

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW

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ROBERT W. FRANSON

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FEATURE SELECTION

THE VOYAGE OF THE SPACE BEAGLE,
by A.E. van Vogt. Macfadden, N.
Y. 60-146, 1963. 192 pp. 60¢

The ship, Space Beagle, and her crew are out in intergalactic space, farther than man has been before. As it is a scientific expedition, the crew consists primarily of scientists who are tremendously curious about everything they chance upon. Because of this, the scientists are often unaware of any danger they might encounter, until they find themselves in an awkward situation.

In addition to troubles with aliens, there is political strife between the head of the Chemistry Department and the head of the Nexial Department. Nexialism is a new science that relates all sciences together to get an overall view with a fair amount of accuracy.

This reprint, containing action, humor, aliens, and future science in a down to earth way is well worth buying. (4)

—Lawrence Beckwith

SCIENTIFILM NEWS:

Dear Mr. Franson,

I have a cameo role in a forthcoming scientifilm called TIME TRAP, a widescreen technicolor spectacle of the 21st century written & directed by Ib Melchior for American-International release, starring Preston "Dr. X" Foster, featuring John "When Worlds Collide" Hoyt.

—Forrest J. Ackerman

THE POST READER OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION, selected by the Editors of The Saturday Evening Post. Doubleday, N.Y., 1964. 311 pp. \$3.95

This is an anthology of nineteen short stories and a novelet. Among these, the best by far is "The Green Hills of Earth," by Heinlein, concerning the travels and poems of the blind spaceman, Rhysling (a).

Other stories include: "Space Secret," by Sambrot, about a film of the moon's far side (c), and "The Second Trip to Mars," by Moore, a science fiction comedy about an Englishman who accidentally lands on Mars (c).

The novelet, entitled "The Answer," by Wylie, concerns a startling discovery made as a result of an atom bomb test (E). Most of the stories are mainstream fiction. —Gene Rider

FUTURE IMPERFECT, by James Gunn. Bantam, N.Y. J2717, 1964. 137 pp. 40¢

This is a collection of stories which are unusual in that they deal primarily with people. Consequently, some of them are only on the fringe of being considered science fiction. The best story in the book is "Little Orphan Android" (d), followed by "Survival Policy" (e). The ratings of the remaining stories consisted of "e's" and a couple of "f's."

—Bill Pond

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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.

ALIEN PLANET, by Fletcher Pratt.
 Ace, N.Y. F-257, 1964. 188 pp.
 40¢

ALIEN PLANET originally appeared in 1932 and is outdated in style. Often uninteresting, it deals with the events occurring after the landing of a human-like alien, Ashembe, in the Adirondacks. Two Earthmen find him and help him rebuild his ship. One of them is forced by circumstances to leave with Ashembe, and the two go to his planet, which has an advanced but regimented culture. The ending is a surprise and is negative—it only hurts what was before a passably enjoyable book.

NOVEL - 8

—Dean M. Sandin

THE PRODIGAL SUN, by Philip K. Dick.
 Ace, N.Y. F-255, 1964.
 192 pp. 40¢

Born on Earth but raised on an alien planet, Peter Duncan returned to a corrupt Earth, on a mission which he wouldn't discuss with anyone. No one knew whether his mission was to help the world or rule it. However, he told his only Earth friend, a reporter, that the mission was important.

The action kept moving throughout the story, but the author's over dramatization and moralization interfered with the reader's enjoyment.

NOVEL - 6

—Lawrence Beckwith

ANALOG II, ed. by John W. Campbell.
 Doubleday, N.Y., 1964.
 275 pp. \$3.95

This book is an anthology of eight stories from the last two years of Analog. Included are such stories as: "The Weather Man," by Theodore L. Thomas (June, 1962), which considers the political, scientific, and technical aspects of world-wide weather control (E); "Novice," by James H. Schmitz (June, 1962), is about the intelligent handling of psionics and the psionic handling of intelligent aliens (C); and "Ethical Quotient," by John T. Phillifent (October, 1962), which tells of an Earthman who is chosen as an Ethical Absolute by a psionic galaxy, and must help to pass judgment on a "primitive" race's application to join the Galactic Federation which Earth has refused to Join (III). All of the stories improved upon rereading.

—The Editor

CONTRIBUTIONS

Short 200-400 word articles are always welcome—for the type we use, see the back issues of SFR. However, you may save time and trouble if you query first. Ideas for columns are also wanted.

Science Fiction Review buys all rights. Payment is one cent per word and up, payable on acceptance.

