

APPROACH TO INFINITY

by Morris Scott Dollens

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LEE HOFFMAN:

THEND IN FANDOU

IS WORTH
TWO AT RANDOM.

Thanks for being my Lee.

Dedication

Approach to Infinity

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Give Them Wings

Prelude

Symphony of the Stars

The Quest

Pioneers Again

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Dedicated to the dream that Man may someday reach the stars - - and reach them with a better understanding of the tremendous emotional and spiritual problems he thereby faces



Approach to Infinity

Introduction

WITH the growing interest and the increased probability of space - travel within our lifetimes, a new conception of our relationship to the Universe must evolve and overpower the superstitions of the past. For thousands of years Man has presumed himself to be the center of the Universe, this presumption based quite naturally upon his irrepressible ego; while actually he and the whole earth are nothing more than a comparatively insignificant speck lost in the infinite sea of stars and planets too vast for the mind to comprehend. The emotional impact of suddenly becoming aware of this vastness might well unnerve an average person, for in his everyday experiences is nothing quite as awe - inspiring, as incomprehensible, as inhumanly cold and yet as magnificently and warmly beautiful as the cosmic ocean in which floats our humble island swarming with smug little souls each pre-occupied with his own rather selfish desires; some occasionally lending a helping hand to a neighbor, but too often unwilling to try to understand the strange and different. The poet, the artist, the composer, the seeker of scientific truths have at times reached out almost timidly to grasp a tenuous filament of the absolute qualities of the cosmic scene, only to find the apparently unchanging universe teeming with a strange sort of life on a different time - scale from the hurried hectic time - sense our limited perceptions allow; a mental myopia leads so many men to squander a lifetime on the superficial qualities of a few brief moments of disputable glory, and to assume an apathy toward ageless wisdom gained from the vaster perspective that a bountiful nature and an apparently endless universe imparts. Established religions have for centuries aimed at an understanding of the cosmos - - and accumulated so many impressive rituals that the basic philosophies were all but lost and buried under the pomp and pageantry.

SERIOUS experiment to express in art forms the significance of relativity, to seek an active balance between Man's egocentric desires and his long-felt but encumbered aspirations is the primary purpose of this art - - - an Approach to Infinity.

Give Them Wings

For those in whom creation burns

And quest for beauty ever yearns -
They are the lost, the lonely ones,

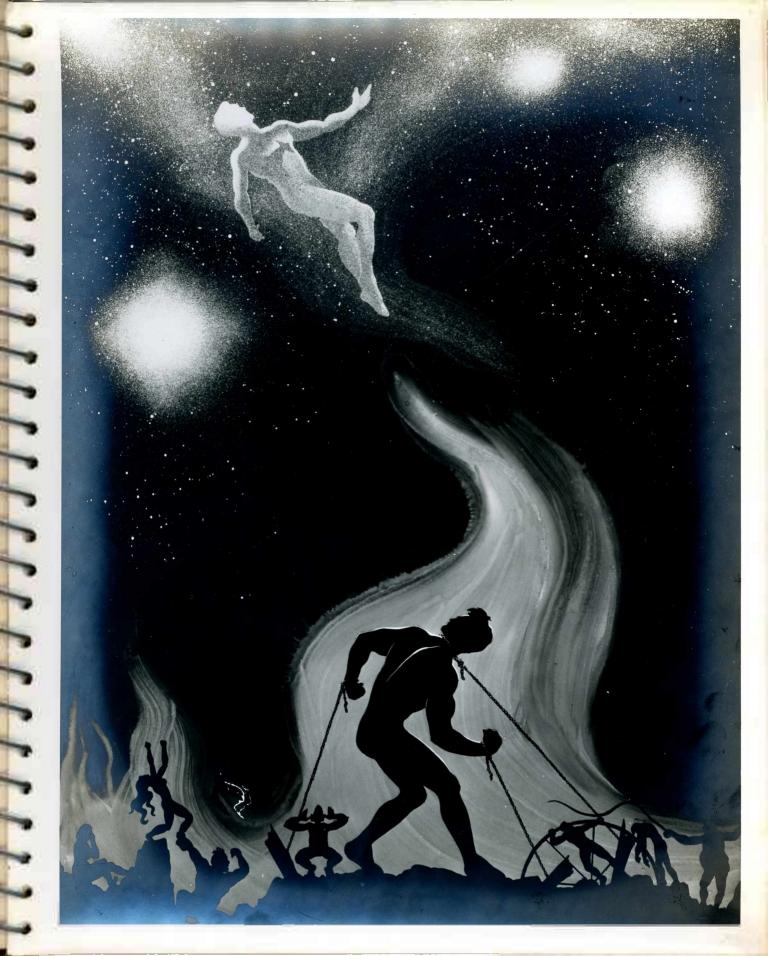
Forever seeking, seldom finding.

