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Table of Contents

1986: Another Record Year for SF!	p.1	Moons & Stars & Stuff, Fritz Leiber	15
Book Summary		Small Wonders, Amy Thomson	15
Magazine Report		Locus Looks at More Books, Dan Chow	17
Recommended Reading		1986 Book Summary	22
Cinema Summary		Recommended Reading List	26
Tor Sold to St. Martin's	1	Magazine Summary	28
Editorial Matters	3	Magazines Received--December	30
Preliminary Nebula Ballot	4	Books Received--December	31
"Star Tours" Opens at Disneyland	4	British Books--November	36
The Data File	5	Classified Ads	40
Locus Letters	5	Bestseller Lists	44
Clarke Gives Nehru Lecture	5	Obituaries & Appreciations:	
Philip K. Dick Award Nominees	5	John D. MacDonald, R. Glenn Wright,	
World Fantasy Awards Judges	5	V.C. Andrews, Bill Maraschiello,	
People & Publishing	7	Lee Wright, William E. Barrett	45
Agent's Corner, Richard Curtis	9	Locus 1986 Index	48
Locus Looks at Books, Faren Miller	11	Appendix A: Obituaries	49
Locus Looks at More Books, Debbie Notkin	13	Appendix B: Book Reviews	49

Mailing date: January 24, 1987 ISSUE #313 • VOL. 20, NO. 2 • FEBRUARY 1987

Index to Ads

Ace	p.18	Harcourt Brace Jovanovich	33
Andrion Books	43	Houghton Mifflin	38
Avon	51,12	Locus	50
Baen	39,41	Locus Press	32
Bantam	8,14	NAL/Signet	20
Berkley	19	Popular Library/Questar	37
Classified Ads	40	SF International	30
DAW	10	Tor	2,52,insert
Del Rey	6,16,35		

Editorial Matters

It's *Locus* Poll and Survey time again. The ballot is in the centerfold. Please return by April 15, 1987 -- the same day you have to send in your income tax. We've added two categories to the poll this time around, all-time best sf and fantasy novels. We want items at least five years old, to give a sense of perspective to the list. As usual, we will give a free issue to subscribers of record when we count the ballots in late April. You have to at least make an attempt to vote in some categories on the poll as well as filling out the survey to qualify. Photocopied forms are fine, and we'll count ballots from second or third readers of your copy, but only one freebie per subscription. In other categories, please note that you should vote for an item only once. The only exception is that First Novels are also eligible as Best Sf or Fantasy Novels.

The word count for stories is the same as that for the Nebula and Hugo: novellas are over 17,500, novelettes are 7,500 to 17,500, and short stories are under 7,500. Counting is done by the method of assigning five characters and a space to each word, counting the number of words per column inch, and multiplying out. The Best Magazine category is open to professional, semi-professional, and fanzine titles. One exception. I think we've proved, often enough, how easy it is to win one's own poll. We won't count votes for *Locus*, so don't waste time voting for us. Send us some comments about the magazine instead. In Best Book Publisher, Putnam/Berkley/Ace is one publisher, as is Warner/Popular Library or Ballantine/Del Rey/Fawcett (but not with Random House because it's kept completely separate). DAW and NAL are separate companies even though they share advertising and distribution.

On the survey side, we've made a few changes, but not many. The main purpose of this side is comparison with past years, so we're reluctant to change the questions too much. We've added an essay question instead. We normally try to limit our letter column

to factual information, but we'd like to do a long column on general opinions. Please put comments and answers on a separate sheet of paper so they can be edited independent of the counting process.

We'd also like some letters on *Locus*. We can't guarantee to do much about complaints, especially if they require more time or more information gathering, but we do listen. If you're going to complain, try to come up with a solution. Various reader suggestions are responsible for the revamping of our general bestseller list, our photo caption and art credit method, our headline changes, and how we list books.

CORRECTIONS

We have a no corrections yet for last issue. Our eagle-eyed nit pickers apparently took off for the holiday season. We hope things will be back to normal next issue.

MAILING HELP

The January issue was delayed at the printer an extra day and we ended up getting it on Christmas Eve. Several people offered to come anyway, and we had help waiting for Santa from Russ Elliott, Miriam Rodstein, Dave Clark, Lisa Goldstein, and Doug Asherman. We didn't finish, of course. The next day I had invited five guests for Christmas dinner. I warned them we would have to finish the magazine first, but Carol Day Buchanan, her boyfriend Mel, and her two children, Aaron and Connie, showed up anyway. Miriam and Russ also came back, and we had a great Christmas. The magazine was mailed the next day.

NEW YEARS

The annual *Locus* New Year's Day party drew about 50 people including several east coasters. Patricia McKillip won the award for best socks with her Jackson Pollock tights, and Byron Preiss refused to remove his shoes. The lox, caviar, bagels, cream cheese, and cake disappeared completely. The white wine and cheese were mostly untouched. Is a major social change due for 1987? --C.N. Brown