—The Editor

MAGAZINE REVIEWS by Dean M. Sandin

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

Analog, February, 1964. 98 pp.
50¢, 5/-

Last February, Analog started off the new year's serials with a bang—H. Beam Piper's "Space Viking." Now, a year later, it has done it again. This time the novel is Frank Herbert's "Dune World." It is the tale of the House of Atreides, which was forced out of its lush planet, Caladan. Duke Leto, the head of the House, faces the problem of adjusting to his new world Arrakis, a desert planet on which water is more important than anything else. The Atreides must protect themselves from whatever plans their mortal enemies, the Harkonnens, have laid—the Harkonnens were the previous owners of Arrakis. The actual main character is Paul, Leto's fifteen year-old son, who has received special mind-training from his mother's interstellar school, the mysterious Bene Gesserit. He is compelled by events to mature quickly and to develop his unexpectedly potent mental abilities. Herbert tells an absorbing story that should prove to be one of 1964's favorite novels, the story of a feud, a planet, and a boy's destiny. NOVEL - 4

"The Permanent Implosion," by Dean McLaughlin is a very good story about the catastrophic effects of the test of a new theory, and the viewpoint that was needed to solve the problem caused by the test. NOVELET - C

A Murray Leinster novel will begin in the next issue.

Fantasy and Science Fiction, February, 1964. 130 pp. 50¢ (3/7)

Dean McLaughlin's "One Hundred Days from Home" is the human story of the reaction of the returning crew of the first Mars expedition on learning that the loneliness and effort of their two year's trip was in vain because of space travel developments attained while they were gone. SHORT STORY - d

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

John Brunner, in his novella "The Bridge to Azrael," deals with the philosophical clash between Earth and Azrael, a planet formerly colonized by Earth and now given the opportunity to be directly linked to it by a Bridge. Their viewpoints on the purpose of life are opposite each other. The story, interesting in some parts but not nearly all, is of the collision of the viewpoints and the effects of this on the Terrestrial main characters. NOVELLA - VI

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AFTER WORLDS COLLIDE, by Philip Wylie and Edwin Balmer. Paperback Library, N.Y. 52-255, 1963. 185 pp. 50¢

AFTER WORLDS COLLIDE is the sequel to WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE, which you should definitely read before this novel. This pair of novels is one of the finest bits of science fiction literature in this century, both being written in the early 1930's.

AFTER WORLDS COLLIDE tells what happens to a little band of refugee scientists when they land on the planetary companion of the giant planet that has just destroyed the Earth. (4)

—Robert Merryman

THE UNKNOWN FIVE, ed. by D.R. Bensen. Pyramid, N.Y. R-962, 1964. 190 pp. 50¢

Even if you have a complete set of Unknowns, you should buy this anthology for Asimov's "Author! Author!" which was written for and sold to Unknown but never published because the magazine folded. It concerns an author whose fictional characters have come to life. The other stories are by Cartmill, Sturgeon, Bester, and Rice. This is Bensen's second Unknown anthology for Pyramid, and we hope there will be more, reprinting more of the good stories that Campbell and the individual authors missed. —The Editor

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For sale: H.P. Lovecraft, THE OUTSIDER AND OTHERS. \$40 takes this rare item. Leland Sapiro, 1242 37th Drive, Los Angeles-7.

THE WONDER WAR, by Laurence M. Janifer. Pyramid, N.Y. F-963, 1964. 128 pp. 40¢

This is a humorous book, but it could have been more so. The hero is a member of the Overdogs, a group employed by the interstellar Confederation to stop wars on underdeveloped planets, thus slowing down their progress and keeping them from becoming a potential menace. The Overdogs' job is complicated by the fact that the natives must not learn of the existence of off-worlders, and that the idealistic Interbeing League must not learn to what extent the Overdogs' peace-promoting activities are impeding progress. The chief fault of the book is that the humor seems somewhat strained and contrived at times. (6)

—The Editor

THE CHRONOSCOPE

The next issue features an article on story ideas by Andre Norton, titled "The Origins of Books." Books reviewed will include THE TWISTED MEN (van Vogt) & ONE OF OUR ASTEROIDS IS MISSING (Knox). —The Editor

STARSWARM, by Brian Aldiss. Signet, N.Y. D2411, 1964. 159 pp. 50¢

STARSWARM is a collection of several stories tied together by the introduction before each story. Yet this series of stories is also one, the story of man as he expands through the galaxy. This book tells how he changes on other worlds until he is no longer man in a form we would recognize.

STARSWARM is an interesting book on the physical and mental development of man as he reaches the stars. The stories in themselves are fairly good and thanks to the way Brian Aldiss tied his stories together, the book is well worth reading. (5)

—Glenn Keene