

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW

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NUMBER 1

EDITORIAL

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW is intended to fill a lack in science fiction. Until now, there have been no regular magazine reviews or timely book reviews within the science fiction field. By appearing every two weeks, our reviews cover paperbacks and magazines which are still on most newsstands. We will review hardcover science fiction books well in advance of any science fiction magazine.

Our rating system for fiction enables us to be precise in stating our opinions. Most other reviewers do not commit themselves so definitely.

We will include short articles on science fiction subjects whenever we think they will be of interest to our readers, such as this issue's article on the Med Service series.

If a non-fiction book of special interest to science fiction readers appears, we will mention it.

(We review all of the science fiction magazines as soon as they appear, and therefore not all will be reviewed in any one issue, because they do not all appear at the same time.)

THE MED SERVICE SERIES

Murray Leinster has written six stories about a ship of the Interstellar Medical Service and its crew, which consists of Calhoun, a human, and Murgatroyd, a tormal. Calhoun's job is to make health inspections of planets scattered over the starfield. He must cope with varied cultural and technical difficulties in order to solve the medical problems.

The six stories in the series are all novelets or novellas: "The Grandfathers' War," ASF, October, 1957

"The Hate Disease," Analog, Aug. 1963

"Med Service," see THE MUTANT WEAPON

"Med Ship Man," Galaxy, October, 1963

THE MUTANT WEAPON, Ace, D-403, 1959 (ASF, August, 1957, as "Med Service")

"Ribbon in the Sky," ASF, June, 1957

THIS WORLD IS TABOO, Ace, D-525, 1961

There is no particular order to the stories, and no two are in the same setting. The Med Service series is set in Leinster's larger "landing grid" series. (See the review of Galaxy on page 2.)

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SFR STORY RATINGS

Story category	NOVELLAS	NOVELETS ...	SHORT STORIES
Length in words	(19-39,000) ...	(10-18,000) ..	(up to 9,000)
Worth buying magazine for .	I-IV	A-C	a-b
Worth reading	V-VI	D-E	c-d
Read at your own risk ...	VII-IX	F-H	e-g

NOVELS

(40,000 + words)

Worth buying	1-5
Marginal	6-7
Buy at your own risk .	8-10

The ratings designate how well we liked the story. We do not rate collections or anthologies. Two stories "worth reading" usually make an issue worth buying.

Gamma, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1963. 50¢

The best thing about this undated quarterly is the cover, which is suitable for framing and almost worth buying the magazine for. Although we do not want to unnecessarily disparage a new entry in the field, this magazine is not worth buying. If you like well-known authors (Shakespeare is scheduled for the next issue), then by all means get it. However, if you don't like bad stories under any byline, don't bother.

Amazing, September, 1963. 50¢

Chandler's novella (VI) is one of his Rim Worlds series and is worth reading if you like the series. Anderson's "Homo Aquaticus" (e) ended just when it started getting interesting. Both would have been better as novelets.

If, September, 1963. 40¢

In this issue we have A.E. van Vogt's first science fiction magazine story in thirteen years. It is closely related to "Centaurus II" (Astounding, June, 1947). The two novelets have almost the same setting, but are mutually contradictory. (E)

If you missed the previous issue, don't buy this one just for the serial, "The Reefs of Space," because the synopsis is undecipherable. Van Vogt's novelet and the short stories, particularly Leinster's, make the magazine worth buying.

Analog, September, 1963. 50¢

Winston P. Sanders' novelet, "Industrial Revolution" (D), deals with the struggle of a company pioneering in the Asteroids to remain in business despite the government.

"The Thirst Quenchers" (D), by Rick Raphael, takes place in a future when water conservation is of prime importance. Worth buying.

Galaxy, October, 1963. 50¢

"Med Ship Man," by Murray Leinster, is the latest in his Med Service series (see pg. 1). Calhoun must find out why a city was suddenly abandoned—and where its people went. (D).

"The Men in the Walls," by William Tenn. In a future when Man has sunk to savagery after aliens defeated him, a young man must prove himself. NOVELLA-VII

Fantasy and Science Fiction, September, 1963. 40¢

If you bought the last two issues, this one is worth buying solely for the conclusion of Heinlein's fantasy novel, "Glory Road" (6). In this installment, the loose ends are tied up, as much as they can be when alternate Universes are concerned, and you are left thinking that the borderline between science fiction and fantasy is very hazy.

ALL THE TRAPS OF EARTH, by Clifford D. Simak. MacFadden, N.Y. 50-165, 1963. 158 pp. 50¢

This paperback contains six of the stories from the hardcover edition. It is worth buying for the title story alone (C). The title story and "Installment Plan" (V) are the best in the collection, both dealing with robots and both written in Simak's best style of pastoral mood.

