

SCIENCE FICTION NEWS

No. 18

June 1970

CURRENT BOOKS

ANDERSON, Poul, 1926-

BEYOND THE BEYOND. Gollancz. 224 p. 30/- (1st Signet PB 1969) 6 stories: Memory; Brake; Day of Burning; The Sensitive Man; The Moonrakers; Starfog.

BEARNE, C. G. ed.

VORTEX: NEW SOVIET SCIENCE FICTION. McGibbon & Kee. 224 p. 30/- Not seen -- lot's hope it really does give us some new material.

BLACKBURN, John [Fenwick] 1923-

A SOUR APPLE TREE. Sphero. 156 p. PB 5/- (1st Secker 1958) A surprising revival. Blackburn wrote several thrillers tinged with SF; this is reminiscent of Slodmak's Donovan's Brain -- man made into a superhuman monstrosity.

BLISH, James [Benjamin] 1921-

CITIES IN FLIGHT. Avon (W187). 605 p. \$1.25. (contains They shall have Stars; A Life for the Stars; Earthman, come Home; and The Triumph of Time) A more or less connected series in magazines of the early 50's on the wacky concept of mobile cities in interstellar space, with two books added later.

Current Books

FARMER, Philip Jose, 1918-

LORD TYGLR. Doubleday. 335 p. \$5.95

FAST, Howard [Melvin] 1914-

The GENERAL ZAPPED AN ANGEL; New Stories of Fantasy and Science Fiction. Morrow. 159 p. \$4.95. Is this a joke? When do we laugh? The announcement seems genuine.

HALE, John

The PARADISE MAN, A Black and White Farco. Bobbs-Merrill. 221 p. \$5.00. Another of those sick jokes about racial warfare and stuff.

Reviews: Library Journal 15.1.70 p. 176;

Times Lit. Suppt. 9.10.69 p. 1145

HAMILTON, Edmond, 1905-

CAPTAIN FUTURE AND THE SPACE EMPEROR. Popular Lib. (60-2457) 128 p. PB 60c. (Lead story in the first issue of the unlamented magazine Captain Future, Win 1940, now resurrected with other adventures of the mislebound Captain. Someone must be reading these things)

HARRISON, Harry

The TECHNICOLOR TIME MACHINE. New English Lib. 142 p. PB 6/- (1st Doubleday 1967; Faber 1966; in Analog Mch-May 1967 as The Time-Machined Saga) Reviews: Amazing Oct 1967 p. 103; Analog Apr 1968 p. 162

HEINLEIN, Robert A[nson] 1907-

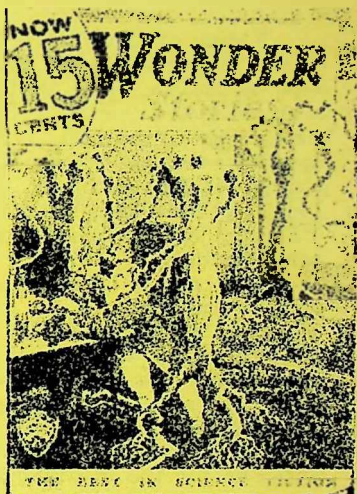
WALDO and MAGIC INCORPORATED. Signet (TAL42). 192 p. PB 75c. (1st Doubleday 1950; Pyramid PB 1966; Waldo in Astounding Aug 1942) Waldo is SF at least in part, though minor Heinlein.

LOOKING BACKWARD

June

1935

Cover by
Frank R. Paul
(who else?)



Cover story was Seeds from Space, by Laurence Manning, in which intelligent trees invaded Earth and were foiled by getting them drunk on manure. Perhaps the best of his Stranger Club series of yarns. Manning, long passed over, was a man of unusual talent who would stand reviving.

The issue also offered Weinbaum's Pygmalion's Spectacles, and Stirling Cramer's shuddery inter-dimensional Death from Within, still good reading.

FROM THE BO'SUN'S CHAIR

Vision of Tomorrow's format doesn't help its sales, that's for sure; you'll never find it except by accident when buying Playboy. But it has a pleasing look and feel in contrast to the gritty shoddyness of the field. True, the art work is appalling and the stories include some pretty sad stuff, but let's face it, all SF magazines are lousy and have been for a long time. No matter, Gillings' series is worth rummaging among the car magazines.

What really irks about this magazine, as it has with many others, is the fatuous editorials. They're a tradition in SF, but you have to go back to prewar days to match this standard. Feb's is a classic, beginning with the Important Announcement bit and not delivering it, continuing through the what peachy keen stuff we're printing and winding up with the write and reassure us routine. While as for the visiting holy man in Mch, naive persons went out with parrot jokes. Silence, please, less cackle and more editorial application.

