

SCIENCE FICTION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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SFRA NEWSLETTER #2

1 MARCH 1971

The SFRA NEWSLETTER is published irregularly by the Science Fiction Research Association, a nonprofit scholarly organization. It is edited by the Secretary-Treasurer of SFRA (Fred Lerner, 7 Amsterdam Avenue, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666 USA) and is sent to all voting, supporting, student, and institutional members.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Now that the Science Fiction Research Association is a reality we face problems much more difficult than its original formation. First and foremost we must plan and put into operation a program that will warrant \$20.00 dues a year, and will assure that we are of service to both individuals and libraries.

One of the things we must decide is the scope of such a program. A number of questions suggest themselves to me, paramount among them: what is our relationship to be with those organizations in America and abroad which have published, have collected, or have access to materials relevant to the study of modern fantasy and science fiction? Ideally, I would see SFRA as a clearing-house which had knowledge of all extant materials and had worked out a plan of cooperation whereby individuals, organizations, and libraries would permit our members -- and perhaps others whom we sponsor -- to make use of these materials.

Secondly, there is the question of what kind of publishing program we can undertake immediately, and what kind we wish to have when we are more thoroughly established (financially) than at present. Much of the detail of this must be left to Professor Suvin's editorial committee, but some general policy must be established soon.

All of this turns eventually, of course, upon two matters: the first is the acceptance and recognition of the quality of our work; even more important, adequate financing so that we can sponsor both research and publication. This will require that we receive a grant or grants from foundations. To obtain these monies, especially at this time, we must come up with a sensible and practical program that will at one time give us identity and, hopefully, some large measure of success. No individual, no committee, no executive council can achieve this by itself. That is why I hope that the membership will keep us informed of its work and why I hope that some cooperative research ventures can be undertaken in the not-to-distant future. We have a name; now we need an identity.

-- Thomas D Clareson, SFRA Chairman

DETAILS OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE SET

"Popular Culture and Science Fiction" will be the theme of the Third Annual Conference on the Bibliography of Science Fiction, which will be held on Saturday morning, 27 March 1971, at the Sheraton Hotel in Columbus. Prof Ray Browne, Director of the Center for the Study of Popular Culture at Bowling Green University, will talk on the history and programs of the Center. Robert Galbreath, General Editor of the Center's projected Bibliographical Series, will lead a panel discussion of bibliographical problems in SF and popular culture. The Conference will be held in conjunction with MarCon VI, the annual fan convention sponsored by the Olentangy Science Fiction Society, Inc. For more information on MarCon see the "SFRA Calendar" elsewhere in this issue.

TOLKIEN CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN CLEVELAND

The Cleveland-Conference on Middle Earth and the 4th Annual Tolkien Society Conference will be held at the Lakewood Academic Center of Cleveland State University, on the weekend of 2-3-4 April 1971. Under the direction of Chairman Jan Howard Finder, the Conference will include a Tolkien Display from Marquette University, which possesses the manuscripts of The Lord of the Rings; an exhibition of artistic interpretations of Middle-Earth and mythological themes; and a chamber theatre production of LOTR. Papers will be presented and panels held; social features of the program include a luncheon, a dinner, and a costume party. No registration fee will be charged. For further information, write to:

Jan Howard Finder
 Cleveland-Conference on Middle Earth
 Lakewood Academic Center
 Cleveland State University
 Franklin Blvd and Bunts Road
 Lakewood, Ohio 44103.

MLA SECRETARY WELCOMES SFRA

In a letter to Thomas Claerson, Dr John H Fisher, Executive Secretary of the Modern Language Association of America, said he was "glad to learn about the creation of the Science Fiction Research Association". He saw "no reason why Extrapolation cannot be both the organ of the MLA group [the Seminar on Science Fiction] and the new society if no one objects. Certainly we do not."

IN FUTURE ISSUES

In future issues of the SFRA NEWSLETTER we hope to publish short notices of publications received; announcements of work in progress and requests for information; and letters from SFRA members and other readers. Material for inclusion should be sent to: Fred Lerner, 7 Amsterdam Avenue, Teaneck NJ 07666 USA.

SFRA CALENDAR

MARCH 26, 1971

MarCon VI, Sheraton Columbus Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. Annual fan convention sponsored by Olentangy Science Fiction Society, Inc. Guest of Honor: Lester del Rey. Chairman: Laurence C Smith. Registration: \$2 in advance, \$3 at the door. Information from: Laurence C Smith, 216 East Tibet Road, Columbus OH 43202. (Thru March 28)

MARCH 27, 1971

Third Annual Conference on the Bibliography of Science Fiction, Sheraton Columbus Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. Theme: "Popular Culture and Science Fiction". Chairman: Fred Lerner. Registration: None for members of MarCon VI (see above). Information from: Fred Lerner, 7 Amsterdam Avenue, Teaneck NJ 07666 (#201-837-2756), or see page 2.

