

SCIENCE FICTION TIMES

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EDITOR: JAMES ASHE

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ANDRE MAUROIS DIES

Andre Maurois died today, October 9, at the age of 82. Although not primarily noted for his science-fiction writing, he did publish some borderline s-f and fantasy. These include The Next Chapter; the War Against the Moon (scientific prophecy of the world from 1970 to 1992), The Weigher of the Souls (borderline fantasy published by Appleton in 1931), Thought-reading Machine (1938), and A Private Universe (1932)

TOLKIEN MYTHOLOGY COMES TO VIETNAM

Word has come from Prof. J.R.R. Tolkien in England that the fame of The Lord of the Rings has penetrated to South Vietnam. The Vietnamese Second Corps, led by General Loc, has taken the lidless eye of Sauron as its battle emblem. Sauron is one of the more villainous characters in Tolkien's fantasy, which is perhaps a little unfortunate from the point of view of American-South Vietnamese public relations. What happened, apparently, is that an American special service officer in Darlac province tried to improve his Vietnamese by translating "The Lord of the Rings" into it. The local Vietnamese people became quite enthusiastic about Tolkien mythology and are adopting it as their own. (Publishers' Weekly, 9/4/67)

NEW VICE PRESIDENT AT ACE BOOKS

Donald Wollheim is now vice president in charge of editorial at Ace Books.

SAM DELANY NOTES

Sam Delany's novel, Nova, has been sold to Doubleday. Expected date of publication will be next fall.

ALEXEI PANSHIN TURNS PRO

Alexei has sold a book with the present title, Rite of Passage to Ace Specials. Expected to appear next spring, a portion of this book appeared in If for July 1963.

Other books coming in this series are: Simak, Why Call Them Back From Heaven; Schmitz, Witches of Karres; Friedberg, The Revolving Boy; and Lafferty, Past Master.

NYCON IN THE NEW YORKER

The September 16 issue of The New Yorker has a page about NyCon entitled "Evolution and Ideation". Mainly a discussion of the Old-Fashioned Futurists (Hucksters Room) vs. the New Wave-icles (Harlan Ellison).

STAR TREK MAKES GOOD (?)

The lead article in the November 1967 issue of Mad is titled "Star Blecch". Sound familiar? Although not exactly complimentary, it's a must for all Star Trek completists.

NEW VICE PRESIDENT AT DOVER

Everett Bleiler, noted for his science-fiction anthologies, has been elected executive vice-president of Dover Publications. He will continue to serve as the company's managing director and as head of the advertising department. He joined the company in 1955.

DEL REY'S WORLDCON ADDRESS

Lester del Rey's Worldcon address was a very qualified success. Here are a couple of opinions.

Del Rey writes, "I was delighted to be chosen Guest of Honor because I had something I deeply wanted to say to the largest possible science fiction audience. I spent a lot of time and thought during the year developing my ideas. To me, it was so important that for the first time I prepared tightly organized notes to make sure I would not forget any point or stray from my plan... I did not make that speech"

There was a scheduling and a time problem, and the audience had been sitting in a hot room for nearly three hours. Maybe some blame attaches to some persons present. Del Rey says that at last,

"The decision had to be mine, and I made it. I tossed out all my reasoned notes, threw aside everything that led up to my point and invoked my emotional reactions instead of my intellectual points in the hope of getting across a shred of what I had come to say. Perhaps my very shortness surprised some and disappointed others, but I considered it necessary."

...Lester, I'm very interested in publishing material that is significant to those seriously interested in s-f. Would you like some space in the next SFT? Jim Ashe.

ROBERT LOWNDES COMMENTS,

...The proceedings would have been no less disgraceful had I found the trivia as amusing as others did.

What was demonstrated was a shameful lack of imagination, of concern, of simple sense of priority and proportion. Lester Del Rey rose above the occasion and acquitted himself with honor; even greatly abridged, his address was a fine one. But he was not honored; he was dishonored by being put into a position where the question of reducing his speaking time became important. And those who came to hear him were insulted.

