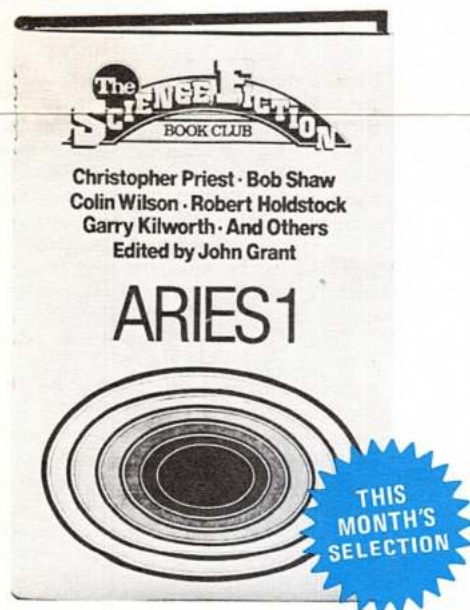


The SCIENCE FICTION Book Club News



"...is as impressive in content as it is in intent... highly recommended."

—Science Fiction and Fantasy Journal

SFBC £2.25

David & Charles £4.95

REF 5160

Anthologies of new science fiction are rather rare these days. This is a pity. Many science fiction ideas are more powerful in a short story form; collections of stories provide the reader with a range of themes and writing styles in a single book; and the anthology introduces readers to writers with whom they may be unfamiliar along with writers known to provide good value for money.

Aries 1 cannot fail to please. Here are well known writers like Bob Shaw who, in collaboration with Malcolm Harris, has produced a new 'slow glass' story; Christopher Priest, Garry Kilworth (who will be familiar to SFBC members for his very fine novel *The Night of Kadar*, a main selection earlier this year — SFBC £1.75 REF 5148), Robert Holdstock, and Colin Wilson — who has here written his very first science fiction short story. In addition to these 'names' there are several very fine stories from relative newcomers to the field: Michael Scott Rohan, Robin Douglas, David Langford, Steven Spruill, Terry Tapp and Eve Devereux.

The stories themselves are very good indeed: the mind of an ailing alien implanted in the body of a tiger; an infinitely wise alien kept caged by a girl as a pet; a plague of insects released aboard a starship; a semantics expert who views the past by experimenting with his brain; a paradise where there is a price...

THOUGHTS ON ARIES 1 by John Grant

The editing of anthologies is always a rather dicey thing. A budding novelist knows that his first novel must be, if not the finest that he will ever write, then at least so good that it will conquer the scepticism of publisher and public alike on being confronted with a new name; the anthologist, on the other hand, knows that his collection must conform to this criterion of excellence but also that unless the anthology is an established series he will have the uphill battle of actively pursuing stories rather than merely judging the merits of those that cascade across his desk each morning.

With *Aries 1* I was lucky. Goodwill on the part of many of the contributors, plus a lot of silent, behind-the-scenes work by people who will doubtless be embarrassed to find their names listed in the acknowledgments paragraph at the back of the book, ensured that the stories that came my way were, generally speaking, of extremely high standard: I could have put together at least two good anthologies and probably a further publishable one using the material that was submitted. Rejecting one or two stories at the very last stage caused almost physical hurt: they were excellent stories, but already the book was overlength...

continued overleaf

JOHN VARLEY 'Winner of the 1979 Hugo for Best Novella: *The Persistence of Vision*'

TITAN

En-route to Saturn, the DSV *Ringmaster* is diverted from her mission when one of the crew locates what is at first believed to be a previously undiscovered moon. It is christened Themis, but investigation proves

Themis to be a vast wheel-shaped construction; a world within a world belonging to the realms of the impossible — a bizarre, endless landscape inhabited by creatures out of legend.

SFBC £4.50

Sidgwick & Jackson £5.95

REF 6330

Edited by ISAAC ASIMOV Martin Harry Greenberg and Joseph D Olander

100 Great Science Fiction Short Short Stories

Some of the greatest science fiction writers have been intrigued by the possibilities of the short short story. Condensing a story into three or four pages can be a mighty challenge, everything has to be eliminated but the point must be delivered like a bare needle fired from a blowgun; a needle that can tickle or sting and leave its effect buried within you for a long time. Short short

stories are crisp, clever and frequently dependant on a surprise twist at the end. Here are 100 from the masters of the genre: Isaac Asimov, Larry Niven, Roger Zelazny, Robertheckley, Damon Knight, Frederik Pohl, Fritz Leiber, Ben Bova, Bob Shaw... the list just goes on and on.

SFBC £2.95

Robson Books £3.95

REF 8485

