

# LOCUS

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## Editorial Matters

Welcome to another giant issue of *Locus*. As usual, once we up to a larger size at least once, it becomes the norm within a couple of months. We're rapidly reaching the limits of saddle stitch binding and may be perfect one of these days -- unless we can find larger staples.

The main feature this month is Along Publisher's Row, a scheduling of the next six months in sf and fantasy books. Some of it is *very* tentative, and should not be taken as gospel. A lot of it was done over the telephone, so mistakes in spelling will probably occur. (For instance, *Bitter Gold Hearts*, a future fantasy/private eye novel by Glen Cook, became *Bitter Gold Harvest* recently.) We try to use the telephone as little as possible for specific book information. There are too many slips between voice, handwriting, and transcription. It's also part of the reason we won't take changes of address for subscribers over the telephone. We need a written COA for accuracy and to pass on to our computer service.

### PHOTOS

We've had some trouble with photographs in the last few issues. Some of them are printing problems, and we're working to correct these -- mostly dark "flat" (no highlights) reproductions. Other problems depend on the quality of the photographs we start with. Obviously, for news stories we take what we can get. Color photos tend to reproduce badly in black and white. They get fuzzier and darker. The SFRA photos last issue looked fine in color, but reproduced badly. The "Voices in the Wilderness" photo was blown up far too much and came out blurred. We can do better with color slides, but it's fairly expensive. Many authors, when they send us notes for "People In Publishing", send along photos also. This is appreciated, but the color ones are fairly

difficult to run -- skin tones turn to grey on black when reproduced in black and white. Also, printing on a web press -- the kind we use -- adds about 15% in contrast. The best photos to submit for use are black and white photos on soft paper.

### NEW LOCUS BOOK

The new *Locus* book finally went to the printer. In the classic small press tradition, it took twice as long and cost twice as much as we thought it would. The title was changed to *Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror: 1986* to reflect more accurately what the book is. It's a third again as long as the 1985 book, with a lot more information and better organization. It should be ready to ship in late September. As usual, there's a special pre-publication price. See the ad on page 51.

Our eventual goal is to have it ready each April. Two more years should get us on schedule. Meanwhile, we still plan to issue a 1984 volume to close the gap between our 1985 volume and Bill Contento's *Index to the Science Fiction Anthologies and Collections, 1978 to 1983*, for which, you will note, we've taken over distribution. The pre-1978 Contento Index is out of print.

### CLASSICS

The Best All-Time Novels lists last issue sparked straight sf talk at the last mailing party. The obvious question was, "How many of them have you read?" The answers were sometimes shocking. There were people who consider themselves sf readers, who admitted they read less than half of the list. Some had obviously read even less. We kept asking the question for the next two weeks. Those who had read most were the professionals -- mostly writers who also claimed they didn't have time to read any more. Worst read were the convention fans. Maybe

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