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Editor:

James Ashe
305 Oak Avenue
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

Managing Editor:

Ann Ashe
Box 198 Midtown Station
New York, N.Y. 10018

Publisher:

Frank R. Prieto Jr.
P.O. Box 216
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MOVERS' DELIGHT

Ashe, James - 305 Oak Avenue, Ithaca, N.Y. 14851.
Bennett, Ron - c/o S01(End), Far ELF, Singapore Base Area, Tyersall Park, c/o GPO, Singapore.
Berry, John D. - Box 6801, Stanford Calif. 94305.
Cameron, Colin - 2561 Ridgeview Dr. San Diego, Calif. 92105.
Freeman, Keith - 128 Fairford Rd., Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, England.
Gemignani, Margaret - 508 So. St. Andrews Place, Los Angeles, Calif. 90005.
Katz, Arnie - 428 Oxford Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14226.
Luttrell, Hank - Rm. 498, Donnelly Hall, Blair Group, Columbia, Mo. 65201.
Schlück, Thomas - 3 Hannover, Georggwall 5, W. Germany.
Staton, Joe - Box 454, Hart Hall, Murray State Univ., Murray, Ky. 42071.

THE PASSING PARADE

A daughter, Wendy Fawn, was born to Dave and Cindy Van Arnam on October 6. The same day, Dave received copies of his first book, Lost in Space.

BRACKETTALES FROM GEORGE HEAP

The Coming of the Terrans, appearing from Ace in October, will be pleasant re-reading for those of us who remember the days when a Leigh Brackett saga made a magazine issue and will be a memorable introduction of her unique combination of adventure, myth, and science fantasy to new readers. Earlier paperback appearances of the older Brackett stories include The Sword of Rhiannon (Doubled with King Conan), The Secret of Sinharat / People of The Talisman (Double), The Nemesis from Terra (half-Double), "Terror Out of Space" (from the anthology The Hidden Planet), and "The Moon That Vanished" (from the Wollheim collection, Swordsmen in the Sky) ... all published by Ace ... and the unforgettable "Lorelei of the Red Mist" (co-authored by Ray Bradbury) in the Gold Medal anthology, Three Times Infinity.

Mervyn Peake's Gormenghast trilogy (Titus Groan, Gormenghast, and Titus Alone) will be published in a hardcover American edition by Weybright and Talley sometime this fall. (Peake's "Boy in Darkness" appears in the collection, Sometime Never, to be reissued by Ballantine in December).

Avon plans to continue their series of Abraham Merritt reprints Seven Footprints to Satan will be published soon with a Doug Rosa cover.

SFWA NOTES IN AUGUST 1967 ISSUE

Damon Knight and Lloyd Biggle have stepped down after two years of unpaid labor, leaving the SFWA as a viable organization. New officers are President, Robert Silverberg; and Roger Zelazny, Secretary-Treasurer.

There are some other rearrangements. The BULLETIN will be edited by Terry Carr. Back issues of the SFWA dept. is Roger Zelazny; SFWA policy and function correspondence goes to Silverberg.

Terry Carr writes that the SFWA publishing program is to be enlarged. A mimeographed SFWA bulletin supplement will serve as a

view-airing device; there will be some other material too. All material of great interest to writers and critics of science fiction.

There have been some very suspect affairs going on in regards to a Spanish literary agent. Lloyd Biggle gives his report on the latest in this situation, which is quite involved.

Brian Aldiss discusses the current crisis in the British science fiction world. Damon Knight and James Blish discuss "What Works for Me," some relevant writers' notes on, well, writing.

If you're interested in the SFWA Bulletin (and if you are concerned with science fiction you need it) the subscription price is \$4.00 per year; publication bimonthly. Write to Roger Zelazny, 4920 Westhills Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21229.

JOSEPH ROSS

A nice letter from J.R. points out some errors in our recent review of The Best of Amazing.

He says it's not so that nearly all of the stories appear in other anthologies. According to Walt Cole's Checklist of Science Fiction Anthologies, seven of the nine stories were anthologized for the first time.

There is another error. His note that Murray Leinster's Runaway Skyscraper did not appear in Amazing is just not true. It appeared in the June 1926 issue and a closer reading of the story introduction would have revealed this. (Gernsback reprinted the piece from the Feb. 22, 1919 issue of Argosy)

DON'T FORGET THE PHILLYCON

The annual Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference will be held this year on November 11 and 12 at the Sylvania Hotel, Locust and Juniper Sts. just off Broad, in Philly. The theme is "Two Years to the Moon", a two-day conversation about space travel by people who were talking about it before it became a national policy. Registration fee: \$1.50.

ACCORDING TO HARRIETT

"I don't agree with the out-of-the-country every 4th year thought. We have allowed outside bids when they came up, it should remain that way. The new rule hampers the outsiders: suppose England, Ireland, Japan & Scotland all have good strong bids. If one wins the others must wait 4 years, even if they could hold a better con than currently available in the States."

