

# LOCUS

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## Table of Contents

World Fantasy Awards	1	The Media Scene, Frank M. Robinson	21
Frankfurt Book Fair	1	Locus Bulletin Board	23
Editorial Matters	3	Along Publishers' Row	26
Patrick Tilley: Mutants & Mysticism	4	Fantasycon XII	33
The Data File	4	NASFIC 1987: CactusCon	34
SF Grants Available	5	USSR Writers Union Conference	36
Jane Yolen: 25, 50, 100	5	Books Received—October	40
Clarion Anniversary	5	Magazines Received—October	46
Universe Continues	5	Convention Listings	47
People & Publishing	7	Statement of Ownership	54
Agent's Corner, Richard Curtis	9	British Books—September	56
Moons & Stars & Stuff, Fritz Leiber	11	Classified Ads	64
Locus Looks at Books, Faren Miller	13	Bestseller Lists	68
Locus Looks at More Books, Tom Whitmore	15	Obituaries: Donald Wandrei, Ron Smith, Richard Delap, Howard Pendray,	
Locus Looks at More Books, Dan Chow	17	Mary Beth Wheeler	70
Small Wonders, Amy Thomson	19		

ISSUE #323 VOL. 20, NO 12 DECEMBER 1987 Mailing Date: Dec. 1, 1987

## Index to Ads

Ace	32,61	Kerosina	60
Andron	44	Locus	74
Art of Communication	37	Locus Press	63,71
Avon	14	Magnum Opus Con	50
Baen	10,51,59	Phantasia Press	22
Bantam	6,12,20,53,55,57	Popular Library Questar	69
Classified Ads	64	Byron Preiss Productions	24,25
DAW	8	Texas A&M	43
Del Rey	16,38,39	Tor	insert,2,75,76
Harmony Books	58	Walker	52
Heinlein Collection	66		

## Editorial Matters

For the third time this year, welcome to the largest issue of *Locus* ever. At 76 pages plus a 6-page insert, we're coming even closer to the limits for saddle stitching and reasonably inexpensive printing and mailing costs. We've passed the point of being able to do mechanical paste-up in a reasonable amount of time. This issue, if we can solve one more problem, will be run completely on Pagemaker, a desktop publishing program. Unfortunately, "compatible" in computer talk or typesetting talk turns out to be a buzzword. The new type is supposed to be the same size or bigger than the old type, but it's slightly shorter and much wider instead. The program also gives us a little more room between lines. *Locus* used to be a mixture of 7 and 8 point type; now it's 8 and 9, and takes up 20% more space. On top of that, all of last year's computer equipment and programs are out of date, and this issue has been done almost entirely by 98-pound Pam, instead of our usual three people doing computer corrections and paste-up. As usual, all of it is taking longer, is more difficult, and much more expensive than it was supposed to be. There's no way to go back to the old system, so we have to keep going until it's all satisfactory again (then it will be time for the next major change). This discussion may seem to have too many minutiae about the inner workings of *Locus*, but it looms large for us.

We will most likely raise the price of *Locus* in April (for our 20th anniversary), unless there's a depression and we convert to apple selling instead. Subscriptions will be accepted

at current rates until March 15th only. We're announcing it this far in advance to give even our foreign sea mail subscribers a chance to renew. For those feeling flush, we still offer lifetime subscriptions at ten times the one-year rate. Foreign subscribers may find this of particular interest in these weak dollar days.

### THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

It's been interesting looking at international publishing this fall. I visited British publishers before and after worldcon, and then went to the Frankfurt Book Fair in October. I try to cover both places at least every other year. Two years ago, I combined the trips, and it proved exhausting. This year, I had almost enough time in between to get back on California time. I also took Carolyn Cushman with me to London and Ricia Mainhardt to Frankfurt, and dumped a lot of the organizing work on them. It helped to increase what we accomplished, but not the bank account. Europe has become very expensive in the last two years – even more than I thought last month. I charged most of the German trip before the stock market crash, and had to pay afterward with a deflated dollar.

Every time I make an overseas trip, I have to ask, is it worth it? American sf dominates the world market. Wouldn't it be better to save the money and wear and tear and just concentrate on the American market? I think that covering the world gives *Locus* (and me) a sense of proportion which helps the magazine, the sf field, and maybe even world understanding in

*Continued on page 74*