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HO 1B-527 :

Holmdel Science Fiction Club
Club Notice - 11/20/78

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

(All meetings are in room 3H-506 on Wednesdays at noon.)

DATE -----	TOPIC -----
11/29/78	TO YOUR SCATTERED BODIES GO by Philip Jose Farmer election of officers for 1979
12/20/78	DUNE by Frank Herbert
1/10/79	TBA
1/31/79	TBA

1. The list below is a compilation of suggestions from members as to books that we ought to read. I have removed those titles that are not currently available from our major source, the F&SF Book Company. So everything you see below is an actually AVAILABLE book and is a possibility for discussion.

Asimov	Caves of Steel
Asimov	Foundation
Bester	The Stars My Destination
Brunner	Times Without Number
Cherryh	Brothers of Earth
Cherryh	Gate of Ivrel
Cherryh	Well of Shivan
Clarke	Childhoods End
Clarke	The City and the Stars
Clarke	Rendezvous with Rama
Davidson	The Phoenix and the Mirror
Heinlein	Methuselah's Children
Heinlein	The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress
Heinlein	Stranger in a Strange Land
LeGuin	The Dispossessed
LeGuin	Lathe of Heaven
McCaffrey	Dragonflight
McCaffrey	Dragonquest
Miller	Canticle for Leibowitz
Niven	All the Myriad Ways (short stories)
Niven	Flight of the Horse (short stories)
Niven	The Long Arm of Gil Hamilton
Roberts	Pavane
Silverberg	Born with the Dead
Silverberg	Up the Line
Tucker	The Lincoln Hunters
Tucker	Year of the Quiet Sun

Vance	Eyes of the Overworld
Vance	Maske: Thaery
Vonnegut	Slaughterhouse 5
Zelazny	Creatures of Light and Darkness
Zelazny	Lord of Light

2. I notice in Holmdel This Week that Tuesday's meeting (November 21) will include the playing of the sound track of the film LORD OF THE RINGS. The film itself was just released this past week so I assume the music will not be familiar to most people at the meeting. Still, I would expect that it will be worth hearing.

3. If I can get it ready in time for this mailout, I will include a review of Tuck, the first two volumes of which we now have in our library.

Mark Leeper
HO 1B-512 x7093

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY, compiled by Donald H. Tuck. Volume II. 244 + vi pp. \$25. 1978. Advent: Publishers, P.O. Box A3228, Chicago IL 60690.

Here is the long-awaited second volume of Donald Tuck's magnificent encyclopedia, and I think that of all the reference works that have appeared in recent years, dealing with science fiction, this has to be rated as the very best.

Tuck is a lifelong devotee of science fiction, and from his home in Tasmania he has devoted decades to the slowly

evolving encyclopedia, issuing it first as a rough mimeographed "Handbook," later expanding it to a projected three volumes plus supplements, all of these planned for issuance by Advent.

The first two volumes are devoted to "Who's Who" entries; Volume I, which appeared several years ago, covers A-L; Volume II, M-Z. The entries are thoroughly researched, and provide invaluable biographical and bibliographical information about everyone in the field from Anthony Abbot to Stanley Zuber. More to the point, Tuck covers just about every science fiction author and editor from the earliest surviving times up through his cut-off date of 1968.

Of course the amount of detail that Tuck pays to different personalities varies greatly—partially, I'm certain, because the amount of available information varies, and partially, I surmise, because he simply considers some figures as more worthy of space than others. Thus, two author-editors in the "W" section, Don Wollheim and Farnsworth Wright.

Wollheim has of course had a long and influential career in science fiction, as fan, author, editor, and most recently publisher. Tuck offers a single long paragraph of biography and evaluation, then almost two full pages (and these are *big*, double-column pages) of bibliography, dealing with Wollheim's magazine stories briefly, then his books, and finally his anthologies, listing not only

every edition but the complete contents of each anthology. I don't know how many readers really will *care* about the title and author of each story in some minor anthology that Wollheim put together in 1959. But for those who do care, here's the info.

Wright, on the other hand, receives a single, rather short paragraph of biography and no bibliography at all. Yet, in my opinion, he was one of the most important (and most overlooked) editors in the history of fantastic literature. He took over *Weird Tales* from Edwin Baird in that magazine's second year of publication, and guided it through fifteen years of publishing an astonishing amount of memorable fantasy and science fiction.

But I'm quibbling.

The point here is that we have here in two volumes the most comprehensive reference work on the field of science fiction and fantasy as yet published.

And while volumes I and II are devoted to personal listings, I eagerly await volume III, which is to contain histories of the science fiction magazines and similar information. Since Tuck will be talking about editors and publishers, I hope that he will devote an appropriate amount of space to SF book publishers as well.

And then there will need to be those supplements. A major problem with the two volumes in print, is the cutoff date of 1968. I don't say this in any condemnatory sense—there *had* to be a cutoff date or the books could never have been published. But the fact that the information in the books is ten years old cries out for supplements. Perhaps there could be a ten-year supplement to bring the books up to 1978, and then annuals until enough time has elapsed to justify a general revision of the encyclopedia itself, incorporating ten or fifteen or twenty years' worth of updating material.

I don't know if Tuck will be willing or able to undertake this task, or whether Advent will be in a position to back it. I certainly hope so, though. Meanwhile, it seems to me that the two volumes presently available should be absolutely indispensable for any institutional library that claims to provide a research facility in science fiction. That's simply all there is to it: without these books, any such library is fatally flawed.

As for individual collectors, scholars, researchers or fans, \$50 for the two-volume set must represent quite a wallop. If the books are available through a library, you may wish to use that money for something else, like buying science fiction books instead of buying books *about* science fiction. But anyone who can afford the cost will be making a good investment in these books.