

Note: Up to this point I have produced these E-versions of the early BCSFAzines in 'Courier' type to capture their typewritten 'flavour', but from this issue on I will use 'Times New Roman' which I much prefer – R. Graeme Cameron, BCSFA Archivist.

BCSFA NEWSLETTER #4

OCTOBER 1973

This newsletter is the semi-official organ of the semi-existent British Columbia Science Fiction Association. It is written, typed, run off, collated and mailed by Mike Bailey to approximately 100 people who are hopefully interested in SF.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting will be held at the residence of Michael and Susan Walsh, 2965 West 11th Ave., on November 17 (a Saturday) at 7:30 PM. For those who imbibe, it's BYOB. The only general discussion will be about the upcoming convention. If anything important arises between now (Oct. 22) and the date of the meeting, there will be a newsletter published to inform you about it.

EDITORIAL (of sorts)

If you receive this newsletter, you're invited to any meetings or events mentioned herein. We'd like to get some response to these newsletters and one way is to attend meetings, discover new friends, and help make the association successful. Newsletters have been mailed to approximately 100 people and the maximum attendance at a meeting (except the last one) has been 12 — about 20 different people have been at at least one of the meetings. We don't want to beg you to attend, and why should we have to remind you by telephone?

The fact to be correlated to the above is the cost of the newsletters. Postage alone costs about \$8.00 per issue and many issues seem to be going to a lot of deadheads – at least as far as SF is concerned. Consequently, if you've been receiving these newsletters and have not yet responded in some manner, you're about to be cut off. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletters and yet not be involved, please send money. (\$1.00 to Mike Bailey at #4-2416 West 3rd Ave., Vancouver 9, B.C.)

This association is growing and there are some pleasant surprises in store for members, but we could use some help. For example, for the upcoming convention, we are going to need a bartender (Alan Glasser?), one or more projectionists, and registration people. It looks like we're going to have an art show, so we'll need someone artistically inclined to coordinate it. This person will have to know the artists we have uncovered and have enough time to meet with them to discuss problems which will surely arise. Besides some egoboo, people who become involved in an executive way will receive little in the way of rewards at this time. (However, the long term prospects are more than promising.) We also need someone to handle publicity. This person (as with all executives) should be a self-starter and be able to coordinate the production and placing of flyers and posters, as well as be able to get public

service announcements on radio and in newspapers. We would also like this publicity person to be able to approach bookstores and other likely candidates in order to sell huckster tables at our convention(s). Do you want to get involved?

MEETING REPORT (October 20)

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the October meeting was held at Chuck & Edna Davis' house on 14th Avenue. The attendance picked up noticeably – about 25-30 people were present. Besides having a good time socially, we had a discussion about the upcoming convention. It was good that many people showed a strong interest and made several suggestions.

We also discussed the possibility of membership fees beginning in January. Ron Norton expressed an interest in helping with the artshow and program book and flyer design. Paul Stanbury from The Nameless Ones in Seattle came to the meeting and we discussed the possibility of visiting their meeting next month. Also we have tentatively set up a permanent meeting schedule – the third Saturday of each month and at a rotating site. (Most “permanent” things are tentative.) Michael G. Coney mentioned the possibility of having a meeting at his house in Sidney sometime early next year.

Late in the evening, we discussed a name, other than “The Third Vancouver SF Convention”, for our February con. Names such as Con-Fu, Coon Con (with Delany as guest), and Kingcon, were tossed about. Finalists were WesConClave, Canclave, Vanclave, and Vcon, and the latter was considered the tentative winner.

Rob Scott didn't show, so I couldn't tell him about the two new Michael Moorcock novels I'd recently purchased – The Silver Warriors and The Champion Of Garathorm. Carl Chaplin, Victoria Sutherland, and Barb Allen didn't come, so we couldn't go into much detail about the convention artshow. Other people who have expressed interest and then didn't come are Alan “The Bartender” Glasser, Ken Rushton, Fred Whitehead, J. Robert Davison, Eileen Kernaghan, Tilde Smillie, and Carol Innes.

