

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW

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FEATURE SELECTION

BEYOND THIS HORIZON, by Robert A. Heinlein. Signet, N.Y. D2539, 1964. 158 pp. 50¢

This 1942 novel is set on Earth about three hundred years in the future. It is an Earth after the Second Genetic War; all humans born are the result of the best possible genes the selectors could find in their particular parents. The hero is a culmination of a long line of genetic planning—but he has one decided anti-survival characteristic: he sees no point in human existence.

BEYOND THIS HORIZON is not outstanding for any specific concepts; rather, it is one of the most rounded, fully developed future societies so far extrapolated in science fiction. The characters fit into their environment down to the smallest details; every factor is an integral part of the whole, and there are no gaps in the fabric of the society.

Not outstanding, perhaps—but certainly very good.

NOVEL - 4
—The Editor

THE DAY THEY INVADED NEW YORK, by Irwin Lewis. Avon, N.Y. G1227, 1964. 160 pp. 50¢

The fact that the essence of this novel appeared in Analog for August, 1963, as a 5,000-word short story does not make it science fiction. Nor does the fact that on the cover the publisher calls it "a terrifying science fiction novel." It concerns a plot by somebody to cause chaos in the City by distributing over-large subway tokens and by turning all the traffic lights green. The short-story version was better.

—The Editor

THE CITIES IN FLIGHT (OKIE) SERIES

James Blish's "Cities in Flight" tetralogy rivals science fiction's other great series for scope of concept and action. The following list of the appearances of the stories in the series is by chronological order within the series rather than by publishing date.

THEY SHALL HAVE STARS: Faber & Faber, London, 1956; Avon, New York, 1957 (as YEAR 2018!) (revised and slightly expanded); most of the book appeared as "Bridge" and "At Death's End," Astounding Science Fiction, February, 1952, and May, 1954, respectively.

A LIFE FOR THE STARS: Analog, September and October, 1962; Putnam's, New York, 1962; Avon, New York, 1962.

EARTHMAN, COME HOME: Putnam's, New York, 1955; Faber & Faber, London, 1956; Science Fiction Book Club, Garden City, New York, 1956; Avon, New York, 1958 (abridged); novelized from: "Okie," ASF, April, 1950; "Bindlestiff," ASF, December, 1950; "Sargasso of Lost Cities," Two Complete Science-Adventure Books, #8, Spring, 1953; and "Earthman, Come Home," ASF, November, 1953.

THE TRIUMPH OF TIME: Avon, New York, 1958; Faber & Faber, London, 1959 (as A CLASH OF CYMBALS).

For a brief discussion of some of the background concepts of the Okie culture, see "Universe of Ideas: 2" in the previous issue.

The Faber & Faber hardcover volumes contain the author's final text.

—The Editor

SFR STORY RATINGS

Story category Length in words	SHORT STORIES (up to 9,000)	NOVELETS (10-18,000)	NOVELLAS (19-39,000)	NOVELS (40,000+)
Worth buying	a-b	A-C	I-IV	1-5
Worth reading	c-d	D-E	V-VI	6-7
Not recommended	e-g	F-H	VII-IX	8-10

The rating designates how well the story is liked. Serials are not rated until the review of the final installment. Collections, anthologies, and non-science fiction are not rated. "Worth buying" means that the story, by itself, is worth buying a magazine or book for. Several stories "worth reading" often make a magazine or book worth buying. For a detailed discussion of the rating system, see SFR #7.

MAGAZINE REVIEWS by Dean M. Sandin

Serials are not rated until the review of the final installment. Non-science fiction is not rated.

Galaxy, October, 1964. 194 pp. 50¢
(3/7)

Fantasy and Science Fiction, October, 1964. 130 pp. 40¢ (2/10)

This is Fantasy and Science Fiction's all-star issue, containing such big-name authors as Edmond Hamilton and Leigh Brackett—the two guests of honor at this year's World Science Fiction Convention—and Damon Knight. And this issue marks F&SF's fifteenth anniversary.

