

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW

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NEW WORLDS AND SCIENCE FANTASY

REPRIEVED

New Publisher Takes Over

by John Carnell

As the last issue of Science Fantasy (No.64) went to press, a sensational new development blew up at Nova Publications' London office with the offer by Roberts & Vinter Ltd of 44 Milkwood St., Brixton, London, SE 24, to purchase both Nova titles and continue their publication.

Within 48 hours the deal had been finalized but owing to other plans and commitments already well advanced, I declined to accept the editorship. Upon my recommendation, Michael Moorcock was appointed and accepted the new post of editor of New Worlds. Another editor, Kyril Bonfiglioli, has been appointed to edit Science Fantasy.

Roberts & Vinter Ltd plan to reduce the size of the magazines slightly to that of the standard paperback but continue them as magazines, probably publishing New Worlds as a bimonthly to start with but reducing the price back to 2/6d.

Moorcock should make a fine editor, having had four years experience of editing with one of London's leading periodical publishers, many years experience of reading s-f and a developing flair for writing within the medium. Apart from these assets, he is well known and well liked in Great Britain.

Little is known concerning Kyril Bonfiglioli, except that he has been a keen reader of the genre for some years, is a book seller and an acquaintance of British author Brian W. Aldiss, but the indications are that he will continue the traditions already established in Science Fantasy.

After the unofficial news of Nova's demise had circulated among fans and authors, a general air of depression settled over everyone, but behind the scenes there were several movements designed to save Britain's last bastion in the s-f world. Indirectly, from one of these movements—the fact can be laid squarely at the feet of author Kenneth Bulmer who mentioned the news to a publishing friend when having a lunch conference—the idea eventually reached the new publisher and events moved fast.

Roberts & Vinter Ltd state that there may be a slight publishing delay between the old and new editions, but Michael Moorcock is working hard to continue New Worlds without a gap.

Pro authors attending this year's Easter Convention in Britain had planned a tribute to Nova in the form of a special program; their elation at the sudden and unexpected turn of events will no doubt incorporate a strong vote of confidence for Moorcock, whose final "Elric" story, "Doomed Lord's Passing," appears in the final Science Fantasy along with his last article in the "Aspects of Fantasy" series.

—John Carnell

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.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SKY, by Arthur C. Clarke. Signet, N.Y. D2433, 1964. 151 pp. 50¢

This is a good collection of fourteen stories. Although most of these are about early space efforts, there are several of a more diverse nature. The best stories in the collection are "The Other Side of the Sky" (c) and "Out of the Sun" (c), and the other stories run in the "c's" and "d's."

For realistic and scientifically accurate science fiction in the usual Clarke manner, this book is recommended.

—Robert Merryman

For the reasons for the demise of Nova Publications, see John Carnell's article in SFR #14.

THE PANDORA SERIES

Christopher Anvil writes at his best in the humorous vein for which Eric Frank Russell is famous, and Anvil's "Pandora" series demonstrates how good his best can be. The series concerns one of Anvil's very likeable alien races as they try to open up the "Pandora's box" of Earth. All of the stories appeared in Analog/Astounding, and should be read in order:

"Pandora's Planet" (A), September, 1956; PROLOGUE TO ANALOG

"Pandora's Envoy" (b), April, 1961

"The Toughest Opponent" (II), August, 1962

STAR OF STARS, ed. by Frederik Pohl. Ballantine, N.Y. U2171, 1964. 224 pp. 50¢

This anthology of fourteen stories is a reprint and well worth reading if you have not done so already. The best story is "Disappearing Act," by Alfred Bester. During a war for the 'American Dream' a strange thing happens—the patients in one ward of a hospital vanish from time to time. The explanation is something to think about. (b)

Another very good story is Arthur C. Clarke's "The Deep Range;" however, if you have read his novel of the same title it would be better to skip this story (b). The ratings of the remaining selections consisted of three "c's," six "d's," one "e," and two "f's."

—Lawrence Beckwith

PROFILES OF THE FUTURE, by Arthur C. Clarke. Bantam, N.Y. H2734, 1964. 232 pp. 60¢

This excellent book consists of scientific extrapolation—"an inquiry into the limits of the possible"—by the winner of UNESCO's Kalinga Prize for the popularization of science. The book includes a discussion of those developments in science the author thinks might be achieved in the next one hundred and fifty years—such as immortality and matter transmission. A must for the science fiction reader—very thought-provoking!

—The Editor

MAGAZINE REVIEWS by Dean M. Sandin

Serials are not rated until the review of the final installment.
Fantasy is not rated.

Amazing, April, 1964. 130 pp. 50¢
(3/7)

Phyllis Gotlieb's "Sunburst," in the second of three parts, still isn't enjoyable. Its main character is a thirteen-year-old girl who becomes involved with a prison for psionic children in a sealed-off town—although she isn't psionic.

