

<table border="0"> <tr> <td valign="top"> <p>Volume 17, No. 2. Feb 2009</p> <p>ISSN 0314-6677; ABN 64-276-646-616</p> <h4>Introduction</h4> Editorial (copy below) "Wake Up, You Lot!": John Foyster as SF Critic - Bruce Gillespie
read an excerpt. <h4>John Foyster on J.G. Ballard</h4> Gabriel, Not Ghod Review of The Terminal Beach A Note on J.G. Ballard: Some Recent Short Stories Letters on Foyster's Attitude to Ballard (from James Blish and Michael Moorcock) A Note on J.G. Ballard: Three Novels - The Drowned World, The Burning World, The Crystal World J.G. Ballard Versus the Incredible Shrinking Publication The Fauve Thigs and Finagles of Mr B.: A Review of The Atrocity Exhibition Science Fiction Versus Life <h4>The John Foyster Funeral (Transcript)</h4> <p> <hr /> Editorial</p> <p>◆</p> <p>This issue of Science Fiction has a special focus on the work of Australian sf critic John Foyster (1941-2003).</p> <p>◆</p> <p>I like to think I knew John Foyster, yet as far as I can recall, I never actually met him. I have undoubtedly been in the same room as him (particularly during the 1985 Worldcon in Melbourne), but I don't think we ever spoke or shook hands. I knew him because we shared the belief that science fiction was important, and I knew him because he, like me, was reading and engaging with the fiction of J.G. Ballard.</p> <p>For me, Ballard's strange world of exoticism and deviant logic was emotionally and intellectually exciting ◆ but also puzzling, challenging, unsettling. These were the kinds of books that offered a rope-bridge of understanding across vast chasms ◆ but the understanding only became solid through discussion, questioning, conversation. So I talked about Ballard with my friend Terry Dowling (it's fair to say that Ballard and sf founded our friendship) and I engaged with Ballard through the reviews of John Foyster. (It's fair to say that my respect for the art and craft of book reviewing owes a very great deal to Foyster [and to long-time Sydney Morning Herald sf reviewer William Noonan].)</p> <p>This issue would never have come into existence without the help of Bruce Gillespie and Yvonne Rousseau, who helped to point me toward materials, photos, and various pieces of information I would have never uncovered alone. My gratitude to them is immense.</p> <p>I hope that for readers this issue will be the same journey of re-discovery and re-acquaintance (there's a difference◆) that it has been for me.</p> <p>- Van Ikin</p> </td> <td align="center" valign="top"> <p align="center"></p> <p align="center">Cover design and portrait by Dane Ikin</p> </td> </tr> </table>