

## SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB Programme January—August 1956

March/April, 1956

### MOMENT WITHOUT TIME

compiled by Samuel Mines (Published under the title of *Starling Stories* by Cassell at 12s. 6d.; S.F.B.C., 5s. 6d.)

This big 300-page anthology contains the pick of recent fiction from the American *Starling Stories* magazine. There is an introduction by Robert Heinlein, who also contributes a story; twelve other writers include A. E. van Vogt, Arthur C. Clarke, Theodore Sturgeon, Ray Bradbury, Joel Tansley Rogers and Sherwood Springer. "A really rich, mixed bag of tales . . . a near thing to perfection"—Brian Aldiss in the *Oxford Mail*.

May/June, 1956

### WILD TALENT

by Wilson Tucker (Michael Joseph, 10s. 6d.; SFBC, 5s. 6d.)

The story of Paul Breen, a young GI whose own particular wild talent, ESP, saves a civilization but nearly wrecks his own life. The situation of such a being in the power-mad, modern world, from the time when as a frightened small boy he realised that he could hear and control other people's thoughts, that he was in fact a master telepath, makes an immensely readable novel which won immediate praise from the critics: "An excellent piece of work . . . this is a very well-written and exciting tale"—*Western Mail*. "A first class thriller"—*Time and Tide*. "Good gripping adventure-story telling"—*The Observer*.

July/August, 1956

### ALIEN DUST

by E. C. Tubb (T. V. Boardman, 9s. 6d.; SFBC, 5s. 6d.)

The first 35 years of the colonization of Mars. "Describes the fierce struggle of men to establish a hold on the inhospitable red planet. A tenure made precarious by cruel fate, lack of support from Earth, biological setbacks and, above all, the unrelenting fury of the red Martian dust which chokes every endeavour. He has realised, unlike many writers, that if adaptation to another planet such as Mars will be at all possible then it will be at a high and terrible cost. The verisimilitude of *Alien Dust* is a welcome change from the usual fancies of extra-terrestrial adventure."—Leslie Flood in *New Worlds*. "We can do with any amount of science fiction of this quality"—Joseph Taggart in *The Star*.

## THE PRICE

With the March/April choice the price of Club books must be increased to 5s. 6d. per volume. This is forced on us by a substantial all round rise in January of book production costs—paper, printing and binding. As we write there is a dispute in the printing industry, which can have only one result for the publisher—higher costs.

Members will recall that in March last year the Club price was reduced from 6s. to 4s. 6d. Thus, though we are now taking a step in the wrong direction, as it were, there is still a small gain, which is something in these inflationary times.

Our own operational margins remain narrowest, and we assure members that, if and when it becomes possible to reduce the price, even though it drives our accounts department mad, we shall do it.

## DETAIL

"The Science Fiction Book Club" is a registered business name (proprietors: Sidgwick and Jackson, Ltd.).

Selection Committee: Arthur C. Clarke; Dr. J. G. Porter; E. J. Cornell and Herbert Jones.

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# SCIENCE FICTION NEWS



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The current choice is

## THE CAVES OF STEEL

by Isaac Asimov

Boardman, 9s. 6d.; SFBC, 4s. 6d.

for January/February, 1956.

### William F. Temple writes:

Science fiction is not so much a branch of literature as a tree itself with many branches. The branches are growing steadily in diverse directions, probing not only into interstellar space, technical discoveries and inventions, but also into sociology, comparative religions, psychology, ethics—in short, into man, his mind and his soul, and his place in the universe.

Isaac Asimov is a big name in modern science fiction because he has successfully tackled many branches. He gives glimpses of the tree entire. It needed an almost Napoleonic mind, in its grasp of detail, to conceive the complex sociological set-ups in his (so far) three volume story of man's future, the *Foundation* series.