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News From The **ROBERT J. SAWYER** Web Site

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Rob Sawyer Sweeps the Aurora Awards



Robert J. Sawyer receives the Best Novel Aurora Award from *Babylon 5* star Richard Biggs.

popular American science-fiction television series *Babylon 5*.

Starplex was also a Hugo and Nebula-award finalist, and earlier this year it won the Homer Award for Best Novel of the Year, voted on by the 30,000 members of the SF Forum on CompuServe.

"Peking Man" was written to honor the 100th anniversary of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. It reveals what really happened to the bones of *Sinanthropus pekinensis* – Peking Man – which disappeared during World War II. ◆



A new Aurora trophy was introduced this year. It has a black oval base with three rippling Lucite sheets rising from it, like curtains of northern lights. The middle sheet has a maple leaf etched into it. The trophy was designed by Toronto artist Edward A. Charpentier.

For the first time in the seventeen-year history of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards ("the Auroras"), the same author has won both the prize for Best English Novel of the Year and Best English Short Story of the Year.

Robert J. Sawyer won the Aurora Award for Best English Novel for *Starplex* (ISBN 0-441-00372-9), published in October 1996 by Ace Books, New York.

And Rob took the Aurora for Best English Short Story for "Peking Man," first published as the lead

story in the 1996 anthology *Dark Destiny III* (ISBN 1-56504-813-X), edited by Edward E. Kramer and published by White Wolf.

The Auroras were presented November First at a banquet in Toronto. Rob received the short-story award from Canadian actor Chris Wiggins, star of the TV series *Friday the 13th*.

The best novel award was presented to Rob jointly by actors Bruce Gray, star of *Traders*, the top-rated Canadian television drama, and Richard Biggs, who plays Dr. Stephen Franklin on the

SFWRITER.COM is published occasionally to spotlight news about Nebula Award-winning Canadian science-fiction writer **Robert J. Sawyer**. You can send e-mail to Rob at sawyer@sfwriter.com, or write to him at: Robert J. Sawyer • P.O. Box 911 • Promenade P.O. • 1 Promenade Circle • Thornhill, ON, Canada • L4J 8G7

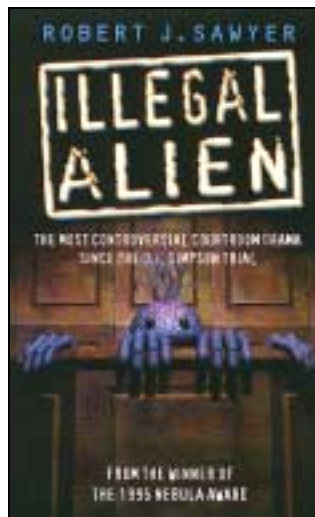
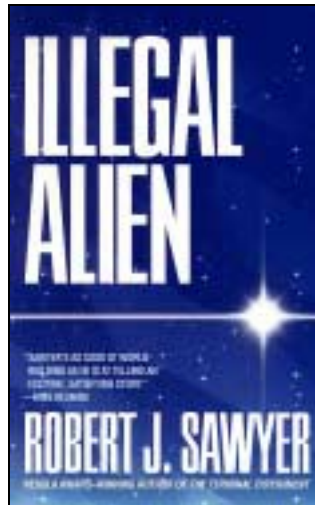
Gala launch party for *Illegal Alien*

A wine-and-cheese reception for Robert J. Sawyer's ninth novel, *Illegal Alien*, was held November 20, 1997, at Toronto's Bakka Books. Both *The CBC Evening News* and Canada's new SF-specialty service *Space* sent video crews to cover the event.

Illegal Alien is a courtroom drama with an extraterrestrial defendant. Ace published the North American edition (ISBN 0-441-00476-8) shown above; in January 1998, HarperCollins Voyager will issue the British edition (ISBN 0-00-648319-4) shown below.

Illegal Alien will be a March 1998 selection of the Science Fiction Book Club. The Easton Press is producing a signed, numbered, leather-bound edition of the novel, as well. ◆

**"Sawyer's novels – intelligent, literate, and immensely readable explorations of the biggest ideas there are – prove that science fiction is now literature."
– The Halifax Chronicle-Herald**



Rob on TV

Canadian television viewers will now be able to see Robert J. Sawyer every second week during prime time.

Rob is the resident futurist for "2020 Vision," a new segment on the nightly science-news TV program @discovery.ca, the flagship program of the Canadian version of **The Discovery Channel**.

Starting Friday, November 14, 1997, and every other Friday thereafter, Rob will take the role of a different person in the year A.D. 2020.

@discovery.ca co-host **Gillian Deacon** will interview Rob about life in the future.

In the first segment, Rob plays a man about to give birth – one of the first-ever male pregnancies; in the second, he's a SETI researcher on the eve of radio contact with aliens. Other segments will deal with ape civil rights, artificial intelligence, cold fusion, and more.

After the interview, Rob joins three other experts in studio – including *Scientific American* columnist **A. K. Dewdney** – for an in-depth roundtable discussion of the scientific and moral issues raised by the introductory interview segment.

@discovery.ca is the top-rated TV show on The Discovery Channel, which, in turn, is the highest-rated Canadian cable network.

The program airs weeknights at 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time, with repeats the next weekday at 8:00 a.m. and noon. ◆

Convention Guest of Honorships

Rob was or will be Guest of Honor at the following recent and upcoming science-fiction conventions:

- **ValleyCon 22**, Fargo, North Dakota, October 10-12, 1997.
- **Bubonicon 30**, Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 28-30, 1998.
- **Con*Cept '98**, Montreal, Quebec, October 2-4, 1998.
- **Disclave '99**, Washington, D.C., Memorial Day Weekend, 1999. ◆