



ORANGE  
 COUNTY  
 SCIENCE  
 FICTION  
 ASSOCIATION

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THE  
**ORANGE**  
**PULP**



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THE ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

ISSUE #1 . VOL. 1, NO. 1, NOVEMBER 1986

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Publication rights for all submissions remain the property of the author or artist. Deadline for submissions for next issue of Orange Pulp, Jan. 10, 1987. Mail submissions to: Dave Silva, 19323 Andrada, Rowland Hgts., CA 91748

One year subscription fee \$1.50 for 6 issues. Mail to Bill Hilburn c/o Book Bin, 10720 Westminster Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92643. Or easier yet, give Bill the money at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: November 26, 1986, at 7:00. At Fullerton Savings, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile West off the Orange Freeway.

NO DECEMBER MEETING; Our traditional holiday break.

FIRST MEETING OF 1987, JANUARY 28th, 7:00.

NOVEMBER MEETING

November will be an open meeting. In other words...there is no scheduled programing. These are often some of our best meetings because we can have an all out, anything goes rap session.

JANUARY MEETING

In January, club member Jerry Benner will present slides, and other materials, about his extensive collection of science fiction, fantasy, and horror magazines.

1986 PAPERBACK MINI-CON

by Bill Hilburn

Our club's first annual Paperback Mini-Con was held Sunday, October 19th. About 90 customers paid admissions to purchase the materials offered by 16 dealers.

Authors Dean Knootz, Tim Powers, Jim Blaylock, and Joe Poyer were



on hand to sign copies of their books. in the stage area there were continuous videos, and Pat Ortega sketched out a painting

We lost \$108 due to heavy printing and postage costs to launch this event. However, comments from dealers, costumers, and club members, plus the experience gained, indicate an annual Mini-Con can be a successful fund raiser for our club.

I wish to thank all club members who contributed their time, talent, and energy to this event.



#### DISNEY MAKES OFFER ON ACKERMAN COLLECTION

At the West Coast Comic Club Art & Fantasy Show, Forry Ackerman revealed a home for his collection may have been found with the Disney Corp. The world's most famous collection (with an estimated value around \$6 million) may become part of a science fiction exhibition planned by Disney. The nature and location of the exhibit are not yet known, but Disney intends to add substantial material to the Ackerman collection. Of course, Forry would like it to stay in the Southern California area.

#### OCTOBER MEETING NEWS

Our special guest was Adrienne Martine-Barnes, "master costumer" and science fiction author. Prior to the meeting there was an informal



dinner at Coco's restaurant, which is diagonally across the street from Fullerton Savings and Loan. Bill Hilburn brought Adrienna as his guest and in all there were eight of us, including Rhondi Vilott, author of the "Dragon Tales" series. Dinner started about a quarter-to-six and provided a relaxed rap session prior to the meeting. Coco's has an early-bird special, (\$3.95 for many full course dinners) and it was convenient for just having coffee and desert and just walking over to the meeting.

Adrienne will be the chairlady for Westercon 40, next year in Oakland, over the 4th of July weekend. She was in this area to meet with the upcoming Westercon's guest of honor, Gregg Benford. To earn the title of "master costumer" you must win three prizes at Worldcon level competition. Adrienne won at Seattle in 1961, Discon in 1963, and at Nycon in 1967. Adrienne told us about her background and career in costuming, and of the problems and recent rule changes at the world class level. The new rules establishing novice, journeyman, and master classes are largely due to her political efforts, and has given all participants a fair opportunity to compete and win. After her talk we saw a video tape of the construction of the costumes that were her teams entry at the 1984 Worldcon, in Anaheim. The program ended with film of the actual presentation based on Tolkein's "The Silmarillion". I was at that masquerade and remember well what a beautiful presentation it was.

After the video Adrienne signed copies of her autobiographical book on costuming and her recent Ace science fiction novel "The Dragon Rises".

#### A SCANNER DARKLY: PHILIP K. DICK'S PERSONAL VISION OF ORANGE COUNTY

by Michael C. Peralta

The late Philip K. Dick was probably the most important and most talented science fiction writer to be closely associated with Orange County. Not only did he live in Santa Ana for many years, but many of his manuscripts, some unpublished, reside in the Special Collections Department of the California State University at Fullerton. Residents of Orange County could have seen him at the second annual John W. Campbell Memorial Award presentation, held at the same university in 1974. (He was to win this award the very next year for his novel "Flow My Tears, the Policeman Said".)

