

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW

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KLINE'S MARS NOVELS

by James Turner

The Mars novels of Otis Adelbert Kline appeared after his Venus series, though Avalon and Ace have revised them to appear otherwise. They are inferior to the Venus books while remaining fun.

The Mars of Kline is similar to Burroughs'. Wild, predatory beasts prowl the landscape, high adventure and lost races abound, science and barbarism stand side by side. One reviewer suggested that Kline's Mars and Burroughs' were in parallel time tracks.

There is a difference; Kline's world is eons ago when life prospered. Mars was in its prime, not dying like Burroughs' Barsoom today.

THE SWORDSMAN OF MARS (Argosy 1933, Grandon, Avalon, Ace) tells how Harry Thorne, rescued from suicide by one Dr. Morgan (also responsible for sending men to Venus), is sent mentally to Mars to inhabit the body of Borgen Takkor, who will use Thorne's body. (See THE PRINCE OF PERIL for Takkor's story.)

Thorne is to eliminate Sel Han, a previous exchangee, who is well on his way to becoming a dictator in a Martian land. Before this violent adventure is over, Thorne falls in love with a princess, is sentenced to life in the mines for same, escapes, and with the aid of friends, un-

does Sel Han and the despotic and communistic government. The book suffers from the ancient gimmick of substituting a royal baby for that of a commoner.

This book was so like the work of Edgar Rice Burroughs that the INDEX ON THE WEIRD & FANTASTICA IN MAGAZINES and A HANDBOOK OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY both credited it to Burroughs.

The second in the series is better. Jerry Morgan, nephew of Dr. Morgan and a cashiered Army officer, travels to Mars bodily in a strange vehicle that transports him through space and time. He soon becomes THE OUTLAW OF MARS (Argosy 1933, Avalon, Ace), leading commoners (his title is "The Commoner") against the tyranny of one of the kingdoms and a strange "Torturer." At the end, he refuses a throne to marry and roam the surface of Mars.

Like John Carter, he never hesitates to use his superior muscles and sees as little of Thorne as Carter did of Ulysses Paxton (see ERB's THE MASTERMIND OF MARS). In fact, Morgan and Thorne never meet, though Morgan does loot a home belonging to the wife of a friend of Thorne's.

It is said that Burroughs rated Kline as his best imitator. Upon reading the preceding books, it is easy to see why.

—James Turner

For James Turner's article on Kline's Venus novels, discussing that series, see SFR #15.

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.

DOCTOR TO THE STARS, by Murray Leinster. Pyramid, N.Y. F-987, 1964. 176 pp. 40¢

Calhoun of the Med Service often has to deal with societies that are sociologically as well as physically sick, as is the case in this collection of three stories of the series. "The Grandfathers' War" concerns a medical problem that threatens to involve Calhoun in an interstellar war (III). "Med Ship Man" deals with an apparently deserted planet—one that was teeming only a short time before (D). In "Tallien Three" (formerly "The Hate Disease"), Calhoun is confronted by a mysterious epidemic which causes a change in the basic make-up of men (V). There is no chronological order to the stories in this series, a complete bibliography of which is given in SFR #1.

—The Editor

CONQUEST OF THE MOON, by William Hines. Pyramid, N.Y. WS 17, 1964. 153 pp. 75¢

This is one of a series of books published to present easy-to-understand explanations of scientific progress in various fields. This particular book describes the various programs for reaching the moon, how they are set up and run, and some of the problems facing them. It is very interesting and informative reading.

—Bill Pond

I AM LEGEND, by Richard Matheson. Bantam, N.Y. J2744, 1964. 122 pp. 40¢

Any subject, if handled in the right manner, can make a science fiction story, although it is harder with some subjects; this novel deals with vampires. Rather well handled, with the horror element played down, the novel lacks the impact of DARKER THAN YOU THINK (see SFR #3). Germ warfare in the just-over World War has apparently started a plague. The symptoms—vampirism.

—The Editor

THE BEST FROM FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION, NINTH SERIES, ed. by Robert P. Mills. Ace, N.Y. F-267, 1964. 248 pp. 40¢

Some of the stories in this reprint anthology are fantasy and some are science fiction. Because of the science fiction nature of this review magazine, I shall go no further in reviewing the fantasy selections than to say that for the most part they are of good quality.

As for the science fiction stories, Heinlein's "All You Zombies" gives a very striking example of the many time travel paradox situations (b). The other science fiction selections run in the "c's" and "d's" with one "e."

All in all this is a good science fiction and fantasy buy, and is recommended.

—Robert Merryman

MAGAZINE REVIEWS by Dean M. Sandin

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

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

J.G. Ballard's "The Illuminated Man" embodies an interesting idea—the Hubble Effect, which causes crystals to form on things because of a temporal stress on their atoms which forms other atoms. However, the story is so hampered by description and a lack of much dialogue that it becomes tedious to read.

NOVELET - F

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

Don't let the way-out cover fool you: Daniel F. Galouye's "Centipedes of Space" is not fantasy at all, but is science fiction, imaginative speculation on the nature and future use of psionics. Although the vehicle for these ideas is well-worn (the hero is an Admiral leading a space fleet through an extremely dangerous nebula in order to intercept an offensive against some Earth-held planets) the action is still well done; but it is the treatment of psionics that raises this novelet above Fantastic's usual fare.