There was a broadcast on July 6, from 10 to 12 pm, from WCAU of Philadelphia on the subject of science fiction. The broadcast was arranged by Alan Hoffman, Harriett, and other PSFS fans. Guest of honor was Lester del Rey, also present were Fred Pohl, Tom Purdom, Alan Hoffman and J.B. Post. It went over very well.

Ann Chamberlain is having a very rough time and needs any kind of help that's available. If you have anything to offer, write to Harriett: QUICK.

HOWARD DEVORE NOTES

If your correspondence with Howard has seemed a little slow, wait a bit. He's had the flu simultaneously with the arrival of a real flood of work. Says he's gaining on it.

Miss Dorothy Mantley, Exhibits Librarian, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Mich. 48202, is looking for sample copies of Tolkien fan magazines. If you send her one, please mention SFT.

She is also interested in collecting material for an s-f exhibit to be featured late this winter. Howard expects to provide 100 or more rare items from his own private collection. (If you want to contribute, write to her first)

Also, the Language and Literature Dept., same library, is interested in some fan magazines. (Please think twice, though, before you contribute. Let's face it: not all fannish material should go public.)

BRASS...

There are still a few diehards around who think that SFT is a fanzine. That's not so! It looks like a fanzine because it is printed in the same way that a fanzine is printed, but the purpose is something else.

SFT is a news magazine printed for those people who have a serious interest in science fiction. For instance, if you're interested in writing science fiction, I mean for you to find something in here that will ehlp you with your work. Or if you are a publisher, a critic or an interested reader, I want to find and print something for you, too.

That doesn't mean I'm knocking fanzines. Certainly not: if things go well enough there's going to be a new one around soon, appropriately titled "Cinders". By Ashe, of course!

And I've been thinking about fanzines in another way, too. There's a very close connection between good science fiction and the people who write it, and the fanzine scene. If SFT is going to give an adequate coverage of the s-f scene, fanzines have to come into the picture somehow. Any ideas, out there?

SCIENCE FICTION IN GERMANY

After s-f reached a boom in the years 1956-66, development has come to a standstill if not to a throwback. Some serials have folded, others reduced their editions. The only serial with size of edition increasing is Perry Rhodan. Now some information about this serial:

Perry Rhodan is written by six German s-f writers. It appears weekly in magazine form and has, with the second edition, an edition of 230,000 weekly. Besides this, every month pocketbooks of this serial appear, and there is also a hardcover edition for public libraries. The serial Perry Rhodan is also sold to France and has a very high edition there. Holland also purchased the serial,

and there are also negotiations with the U.S.

It's very amazing that a German s-f serial in Germany is more successful than the translation of very good American writers. Besides this, Heyne-Verlag in Munich brings out two translations every month, and also twice a year Galaxy and Fantasy and Science Fiction (translations)

Now the movie Perry Rhodan is coming. As far as I know, the film has also been sold to America. It is already being dubbed into English.

German Fandom is trying to get votes for the 1970 Worldcon in Heidelberg. British Fandom is supporting this plan with great enthusiasm. We only need to know now how the American Fandom is thinking about it. Perhaps in another month we will know more. (Walter Ernsting)

STAR TREK FILM CLIPS

From Bjo Trimble, 243 Santa Rosa Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94610. \$5.00 per envelope of 18 frames from Star Trek. Identification provided. The income is donated to TOFF. Also some miscellaneous odds and ends. All of this material was donated to TOFF by Gene Roddenberry.

BIBLIOMANIA

NEW PAPERBACKS

Asimov, Isaac et al. Time Untamed (orig) Belmont B50-781. 50¢
Best from Fantasy and Science Fiction, 13th series. Ed. by Avram Davidson. Ace H26. 60¢
Bloch, Robert. Living Demons (orig) Belmont B50-787. 50¢
Carpenter, Elmer J. Moonspin. Caravelle-Flagship #715. 60¢
Heinlein, Robert. Glory Road (re-issue) Avon V2202. 75¢
Jakes, John. When the Star Kings Die (orig) Ace G656. 50¢
Knight, Damon, ed. Orbit 2. Berkley S1448. 75¢