Dick's 1977 novel "A Scanner Darkly" takes place in Orange County in 1994, and his depiction of local geography is vivid and accurate. The story concerns addict and drug dealer Robert Arctor, who leads a double life as the pseudonymous "Fred", an undercover narcotics agent, whose identity is hidden by a futuristic, high-tech device known as a scramble suit. Arctor is hooked on Substance D, a fictional psychoactive called Death by users, because of its fatal consequences. This drug divides the addict's personality into two parts by separating



the left and right halves of the brain. When "Fred" is assigned to track down Arctor, the split in his identity reaches a tragic climax.

This book is one of Dick's finest works, by turns hilarious and heartbreaking. It is obviously based to some extent on his own unhappy experience with drug abuse, in particular his heavy use of amphetamines, which probably shortened his life and may have led to the strange mystical experiences of his last years, described in lightly fictionalized form in his novel "VALIS" (1980). As Dick says in his afterword to "A Scanner Darkly". "Drug misuse is not a disease, it is a decision, like the decision to step out in front of a moving car....in this particular life-style the motto is Be happy now because tomorrow you are dying, but the dying begins almost at once and the happiness is a memory."

Philip K. Dick was the master of science fiction dealing with the nature of reality, and much can be learned from his numerous fine novels and his short, often tragic life. When he died in 1982, he was just beginning to receive the recognition from the general public which he had earned for many years. (It is ironic that the release of "BLADE RUNNER," a film very loosely based on his 1968 novel "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?", should have led to this sudden surge of popularity.) It is only fitting that we, as Orange County residents, remember him as perhaps the finest writer of science fiction to ever live in this area.

### COLLECTOR'S CORNER

By Dave Silva

#### PROTECTING BOOKS FROM ACID DECAY

The Library of Congress estimates that 77,000 of its books were moved from an endangered state to the "brittle" category last year; brittle means damage may occur to to pages of the book if you read or handle it. Of course, they have a lot of books, nevertheless, this is indicative of the alarming scope of the problem everywhere.

The major cause of yellowing and decay in books is the acidity of the paper. As books became more popular, late in the last century, cheaper paper made from chemically treated wood pulp was needed for a growing market of readers. Before 1890 most paper was made from cotton, or linen rags, and were naturally low in acid. The chemicals used in modern book paper, particularly aluminum sulphate which keeps the ink from running, gradually combines with moisture to form sulfuric acid. The sulfuric acid breaks down the fibers in the paper and they become brittle and crumble. So, the Shakespeare first editions at the Huntington Library are holding up quite well, but your 1930's copy of Wonder Stories is rapidly deteriorating

People who are not collectors might say, "Its the job of libraries



to preserve books...and they can always put them on microfilm. So why worry?" True collectors are incapable of being that cavalier about their collection. In fact, collectors serve an essential role in preserving the past; whether their motives in keeping certain items from the city dump is totally selfish, or they are consciously saving a peice of human culture is immaterial. It is not necessarily the curator of a museum who is always the best judge of what is worth saving in his own society...it might be a kid with a bubble gum card collection. There are a lot of kids who just wouldn't listen when their parents told them to throw those awful comic books away.

One solution to acid decay is microfilm. Microfilm can be used to great advantage in surveying bulky reference materials and indexes; also, when books have become so brittle they cannot be read it may be the only choice. The problem with microfilm is that it is not the original item. It may cost you \$35-\$40 to microfilm a book...and if you're used to holding a book in you're hands its just not the same.

One of the cheapest ways of protecting books is to put them in plastic bags, which keeps out moisture from the air. Store them in a cool, dry place away from sunlight. I have aluminum foil taped over the windows of my library. This, however, will only slow the rate of decay, not stop it.

Some publishers, like Phantasia Press and Gregg Press, use acid-free paper, which costs a little more but elimanates the problem. Very few foreign publishers are currently using acid-free paper. Cultures vary in their attitudes concerning what needs to be preserved, and the worldwide problem requires a shared level of information and technology. Back in the 1970's the Library of Congress developed a process, using a pressure cooker and diethyl zinc gas, that impregnates books with an alkaline reserve that neutralizes any future acid that might form in the paper. The library has since developed much larger de-acidification chambers and is planning an \$11.5 million facility at Fort Detrick, Md., which will treat 15,000 books at a time, starting in 1990. As far as I know there are no commercial facilities providing this service to individuals, but this process seems to be the technology of the future.

**EDITOR'S NOTE-** We need book reviews and movie reviews for future issues. All you aspiring "Pulp" writers crank up your typewriter or word processor. I want the Orange Pulp to be a quality fanzine; hope you share that feeling.