HISTORY OF THE BCSFA

You might think that the BCSFA is a newly organized association, and you would, of course, be wrong. The BCSFA grew out of UBC SFFEN (University of British Columbia Science Fiction Society). It was originally set up in 1969 or 1970 as a dummy organization to hide funds from the AMS (Alma Mater Society) and its long term purpose was to become a strong club by siphoning off university graduates (or dropouts) who were no longer eligible to be members of UBC SFFEN. Although it presented (or co-presented) the first two Vancouver SF conventions, the association became dormant in 1972. People who left UBC apparently were not interested in becoming members.

However, after the Bellingham convention in 1973, some of us who had left UBC got together and decided to activate this association. One of the reasons for this was that 32 Vancouverites joined the Bellingham convention and we had only heard of about 7 of them. This situation implied that 25 people who had never been members of SFFEN had enough interest in SF to travel to Bellingham from Vancouver. Consequently, we decided that the basis existed to form a successful off-campus organization.

We (myself, David George, Pat Burrows and Rob Leung) have some good ideas for the future of the association which will slowly unfold over the next few months. If you have ideas or wish to become more involved, let us know. (A future issue of the newsletter will print the name and address of everyone who has ever received a copy.)

(Curiously there was a SF club in existence in Vancouver about 1950. Who were the members and where are they now? Both the Vancouver Province and Harry Warner Jr. have records of this group.)

The BCSFA now has an(other) official address: BCSFA P.O. Box 35577, Vancouver V6M 4G9 B.C.

FANDOM--WHAT IS IT?

Most of the people who receive this newsletter don't know what fandom is. (if you become an active member of this association, you're also becoming a member of fandom.) I can't tell you what fandom is in this newsletter, but I can give you some indicators. One way of entering fandom is socializing: you read a form of literature which most people consider among the lowest and perhaps you'd like to socialize with others who share the same vice. When you talk with another SF enthusiast, you may discuss certain books and authors. In the course of these discussions you may hear of fanzines (amateur magazines concerned with SAF, its readers and writers) and send away for a sample copy. Suddenly, you're on the road to becoming a fan – then a faan, then a faaan, etc. Another aspect of fandom is that many SF authors were at one time fans, and still remain so. Consequently fandom is a way of becoming an SF author. Fandom can also be an engrossing hobby. A fan can organize clubs, conventions, publish fanzines, be a participant in any or all of these in most places of the world. Through fandom, you can come to know people living in all parts of the world and expect a cordial welcome if you visit. I could go on, but instead, why not attend the next meeting and ask about fandom?

WORLDCON BID

In issue #3 of the newsletter I wrote that we were bidding for the 1977 Westercon. At the time when we decided to do this we thought that 1979 was the year that the World Convention would rotate into our area (Western North America), and it was our intention that the 1977 Westercon would be a springboard for a World Convention. (Worldcon sites are voted for two years in advance – i.e. September 1977 – and Westercon occurs in July.) However, the Worldcon rules were changed and the site won't rotate into our area until 1978 or 1981. Consequently we have protected both dates at our chosen hotel, the Hyatt Regency. More on this topic at another time.

TOLKIEN UPDATE

In the last newsletter I wrote of the imminent publication of Tolkien's The Silmarillion. Since that time I have encountered an interesting rumour: namely that TS was completed in 1967 and because of death duties was not to be published until Tolkien's final departure. Apparently a manuscript is taxed at a much lower rate than the rights to a published work.

SF CONVENTIONS—THE ART SHOW

You have probably noticed some attractive artwork on the covers of SF pocketbooks and on the covers and in the interiors of SF magazines. The artists who draw these are often fans who at one time drew for fanzines, then graduated into becoming professional artists. Each year at the World SF Convention two Hugos are awarded to artists – one to the best professional artist and one to the best amateur (or fan) artist. (for example, Tim Kirk has won the award for being the best fan artist for the past three or four years, and now, if you've been paying attention, you'll have noticed his work appearing on the covers of SF pocketbooks and in magazines.)

