

other critical philosophical sf, the tendency being to regard this trilogy as allegory. Whatever one's opinion of this trilogy, there is little doubt that it is an unusual and important branch of philosophical sf writings in so far as the author attempted to produce a more cosmic and metaphysical brand of religion while still sticking to basic Christian principles.

(The second half of this article will be printed in next month's *SF News*.)

## Forthcoming RU Optional Books

(Available to all members of SFBC)

### THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

by J. G. Davies

'Professor J. G. Davies, who has the Cadbury Chair of Theology at Birmingham University, goes from the time of Jesus to the fifth century; well told and well illustrated.' *The Times*.

FEBRUARY EXTRA

30s, post free (elsewhere 50s)

Other titles from the *History of Religion* series, already available:

### EASTERN CHRISTENDOM

by Nicolas Zernov

'This magnificently produced and illustrated volume . . . perhaps no one is better equipped than Dr Zernov to write such a work.' *Church Times*.

AVAILABLE NOW

26s, post free (elsewhere 50s)

### ANGLICANISM IN HISTORY AND TODAY

by J. W. C. Wand

'This great book is likely to become a classic.' *Yorkshire Post*.

AVAILABLE NOW

26s, post free (elsewhere 50s)

### ASQUITH by Roy Jenkins

'This weighty and eloquent life is a masterpiece. It tells us all we need to know about the last of the classical premiers, the "last of the Romans", as he was called, and it does so by vividly reconstructing an era of exceptional interest and quality in British history.' *Punch*.

'A dramatic record of tremendous events—a social revolution, a constitutional crisis, a world war.' LADY VIOLET BONHAM CARTER in *The Times*.

FEBRUARY ADDITIONAL

32s, post free (elsewhere 45s)

## COUNT BOHEMOND

by Alfred Duggan

*The March CF Choice*

'Unostentatiously brilliant, completely absorbing.' *Daily Telegraph*.

ALFRED DUGGAN'S first book was *Knight with Armour*, describing the First Crusade as seen through the eyes of a young pilgrim born in England. In April 1964, after having made a unique contribution to historical writing with his novels and biographies and with his books for the young, Alfred Duggan died in his sixty-first year, at the height of his achievement. For the subject of his new novel, *Count Bohemond*, he had returned to the First Crusade, but to recount the career of a great Norman war leader—Bohemond I, Prince of Antioch, whose story begins in Apulia thirty-eight years earlier than *Knight with Armour*—up to the final accomplishment of the Crusade.

The key to the character of Bohemond, son of an adventurer, as Alfred Duggan re-creates him, is that he feared to be despised by Frankish lords. But chiefly because of his greater military skill he was accepted as an equal—in spite of the very strong class feelings among Norman families, none of them at that time as much as two hundred years old.

This is a fascinating story of battles with formidable enemies, of the complex of attitudes and motives among the by no means united Crusaders, and their relations with the Greeks, the Armenians and other problematical allies. That the campaign was never quite called off, that Antioch fell, that Jerusalem was liberated, becomes more and more extraordinary as the story takes hold of us.

Mr Evelyn Waugh has written an absorbing Preface to *Count Bohemond* which throws light on the author's work as a whole, with insights into his life and character. 'The books,' as Mr Waugh says, 'for those who love them, are habit forming. *Count Bohemond* will not disappoint.'

'The late Alfred Duggan had many gifts as a historical novelist. Deep scholarship displayed without pedantry, a communicable delight in story-telling, unobtrusive accuracy of detail. In objective description . . . heraldic honourmongering, mechanics of siege engines, the handling of battles . . . he always convinces. Himself a Catholic, he could survey the medieval papal supremacy with romanticism salted by irony. Most historical novels lack humour; Duggan's do not.' *Spectator*.

'One of the most confident, least confusing historical novels ever written.' *Sunday Times*.

8s, post free (elsewhere 21s)

## THE ICE SAINTS

by Frank Tuohy

*The January CF Choice*

'A whole landscape waiting for an explanation. . . .'

(THIS novel earned for Frank Tuohy the award of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize and the Faber Memorial Prize.)

'At a time when so many novelists are as busy collecting countries as small boys postage stamps, mercifully few have tried the current Eastern European scene. Frank Tuohy is one of the few to have used the setting successfully. *The Ice Saints* is far and away the best account of life in an Iron Curtain satellite country by a western European that I've read.' *Sunday Telegraph*.

'A distinguished and beautiful novel by one of the very best of our younger writers.' C. P. SNOW in the *Observer*.

8s, post free (elsewhere 21s)

### THIS MONTH'S RU OPTIONAL BOOKS

A: JOURNEY TOWARDS MUSIC by Victor Gollancz, 19s, post free (elsewhere 25s)

E: DEAREST CHILD edited by Roger Fulford, 30s, post free (elsewhere 42s)

S: A GENERAL HISTORY OF THE SCIENCES, Vol. II: The Beginnings of Modern Science, 75s, post free (elsewhere £6 6s)

### NEXT MONTH'S RU OPTIONAL BOOKS

A: MAX by Lord David Cecil, 35s, post free (elsewhere 50s)

D: THE WORLD OF ART LIBRARY: *Primitive Art* and *Masters of the Japanese Print*, 25s each, post free (elsewhere 35s each)

CF: THE ICE SAINTS by Frank Tuohy, 8s, post free (elsewhere 21s)

A = Additional; E = Extra; S = Supplementary  
D = Special; CF = Contemporary Fiction

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# science fiction news

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Selectors: John Carnell, Dr J. G. Porter

## A MAN OF DOUBLE DEED

by Leonard Daventry

*The January Choice*

LEONARD DAVENTRY is a new name in sf and in his first novel, *A Man of Double Deed*, he deals brilliantly with two different concepts: communication between telepaths and the fascinating possibilities of a composite mind.

