

Holmdel Science Fiction Discussion Group  
Club Notice - 7/10/81

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

(Unless otherwise stated, all Holmdel meetings are on Wednesdays at noon in room 4H-405.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
7/15/81	Game meeting: Alan Gopin and THE CREATURE THAT ATE SHEBOYGAN (HO 4A-406)
7/22/81	DRAGON'S EGG by Robert Forward in 4A-606 (HP: THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON by Robert Heinlein)
8/12/81	THE GODS THEMSELVES by Isaac Asimov in 4A-606

Our library is in HO 4B-510. Mike Lukacs (x4043) is librarian. Debi Bennett (HP 1B-368 x2408) is in charge of South Plainfield activities. Evelyn Leeper (HO 1E-321 x6334) is Club book-buyer. This notice publishes anything (not slanderous or libelous) submitted by club members. Members, feel free to submit.


1. Note that there will be a meeting on July 15 at which Alan Gopin will demonstrate THE CREATURE THAT ATE SHEBOYGAN and the game will be played. People wishing to participate and play the monster should be reminded that white wine is proper with skyscrapers but red wine is better with fleeing mobs and flame-throwing tanks.

2. Speaking of fleeing mobs, I might point out that there are still fair number of people who by accident or design (Heaven forbid!) have not reregistered. People with asterisks before their name on the label have not reregistered. If you really think you can do without the latest in club news, valuable information of what is happening in science fiction circles, incisive film and book reviews, and my sparkling humor, feel free not to reregister. But if these things are as valuable to you as they are to me, reregister and keep hoping. Maybe someday some of them will actually make it to the notice.

3. Also speaking of monsters eating people, this issue should have a review of DRAGONSLAYER.

4. Speaking of dragons, I rarely editorialize (in much more than a non-committal way) about upcoming books for discussion. I will however say that I have not heard anyone who did not like DRAGON'S EGG, our next discussion book. It is the kind of book that complete strangers, when they see you are reading it, will tell you they loved it. Even if you cannot make it to the discussion, borrow it from the library sometime and read it. Better yet, come to the discussion.

Mark Leeper  
HO 2B-515 x7093



## DRAGONSLAYER

A film review by Mark R. Leeper

It is difficult to find fault with DRAGONSLAYER. This little piece is nearly a perfect fantasy film. While arguably the basic plot line is familiar, there are more than enough plot twists to keep it consistently interesting. On top of that, it uses the special effects services of the same company that did the visual magic for STAR WARS, but this time in a very different setting. While DRAGONSLAYER does not contain a solid stream of effects like a STAR WARS film, it still has a fair share of the highest quality effects available.

The story of DRAGONSLAYER is a variation on the Sorcerer's Apprentice plot in which Galen, a young assistant wizard played by Peter MacNicol, must use the magical powers of his mentor, Ulrich (played well but too briefly by Ralph Richardson). There are enough plot twists early in the film that to tell much more in a review, even to outline the basic characters, would telegraph some of them.

Visually, the film is a marvel. The special effects that bring the dragon to life on the screen superbly integrate full-size models with stop-motion photography. The wizards who made the film do more than just make the dragon three-dimensional physically, they also make the dragon three-dimensional as a character. The dragon Vermithrax is more to the audience than just a monster, it has feelings and a life of its own. The script treats it as if it is a character, itself, with motivation beyond simple bloodlust. Granted Vermithrax is given little time for character development, but the dragon is a comprehensible, even sympathetic, creature. And not to slight the artists who created the dragon, visually it is also a marvel. The plot calls for a flying dragon, and I have rarely, if ever, seen depictions of flying dragons that look aerodynamically sound. Vermithrax looks every bit as aerodynamic as a bat, though perhaps it's flight seems a little too fast and powerful.

Fans of nothing but action films, however, should beware. There is more to good fantasy than action. There should also be atmosphere and, in very good fantasy, ideas. DRAGONSLAYER has all three, but creating an atmosphere and presenting ideas mean that the film cannot have the pace of a RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK, nor should it. This film has more than enough to recommend it without having constant action, and the thinking film-goer may well find this the most enjoyable and satisfying film fantasy since STAR WARS.

