

SCIENCE FICTION NEWS

No. 25

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CURRENT SCIENCE FICTION BOOKS

ALLEN, Henry Wilson

GENESIS FIVE. Pyramid (T2162) 1970. 190 p. PB
75 c. (1st Morrow 1968)

Review: Analog Jan 1971 p. 168

ANDERSON, Poul [William] 1926-

TAU ZERO. Doubleday 1970. 208 p. HC \$4.95

(Short version in Galaxy June-Aug 1967 as To
Outlive Eternity) Review: Analog Jan 1971 p. 167

--- and DICKSON, Gordon R[upert] 1923-

EARTHMAN'S BURDEN. Avon (Camelot ZS 166) 1970.
188 p. PB 60c. (1st Gnome 1957) Humorous shorts
about a humanoid race imitating Earth's cult-
ure as they misunderstand it.

ANTHONY, Piers [i.e. Piers Anthony Dillingham
Jacob] 1934-

SOS THE ROPE. Faber 1970. 157 p. HC 28/-
(1st Pyramid 1968) Rev. Analog June 1969 p. 163

APPEL, Benjamin ed.

The FANTASTIC MIRROR: Science Fiction across
the Ages. Pantheon 1970. 145 p. HC \$3.95. An-
other collection of shorts and extracts, mainly
19th Century, with all the usual hardy peren-
nials. The work of Knight, Moskowitz, Derleth,

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Green, Franklin and the rest has, without exhausting the field of pre-Gernsback SF, created a popular image or mythos of it which is likely enough to endure without constant reinforcement from hack work like this. We can do without ridiculous titles, too. Perhaps the most unwelcome feature of this book is that it is promoted as a juvenile.

Reviews: Analog Sep 1970 p. 166; Scientific American Dec 1970 p. 123

BLUM, Ralph

The SIMULTANEOUS MAN. Little, Brown 1970.
238 p. HC \$5.95. Review: Analog Jan 1971 p.165

BRADBURY, Ray [mond Douglas] 1920-

I SING THE BODY ELECTRIC. Bantam (N5752) 1971.
(1st Knopf 1969) 17 stories. Those of interest are: I sing the Body Electric; The Kilimanjaro Device; Downwind from Gettysburg; Lost City of Mars; Night Call, Collect; Henry the Ninth; Tomorrow's Child [originally The Shape of Things].

BRADLEY, Marion Zimmer

The WINDS OF DARKOVER

b/w RACKHAM, John

The ANYTHING TREE. Ace (89250) 1970. 139;114 p.
PB 75c.

BULMER, Kenneth, 1921-

STAR TROVE. Hale 1970. 192 p. HC 21/-

CLARKE, Arthur C[harles] 1917-

The DEEP RANGE. Pan 1970. 204 p. PB 5/- (1st
Harcourt, F. Muller 1957; Signet PB 1964;

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Clarke. The Deep Range. contd.

Gollancz 1968; Harcourt PB 1969. In German as
In den Tiefen des Meeres)

Reviews: Astounding US Sep 1957, Br. Jan
1958; Galaxy US Oct 1957, Br. No. 57; Mag of
F&SF June 1957; SF News 1st series 19;
Library Journal 15 Mch 1957 p. 750; Christ-
ian Science Monitor 11 Apr 1957 p. 13; N.Y.
Herald Tribune 12 May 1957 p. 36; Spectator
20 Sep 1957 p. 376

CONQUEST, Robert, 1917-

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE. Sphere 1970. 7-192 p.
PB 5/- (Despite two statements that this is
a first edition, published by Ward Lock, HC
1955, PB 1956)

DAVIS, Brian ed.

The OLD MASTERS. New English Lib. (2759)
1970. 9-128 p. PB 5/-. Eleven stories from
the 40's and 50's, some over-familiar.

DeMEY CLOW, Martha

STARBREED. Ballantine 1970. 220 p. PB 75c.

