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## Editorial Matters

I got my first look at the September issue after I came back from Australia. It was fine, and I have no complaints on how the staff handled it. The printer had some slowdowns because of vacations, and it went out on August 26 instead of August 22 as marked. This issue, in many ways, was more trouble. I got back from NASFiC tired and with some sort of flu, and writing was even harder than usual. Donna got sick during paste-up week, and relatively inexperienced Carolyn had to take over. She did fine. Visiting Locusphotoperson Jane Jewell was pressed into service as a production assistant. I'll be in Europe during the final work on next issue and have every confidence the staff can handle it. I probably won't call more than once a day.

### NEXT ISSUE

We tried to get the whole report on the Australian worldcon in this issue and didn't quite succeed. We'll definitely finish next issue, with reports from Jane Jewell, Elizabeth Anne Hull, and Amy Thomson, as well as my own thoughts and lots of photos. We might even have enough room to cover the Austin NASFiC. The various review columns will also be back.

### AUSTRALIA

I spent the better part of a week on the Great Barrier Reef being seduced by

coral. It was the first vacation I've taken in years, and I fell in love with snorkeling, reefs, etc. It was tempting to just lay out in the tropical sun and forget the convention, but duty called. I waved goodbye to the Reef, and it waved back!

Aussiecon will probably be known as the convention that covered a continent. There were fans on my flight to Hawaii, to Cairns, to Brisbane, to Melbourne, and on the trip home. I kept meeting familiar faces on the Barrier Reef, in restaurants, in museums, in bars, etc. My neighbor, Bob Silverberg, greeted me as I got out of the taxi at the Southern Cross Hotel. The Americans didn't really outnumber the 12 million Australians, but it seemed that way.

The convention itself was very familiar -- almost too familiar. In retrospect, it's obvious that the Australians wanted to see as many Americans as possible on the program, but it was still somewhat horrifying to be on the same panels with the same people I see at nearly every convention. We have tried to make up for this by reporting mostly on Australian items and running photos of Australians. The Americans should get their chance next issue.

(Continued on page 56)



THE EDITOR FEEDS WALLABIES WHILE AN EMU LOOKS ON