

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW

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THE FUTURE HISTORY SERIES

Isaac Asimov's Foundation series, Edward E. Smith's Lensman series, and Robert A. Heinlein's Future History series — these are the outstanding examples of science fiction series. A large portion of each appeared in Astounding Science Fiction in the early 1940's, and all are examples of sustained high-quality writing that is not often seen.

The Foundation series contains three books with three books related to the series; the Lensman series, six books with one related; and the Future History series, five books with one related. Anyone who has not read these books is missing a great deal.

A complete bibliography of the Future History series, containing all appearances and editions, would be far too long for this article. Suffice it to say that there are twenty-two stories, which have appeared as five books. The books in the series proper are: THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON, THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH, REVOLT IN 2100, METHUSELAH'S CHILDREN, and ORPHANS OF THE SKY. The related book is SPACE CADET, one of Heinlein's juvenile novels. (For a review of THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH, see SFR #1; a review of THE MAN WHO

SOLD THE MOON is on page four of this issue.)

The stories span the period from the present day to the voyages of the first and second starships. THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON takes us up to the first trip to the Moon, with a brief jump forward in "Requiem" (c), which tells of the death of D.D. Harriman, the Man Who Sold the Moon.

THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH continues the Future History from the building of the first space station to the exploitation of Venus.

REVOLT IN 2100 contains only three stories, one of which is the novel "If This Goes on—" (5). This novel tells of the Second American Revolution, a key event in the Future History.

METHUSELAH'S CHILDREN (3) concerns a group of congenitally long-lived people from whom the rest of Earth is trying to extract the non-existent "secret" of immortality. The group steals Earth's second starship and uses it to escape.

ORPHANS OF THE SKY (4) contains the two 1941 Astounding novellas, "Universe" and "Common Sense." The novel is about a starship crew which has lost awareness of who and where they are, but one of the number tries to enlighten the rest.

(continued on page two)

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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.

MAGAZINES

We review all of the science fiction magazines as soon as they appear. Since they all do not appear at the same time, not all can be reviewed in the same issue. We do not rate serials until the final installment is reviewed.

New Worlds, October, 1963, No. 135. 128 pp. 3/- (45¢)

John Brunner's three-part serial, "To Conquer Chaos," concludes in this issue. The novel tells of the Earth after a plague has decimated her interstellar empire. NOVEL - 5

"Man-Hunt," by John Rackham, deals with strife between a junior and senior officer in the Galactic Police. (d)

Galaxy, December, 1963. 194 pp. 50¢ (3/6)

"The Star King," Jack Vance's two-part serial, begins in this issue. The novel is about a man's search, for purposes of vengeance, for the people that pillaged his home planet when he was a child. Don't let the cover scare you off.

"No Great Magic," by Fritz Leiber, is connected with the author's Hugo-winning novel, THE BIG TIME. The setting is the Change War, in which two antagonists try to change past and future for their own ends. (G)

Amazing, December, 1963. 130 pp. 50¢ (3/6)

"To Plant a Seed," by Neal Barrett, Jr., concerns a Planet Warden who is not allowed to interfere with the natives. However, he is afraid that they will commit racial suicide.

NOVELET - E

"The Klygha," by H.B. Fyfe, touches on the disadvantages of mental control. SHORT STORY - d

There is also an interesting profile of Fritz Leiber by Sam Moskowitz.

(Article on Robert A. Heinlein's Future History series, continued from page one.)

The starship involved is Man's first, but the events in this story take place after the launching of the second starship in METHUSELAH'S CHILDREN.

ORPHANS OF THE SKY has only been published in book form by one publisher, Victor Gollancz Ltd (London, 1963; 160 pp.).

An appropriate way to end this article is with the following stanza by the blind singer Rhysling from "The Green Hills of Earth":

"We pray for one last
 landing
 On the globe that gave us
 birth;
 Let us rest our eyes on
 fleecy skies
 And the cool, green hills
 of Earth."

STRANGERS IN THE UNIVERSE, by Clifford D. Simak. Berkley, N.Y. F835, 1963. 191 pp. 50¢

The best entry in this collection of seven stories is the long novelet, "Target Generation" (D), dealing with the familiar theme of a starship whose people have forgotten the Earth and heritage of their ancestors. Trouble between the hero and the rest of the ship's inhabitants develops when their vessel approaches its destination. The other six stories are average, except for the short story "Mirage" (d), set on Mars, telling how a man stranded on the desert is saved by Martians he sympathizes with.

