

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW

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FEATURE SELECTION

TRANSFINITE MAN, by Colin Kapp.
Berkley, N.Y. F974, 1964. 160 pp.
50¢

This novel was titled "The Dark Mind" when it appeared in the Nov. 1963-Jan. 1964 issues of New Worlds. The story is quite powerful. There are two main opposing forces. The first is Failway Terminal, the huge and ruthless organization which controls all six of the habitable transfinite levels and casts a shadow over the lives and minds of millions of people. The second force is a man, Ivan Dalroi, who possesses two important things: a burning hatred of Failway and a mysterious, hidden "dark side" to his mind. The odds against Dalroi are tremendous, but as the book progresses Dalroi learns more of his "dark mind"—and his opponents learn more of its powers; the true natures of various groups become apparent; and the struggle threatens to strain the very fabric of transfinity itself.

A very good first novel—and an author to watch.

NOVEL - 4

—The Editor

AN INDEX TO SFR

All current subscribers are receiving, along with this issue, the previously announced index to SFR's reviews of books, paperbacks, and magazine serials. The index should be self-explanatory but the Editor will be happy to answer any questions that may arise. The Editor would appreciate any corrections or additions to the index. Additional copies of the index are available at ten cents per copy.

—The Editor

THE PENULTIMATE TRUTH, by Philip K. Dick. Belmont, N.Y. 92-603, 1964. 174 pp. 50¢

THE PENULTIMATE TRUTH is a story set after World War III. Early in this war the populace of both the Western Democracies and the Pacific Peoples had taken to the underground and are still living there. Unknown to the large population underground, the war was fought for only a couple of years, then ended by an agreement of the powers on both sides, who promptly set themselves up in a life of leisure; the only work for them is supplying convincing fake news to the people still underground. This situation comes to a head when a new initiate to the elite ruins a project of the head of government to increase his power.

NOVEL - 5

—Bill Pond

ECHO X, by Ben Barzman. Paperback Library, N.Y. 52-329, 1964. 252 pp. 50¢

ECHO X first appeared in 1962 under the title TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR. This is the story of two Earths, one of which is superior to ours because war has been eliminated. This elimination of war allowed important scientists to live on one Earth while the same men died on this planet. The alternate Earth decides not to contact our Earth because they fear our warlike nature.

The characterization is often very good and the book has some action. A sense of reality is lacking, however, and the idea of ending war is by no means new. ECHO X is not a bad book, but it is not particularly interesting either, and has no outstanding merits.

NOVEL - 7

—Glenn Keene

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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

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

The two-part serial, ending here, "Enigma from Tantalus," by John Brunner, is about the hunt for an alien—sent by a world-wide telepathic creature being studied on Tantalus—who is masquerading as one of the ten humans on an Earth-bound ship. But which human? They all are so un-normal that the Tantalus is nicely camouflaged. The puzzle is harder than it sounds, and makes a likeable novella. NOVELLA - V

Raymond F. Jones' "Rider in the Sky" is the light story of an accountant who fulfills his dream of going into space. As a stunt, his company has him pilot a very small craft to the Moon. But the best laid plans... NOVELET - D

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

"Seed of Eloraspon," by Manly Bannister, is the first half of a two-part novella. It is the sequel to an earlier serial, "Magnanthropus," in which the hero, Jefferson Jarvis, was one of the men who went to Eloraspon when it and Earth "merged in space-time." Jarvis now journeys to a city on a far continent, where he finds natives, although this world had been thought to be uninhabited.

Analog, November, 1964. 96 pp. 50¢,
5/-

Mack Reynolds' "Sweet Dreams, Sweet Princes" appears here with its second of three parts. Denny Land, a history professor who was a winner in the deadly national games (like those of old Rome) in the West-World's Welfare State, begins his secret mission in Spain for our Bureau of Investigation. He tries to contact a key scientist, but this man is kidnapped; each world faction blames the others, and Denny is chosen for a team of men to settle the matter with the Sov-World and Common Europe in a fight between representatives to the finish. Reynolds' depiction of a future caste-differentiated socialist world is realistic, and helps make this a good novel.