APRIL 2, 1971

Cleveland-Conference on Middle Earth, Lakewood Academic Center, Cleveland State University, Lakewood, Ohio. 4th annual Tolkien Society Conference. Chairman: Jan Howard Finder. Registration: None. Information from: Jan Howard Finder (address in article on page 2). (Thru April 4)

APRIL 8, 1971

Popular Culture Association. First national meeting, East Lansing, Michigan. Information from: Ray Browne, Center for the Study of Popular Culture, Bowling Green University, Bowling Green OH 43403. (Thru April 9)

APRIL 9, 1971

EasterCon XXII, Giffard Hotel, Worcester, England. Annual British fan convention. Guest of Honor: Brian Aldiss, Ethel Lindsay. Chairman: Peter Weston. Registration: 10/ or \$1.50. Information from: Andrew Porter, 55 Pineapple Street, Brooklyn NY 11201, or Peter Weston, 31 Pinewall Avenue, Birmingham 30, U.K. (Thru April 11)

PeCon II, Sands Motel, Peoria, Illinois. A small fan convention. Chairmen: Don Blyly, Larry Propp. Guest of Honor: Gordon R Dickson. Registration: \$2 in advance, \$3 at the door. Information from: Don Blyly, 158 Hopkins, URH, Champaign IL 61820. (Thru April 11)

APRIL 16, 1971

LunaCon, Commodore Hotel, New York City. Annual major fan convention sponsored by New York Science Fiction Society - The Lunarians, Inc. Guest of Honor: John W Campbell, Howard Devore. Chairman: Franklin M Dietz. Registration: \$2.50 in advance. Information and advance registration from: Devra Langsam, 250 Crown Street, Brooklyn NY 11225. (Thru April 18)

MAY 20, 1971

GothCon '71, Gothenberg, Sweden. Information from: Soren Cardfelt, Dan Bregstromsgatan 8, S-681 00 Kristineham, Sweden. (Thru May 23)

MAY 28, 1971

DisClave, Shoreham Hotel, Washington DC. Annual fan convention. Information from: Jay Haldeman, 405 Southway, Baltimore MD 21218. (Thru May 31)

NorWestCon, Portland, Oregon. No information available at press time.

Symposium 1971, Edgewater Hyatt House, Long Beach, California. Information from: Barry Gold, 11969 Iowa Avenue #6, Los Angeles CA 90025. (Thru May 31)

JUNE 11, 1971

GnomoClave, Hotel Andrew Johnson, Knoxville, Tennessee. Information from: Irvin Koch, 614 Hill Avenue SW, Knoxville TN 37902. (Thru June 13)

JUNE 12, 1971

Speculation II, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham, UK. Information from: Peter Weston, 31 Pinewall Avenue, Birmingham 30, UK.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1971

NorEasCon, Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts. The 29th World Science Fiction Convention. Guest of Honor: Clifford D Simak, Harry Warner Jr. Chairman: Anthony R Lewis. Registration: \$4 supporting, \$6 attending until August 10; \$10 at the door. Information and registration from: NorEasCon, Box 547, Cambridge MA 02139. (Thru September 6)

OCTOBER 9, 1971

SecCon IV, Toronto, Ontario. The 4th Secondary Universe Conference. News of this meeting will be published in the SFRA NEWSLETTER as it becomes available. Conference Committee Chairman is: Madeleine Morton, Secondary Universe IV, 566 Palmerston Avenue, Toronto 174, Ontario, Canada. (Thru October 11)

JULY 12, 1972

EuroCon I, Trieste, Italy. The 1st European SF Convention (1^o Congresso Europeo di SF). Chairman: Gianluigi Missiaja. Registration: \$4 supporting, \$7 attending. Information from: Anthony R Lewis, 33 Unity Ave, Belmont MA 02178; Leland Sapiro, Box 40, University Station, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada; Bruce Gillespie, Box 245, Ararat, Victoria 3377, Australia. (Thru July 16)

NOT INCLUDED ABOVE

Not included above are several regional fan conventions, to be held in the latter part of 1971. These will be listed in a future "SFRA Calendar". At several of the more important fan conventions, SFRA plans to present papers and other programming. Information on this will be included in future numbers of this newsletter. Some of the above information was adapted from Locus, a biweekly fan newsletter published by Charles and Dena Brown, 2078 Anthony Avenue, Bronx NY 10457.