Laumer, Keith. Galactic Odyssey (orig) Berkley X1447. 60¢
McCaffrey, Anne. Restoree (orig) Ballantine U6108. 75¢
Mundy, Talbot. Helma. Avon S309 60¢
Robeson, Kenneth. Pirate of the Pacific. Bantam F3486. 50¢
Runyon, Poke. Commando X. Pyramid X1693. 60¢
Saxon, Peter. Darkest Night. Paperback Library Black Magic Novel of Terror 52-562. 50¢
Shaw, Bob. Night Walk (orig) Banner Books B60-110.
Sturgeon, Theodore. Synthetic Man (reissue) Orig. title: Dreaming Jewels. Pyramid X1691. 60¢
Thomas, Martin. Beyond the Spectrum. Paperback Library 52-554. 50¢
Tubb, E.C. Winds of Gath / Juanita Coulson. Crisis of Cheiron (orig) Ace H27. 60¢
Van Vogt, A.E. Monsters (reissue) Paperback Library 52-555. 50¢
Van Vogt, A.E. Universe Maker (re-issue) Ace G660. 50¢
Vance, Jack. Big Planet (reissue) Ace G661. 50¢
Williams, Robert Moore. Vigilante 21st Century. Lancer 73-644. 60¢
Year's Best S-F; 11th Annual Edition. Judith Merril, ed. Dell 2241. 75¢

NEW HARDCOVERS

England, George Allan. The Afterglow. Avalon. \$3.50. (Sequel to Out of the Abyss -- concludes "Darkness and Dawn" series)
Grinnell, David, and Lin Carter. Destination: Saturn. Avalon. \$3.50.
Groves, Jay. Fireball at the Lake; A Story of Encounter With Another World. Exposition Press. \$3.00
Hillegas, Mark R. The Future As Nightmare: H.G. Wells and the Anti-Utopians (non-fiction) Oxford Univ. Press. \$5.75.
Lightner, A.M. The Space Olympics (juv) Norton. \$3.95.
Nebula Award Stories, 2. Damon Knight, ed. Doubleday. \$4.95.

BEYOND IMAGINATION!

On S-F Anthologies

Reviews and Comments by W.R. Cole

Several months ago, Ann Ashe, who is also the managing editor of SFT, approached the writer and advised us that she would like a resumption of our s-f Anthology review column absent from these pages for several years. Being only a normal type of science-fiction enthusiast, we endorsed the idea and indicated that we would prepare a feature as requested. By using the normal persuasive powers of a female, and being consistently perseverant, we finally relented and this column is the result.

If there are any SFT readers who do not know why our particular interest lies in anthologies, refer to our index A Checklist of Science Fiction Anthologies which covered anthologies published through 1963.

In the three years that have passed since the publication of the Checklist, we have noticed that the s-f anthology has become an integral portion of the entire science fiction book title output.

With the inauguration of this feature, it will be our policy not only to review recent anthologies but we will also present a listing of s-f anthologies scheduled for publication within the next few months.

We have noticed two frames of thought regarding selections for anthologies. Some editors we have spoken to believe that they owe an obligation to the reader by presenting material that has not been frequently published in other collections. On the other hand, there are also editors that feel that an obligation is due primarily to the author regardless of how frequently certain stories may have appeared. It is their contention that if certain stories fit into the framework of a particular theme, then they will be published in the anthology. Space prohibits us from going into this point in more detail in this issue, but we will discuss this in future issues.

In connection with the theme mentioned above, this brings us to our first collection based on the "Religious motif". (The subject of religion in science-fiction has been covered by Sam Moskowitz in his article "Religion in Science Fiction: God, Space and Faith" published in the April 1965 issue of Amazing Stories.)

GODS FOR TOMORROW, edited by Hans Stefan Santesson. 10 stories - 208 pages - 60¢. Award Books A240X. August 1967.

Harry Harrison, in "The Streets of Ashkelon", presents his idea of what will happen when an Earth missionary attempts to teach religion to a life form on a distant planet. The results are somewhat disheartening, to say the least.

In "Balaam", Anthony Boucher has two races of men meet on the sands of Mars. Each decides the other is comprised of horrible looking creatures. Religion steps in, however, and... perhaps an inter-planetary war is nipped in the bud...

Katherine MacLean has a "long" short story in "Unhuman Sacrifice". It is too long, in our opinion, and could have been shortened. This story deals with a missionary that arrives on a planet and attempts to tamper with the natives' customs.