FINNEY, Jack

TIME AND AGAIN. Simon & Schuster 1970. 399 p.
HC \$7.95. A marginal item -- time travel by
effort of will, developing the theme of nost-
algic time travel Finney has frequently worked
over in shorts. Here 19th Century New York,
with numerous atmospheric illustrations.

Review: Analog Feb 1971 p. 166

FRIEBERG, Gertrude

The REVOLVING BOY. Pen 1970. 188 p. PB 5/-
(1st Doubleday 1966) Reviews: Analog June 1967
p. 166; Library Journal 1 June 1966 p. 2886

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R E V I E W S

NOAH 2
by Roger Dixon

Ace PB (58250)
5-288 p. 75c

The jacket blurb reads: "Soon to be a major motion picture." Basil Bova plus Dixon originated this story idea, a futuristic variant of a Biblical theme. Dixon solo has fleshed it out into a two-book ("Genesis" and "Exodus") extravaganza, which bends over backwards to eclipse 2001.

"Genesis" introduces Preston, alias Noah 2, born into an era when machines, created as servants by his forebears, have become benevolent despots. Under their surveillance human infants are reared in "communities". Denied any activity other than the exploration of pleasure they prepare themselves for adulthood and the "ultimate happiness" which, if I get the message streight, means immobilisation and connection for life to an ecstasy-producing circuit.

Preston, a difficult child, rocks the boat. He elects to explore pleasure through knowledge, and demands books. At 17 he is forced to flee the Community or risk premature promotion to electric bliss. He escapes with his beautiful companion, Sarah. Together these innocents-abroad-in-the-world-of-Nature discover the joys and hazards of fending for themselves. This segment closes with the birth of their son, and Preston's first encounter with Vicro, a mystical messenger from space.

Time now moves on 30 years. The influence of the machines has dwindled. Preston, Sarah, their three sons (Jem, Ham and Jacy), two daughters-in-law and band of 10,000 chosen are preparing to leave Earth. Vicro has announced that

drought will make the world untenable. Material sufficient to build 20 space ships will be provided to enable true believers to seek another home in space. The alarms and excursions that bedevil the completion of this fleet take up the rest of Part 1. At its finish, the ungodly are left to fry and, all principals intact, the space voyagers (including 1,000 animals) take off for the unknown.

"Exodus" is the mixture as before, except that the various crises are acted out against a backdrop of "hyperspace". It would be less than fair to tell who finally gets through it all unscathed, or reveal the mystery planet where the saga ends.

I personally find this book irritating; its science unconvincing and its metaphysics muddled. But it does have plenty of action. Scene after scene is obviously designed for camera and could come across superbly. It may well be that in the hands of an imaginative director Noah 2 will acquire a stylishness and significance not apparent in its written form. Here's hoping. In the meantime why not read it? And take me up if you think I'm wrong.

-- Angus Gordon

The COMMUNIPATHS by Suzette Hadon Elgin b/w
 The NOBLEST EXPERIMENT IN THE GALAXY by Louis
 Trimble. Ace Double (11560) PB
 5-110,5-143 p. 75c

The Communipaths centres round a group of Maklunites, flower-type humans, who had their origins on Earth, but now inhabit the farther galaxies. From their ranks come a high proportion of the above-normal telepaths who must be handed over at birth to man the protective network of the

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Tri-Galactic Federation. Anne-Charlotte, mother of one such child, attempts to buck the system. She hides her baby. When its own powers betray its whereabouts it is siezed by Fedrobots. Her anguished attempts to get it back drive her into insanity and threaten destruction to all concerned.

Suzette Elgin produces some good emotive writing, but her overall effort is marred by misplaced emphasis: too much build-up for a crisis that fails to generate sufficient steam.

The Noblest Experiment in the Galaxy. A Jaunty exercise in one-upmanship between spy and counter-spy. This adheres to a SF format which obviously has an enthusiastic following since it's so often reproduced. A "selective atomic disintegrator" is hijacked. Who has it? Where are they? Is the Intra-Galactic Federation doomed? Zeno, a simple soul who loves computers, is programmed to find out. This involves assuming the dual identity of "gentryed citizen" of an artificially created "Wooten, Dorset": amidst anachronistic Victorian surroundings he finds an ally in Chloe, an attractive agent from Jondee.