Tortured, chained by custom's binding,

They yet plod on toward distant suns.

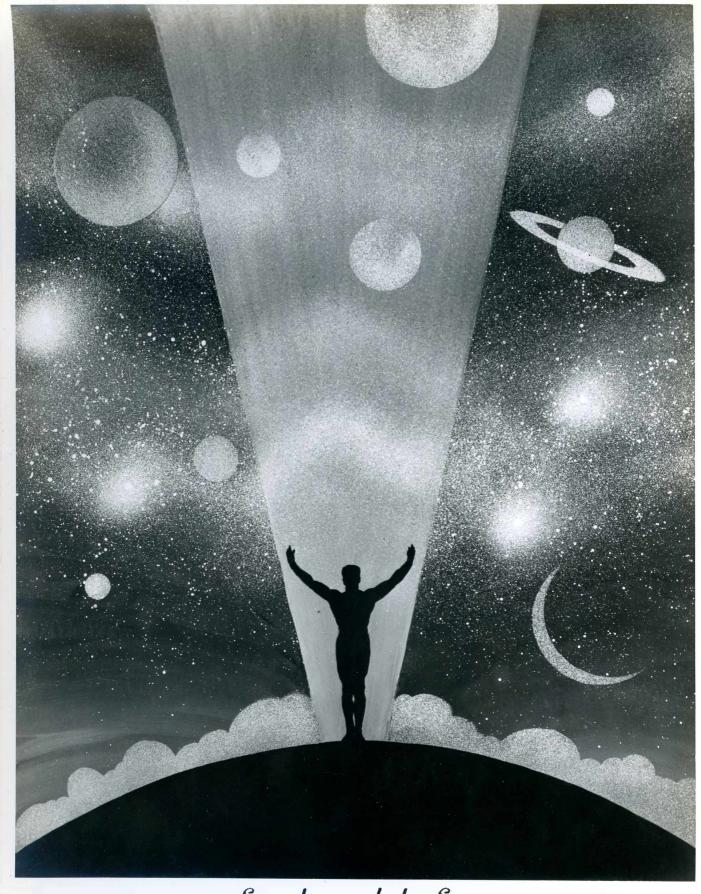
For you who sigh not for the stars,
Whose heart is not a mass of scars,
Cannot you ease those others' loss?
If you must make them bear a weight
Across their backs as earthmen's fate
Oh, give them wings and not a cross!