As it happens, the two best stories are by none of the above three authors. Instead, they are:

"Little Anton," by R. Bretnor.

This is a humorous story, but the overly silly situation almost hurts it as much as it helps the humor. It is one in Bretnor's series about Papa Schimmelhorn, an eighty-year-old fellow who acts sixty years younger and who is quite a genius in his own strange way. Here, Schimmelhorn becomes involved with a secret Navy device that foreign spies are after. He is helped by Little Anton, his grandnephew (or something like that) from Switzerland. This teenage prodigy happens to be able to see around, and handle, objects through some other dimension.

NOVELET - E

"In What Cavern of the Deep," by Robert F. Young. David Stuart marries a girl who ten years before was found washed up on the beach, apparently an amnesia victim about ten years old. That she is not exactly human becomes evident as she begins to grow and grow—and grow. She soon reaches titanic size; the justification for it is pretty thin, making this fair novella fantasy.

All those who read and liked Gordon R. Dickson's absorbing serial, "Dorsai!" (3) in Astounding (THE GENETIC GENERAL in paperback) should be glad to see his new novella, "Soldier, Ask Not." It is set during a part of "Dorsai!"'s time-span and even has a couple of the same characters. The novel was actually two stories. Besides telling of Donal Graeme's rise to the stature of perhaps the most important man on all Man's fourteen planets, it fascinatingly presented the cultural and political circumstances of the fourteen worlds; how the various facets of Man's nature were reflected by the societies on each world or world-group; how each group tried to outmaneuver the others politically. In the novella, Dickson has taken up parts of the second theme. One of these parts is the fanatical and religious side of Man's nature; this trait is manifested by the people of the Friendly planets, Harmony and Association, who are fighting another group for control of St. Marie. The main character is a newsman who, while covering the war, is planning revenge against the Friendlies. Through him we get a close look at the galactic situation and see more of what is evolving in it; and not to be overlooked is the insight on fanaticism. Let's hope there is more to come in this series.

NOVELLA - III

In "The Tactful Saboteur," Frank Herbert sets up a galactic government which has a Bureau of Sabotage, whose agents must try to obstruct government affairs and thus prevent hasty actions and expose incompetent officials who cannot cope with such situations. (E)

GLORY PLANET, by A. Bertram Chandler. Avalon, N.Y., 1964. 190 pp. \$2.95

After it was thought in Venus that the Earth had been destroyed in a great nuclear war, the overly-religious leader of the Venus colony set up a ruling theocracy, burned books and banned science. Despite this great purge of science, a few remaining scientists and technicians set up a separate city-state and began re-experimenting. After a few generations, the tension that had been building up between these two sections breaks when the science-state begins a river attack on the theocracy in steamboats. Although the ensuing battle may have been very exciting in itself, the plot is made much more interesting by the sudden arrival of two spaceships, whose origin greatly upsets the peoples of both colonies.

Even though the book is a bit bizarre in places, it is well executed and constitutes a fairly good story.

NOVEL - 6

—Robert Merryman

THE DAY NEW YORK WENT DRY, by Charles Einstein. Gold Medal, Greenwich, Conn. k1446, 1964. 160 pp. 40¢

In 1967, in New York City, the lack of water has become so acute that it is a crime to take a bath more than once a week. The situation becomes so desperate that all children are evacuated.

While this story is interesting, it lacks the elements that usually make a work science fiction, such as a different culture or a new idea. This story is not set far enough in the future for our culture to have changed, and no really new ideas are proposed. The science fictional aspect of this novel is practically nil.

—Glenn Keene

TIME TUNNEL, by Murray Leinster. Pyramid, N.Y. R-1043, 1964. 140 pp. 50¢

This original novel concerns the paradoxes of time travel as told in the typical Leinster manner. A man has set up an (underground) time gate and is using it to import objects from Napoleon's France into that of the present day. He is very careful to do nothing which might result in the negation of the world as we know it, but it is discovered that someone apparently has a time tunnel of his own set up and is writing letters to the nineteenth-century scientists about twentieth-century science. This is dangerous, as these letters might divert the course of events such that our present would no longer exist. But the destruction of the race by atomic war started by a Chinese atomic attack on Formosa could be averted— if the right changes are made. (5)

—The Editor

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THE CHRONOSCOPE

The lead article for the next issue will be the third in the "Universe of Ideas" series—this time on the opposite angle (opposite from one viewpoint) from that in the previous issue.