H. Beam Piper's "Gunpowder God" is part of his excellent Paratime series, which is set in a system of parallel probability worlds, and whose hero is a Paratime Police agent, Verkan Vall. A couple of other stories are the novellas "Last Enemy" and "Time Crime." This time, a police officer from our own world is accidentally shifted to another world, a more primitive, feudal one. In view of the poor man's superior training the story's general outcome is not unexpected, but Piper's storytelling skill makes it extremely interesting to read.

NOVELET - B

Subscription rates: 10 issues for \$1, 22 for \$2, 45 for \$4, 100 for \$8. Advertising rates: five cents per word, minimum remittance \$1. Back issues are ten cents per copy or as part of your subscription; all are available.

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FARNHAM'S FREEHOLD, by Robert A. Heinlein. Putnam, N.Y., 1964. 315 pp. \$4.95

A slightly shorter version of this novel appeared in the July, August, and October, 1964, issues of If. This isn't a very good book. It doesn't have the beautifully worked out future society that his other stories have; as a character study it is noticeably inferior to, for instance, DOUBLE STAR; and although Heinlein usually succeeds magnificently without an overload of science, its total lack is felt keenly. The plot, also, is none too original—a direct hit by a super-bomb on a family fallout shelter catapults the shelter and its assortment of people some thousands of years into the future. In this future world society, the master race is black and the whites are all slaves. NOVEL - 7

—The Editor

The next issue of SFR will feature another original article by Poul Anderson. We think you'll like it. —The Editor

EXILE FROM XANADU, by Lan Wright
THE GOLDEN PEOPLE, by Fred Saberhagen. Ace, N.Y. M-103, 1964. 137 & 118 pp. 45¢

This is definitely one of Ace's better double-books.

EXILE FROM XANADU is an enjoyable, though not special, novel. It concerns Martin Regan, who is nearly killed in a spaceliner explosion, but who survives, his body practically rebuilt. When he leaves the hospital, Regan is mistaken for the man with whom he'd shared a cabin on the ship; he becomes involved in galactic intrigue, which includes an effort to avert an interstellar war.

NOVEL - 5

THE GOLDEN PEOPLE would have been better had it been longer; it is just barely novel-length. However, it is still fairly good. The main character is quite interesting (the story is really that of his life from twelve to thirty); he is involved with a group of psionic people, and on the planet Golden he and they seek to solve the enigma of an unheard-of Field which changes natural laws. NOVEL - 6

—John H. James

THE BRITISH SCENE

by John Carnell

It has now been officially confirmed that New Worlds Science Fiction will go monthly with the issue dated January, 1965, although there is no announcement of this in the November/December issue. Science Fantasy goes monthly at the same time, and both magazines are now favoring a certain amount of interior art work. New cover designs as well as artists will ring changes from month to month.

Brian W. Aldiss has accepted an invitation to be Guest of Honor at the 1965 World Science Fiction Convention in London. His latest book, GREYBEARD, has been selling exceptionally well in the UK, with favorable reviews.

Following the success of the teleplay adaptation of Isaac Asimov's THE CAVES OF STEEL, BBC TV is readying a series of s-f plays for the Fall of 1965, taken from existing novels or novellas. Final selections are not yet made, but the series could coincide with the opening of the Worldcon.

NEW WRITINGS IN S-F got off to a very good start saleswise in the hardcover edition. Number Two, published October 28 (to be reprinted as a paperback next March by Corgi) has a complicated lead story by John Rackham, "Hell-Planet," plus stories by Kapp, Green, Etchison, and four others.

VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, by Theodore Sturgeon. Pyramid, N.Y. R-1068, 1964. 154 pp. 50¢

This novel, which was adapted from the book and movie by Irwin Allen, tells the story of the giant atomic submarine Seaview and its race to save the world from a fiery death. The crisis of the story arises when small particles in the Van Allen belt begin to concentrate the rays of the Sun in the atmosphere, causing a belt of fire to circle the Earth. After proposing a plan to save the world from ultimate destruction, the owner of the Seaview is subjected to violent opposition from a fanatical scientist and the United Nations. NOVEL - 7

—Robert Merryman

EARTH'S LAST CITADEL, by C. L. Moore and Henry Kuttner. Ace, N.Y. F-306, 1964. 128 pp. 40¢

NO MAN ON EARTH, by Walter Moudy. Berkley, N.Y. F987, 1964. 176 pp. 50¢

Earth's "eleventh hour" in this book is rather melodramatic and does not make very interesting reading. The whole story is too contrived and unconvincing, with a shallow plot and theme to match.

During World War II, in North Africa, two men are escaping from an enemy camp; two Nazis, one a woman, are after them in an airplane. In the darkness they see something come down out of the sky. Upon reaching it, they discover that it is a spaceship. The door opens and the four of them enter as if drawn in by a mental force. When they awaken from a deep sleep, the small group deduce that they have slept for many thousands of years.

NOVEL - 8

—Lawrence Beckwith

Thad Stone was sired by a criminal from another planet. Because of his heritage, Thad has unique powers which allow him to create an economic empire that soon attracts the attention of the President of the United States. Thad uses all his talents for one purpose, to find his father, and he leaves Earth just as the nations begin to squabble over his discoveries. Eventually he finds his father after searching half the universe.

NO MAN ON EARTH has fast action in the search for Thad's father, and it presents an excellent interplay of human reactions. These two factors combine to make the story well worth reading.

NOVEL - 5

—Glenn Keene

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Lack of space forces me to clear out my stf collection. All magazines except a very few in good to excellent condition. 51 Other Worlds Universe-Science Stories (Palmer) (1949-54)—\$6.50; 63 Imagination (1950-58)—\$8; 82 Original SF Stories-SF Quarterly-SF Adventures-Future (Lowndes) (1952-58)—\$10; 36 Infinity-Fantastic Universe—\$4; 32 Super Science (1949-59)—\$4.50; 26 Planet (1949-55)—\$4.50; 9 Beyond (1953-54)—\$2; 31 Thrilling Wonder-Startling (1948-55)—\$5; 32 If (1952-62)—\$4; 119 F&SF (1949-62)—\$20; 126 Amazing (1949-61)—\$15; 153 Astounding (1946-61)—\$38; 46 Analog (1961-64)—\$9; 104 Galaxy (1950-64)—\$17; 69 Fantastic Adventures (1949-60)—\$8.50; 83 Misc. (Venture-Vortex-Vanguard etc.) (1948-62)—\$12; 37 pocket books-15 hardcovers—\$8. Charles V. De Vet, 1011 W. Montana Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55117.

CITY AT WORLD'S END, by Edmond Hamilton. Crest, Greenwich, Conn. L758, 1964. 153 pp. 45¢

This is a somewhat strange story that tells of the transposition of a Twentieth Century city to a time several million years in the future. After the original calamity of the time-transferal, the people of the city soon discover a greater threat: the eons having taken their toll of the Solar System, the Sun is a red super-giant that gives off almost no heat, and the Earth is a great ball of dust lacking water and the ability to support life. (6)

—Robert Merryman

THE EXILE OF TIME, by Ray Cummings. Avalon, N.Y., 1964. 192 pp. \$2.95

There is much action in this story, including robots revolting and a chase through time. A girl is kidnapped from the year 1777 and two men get involved when the time machine appears in 1932. Another two people, a man and a woman in a time machine, are after the kidnapper in the first machine to take him back to their own time of 2930.

Since this is a simple adventure story, I would recommend this book for young people, but not for adult readers. As this novel was written in 1930, it is somewhat dated.

NOVEL - 7

—Lawrence Beckwith