

ISFANEWS - FEB. '73

NEXT MEETING AT: Lee & Jim Lavell, 5647 Culver Street, Indianapolis, In. 7:30, february 3, Saturday.

A Review Column. By Don Dailey.

The Return of the Time Machine, by Egon Friedel, Daw Books, 95¢
Beware the cover blurbs, "sequel to H.G. Wells' immortal classic" and "a great science fiction find". All is not what it would seem to be. The author Friedel is purported to have been a contemporary and correspondent of H.G. Wells. However, the evidence presented is rather tenuous and leaves much room for doubt.

The story itself, though rather short to be considered a novel, has several interesting events but the author fails to develop them to any extent. During his latest adventures, the Time Traveler comes ~~in~~ across a future London in the sky supported by anti-gravity, but instead of investigating the Time Traveler simply stares a bit then remounts his machine and departs. The Time Traveler later runs afoul of the time-traveling moon people and chooses to go around them. Still later, he has a very short conversation with two Egyptians of the future. Just a taste of these events, no real adventure connected with them, how frustrating for ~~the reader~~ this poor reader! Unfortunately, Mr. Friedel becomes just a bit too involved in trying to explain how the time machine works rather than what it does. There is a happy ending though, our friend the Time Traveler marries a pretty young thing who walked in from somewhere. This one is a dark star passing and should not be placed on the same shelf with the great Mr. Wells' works

A Martian Odyssey, by Stanley G. Weinbaum, Lancer Books, 95¢

A fine collection of five short stories written between 1934 and 1936. Despite their age, all of these stories proved to be both interesting and entertaining to me. The title story, "A martian Odyssey", is just that. The story of an "almost lost" explorer on Mars journeying across the deserts of this supposedly dead planet with the aid of a very unearthly guide. Our explorer soon becomes aware of the many life-forms there and discovers that all living things do not have to think like man or even make sense to him. If you are a late-night old-movie buff, the "Adaptive Ultimate" may stir a few dusty memories. This story was the basis for a class "B" melodrama titled "She-Devil", and believe it or not, they coincide quite well. Evolution gone mad! An accurate description of what "Proteus Island" is all about. On a little island in the middle of nowhere, a scientist experiments with the effects of radiation on chromosome structure of living animals and achieves some unexpected results. Rounding out the collection is "Brink of Infinity", one that makes you wish you had paid more attention to your algebra classes, and ~~the~~ "The Lotus Eaters", considered one of the best of a series dealing with a planet-hopping hero and his heroine. The introduction, "The Wonder of Weinbaum", by Sam Moskowitz is practically a story in itself. All told, I'd give this one a double nova!

Other readings: Another of John Wyndham's "Day of the Triffids" worth reading ~~again~~ again, and the indefatigable James Blish has turned out another in the Star trek series, #8.

One final note to close on: How many of you have read "The Burning Sky" by James Roberts? Those of you who have may recall that Roberts set a lost indian tribe in the southwest, giving fairly clear directions on where it is. Sounds like your typical goof, right? Wrong. My father was looking through the Atlas, and decided to check this out. he figured out that there were 3000 sq. miles of unexplored territory down there, just ~~were~~ Roberts said it was, inside the continental United States. X ~~is~~ Anyone for a real lost race? Hmm?