Another "long" short story is Judith Merrill's "The Shrine of Temptation". This reads like notes taken from a journal recorded by a survey team sent to another planet to study the people. Miss Merrill presents an interesting idea but it failed to hold our attention and like Katherine MacLean's story, it might have been shortened.

How many times has a science fiction story read like a transposed Grade B western movie? Eric Frank Russell's story, "The Army Comes to Venus", reads just like that. Yet this is a very amusing novelette. Miranda Dean is a missionary gal, and quite pretty we note, sent to Venus by The Salvation Army. She seems to be quite successful in having the

rough boys do her slightest bidding. Just like a woman.

"Apostle to Alpha" by Betty T. Balke was taken from The Episcopalian. Project Salvation, which is the combined effort of 95 million American Christians, has a manned spacecraft sent to Alpha in 1979 after the first brain waves were charted from that planet. The astronaut, one Fred J. Oates, discovers intelligent creatures on Alpha who are unfallen. Project Salvation decides to protect the Alphans from man.

In the only story written for this collection, "God of the Play-back" by Stephen Dentinger, Automated Prayers Ltd. has devices for the fast-paced existence of the twenty-first century. Their machines can be used in every language recorded. Or so they thought until Father O'Toole came to the offices of Automated Prayers Ltd. from the wilds of the Amazon with his chief liaison to the more primitive up-river tribes, Hugo Dowd. Dowd proves that automation has no place in the Amazon way of religion.

Is it possible for a robot to have the Christ qualities of compassion and selflessness? In the mechanized world of the future, as presented by Robert F. Young in "Robot Son", a savior with these qualities is needed. This is a rather intriguing story with an ending that resembles the traditional Christmas story of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem.

In the only story that ordinarily wouldn't even be considered science fiction, "The Wolfram Hunters", by Edwin D. Hoch is a mystery story that takes place almost a century after a nuclear holocaust on earth. This story is so bad, in terms of science fiction content, that it would have been better if it had been lost in the pages of The Saint Mystery Magazine where it was taken from.

* * * *

FORTHCOMING ANTHOLOGIES

DANGEROUS VISIONS, edited by Harlan Ellison. 33 stories. Doubleday. \$6.95.

At the 24th World Science Fiction Convention held in Cleveland, Ohio in 1966, Harlan Ellison announced that he was compiling an anthology that would be different from any other collection. It would be based on ideas that Mr. Ellison indicated had been prohibited until this anthology was compiled.

This collection has been scheduled for publication in October and will be reviewed by us as soon as we receive a copy.

S-F: THE BEST OF THE BEST, edited by Judith Merril. 29 stories. Delacorte Press. \$6.50.

This collection is a calling by Miss Merril from the first five annuals of the Year's Best S-F covering the years 1956-1960. The first four Annuals were published by Gnome Press and would be very difficult to obtain at the present time. The Fifth Annual was the first to be published by Simon & Schuster in 1960. This collection is actually taking the place of the 12th Annual Edition which, we understand, is scheduled for publication in June 1968.

THE PASSING OF GLORIA MUNDAY, by John Garforth. Berkley F1431. 50¢. 128 p.

John Steed and Emma Peel are up to their world saving tricks again in this third of The Avengers series.

Their enemy this time around is REEL, an organization which plans to rouse the nation's teenyboppers and JDs to riot and overthrow the government. They attempt to accomplish this thru the use of subliminal suggestion geared to the teachings of an American evangelist, Herbert W. Sinclair.

Their plans are soon fouled up by Steed & Peel who are again aided by that eloquently intellectual Negro secret agent, George Washington.

The story line isn't as wild and wooly as the previous two escapades but nevertheless it is a good solid satire which effectively apes the rebel youth of today. (Brisson)

ROSEMARY'S BABY, by Ira Levin.
Random House. 245p. \$4.95.

If you want to enjoy this book, stop reading this review and read the book. While Mr. Levin is an extremely skillful writer, he is not that inventive for an audience of fantasy and science fiction readers. I do think one can read and enjoy the story even when one sees the end coming. It's not as good as James Blish's latest witchcraft novel, though.