The year is 2090. Earth has now recovered from atomic war and is again well populated, served by robots and other scientific devices. Claus Coman belong to a group of telepaths, known as 'keymen', who consider themselves the custodians of humanity. They are deeply concerned about current social and psychological trends—bands of youths are roaming the vast cities killing for no reason, and the suicide rate is high. Coman is sent by the group to the World Council to try to persuade a leading ideologist that a separate area—preferably extraterrestrial—should be set aside for all those displaying murderous or suicidal tendencies.

On his mission Coman encounters repeated opposition from the criminal underworld—his chief antagonist being Linnel, a female 'joker', or telepath, of limited perception, who uses every possible means to discover and defeat his purpose. As a result he has to be constantly on guard when probing the minds of others, lest his opponents are allowed to read his thoughts and, more important still, the stored information in his own mind.

'A new name in sf but one of which we shall hear much in years to come. This, his first novel, deals imaginatively with communications between telepaths and the intriguing possibilities of a composite mind. Gripping throughout, the story paints a vivid picture of a world of the future that is both inventive and alarming.' *Venture*.

'Leonard Daventry's interesting first novel. It takes as its twin pivots telepathy and a growing craze for murder and violence among the young. Claus Coman is a "keyman"—a telepath attached to an undercover guild which has banded together to keep an eye on events. A sort of Mensa with thought transference by the sound of it. Coman's job is to take any action necessary to ensure that the government sets up the "War Section" it is toying with—a closed-off area for teenagers convicted of murder and other undesirable habits. All this is complicated further by the fact that the two women Coman lives with in group marriage—Jonl and Sein—have problems of their own. Robotics, sex interest and strong-arming are major constituents of the recipe. Some details are attractively picked out—smoking, for example, has come under the same sort of loose prohibition as bootleg gin in the American thirties. But I should be very gloomy if I agreed with Daventry about the direction in which this sex business was heading: not even the Romans were quite as permissive as that.' *Discovery*.

7s (elsewhere 15s)

A new SFBC Optional in January. . . .

## AN ARTHUR C. CLARKE OMNIBUS

THREE of Clarke's most famous works have been gathered into this one volume: 'Childhood's End', the story of the last generation of men to inhabit the Earth; 'Prelude to Space', an impressive account of the launching of the first manned rocket to the Moon, and his first volume of short stories, 'Expedition to Earth'. It will cost 17s 6d, post free.

Our stock of SFBC Optionals is never large, so we will remind members to order *An Arthur C. Clarke Omnibus* as soon as possible.

17s 6d, post free (elsewhere 30s)

## CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN

From C. S., of Liverpool 17:

The recent correspondence in *SF News* reveals once again the dichotomy between the 'reactionary' and *avant-garde* elements in science fiction. I get the feeling that a great many readers are followers of the old 'Astounding' school. Anything by Heinlein, Van Vogt, etc., is permitted, but Ballard and other advocates of 'inner space' plus the sociological extrapolators are widely criticized. The whole debate raises the *raison d'être* of the selections. Are they simply to entertain, or can they be entertainment which also deepens our understanding? While Vonnegut, Ballard, etc., are not without their faults they are, in my obviously subjective opinion, better selections than Heinlein of the 1940's (infinitely more so than Heinlein of the 1960's!).

The whole controversy rests, I think, on the fact that certain readers are unwilling to appreciate or understand the newer writers and wish to remain in the safe, 'easy' womb of the old sf. The editors are being criticized for unorthodoxy but they are only reflecting the contemporary sf ethos. This whole issue has been reflected before in the magazines like *Zenith* and I am sure that the problem will remain as long as nostalgia lingers on.

From I. S., of New Barnet:

By all means issue anthologies of the more popular, or more prolific writers. But would they be reprints of works which SFBC has already recently published? If anthologies are to be issued, why not compile them yourselves? Or is this a matter of copyright?

Also, quite often since I joined SFBC, I have received books of which I already have a copy—a fairly new paperback edition. To answer A. J. N. of Crawley (*SF News*, No 100) on this point, I keep most science fiction paperbacks that I buy. Is it really worth 7s 6d (including post) to have delivered to me the same story that I can buy now from any decent bookshop for half that price? I do not, of course, include in this context paperbacks not now on general issue.

But the question boils down to this. Should this book club

### THIS MONTH'S SFBC CHOICE

**GREYBEARD by Brian Aldiss**

6s 6d (elsewhere 18s)

### NEXT MONTH'S SFBC CHOICE

**A MAN OF DOUBLE DEED by Leonard Daventry**

7s (elsewhere 15s)