No suggestion of heroism or tragedy appears. The only decent scenes are those in which Orcs appear. They really do look like a satanic crew--if somewhat derivative of Lucas' sandpeople.

--Rachel



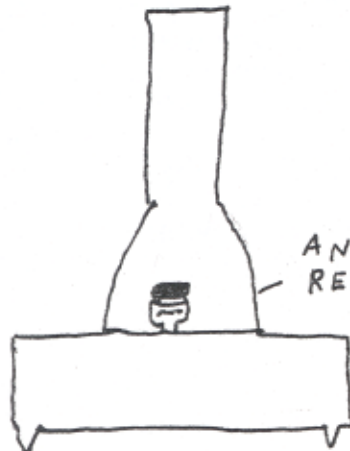
WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN  
WE'RE NOT  
NASTY ENOUGH?

The movie was one man's attempt to portray his vision of TLOTR. Unfortunately Bakshi's vision is not shared by this reviewer. The best portion was the battle at Helm's Deep. The really nasty nasties wern't spine chilling enough.

--Dani

It was too long, so it seemed boring...hobbits were a little too cute in the wrong way... but on the whole the effect was visually nice, background was nice...never really read the trilogy so it was the first time I was getting the story and I liked it.

--Susannah



AND I WANT THAT  
REVIEW NOW, UNDERSTAND?

I have just seen "Lord of the Rings" I am being held captive in the Mines of I.R.T. by an evil sorcerer in a green eyeshade and forced to write a review of the movie. Well, I haven't had much time to think about it, but my first impressions are that the backgrounds were stunning, the horses were gorgeous, and the Elves left a little to be desired, particularly Galadriel. He was the only characterisation which was revoltingly divergent from the book, although Gollum didn't fit in too well in my opinion. The hobbits were a big improvement on last year's TV, although in some way disagreeable. But I'm incoherent anyway.

--A pressured hobbit

Lord of the Rings

I DON'T CARE  
IF I HAVE TO  
WAIT THREE  
YEARS, I'M  
GOING TO SIT  
RIGHT HERE

Some Brief Book Reviews by Charles Seelig

Sight of Proteus by Charles Sheffield, \$1.75, pp.282, Ace, Sept.1978

The main concept of this book is the development of the machinery needed to change humans into various forms. The leader of the organization which grants "patents" for shape changes is found to have been developing his own possibilities illegally and two detectives are sent to discover his reasons and the consequences of his actions.

Those possibilities include the form which would lengthen the lifespan of a human being to a million years and other more alien forms. A virus is discovered that changes the human form to that of one which could possibly survive the atmosphere of Saturn.

The characters in the novel are well-developed and both the history and the social implications of the form changes are presented well. The plot line though leaves without a real conclusion. The beginning is good though and most readers should enjoy the book.

The cover by Clyde Caldwell gives the reader a clear idea of the concept of form-changing before he has opened the book.

Lifeboat Earth by Stanley Schmidt, \$1.75, pp.244, Berkley, November 1978

This is a collection of novellettes which have appeared in Analog in the last few years as sequels to his novel The Sins of the Fathers. All the stories in the book are quite good. My own favorite "Pinocchio" concerns the meeting between Sandy Turabian, the Kyyra Beldan and one of the last dolphins, Pinocchio. Sandy's mission is to convince Pinocchio to breed with the two dolphins, which are female. She fails, but Pinocchio convinces her to start her own family with Jonel. There are really no "bad guys" in the book except in the last two stories, and even then they are portrayed as more than simple stereotype.

The cover by Carl Lundgren is nice but has at least one technical flaw. The whole Earth should be in darkness by the time it gets that close to Andromeda, instead half of the globe is lighted by some unseen source.

Study War No More edited by Joe Haldeman, \$1.95, pp.323, Avon, Oct. 1978

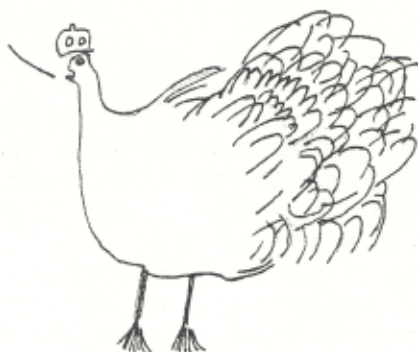
This is an anthology of stories in which war as we know has been replaced by something else or in which opposition to the war is explored. The entire book is quite good, containing 9 stories plus a fact piece by Isaac Asimov. I'd like to recommend "Basilisk" by Harlan Ellison, "Mercenary" by Mack Reynolds and the Damon Knight novella "Rule Golden" as especially entertaining and thought-provoking reading.

I like the cover, since it catches the theme of the book. Unfortunately the artist is not mentioned on the copyright page or anywhere else.

Time and Again by Jack Finney, \$4.95 (3.96 at Barnes & Noble), pp.398, Simon & Schuster-Fireside, no pub. date

Time and Again has seen hardcover and mass market paperback editions since 1970, and the trade paperback edition has been out for a few months. So why am I reviewing a book eight years old? The answer is quite simple, the novel is one of the best I've read this year. It tells the story of Si Morley who goes back to the year 1882. He does this by becoming familiar with the period and living as someone who had lived then would have lived. By accomplishing this he in affect makes himself believe that he is in the past. Somehow this explanation of time travel seems much more comfortable and uses the imagination and sense of wonder than the usual time machine concept.

THIS ISSUE  
IS A REAL  
TURKEY



Book Reviews con't

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The description of New York in the winter of 1882 by Finney is detailed and yet not boring to the reader. The plot is really divided into two parts, one in our present, and the other in the past. Both are well-thought out and enjoyable. The illustrations in the book are well-placed and provide a valuable addition to the novel. So some time in the next few months, when it's cold out, pull up a chair and sit and relax for a few hours with a great book.

The Veils of Azlaroc by Fred Saberhagen, \$1.95, pp. 216, Ace, October 1978

The author of the Berserker series provides the reader with a new concept. A world on which once a year, a veil falls upon the surface, trapping everything under it for all eternity. Anyone who is trapped will live a life in which time is slowed but in which he can only travel on Azlaroc and never leave the planet.

The characters and plots though are not as good. Something more could have been done with this world than what's in the book. The plots just seem to be brief passages in the lives of the characters and not the one of the major events of their life.

The cover by Dean Ellis is quite good in depicting the world's surface. (Seems like a good month for covers.) Only thing is that a person who hasn't read the book would think that the blacksky shown on the cover is the veil itself. That problem though is solved in the first few pages of the book so it isn't major.

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Next issue will be out  
about Dec. 15. Maybe 6  
or 8 pages. In the  
mean time let's get  
those contributions in!