NOVELETS OF SCIENCE FICTION, ed. by Ivan Howard. Belmont, N.Y. L92-567, 1963. 50¢

Most of the eight stories of this anthology are third-rate short stories by well-known authors which appeared in the pulp magazines about ten years ago. If you like downbeat endings, consider buying it, as all but de Camp's are rather depressing.

GALAXY MAGABOOK NO. 2. 1963. 160 pp. 50¢

"The Legion of Time," by Jack Williamson.

This story, in Astounding in 1938, is dated but worth reading. The hero is picked to lead a group of men, snatched from death in 20th century wars, against a future world. (V) "After Worlds End," by Jack Williamson.

Also from 1938, and even more dated, is this story of a man who sleeps for over a million years and wakes up to find robots dominating Man. (VII)

MIND PARTNER AND 8 OTHER NOVEL-ETS FROM GALAXY, ed. by H.L. Gold. Pocket Books, N.Y. M-4287 1963. 241 pp. 35¢

This book is distinguished by three stories which are easily worth the price: Barrett's "The Stentorii Luggage" (b), Offut's "Blacksword" (C), and Anvil's title story (D). Six of them are not novelets but short stories.

THE BEST FROM FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION, 8th SERIES, ed. by Anthony Boucher. Ace, N.Y. F-217, 1963. 224 pp. 40¢

By the cover, this book is an anthology of science fiction and fantasy stories, but some of them can only be considered ordinary fiction. The best two stories are Anderson's "Backwardness" and Kornbluth's "Theory of Rocketry." Although it is not the worst paperback, I would consider others before buying this one. —Bill Pond

Tell your friends about SFR.

THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH, by Robert A. Heinlein. Signet, N.Y. D2348, 1963. 176 pp. 50¢

This is Signet's fifth printing of one of the best collections of science fiction ever published, containing nine short stories and a novella. It is the second volume in the five volume "Future History" series, and takes place thirty to fifty years from now. No one who enjoys science fiction should fail to read this.

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THE EARTH WAR, by Mack Reynolds.
Pyramid, N.Y. F-886, 1963. 141
pp. 40¢

Appeared as "Frigid Fracas"
in Analog, March and April, 1963.
The hero is a mercenary who
fights in fracas—battles in-
volving corporations and unions.
His career is ruined and he
joins an organization seeking to
overthrow the caste system of
the Western world. A sequel to
"Mercenary," Analog, April, 1962.
NOVEL - 5.

Reviewed in next issue: DREADFUL
SANCTUARY, by Eric Frank Russell
and AWAY AND BEYOND, by A.E. van
Vogt. Subscribe now.

20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA, by
Jules Verne. Airmont, N.Y.
CL12, 1963. 253 pp. 50¢

Although this book is rath-
er dated, it is still enjoyable,
if slow-paced. By today's stan-
dards there is too much scien-
tific explanation, and because
of this, it is not worth reading
if you want interplanetary ad-
venture, but it is a must if you
have any interest in science
fiction as a literary form.
NOVEL - 7.

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FEATURE SELECTION

SPACE VIKING, by H. Beam Piper
Ace, N.Y. F-225, 1963. 191
pp. 40¢

If you missed this novel
when it was in Analog (Nov.
1962 - Feb. 1963), don't miss
it now. The Space Vikings are
people of the Sword-Worlds who
are predators on the backward
planets that were left after
the collapse of the Terran
Federation. The novel starts
slowly, but don't let that de-
ter you. This is a part of
the series which includes LIT-
TLE FUZZY and "A Slave is a
Slave" (Analog, April, 1962),
among others. NOVEL - 3

BUDRYS' INFERNO, by Algis Budrys.
Berkley, N.Y. F799, 1963 160
pp. 50¢

In this collection Algis
Budrys has shown himself to be
an imaginative writer, with many
and varied ideas. Each story
has a different idea and treat-
ment which makes for interesting
reading. Budrys wrote the two
stories from Astounding under
the pseudonym "Paul Janvier."
—Bill Pond

Coming soon—JUDGMENT ON JANUS,
a new novel by Andre Norton.

ENVOY TO NEW WORLDS, by Keith
Laumer
FLIGHT FROM YESTERDAY, by Robert
Moore Williams. Ace, N.Y. F-223
1963. 134 + 120 pp. 40¢

The first is a collection
of six short stories (d's), from
If, in the Retief series, fea-
turing Jame Retief, an unortho-
dox diplomat who shocks his mud-
dling superiors. Worth buying.

Williams' novel is a semi-
fantasy in which a green stone
mentally projects two people in-
to an unknown past, while a per-
son from that past is in the
present looking for the stone.(8)