If you silly people still want the book ruined and continue reading this, I am not about to argue. Guy Woodhouse (a stage name) and his wife Rosemary move into an apartment house with a slightly bad reputation. Quite early in the game the clever reader (which is most of you) will realize that the neighbors are witches. Rosemary gets with child and at about the same time starts being a little light headed at times. A friend tries to warn her about the neighbors and dies strangely. Rosemary realizes they are witches and thinks they want her baby for the unmentionable rites. When surrounded by them and her husband who has converted, she gives birth and faints. She is told the baby died but doesn't believe it. Sneaking next door to rescue her child she is discovered. Surprise Rosemary, they don't want to sacrifice your baby. It seems that Guy is not the father -- that nightmare you had wasn't a nightmare: the Devil did copulate with you and you have born the Anti-Christ. There is a moment when Rosemary contemplates flinging the child out the window and jumping but mother love wins out and she cuddles her baby.

Mr. Levin is a very good writer (also read A Kiss Before Dying, a crackerjack mystery) and the proof of this story is in the reading. I think most people will enjoy this book, which after all the foolish talk of style and theme and other Freshman English crap, is the main consideration. (J.B. Post)

BABEL-17, by Samuel R. Delany.
Ace. 40p. 173 p.

Sam Delany has written a very

good and a very frustrating book in Babel-17. He has a memorable lot of characters to people his book: Rydra Wong, Brass (reminiscent of Van Vogt's Coeurl), Calli, Ron, the Butcher, and a bunch of disembodied crewmen. I suspect that Delany knows his way about Greenwich Village as his characters are somewhat like beats and hippies. Delany also sprinkles his book generously with science, an all too rare occurrence in many of today's sci-fi novels. I don't pretend to understand all of it, but it sounds plausible and I guess I'll have to take Delany's word for its authenticity.

Now comes the frustration. There's no plot that I can find -- the book kind of meanders about and climaxes all too quickly. Delany's writing proves a problem -- at times it's strikingly beautiful and flows smoothly; other times he becomes 'disembodied' and not at all coherent (Zelazny gets that way sometimes but he stays lucid, somehow). Delany gets a bit wrapped up in semantics and manages to slow things down to a crawl -- some of it is interesting, some of it plain dull.

It might sound like I don't like the book, but actually it's one which isn't easily put down once started (semantics and all). Guess I was just frustrated. (Brisson)

THE FIRST MEN IN THE MOON, by H.G. Wells. Dell 2552.

If you're an engineer, don't let the hard facts of potential theory spoil your enjoyment of some real live classical science fiction. Introduction by Willy Ley, who comments on this particular point.

"Classical", applied to this story, means that it first appeared in 1901. That's it: nineteen ought one! It's noticeably dated, if you are very sensitive to that view of what you read. But it compares favorably with much you buy fresh-written. In fact, I think it's almost prophetic of our modern trend towards putting the science in the background so that the characters emerge more clearly. Characterization excellent. Old classic; enjoyable.

DAY OF THE MINOTAUR, by Thomas Burnett Swann. Ace F-407. 40¢. 159 p.

Day of the Minotaur is a Hugo nominee and with good reason. Swann's prose is delightfully vivid and his picturesque imagery is reminiscent of the best of Jack London. He describes his characters with such warmth and charm that they literally make the story come alive.

Thea & Icarus escape from Crete which is threatened by Achaeans, and flee to the Country of the Beasts. There they are befriended by Eunostos the Minotaur who introduces them to the many wonders and creatures of the forest. The Telchines, three-foot ants; the tree-dwelling Dryads; the bee-like Thriae; the Bears of Artemis; the warrior Panisci and the Centaurs.

The book ends with an enormous battle between the Beasts and Ajax and his Achaeans aided by the Thriae. The Beasts win the battle but in a sense lose the war, for their ranks are sadly depleted. (Brisson)

LIVING WAY OUT, by Wyman Guin. Avon S298.

Seven stories originally published between 1950 and 1964. Each one is a tightly written, well constructed and highly imaginative sample of the very best science fiction. Guin does not seem to have been published often, but what has appeared is top quality.

Each story is based upon a fairly definite set of assumptions. The picture is made clear enough at the beginning for the reader to perceive what kind of a remarkable world the story is placed in, and then Guin goes on to wrap up the loose ends and to complete the picture in a very workmanlike way.

SEEKERS OF TOMORROW, by Sam Moskowitz. Ballantine U7083.

Not everybody agrees with Sam; but he has done a lot of reading, and clearly he has spent a lot of time thinking about what he has read.

This result contains 22 chapters devoted to recent and modern auth-

ors. The 23rd is a kind of miscellany chapter, and he winds up with an "epilog", touching upon science fiction in some other countries. Notably Russia.

There are two indexes: a name index, and an author index. This is one book worth having in hardcover.