Betty Browder

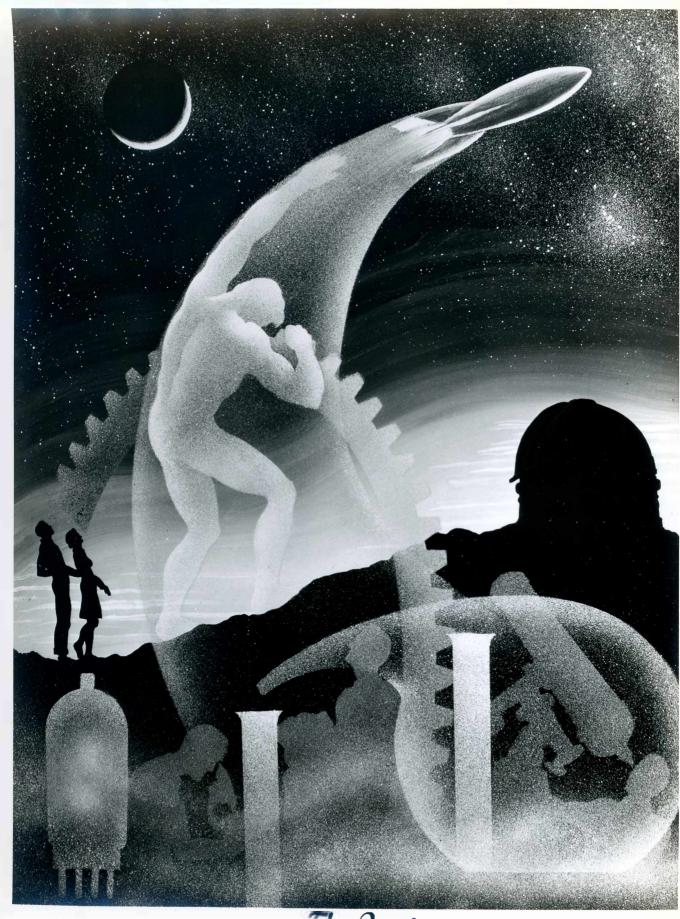




Prelude



Symphony of the Stars



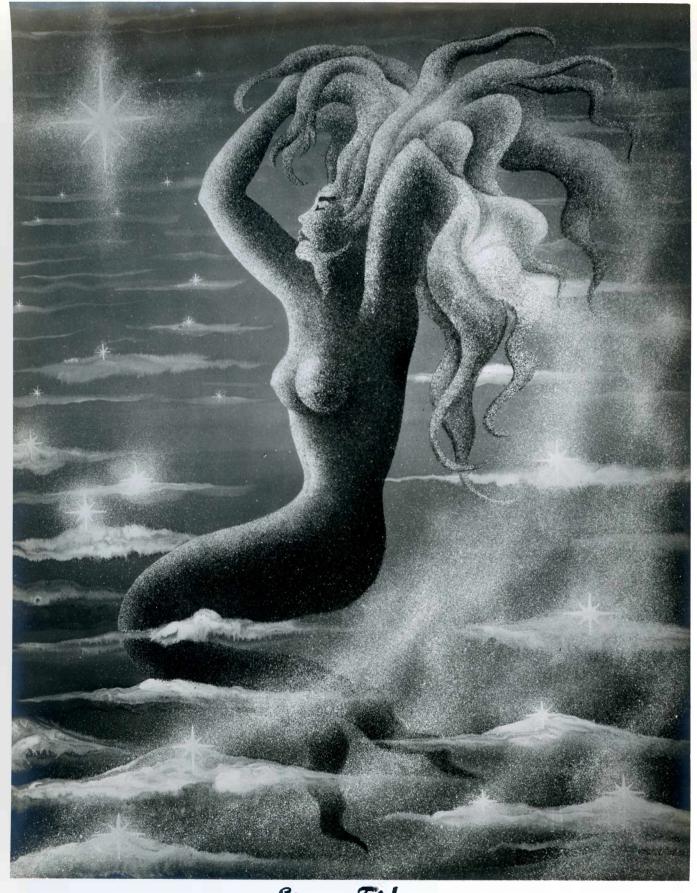
The Quest



Pioneers Again



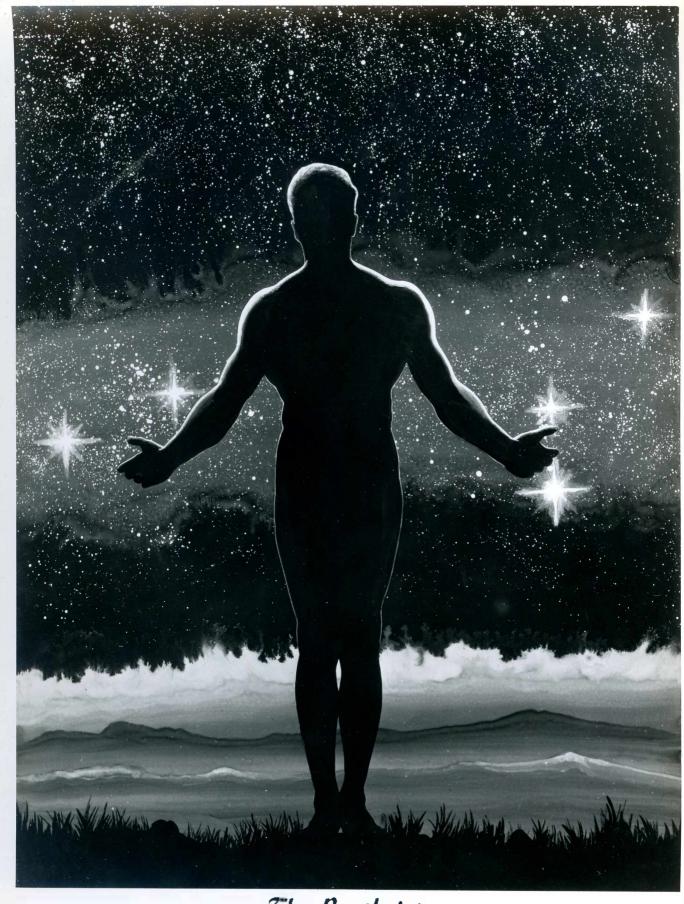
Lure of the Stars



Starry Tides



The Agoraphobiac



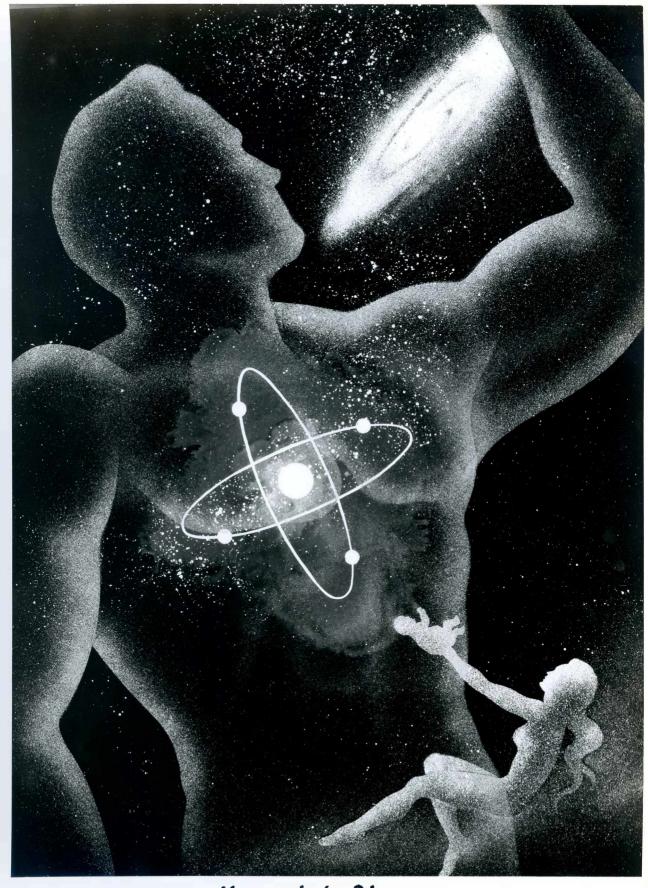
The Pantheist



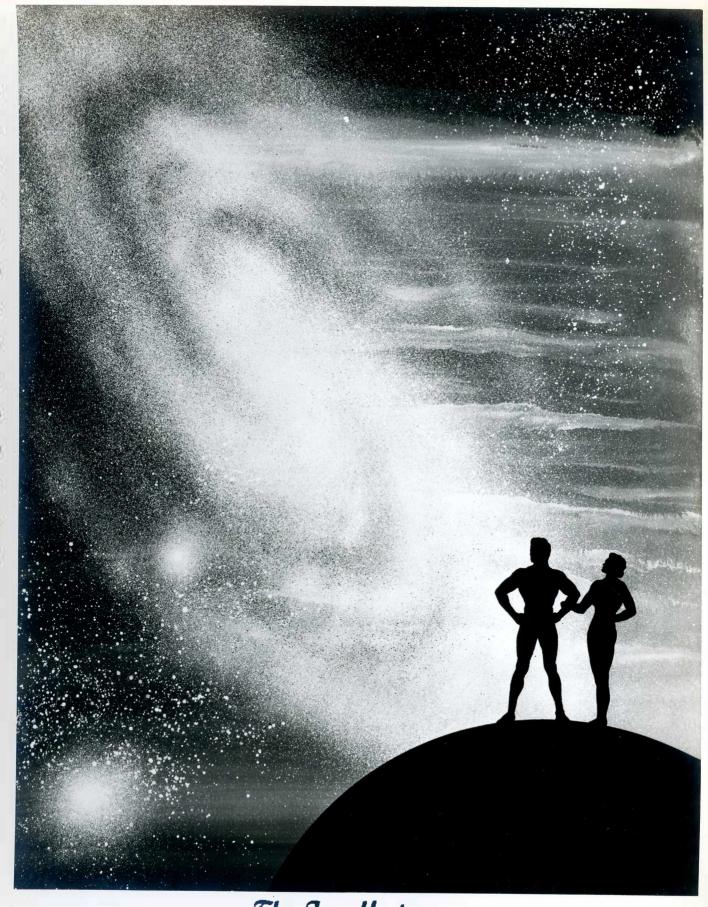
The Seeker



Worlds of Contrast



Heart of the Universe



The Far Horizon



About the Artist

BORN in Indiana in 1920, raised around the Twin Cities in Minnesota, I perhaps derived an over-active ambition (and imagination) from trying to keep my scrawny frame warm during twenty long, cold winters, and finally thawed out enough to come to California in 1942, where the pleasant weather promoted my present 190 pounds at six feet. A fascination with gadgets, a rudimentary activity in science, and nostalgia