"Prisoner in Orbit," by Henry Slesar, tells of a group of men kept on a prison-asteroid by robots after the war that destroyed the robots' masters has ended. (E)

New Worlds, February, 1964. 128 pp. 3/- (42¢)

The first of three parts of James White's "Open Prison" appears here. It deals with a prison-planet, and the escape attempt its captives argue about making. They have the run of the planet, but seemingly have no means of getting off it. Although this isn't as good as New Worlds' previous serial—Colin Kapp's "The Dark Mind"—it is definitely worth buying.

In John Rackham's "Die and Grow Rich," a light story, an insurance company is swindled by a scientist who has discovered a special use for a new drug. (D)

"The Time Dweller," by Michael Moorcock, takes place in Earth's far future. In this moving story, a traveler in a country distant from his home discovers a new hope for Mankind, a new way for him to progress. SHORT STORY - c

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

"The Crazy Mathematician," an amusing tale by R. Underwood, uses an old idea—that atoms are worlds—but nevertheless manages to be entertaining and almost plausible.

SHORT STORY - d

Analog, April, 1964. 98 pp. 50¢, 5/-

Murray Leinster's two-part serial, "Spaceman," concludes here. The level of action increases in this half of the novel, which concerns the defeat of the mutiny of the Rim Star's crew. In the first half, the crew had only begun to rebel, and had not won yet. In the second, they prevail, but only temporarily, for Leinster comes up with one of his ingenious tricks on behalf of the hero's group. You will miss some good science fiction by not reading "Spaceman." (5)

"Counter Foil," by George O. Smith, describes the problems incurred when the public teleportation system goes haywire. (d)

"Sunjammer" is the latest in Winston P. Sanders' series about the solar system's not-too-distant future. It tells of the crew of a ship, propelled by the sun's light pressure, as it tries to save another ship's cargo from a solar flare. NOVELET - D

Coincidentally, in the March, 1964, Boys' Life, there is a short story by Arthur C. Clarke, "The Sunjammer." This one is about a race to the moon using light-pressure craft—and it also uses a solar flare as a complication. (d)

Subscription rates: 10 issues for \$1.00, 22 issues for \$2.00, 45 issues for \$4.00. Advertisements are five cents per word, minimum remittance \$1.00. Back issues are ten cents per copy; all are available.

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GREAT SCIENCE FICTION STORIES,
ed. by Cordelia T. Smith. Dell,
N.Y. 3160, 1964. 288 pp. 50¢

Although many of these stories have been reprinted often before, this anthology is still highly recommended to those missing any of the stories.

Included are such stories as "The Roads Must Roll," from Robert A. Heinlein's "Future History" series (B); Isaac Asimov's "Nightfall," about the effect of night on a civilization which has never known darkness (D); "Pottage," by Zenna Henderson, from her "People" series (C); and Wilmar Shiras' "In Hiding," about a genius-class boy in mental hiding (C).

The remaining stories, including two by Wells and one by Verne, received ratings of one "D," two "c's," and four "d's."

—Lawrence Beckwith

THE CHRONOSCOPE

The next issue will feature James Turner's second article on Kline, along with reviews of: DIMENSION 4, edited by Groff Conklin; DOCTOR TO THE STARS, by Murray Leinster; and REGAN'S PLANET, by Robert Silverberg.

Heinlein's PODKAYNE OF MARS and Leinster's FOUR FROM PLANET FIVE will be reprinted soon.

THE SEVENTH GALAXY READER, ed. by Frederik Pohl. Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y., 1964. 247 pp. \$3.95

Pohl states in his introduction that "science fiction is a variegated bloom," and his anthology seems to have followed suit with one "E," one "F," three "c's," four "d's," two "e's," and four unratables.

The best story is Bradbury's "Come Into My Cellar," wherein mysterious coincidences lead the hero to discover extra-terrestrial invaders. Other good stories included those by Brown, Laumer, and Del Rey. This is a run-of-the-mill anthology.

—Gene Rider

SERIES CODE WORDS

Some series have assigned names, such as Heinlein's "Future History" series, and others have names easily derived from the titles, such as Asimov's "Foundation" series. Since it is not always possible to have an easily identifiable name for a series, and since continually referring to the series by the title of the first story becomes confusing, an internally consistent semi-related keying system is desirable.

For reasons of space it is obviously impractical to always list all the stories in a series. Since not everyone has read the first story in any particular series, certainly not everyone can be expected to remember that "FOUNDATION and its sequels" is equivalent to "THE 1,000-YEAR PLAN and its sequels." The code word or words will always be related in some way to the series; a word from one of the titles, the name of the chief character, etc. Some examples are "The Med Service Series" (SFR #1), "The Time Agent Series" (SFR #2), and "Nicholas van Rijn" (SFR #3). Future issues of Science Fiction Review will continue to list and discuss the stories in many interesting science fiction series.

—The Editor

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