NOVELET - D

Uchujin, No. 76. 64 pp. (price?)

Do you read Japanese? If so, SFR has received a science fiction magazine that you might want to try:

Uchujin: Ed. & Pub. by Takumi Shibano. 118. O-okayama, Meguro, Tokyo, Japan.

If, May, 1964. 130 pp. 40¢ (2/10)

This is an all-Smith issue, containing four stories by various authors named Smith. Three of them are good:

The first is E.E. Smith's "The Imperial Stars." It is the first story in a new series about the d'Alemberts, both a family of aerialists and the Empire of Earth's most valuable undercover agents in the Service of the Empire. In this novella, Jules and Yvette d'Alembert work to defeat an organization that is a threat to the Empire. Told in Smith's fast-paced manner, this story is very good, foreshadowing an entertaining and lively series.

NOVELLA - IV

"The Store of Heart's Desire," by Cordwainer Smith is a second Rod McBan novella (the first, "The Boy Who Bought Old Earth," appeared in Galaxy, April, 1964—see SFR #15). Here, Rod McBan meets the secret government of Earth's underpeople, servants of Man who are formed from animals, although man-shaped.

NOVELLA - V

George O. Smith's "Fire, 2016!" tells of a young man's attempts to become a member of that day's fire department, a very select group.

NOVELET - D

Special news: If will change from bimonthly to monthly, starting with the next issue, July. And that's not all: Beginning then is Robert A. Heinlein's newest novel, "Farnham's Freehold;" there will also be an A.E. van Vogt story. Editor Frederik Pohl is really going full blast with If now; he has made it his best magazine.

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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SON OF THE TREE, by Jack Vance
THE HOUSES OF ISZM, by Jack
Vance. Ace, N.Y. F-265, 1964.
111 & 112 pp. 40¢

This Ace Double concerns two important trees. In the first novel, we find a galaxy peopled by humans who, after many thousands of years, have changed to fit the conditions of their particular planets. On Kyril a cult has been started which is centered on a tree many miles in height. The hero, a true Terran, comes to Kyril to find another Terran who has stolen his girl friend and finds himself in the midst of a complex plot to destroy the Tree.

NOVEL - 6

The second novel concerns a monopoly which the people of Iszm have. It seems that they have discovered how to grow houses. These houses can do everything from shooting bolts of energy at an enemy to providing perfume for bath water. The hero wants to smuggle out a seed, which will permanently break the monopoly, but the Iszic guard their enterprise with great zeal.

NOVEL - 7

—Richard Larimer

DIMENSION 4, ed. by Groff Conklin. Pyramid, N.Y. F-973, 1964. 159 pp. 40¢

An excellent anthology, DIMENSION 4 contents range from old-fashioned melodrama filled with detectives and hairbreadth escapes in "Some Day We'll Find You," by Cleve Cartmill (D), to an unusual and terrifying concept of the ultimate weapon by John D. MacDonald in "Trojan Horse Laugh" (C). Also included are a study in human nature by Theodore Sturgeon in "Won't You Walk" (D), and a revealing satire on certain aspects of television in "Sense of Proportion," by E.C. Tubb (d). The first three are reprinted from Astounding, the last from Nebula.

—Marshall Hurlich

REGAN'S PLANET, by Robert Silverberg. Pyramid, N.Y. F-986, 1964. 141 pp. 40¢

The United States, a second rate nation of 1990, plans to regain some of its former prestige by staging a spectacular World's Fair. Claude Regan, influential magnate, is financially responsible for the construction of a five hundred acre Earth satellite, on which the fair is going to be held. Problems arise when, to attract people, he eventually resorts to kidnapping Martians.

Unfortunately, half the book is made up of lengthy descriptions of Regan's financial difficulties.

NOVEL - 6

—Gene Rider

THE CHRONOSCOPE

Forthcoming paperbacks include: THREE WORLDS TO CONQUER, by Poul Anderson; MARTIAN TIME SLIP, by Philip K. Dick; and THE SPACE BARBARIANS, by Tom Godwin.

Hardcover books include: THE MOON PEOPLE, by Stanton A. Coblentz; THE BEST FROM F&SF, edited by Avram Davidson; and THE TIME-LOCKERS, by Wallace West.

A.E. van Vogt tells us that Ace Books is going to reprint his two classic novels, THE WORLD OF NULL-A and THE PLAYERS OF NULL-A. About time!

Brian Aldiss' THE DARK LIGHT-YEARS, expanded from the magazine version for the U.K. Faber & Faber hardcover, will be reprinted in the U.S. by Signet.

Murray Leinster sends word of an original novel to be published soon by Pyramid, titled TIME TUNNEL. His "Lord of the Uffts" from Worlds of Tomorrow will also be published as a paperback.

Mr. Leinster is currently working on another Med Service story, but he has managed to find time to write an article for SFR entitled "Reverie," which will appear in the next issue.

—The Editor