At the Worldcon and at most larger SF conventions (there must be more than 50 SF conventions each year) there is a large room set aside for the display of artwork. Inside will be found paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures, and more esoteric forms of art. Some of these are for display only, but most are for sale. Here you can often find the originals for many of those covers you have appreciated. For each painting which is for sale, the artist sets a minimum price and there is a card attached for convention attendees to sign and place their bid. On the final day of the convention, these paintings are sold in a form of auction. If no one beats the final price on the card, then, providing it is at least the minimum, the painting is sold for that amount. However, the audience is allowed to bid vocally at this time.

Art shows serve two purposes for the convention. They attract people, thus making the convention more enjoyable, and the convention takes a modest percentage off the selling price (in our case to help pay the cost of the room rental). We would like to instigate an annual SF artshow at our convention this year and we think we have some people who can produce the art. You know who you are. By presenting artwork at our convention, you may be altering the direction of your life.

SF CONVENTIONS—THE HUCKSTER ROOM

Another aspect of fandom is collecting. Many fans have large collections of SF pulps, magazines, pocketbooks, hardcovers, and even comics. The astute, business-minded fan who is also a collector may decide to make money from his hobby and sell SF material. Some do this by opening bookstores specializing in SF and some by selling SF material through the mail by use of fanzines which list books for sale (e.g., THE FANTASY COLLECTOR). At larger conventions a room is set aside for those people (hucksters) who then bring large numbers of collector's items to sell in this room (the huckster's room). Examples of such people are Robert Maddle, Gerry de la Ree, Clint Murray, etc. Hucksters usually sell old comics as well – hence many conventions also have comics enthusiasts in attendance. (Note how the comics aspect of the huckster room ties in with the art show. We often find comics artists like Steranko and Corben selling original art at SF conventions.)

We think there are enough stores and private collectors in Vancouver for us to have our own huckster room. If you are interested in this facet, come forward.

SF CONVENTIONS—THE BANQUET AND STAYING AT THE CON HOTEL

At the World SF Convention and most other conventions, there is a group feasting called a banquet. This may take the form of a catered full course meal, a buffet dinner, or a trip to something like the proverbial Joe's Beanery. At larger conventions, the banquet is an occasion for an address by a (humorous) toastmaster, the giving of awards (the Hugo awards at the Worldcon), and a satiating (with

buns if nothing else) meal. It usually takes place on the last night of the convention and is the entrée for the final round of parties (parties, remember this word).

For the third time we are going to attempt to get enough people interested in a hotel banquet. A banquet is very useful as far as putting on a good convention is concerned. The hotel appreciates the business and if enough people are interested, they will supply a room for the banquet free of charge. The hotel makes their appreciation known by allowing later check-out times, convention rates for members, and ignoring it if we stay a couple of hours longer than we should in the convention meeting rooms. So, buy a banquet ticket and help make a better convention.

Parties. Remember? This is one of the major functions of conventions. If you wandered through the halls of a large convention, every night and almost everywhere you would be able to hear the sounds of partying. Obviously, the parties could not take place if people didn't stay in the hotel. We suggest that you rent a room from the Georgia hotel for our February convention and take full advantage of the parties. By renting a room, you won't have to worry about driving, bussing, or hitchhiking home and then returning the next morning so as not to miss any events. The hotel is supplying special convention rates for attendees.

SUMMARY—DISCLAIMER

The points I've made about SF conventions are by no means complete and are, in fact, biased. I've pointed out those activities and functions which have been absent from previous Vancouver conventions and I've ignored the programming itself. We've had some "heavy" programming in the past and we're going to maintain this feature, but add some other lighter programming.

BIRTHDAY NOTICE

November 17 is the birthday of August Mobius. To celebrate this event we're going to have a never-ending meeting at the Walshes. 7:30 PM is the time.

BOOK BUYING SERVICE

Shortly, I will be placing an order to F&SF Book Co. in the USA. This book company offers for sale every in-print pocketbook and hardcover on SF, SF movies, and comic material. Richard Witter, the owner, also sells some out-of-print material. I am announcing my upcoming purchase in the newsletter in case anyone would like to piggy-back on my order. The advantage of piggy-backing is that you can obtain 20% of the American prices (and not pay provincial tax).

Last Stencil typed October 26, 1973 12:05 PM