SOLDIER, ASK NOT, by Gordon Dickson. Dell 8090.

Two or three stories have been combined into one in this work, which purports to be an original novel.

But volumes that I have seen called "novels" have had a much simpler story structure. Dickson has combined a sort of an autobiography with a love story, an analysis of a problem humanity will certainly have to face some day, and some interesting conjectures about human development. A few lesser thoughts are thrown in for good measure, and if you aren't interested in the deeper concepts you can enjoy it as a highly readable adventure story.

TROS OF SAMOTHRACE, by Talbot Mundy. Avon S303.

Sword & sorcery, mostly sword. I don't know why Avon sent me this one, but it was very enjoyable reading. Mundy's books remain interesting because they combine adventure, a realistic picture of the past, some careful research, a well-controlled sense of humor, and some mighty good workmanship. This is the first of a series of four, and I'm looking forward to the rest of them.

I AM A BARBARIAN, by Edgar Rice Burroughs. ERB, Inc. \$6.00.

Hardly s-f, but interesting to many people who like s-f, the work of Edgar Rice Burroughs remains popular. The copyrighting problem seems to be belatedly solved, and ERB Inc. is coming out with previously unpublished ERB work.

I Am a Barbarian, priced at \$6 in a limited 2000 copy edition, is now available from ERB, Inc., Tazana, Calif. 91356. This is a thoroughly researched historical novel recreating the decadent era of the Caesars. Sounds interesting.

WORLD OF THE SLEEPER, by Tony Russell Wayman. Ace H-21. 60¢ 184 p.

If you've ever seen one of the multitudinous Italian sword-and-sandal epics that occupy the TV screens on Saturday afternoons, then there's no reason to read this. It starts out as a rib at James Bond -- complete from stale puns and belabored play on words (re: an unmarried pregnant woman, "She's laboring under a misconception") to a bona fide Bondsman cult with a constitution, officers, ad nauseam. The hero gets to his imaginary world via a dream-machine perpetrated by Dr. Mordant (sinister, huh?). Once there, the book reads like an Italian scenario. He fights a rebel leader, sins, finds a Cause (important in this book because there is little else), fights for the Cause, rescues a fair maiden, returns the throne, and lives happily ever after. Like a bad pun, this book is two-thirds p-u, the other third is just plain bad. (Brisson)

THE LONG RESULT, by John Brunner. Ballantine U2329. 50¢. 190 p.

Roald Vincent of the Bureau of Cultural Relations (BuCult) is chosen to be a one-man welcoming committee to the Tau Cetians, a race newly discovered by the Starhomers. This awkward problem is dumped into his hands by the Starhomers in an attempt to embarrass Earth so that they can make a break from being an Earth colony.

However, unknown to the Starhomers, they are already Earth's superior and have been for some time. Tinescu, Micky Torres, and Roald are the only ones aware of this, and it is their job to prepare the Earth for the break which will eventually come.

This is slow and heavy-handed Brunner -- the plot is dull and plods along in the mire of inconsequential sociological discussions and the characters are subservient to the plot to no good end. (Brisson)

THE SHOOT, by Elleston Trevor. Avon 5301.

There is so much science in modern life that the boundary between science fiction and other fiction is breaking down. Here is an example.

The Shoot is not science fiction. There is certainly enough science in it, but it is the kind of science you find in modern life, grade school, and on TV. It is modern science, which was certainly enough for a science fiction writing project maybe twenty years ago.

But in those two decades there have been some very great changes, and I think that now we have to consider something a little deeper in sorting out science fiction from not-science-fiction. It is in the author's use of the material.

This book is a good adventure story, and Trevor keeps things in pretty good perspective. But he does not use that element of imagination, so that the reader sees "what is?" Rather, it is a kind of scientific adventure story, clearly based upon modern experience.

Don't be misled by the covers. It's pretty good reading.

COUPT OF HONOR, by Geoff Taylor. Avon N161.

Not science fiction at all, but there is a lot to think about here. Taylor imagines that the Nazis go underground at the end of WW2, and he writes a compelling story about it. I think this is timely reading because we have been for some years on the thin edge of achieving something like this right over here.

STARMAN JONES, by Robert A. Heinlein. Dell 8246.

The master writes. Max Jones begins as a farmer, and in a plausible series of events he is able to wind up as Captain of the first spaceship he serves on. Sense of wonder jaded? This will freshen it.

Electronic stencils by Julius Postal