Holmdel Science Fiction Discussion Group  
Club Notice - 7/16/81

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

(Unless otherwise stated, all Holmdel meetings are on Wednesdays at noon. Rooms for meetings listed below.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
7/22/81	DRAGON'S EGG by Robert Forward in 4A-606 (HP: THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON by Robert Heinlein)
8/12/81	THE GODS THEMSELVES by Isaac Asimov in 4A-606
8/19/81	Game meeting: Alan Gopin and TRAVELLER (HO 2H-305)

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1. Discussion meetings coming up: Holmdel people will be discussing Robert Forward's DRAGON'S EGG. The novel examines a life form that is able to survive on a neutron star and whose life time scale is tremendously faster than that of humans. Forward combines in a single book old ideas from "Microcosmic God" to MISSION OF GRAVITY and at the same time adds many of his own. I was not the person who recommended this book for discussion, but I have to admit it is one of the most interesting sf novels to come out in quite a while. At HP the topic for discussion will be the novelette MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON by Robert Heinlein.

2. Reregistration seems to be going well. Since there is no mechanism during the year to find out who has left without telling us, the membership increases in size until reregistration time, then we lose a fair number of people from the membership list who may have left the company or lost interest. But each year when we do that we more than make up for those numbers with new members so that we seem to get larger each year. Right now we have about as many people as we had in the middle of last August and that assumes nobody else is going to reregister. As people get back from vacations we are getting four or five reregistrations a day.

As before, if there is an asterisk in front of your name on the label, you have not reregistered.

3. The game meeting went fairly well. There seems to be club interest in gaming so we will subscribe to ARES, the magazine of sf gaming, and will purchase TRAVELLER, the game which consistently is chosen as the best sf game available. It is a sort of science fiction version of Dungeons and Dragons.

Mark Leeper  
HO 2B-515 x7093

me1: Mon Jul 13 09:27:26 1981

BELL LABS SCIENCE FICTION DISCUSSION GROUP LIBRARY HOLDINGS (HOLMDEL)

FICTION BOOKS

AUTHOR [ED]	TITLE		
Anderson	3 Hearts & 3 Lions(2) The Earth Book of Stormgate Brainwave	Pohl	Jem Gateway Beyond the Blue Event Horizon The Space Merchants
Asimov	Foundation Foundation & empire Second Foundation The End of Eternity The Gods Themselves(2)	(with Kornbluth)	
Ballard	Chronopolis	Randall	Journey
Bester	The Stars My Destination	Reamy	Blind Voices
Brunner	Stand on Zanzibar	Saberhagen	Berserker
Busby	The Demu Trilogy	S.F.W.A.	The Science Fiction Hall of Fame VOLS. I,IIA,IIB (all three volumes stored after author Z)
Cherryh	Gate of Ivrel	Silverberg	Up The Line Lord Valentine's Castle Other Dimensions The New Atlantis
Clarke	The Faded Sun: Kesrith The Fountains of Paradise Childhood's End Imperial Earth	[ED] [ED]	
Compton	Farewell Earth's Bliss	Simak	City The Goblin Reservation
Coney	Rax	Stapledon	Last and First Men and Starmaker
Cooper	A Far Sunset	Tiptree(psd.A Sheldon)	Up The Walls of the World
DelRey(Judy-Lynn)[ED]	Stellar 1	Vance	The Eyes of the Overworld
Dick	Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said(2)	Varley	Titan Wizard
Dickson	Tactics of Mistake(2) Dorsail	Vinge	The Snow Queen(2-hardcover)
Ellison[ED]	Again, Dangerous Visions	Wilhelm	Where Late the Sweet Birds Sang
Endore	The Werewolf of Paris	Wilson	The Mind Parasites
Farmer	The Book of The Fabulous Riverboat To Your Scattered Bodies Go The Dark Design	Wylie	Gladiator
Finney	The Circus of Dr. Lao	Zelazny	Lord of Light
Forward	Dragon's Egg(2)		
Foster(Alan Dean)	Icerigger	PERIODICALS	
Foster(M.A.)	The Gameplayers of Zan(2)	TITLE	ISSUES
Godwin	The Masters of Solitude	-----	-----
Hamilton	The Best of Edmond Hamilton	Analog	12/76 3/80 5,6,7,8,11,12/80 1/5/81 3/2/81 3/30/81 4,5,6,7/81
Harrison	The Adventures of the Stainless Steel Rat	I.A.S.F.M.	1/80 10,11,12/80 1-8/81
Heinlein	Starship Troopers The Moon is a Harsh Mistress The Past Through Tomorrow	Cinefantastique	Vol.10#3,4 Vol.11#1,2
Herbert	Dune	S.F.Chronicle	9/80-->7/81 inclusive
Kneale	Quatermass and the Pit	APERIODICALS	
Laumer	Dinosaur Beach	-----	-----
LeGuin	The Dispossessed	TITLE	TIME SPAN COVERED
Lem	The Cyberiad	-----	-----
Lieber	Conjure Wife	S.F.D.G. Notice	8/78-->7/2/81 (hopefully) complete
MacLean	Missing Man	N.E.S.F.A. Instant Message & The Proper Boskonian	1979->81 Various - (probably) incomplete
Martin	Dying of the Light	Various convention reports and programs	1978->81
McCaffrey	Dragonflight Dragonquest The White Dragon	F&SF Book Company Catalogs	1980->1981
McIntyre	Dreamsnake	REFERENCE BOOKS	
McKillip	The Riddle-Master of Hed Heir of Sea and Fire Harpist in the Wind	-----	-----
Miller	A Canticle for Liebowitz	AUTHOR/EDITOR	TITLE
Moffit	The Jupiter Theft	-----	-----
Niven	Protector The Long Arm of Gil Hamilton The Ringworld Engineers The Mote in God's Eye	Ash	The Visual Encyclopedia of Science Fiction 1977
(with Pournelle)		Contento	Index to Science Fiction Anthologies and Collections 1978
		Nicholls	The Science Fiction Encyclopedia 1979
		Tuck	The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Vol.1: Who's Who, A-L Vol.2: Who's Who, M-Z 1978