While the Victorian bit seems to have little point, other than to make it possible for the female agents to transmit messages through their (electronic) stays, Trimble provides pace, action and a neatly packaged end. By all means read this, if it happens to be your thing.

-- Angus Gordon

The BANTAM STORY; Twenty-five years
of paperback publishing
by Clarence Petersen

Bantam PE
118 p.

Bantam, as one of the oldest
and most versatile and successful of modern paper-

pack publishers, is certainly an inviting subject for a book. But, alas, you can't really write the history of a great commercial enterprise, not while those involved are mostly still alive, certainly not in a book which it is sponsoring. So while Petersen's account is lively and interesting, with many facts we didn't know before, valuable insights into the world of publishing and details of beginnings and trends, it doesn't answer a lot of questions, and naturally it is richer in successes than failures. Inexcusably, there is no index.

Nevertheless, there is so little written at all about publishing that it is good to see it.

One irritating defect is that from this book no one would suspect that ~~Bantam~~ Bantam is a significant name in science fiction publishing. I noticed four passing references to SF books in relation to some incidental point (Bradbury's *The Illustrated Man* as an example of a book given a type of cover for instance), and one other mention of SF in a discussion of film versions of books.

-- G.S.

TWENTIETH CENTURY DISCOVERY
by Isaac Asimov

Ace PB (83225)
7-159 p. 60c

Anything by Dr. Asimov can be recommended for its intended audience, but this is not always us. This is a juvenile popularisation of the modern history and general position in five fields: pesticides, the origin of life, fundamental particles, planetary observations and space flight, all of it familiar from many other sources, the last ending with Apollo 8. For once, a book that seems to fill no gap.

-- G.S.

LOOKING BACKWARD

January was the occasion of some interesting first issues of magazines. *Amazing Stories Quarterly*, Winter 1928, an inch thick quarto stiffly priced for the time at 50 cents; what would that equal in real value in today's currency? Several dollars surely. Less value than the monthly *Amazing* with its two thirds the wordage for 25c, but good measure with a long novel and half a dozen substantial short stories an issue. The first featured Wells' *When the Sleeper Wakes*, the full original version with copies of the appealing illustrations by H. Lanos from the original serialisation in *The Graphic*, beginning also in January, 7.1.1899. Also in the issue were *The Moon of Doom*, a disaster story as long as many modern books, by Earl L. Bell, and others.

Astounding Stories of Super Science, January 1930. An untrimmed magazine, first in SF in the usual old pulp size of 10" x 7", unabashed blood and thunder and considered by readers of the day to lower the tone of SF. (As *Analog* it still does in another fashion.)

Scientific Detective Monthly, 1930. The idea of hybridising SF and the whodunit was old even then, dating from Poe's era, but this was the first and only attempt to base a magazine on it. Soon changing to *Amazing Detective Tales*, it didn't see the year out.

Vargo Statten Science Fiction Magazine, 1954. John Russell Foarn was going strong then and set the tone of the magazine. Shall we say that it wasn't many serious readers' cup of tea? But it had points of interest.

Science Fiction Fortnightly, 1951. After changes *Authentic SF Monthly*. A bad start indeed to an erratic, individual magazine lasting 85 issues. Its successive editors tried hard, part-

icularly Hubert J. Campbell,

Venture Science Fiction, 1957. Hard to say what this magazine's special quality was, in retrospect, but at the time it seemed to have one. One aspect that brought some complaints was an occasional tendency to exploit sexual sadism, or so it was alleged. Of course, standards have changed rapidly since then. Lead novel in the first issue was Anderson's *Virgin Planet*.

First appearances of authors in January were numerous. For instance:

William F. Temple. *Lunar Lilliput*, *Tales of Wonder* no. 2, 1938. Rocket amateurs build a spaceship, make the first Moon trip and meet midgets.

