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Editorial Matters

December is a quiet month. Nothing much seems to happen and it should have been a perfect time to catch up. Unfortunately, the whole world, including us, slows down in December, and January started with us as far behind as usual.

The last issue went out a week late because our printer closed before Christmas. We got calls and letters from people who were worried or annoyed they didn't get the magazine on their usual day. It's nice to feel wanted, but please wait next time. The post office works in uncertain ways. During December, it took an average of a week for first class mail to arrive from New York. One of our subscribers got his October issue in late December. We'll gladly replace second class issues if they're more than three weeks late and first class issues if they're more than a week late. Our average mailing date is the 24th of the month, with a three day leeway on both sides.

This issue is shorter than usual. The size is determined by the number of ads we get -- we add an extra page of text for each one over our minimum. We had fewer than usual (a common problem in January) and had to cut text. There were photo features on my October trips to Europe which are now too dated and will not appear. We had convention reports from various correspondents. We'll try to run some next issue, but others, including an interesting piece on Bouchercon, will have to stay unpublished. We have feature interviews on hand on David Brin, Katherine Kurtz, Dwight V. Swain and Howard Brown, and Barbara Hambly.

LOCUS POLL & SURVEY

Please return the poll and survey by April 1. We will give a free issue to subscribers of record, if you attempt to fill out both sides -- you don't have to nominate in all categories, but please don't leave everything blank. Photocopied forms are fine, and we'll count ballots from others who read your copy, but only one free copy per subscriber.

HUGO AWARDS

Last issue, we ran two letters urging readers to nominate and vote for Judy-

Lynn del Rey for the editor's Hugo. I certainly agree. The editor's Hugo has always been dominated by magazine editors even though others are eligible. Don Wollheim of DAW also belongs on the ballot, as does Lou Aronica for the marvelous job he's done at Bantam. There are also a number of outstanding editors of anthologies; see our recommended list for these. On the magazine side, Shawna McCarthy did a fine job in her last year at Asimov's and deserves a nomination.

As for other categories, I hope you vote for Locus. We think last year was our best year yet. Locus gets accused of unfairly dominating the semi-professional Hugo because of its circulation, which is higher than all the other nominees combined. Obviously, we think our circulation is high because we're the better magazine.

Unfortunately, I don't get to read much science fiction anymore. There just doesn't seem to be time. I start a lot of books, get distracted, and don't go back to them. I have to be caught up in the plot and ideas right away. My favorites last year were EON by Greg Bear and BETWEEN THE STROKES OF NIGHT by Charles Sheffield for ideas, FOOTBALL by Niwen and Pournelle as a page-turner, and THE CAT WHO WALKED THROUGH WALLS by Robert A. Heinlein for both. I've always been a sucker for Heinlein, and I guess I'm too old to change now.

CORRECTIONS

AFTER THE FLAMES, edited by Elizabeth Mitchell (Baen), was not an original anthology. The stories appeared earlier in magazines.

Rebecca Meluch complained bitterly that my offhand comment of "terrorists in space" on her book JERUSALEM FIRE proved I hadn't read it. She's right. I only glanced through it. I apologize for the cheap shot.

COLLATING

Mailing help was scarce last month -- it was the Friday after Christmas. Special thanks to Carol Day, Connie Buchanan, Ellen Leverenz, plus Carolyn, Faren, and Donna, for last-minute help. Proofreading was by Karen Haber.

--C.N. BROWN