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Bester	The Stars My Destination
Brunner	Stand on Zanzibar
Busby	The Demu Trilogy
Cherryh	Gate of Ivrel
Clarke	The Faded Sun: Kesrith The Fountains of Paradise Childhood's End Imperial Earth
Compton	Farewell Earth's Bliss
Coney	Rax
Cooper	A Far Sunset
DeiRey(Judy-Lynn)[ED]	Stellar 1
Dick	Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said(2)
Dickson	Tactics of Mistake(2) Dorsail
Ellison[ED]	Again, Dangerous Visions
Endore	The Werewolf of Paris
Farmer	The Book of The Fabulous Riverboat To Your Scattered Bodies Go The Dark Design
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Moffit	The Jupiter Theft
Niven	Protector The Long Arm of Gil Hamilton The Ringworld Engineers The Mote in God's Eye
(with Pournelle)	

Pohl	Jem Gateway Beyond the Blue Event Horizon The Space Merchants
(with Kornbluth)	
Randall	Journey
Reamy	Blind Voices
Saberhagen	Berserker
S.F.W.A.	The Science Fiction Hall of Fame VOLS. I,IIA,IIB (all three volumes stored after author Z)
Silverberg	Up The Line Lord Valentine's Castle Other Dimensions The New Atlantis
[ED] [ED]	
Simak	City The Goblin Reservation
Stapledon	Last and First Men and Starmaker
Tiptree(psd.A Sheldon)	Up The Walls of the World
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Varley	Titan Wizard
Vinge	The Snow Queen(2-1hardcover)
Wilhelm	Where Late the Sweet Birds Sang
Wilson	The Mind Parasites
Wylie	Gladiator
Zelazny	Lord of Light

PERIODICALS

TITLE	ISSUES
Analog	12/76 3/88 5,6,7,8,11,12/88 1/5/81 3/2/81 3/38/81 4,5,6,7/81
I.A.S.F.M.	1/88 18,11,12/88 1-8/81
Cinefantastique	Vol.18#3,4 Vol.11#1,2
S.F.Chronicle	9/88-->7/81 inclusive

APERIODICALS

TITLE	TIME SPAN COVERED
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F&SF Book Company Catalogs	1988->1981

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AUTHOR/EDITOR	TITLE	
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Tuck	The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Vol.1: Who's Who, A-L Vol.2: Who's Who, M-Z	1978