Philip Latham (Robert S. Richardson). *N Day*, *Astounding*, 1946. Earth ends with Solar nova.

Cordwainer Smith. *Scanners Live in Vain*, *Fantasy Book* no. 6, 1950. An odd story that was a sensation at the time. Smith was not heard from again for nearly six years and enjoyed a longer period as a mystery man.

James MacCreigh (Frederik Pohl). *Dweller in the Ice*, *Super Science*, 1941.

Walter M. Miller Jr. *Secret of the Death Dome*, *Amazing*, 1951.

Frank M. Robinson. Two stories. *The Reluctant Heroes*, *Galaxy*, and *Situation Thirty*, *Astounding*, 1951.

James White. *Assisted Passage*, *New Worlds*, 1953.

R. A. Lafferty. *Day of the Glacier*, *Original Science Fiction Stories*, 1960

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GILMAN, Robert [i.e. Alfredo José de Marini y
Coppel Jr.] 1921-
The REBEL OF RHADA. Gollancz 1970. 192 p. HC
20/- (1st Harcourt 1968; Ace PB 1969) Begin-
ning a loosely connected series.
Review: Analog Jan 1969 p. 166

HARTRIDGE, Jon
EARTEJACKET. Macdonald 1970. 182 p. HC 30/-

HASSLER, Kenneth W.
DESTINATION: TERRA. Lenox Hill Press 1970.
192 p. HC \$3.95

HOFFMAN, Lee
The CAVES OF KARST. Dobson. 1970. 224 p. HC
30/- (1st Ballantine 1969)
Review: Amazing Nov 1969 p. 116

KNIGHT, Damon [Francis] 1922- ed.
A CENTURY OF GREAT SHORT SCIENCE FICTION
NOVELS. Mayflower 1970. Pages unnumbered. PB
A95c. Contents: R. L. Stevenson. The Strange
Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde -- R. A. Hein-
lein. Gulf -- T. L. Sherred. E for Effort --
R. McKenna. Hunter, come Home -- K. Capek. The
Absolute at Large. The last at any rate is
abridged. The Delacorte ed. of 1964 also in-
cluded Wells' The Invisible Man. Knight adds
a short note on each item. There seems little
point in a collection like this, all familiar
and easily available elsewhere.

LAUMER, Keith, 1925-
CATASTROPHE PLANET. Dobson 1970. 158 p. HC
21/- (1st Berkley Medallion PB 1966)

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LEVIN, Ira

THIS PERFECT DAY. Random 1970. 309 p. HC
\$6.95. Review: Analog Sep 1970 p. 164

LIGHTNER, A. M.

The DAY OF THE DRONES. Bantam (S5567) 1970.
3-213 p. PB 75c. (1st Norton 1969) Juvenile.
Review: Analog Oct 1969 p. 175

LYMINGTON, John

TEN MILLION YEARS TO FRIDAY. Doubleday 1970.
203 p. HC \$4.50 (Title almost certainly an
error in the editorial process: "ten billion"
or perhaps "two billion" was probably meant --
"ten million" in context is nonsense)
Review: Analog Sep 1970 p. 164

MOORCOCK, Michael [John] 1939-

BEHOLD THE MAN. Avon (V2333) 1970. 160 p. PB
75c. Marginal interest -- once again the time
travel paradox of the time traveller becoming
a historic character, this time Jesus.
Review: Analog Jan 1971 p. 169

NORTON, Andre [i.e. Alice Mary Norton] 1912-

ICE CROWN. Viking 1970. 256 p. HC \$4.75.
Juvenile. Review: Analog Jan 1971 p. 166

-- SARGASSO OF SPACE. Gollancz 1970. 191 p. HC
20/- (1st Gnome 1955; Ace PB 1964 signed
Andrew North. In German as Die Raumschiff-
Falle) Review: Galaxy Feb 1956. Juvenile.

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