for the early "Buck Rogers" cartoons prompted my interest in science - fiction at the age of 12, and I later collected and read all the magazines I'd missed since 1926. At 16 a desire to draw and publish grew into 13 issues of an amateur magazine, this experience enabling me to take on managing editorship of my school paper and artist - stage - managership for the Thespians; the job of photographerartist - editor for the school Annual later added to my graphic arts knowledge. Thru studies in technical books, I had learned to design and construct much special equipment for my work. Other varied though related fields attracted me, and I seriously studied and worked with photography, art, electronics, sound recording, and mechanics.

ACTIVITIES on the hobby level grew too - - an almost unwieldy classical record collection, 16mm motion picture production of nature films after the manner of Disney's "Fantasia", study and paintings in astronomy, assembling a small machine shop, combining abstract art and electronics in a "color organ", and after poor health sneaked up too many times, swimming, weight-lifting, and hiking.

NOW, after a number of years' meandering experiments, the theme of this book of paintings points a way to an inspired and imaginative use of this accumulation of ideas, abilities, experiences, processes, and aspirations. Evolution of this art will determine which of the various mediums - - drawing, painting, photography, books, sound recording, motion pictures - - will necessarily blend into a means of communication and expression in art - forms aimed at an appreciation of the Universe, and eventually a better understanding of our relationship to it.

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Evolution