THE SHIP FROM OUTSIDE, by A. Bertram Chandler.
BEYOND THE GALACTIC RIM, by A. Bertram Chandler. Ace, N.Y. F-237, 1963. 108 + 114 pp. 40¢

The novella half of this paperback is expanded from its original appearance in the August, 1959, issue of Astounding, and not improved any. It is a part of Chandler's Rim Worlds series. There is far too much build-up before the goal of the story, an alien extragalactic ship, is reached. NOVELLA - VIII

The other half is a collection containing two short stories and two novelets, also set in the Rim Worlds.

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Wanted: OF WORLDS BEYOND, edited by Lloyd Arthur Eshbach.
Robert Franson, Box 1568, San Diego, California 92112.

THE SKYLARK SERIES: III

This review is intended to give background to Dr. Edward E. Smith's new novel soon to be published in If, "Skylark Duquesne," which will be the fourth in the Skylark series. In order, the first three books are: THE SKYLARK OF SPACE, SKYLARK THREE, and SKYLARK OF VALERON. This issue reviews:

SKYLARK OF VALERON, by Edward E. Smith, Ph.D.

This novel originally appeared as a seven-part serial in Astounding Stories, August, 1934 — February, 1935. Fantasy Press published a hardcover edition in 1949. The adventures of Richard Seaton and Marc Duquesne are continued. Seaton meets more alien races, including the pure intellectuals who are a race of disembodied intelligences, four-dimensional beings and the Chlorans — a chlorine-breathing race that is menacing the planet Valeron in a distant galaxy. Seaton allies himself with Valeron against Chloran in this exciting and fast-moving book.

NOVEL - 4

Pyramid Books will soon publish SKYLARK OF VALERON in paperback format, according to the author. Pyramid has already reprinted THE SKYLARK OF SPACE, and sold over 100,000 copies of it. Pyramid has just reprinted SKYLARK THREE, which will be reviewed in the next issue of SFR.

A CORRECTION:

"Obviously I cannot thank you for the good review of IS THERE LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS? any more than I could blame you had it been unfavorable. But it made pleasant reading for me. One minor correction: this is not my first but my second nonfiction book. Monarch brought out the paperback THERMONUCLEAR WARFARE several months ago. Since it was given no special publicity, it's not surprising that you hadn't heard of the thing."
— Poul Anderson

THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON, by Robert A. Heinlein. Signet, N.Y. D2358, 1963. 159 pp. 50¢

The first volume of Heinlein's Future History series, this edition contains four of the six stories from the hard-cover edition. By far the best story is the novella "The Man Who Sold the Moon" (III), about a group of businessmen who finance the first moon-trip. A sequel to it, the short story "Requiem" (c), is also included. The novelet "The Roads Must Roll" (D), concerns a revolt by workers of a mechanized road in California. Finally, there is "Let There Be Light" (d) telling of the discovery by two scientists of free solar power. (See page one for an article on the Future History series.)

THE TIME TRADERS, by Andre Norton. Ace, N.Y. F-236, 1963. 191 pp. 40¢

This is the first of Andre Norton's four-book Time Agent series which SFR listed (and reviewed the fourth book of, which was KEY OUT OF TIME) in its September 16 issue (#2). In THE TIME TRADERS, the hero, a young criminal, volunteers for a secret government project which turns out to be time travel. In ancient Europe, he and others posing as native traders look for Communist agents, who also have discovered time travel. They search for the source of the Russians' new scientific advancements - an alien starship.

NOVEL - 5

FEATURE SELECTION

TIME AND AGAIN, by Clifford D. Simak. Ace, N.Y. F-239, 1963. 256 pp. 40¢

TIME AND AGAIN originally appeared as "Time Quarry," a three-part serial beginning in the first Galaxy, October, 1950. Dell published a previous paperback edition of it entitled FIRST HE DIED. Written in Simak's distinctive manner, it contains enough ideas for two novels. The hero, Asher Sutton, has returned, after twenty years, from a mission to a planet which no one else had been able to land on. Brought back to life after he died on arrival, he discovered a secret about all life. Also a part of the story is a war fought through time between future people, over the interpretation of a book Sutton has not yet written. Though complicated, TIME AND AGAIN is an excellent book which all science fiction readers should have.

NOVEL - 3

Reviewed in the next issue:

- THE FURY FROM EARTH, by Dean McLaughlin.
 - ALL THE COLORS OF DARKNESS, by Lloyd Biggle, Jr.
 - WAY STATION, by Clifford D. Simak.
 - SKYLARK THREE, by Edward E. Smith, Ph.D.
- Plus at least three magazines.

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