A map of Mars of a type that isn't seen much nowadays will also be in the issue, along with reviews of books like Poul Anderson's forthcoming TRADER TO THE STARS. A list of this year's Hugo winners will be included.

Jack Williamson tells us that his and Frederik Pohl's collaboration, "The Reefs of Space," will be reprinted by Ballantine, and that the authors are planning a sequel.

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THE BRITISH SCENE

by John Carnell

Trieste's second Festival Internazionale del film di Fantascienza was but a hollow mockery of the pomp, splendor, and glamorous film starlets of a year ago, when Harry Harrison and I arrived at the Adriatic port on July 20. In fact, the Castello di San Giusto drowsed sleepily in the late evening sun, devoid of excitement or visitors, and we discovered that the ten-day festival was merely showing 33 s-f and fantasy films with no awards.

Amongst an assortment of notable movies were our old friends GIRL IN THE MOON, METROPOLIS, and THINGS TO COME, plus more modern films such as QUATERMASS II, THE VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED, THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL, THIS ISLAND EARTH, and the recently released Charles H. Schneer production of FIRST MEN IN THE MOON. Three Japanese films were included, the best being GODZILLA, with other films coming from most European countries; one only from Russia (last year's joint winner), a short, AELITA, made in 1924.

The Trieste Tourist Organization, however, informed us that they were planning a major film festival again next year, plus the s-f Book Fair and round-table conference.

VALLEY OF THE FLAME, by Henry Kuttner. Ace, N.Y. F-297, 1964. 156 pp. 40¢

Brian Raft follows a man without a heartbeat into the middle of the Amazon jungle and finds a race, descended from jaguars, whose members have evolved to intelligence in just three hundred years. Raft also finds the "Flame," an energy which has the ability to change the metabolism of any living matter. The flame has been getting lower and the felines are degenerating, and Raft tries to adjust the flame to save their race.

The novel (Startling Stories, March, 1946, as by Keith Hammond) does not go into enough depth on the felines' culture to make the book particularly notable, but it is worth reading.

NOVEL - 7

—Glenn Keene

NEW WRITINGS IN S-F No. 1, ed. by John Carnell. Dobson, London, 1964. 190 pp. 16/-

This book is the first in a projected series of anthologies containing original (no previous magazine appearance) stories, something like Frederik Pohl's STAR SCIENCE FICTION STORIES series. It will be reprinted as a paperback by Corgi in December.

The lead story is "Key to Chaos," by Edward Mackin, which deals humorously with the problems of a man who has invented a temporary rejuvenating machine, but who does not know how or why it works (V).

"Haggard Honeymoon," by Joseph Green and James Webbert, tells of men mining a radioactive meteorite crater on an alien planet who begin having strange dreams (E).

"The Sea's Furthest End," by Damien Broderick, is on the surface a tale of a crisis in a Galactic Empire, but is really about the Player and his multi-billion-piece Game (E). Also included are two short stories by John Rankine and Brian W. Aldiss, "d" and "e" respectively.

—The Editor

PLANET OF DEATH, by E. L. Arch. Avalon, N.Y., 1964. 185 pp. \$2.95

This novel is a murder mystery set on a huge research starship that is orbiting a water-world. Intrigue begins when the owner of the starship Star Catcher is discovered drowned in a specimen tank holding a mermaid-creature from the water-world. When the body is found the blame is placed on the ship's doctor. After much protest, the doctor finally comes to the conclusion that the only one who can save him from life imprisonment in Pluto is the mermaid-creature, the only witness to the murder.

NOVEL - 7

—Robert Merryman

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