One thing you can rely on, whenever something happens in SF so bad you can't imagine worse, be assured there is worse to come. You thought Galaxy couldn't look any worse, didn't you? But Mr. Jakobsson is smarter than you guessed, and knows new techniques for putting less text into the pages while simultaneously making them harder to look at. That line around the page and ruled off blank strip is on the border of insanity and genius. While that pictorial (right word? Then what other?) thing shows there's always something more hideous, illiterate and insulting: even worse than this will come in time.

- BETWEEN**, Waldo and Magic Incorporated contd.
 Magic Incorporated is an extended deadpan joke imagining medieval European superstitions to be literally true and hence witchcraft put to practical use in industry etc. today.
 Reviews: Astounding US Aug 1950 p. 146;
 N.Y. Times 19.2.50 p. 35
- HILL**, Douglas ed.
WINDOW ON THE FUTURE. Pan. 158 p. 5/- (1st Hart-Davis 1966) Seven stories, an unpretentious but worth while all-British selection.
- MOYLE**, Fred
OSSIAN'S RIDE. Heinemann. 252 p. 30/- (Reissue of 1959 ed. Also Harper 1959) Reviews: Library Journal 15.5.59 p. 1625; Manchester Guardian 19.6.59 p. 4; N.Y. Times 7.6.59 p. 27; New Yorker 9.5.59 p. 173; Saturday Review 4.7.59 p. 15; Spectator 29.5.59 p. 784
- LAUMER**, Keith, 1925-
NINE BY LAUMER. Sphere. 189 p. PB 5/- (1st Doubleday 1967; Faber 1968; Berkley PB 1969)
 Reviews: Library Journal 1.1.67; Analog Apr 1968 p. 161
- LEVIN**, Ira
THIS PERFECT DAY. Random. 309 p. \$6.95. The overpopulated, regimented future again.
 Reviews: Library Journal 15.2.70 p. 684; N.Y. Times 22.2.70 p. 46; Newsweek 16.3.70 p. 109; Time 2.3.70 p. 78
- MOORCOCK**, Michael ed.
BEST S.F. STORIES FROM NEW WORLDS, 6. Panther. 176 p. PB 5/-
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Current Books

NIVEN, Larry

A GIFT FROM EARTH. Walker. 254 p. \$4.95 (1st Ballantine PB 1968; Macdonald 1969. In If Feb-Apr 1968 as Slowboat Cargo) Reviews: Analog Mch 1969 p. 173; Galaxy Apr 1969 p. 119; Sydney Morning Herald 31.1.70 p. 19

NOLAN, William F. ed.

A SEA OF SPACE. Bantam (H4590). 195 p. PB 60c. 13 stories.

PLATT, Charles

The CITY DWELLERS. Sidgwick. 189 p. 25/-

POHL, Frederik and WILLIAMSON, Jack

ROGUE STAR. Ballantine (01797). 213 p. PB 75c.

RACKHAM, John

DANGER FROM VEGA. Dobson. 149 p. 21/- (1st Ace 1966)

RICHMOND, Walt and Leigh

GALLAGHER'S GLACIER b/w POSITIVE CHARGE [3 stories]. Ace (27235). 106, 148 p. PB 75c.

ROBERTS, Keith

The INNER WHEEL. Hart-Davis. 203 p. 25/-

SPINRAD, Norman

BUG JACK BARRON. Macdonald. 327 p. 30/- (1st Walker 1969; Avon PB 1969. In New Worlds, abridged, nos. 178-183) Reviews: Amazing Nov 1969 p. 117; Analog Nov 1969 p. 166; Fantastic Dec 1969 p. 137; Galaxy Aug 1969 p. 2; If Sep 1969 p. 113

STABLEFORD, Brian

The BLIND WORM. Sidgwick. 192 p. 25/-

VONNEGUT, Kurt, 1927-

CAT'S GRABBE. Dell (1149). 191 p. PB 95c.
 Reissue of 1965 ed. (1st Holt 1963; Gollancz
 1963; Delta 1964). Reviews: Analog Nov 1963;
 F&SF Sep 1963; Galaxy Ag 1963; New Worlds 135

WILLIAMS, Robert Moore, 1907-

BEACHHEAD PLANET. Dell (0462). 190 p. PB 50c.

WILLIAMS-ELLIS, Anabel and OWEN, Mably, eds.

OUT OF THIS WORLD, 8. Blackie. 3-187 p. 17/-

ZELAZNY, Roger ed.

NEBULA AWARD STORIES, 3. Pocket Books. 193 p.
 PB 75c. (1st Doubleday 1968; Gollancz 1968)
 Reviews: Analog July 1969 p. 164; Galaxy May
 1969 p. 137



F. M. FORSTER, 1879-1970

Edward Morgan Forster, whose death on June 7 was noted, is principally known for A Passage to India, which many of us had to read for exams at some stage. He wrote one notable SF story as well, though, The Machine Stops. In various collections, the latest Knight's Cities of Wonder, it first appeared in the late 20's (in his The Eternal Moment, 1928, perhaps earlier) and set a pattern for the overprotective automated city. Still one of the best versions of the concept.

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