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given them bearings on the Solar System. We told you to destroy those maps. Of course the grid used on navigational maps of Turner gave a startled exclamation. The captain's last words had recalled his dream—and its probable origin. The situation was ludicrous—and deadly serious.

'The rug,' he shouted. 'I forgot the rug. Captain, we've got to go back—now—and I only hope we're in time.'

Headless of Captain Stoddart's astonished stare, he went on: 'I left an old tartan rug on the grass—a novelty I bought some time ago at Marsport. It's a sham tartan. But the dark lines in the pattern could be as revealing to an intelligent race as any of our star maps. The designer had ingeniously worked into the design a complete set of spectra of Sol and his immediate neighbours!'

THE END

#### ENROL A FRIEND OR TWO

Have you thought of enrolling a friend in SFBC for Christmas? A year's membership would make a marvellous present for the right person, something to be appreciated until Christmas comes round again. And don't forget that if you enrol a member in SFBC you are entitled to a free copy of any past Choice, or a copy (while stocks last) of 'The Neon Halo' (normally 7s 6d to members), or a copy of Sir George Thomson's 'The Foreseeable Future'.

A gift enrolment card is enclosed in this issue of 'SF News'; please send it to Letchworth, and we'll try and get your gift enrolments through by Christmas. A special letter goes with every gift enrolment.

### THE JANUARY CHOICE IS THE LINCOLN HUNTERS by Wilson Tucker

(Rinehart \$2.95; SFBC 5s 6d)

#### DETAIL

'The Science Fiction Book Club' is a registered business name. Selection Committee: Kingsley Amis; E. J. Carnell; Dr J. G. Porter. 'Science Fiction News' is edited by Ildiko Hayes and published by the Science Fiction Book Club for distribution to its members. Accounts and Distribution: Dunhams Lane, Letchworth, Herts. Membership of the Science Fiction Book Club can be arranged at any bookshop or from: 10-13 Bedford Street, London, W.C.2

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## BOOM

SFBC is experiencing a boom. There have been times when we've been hard put to it to find six books in a year good enough to offer you; usually, of course, the flow is steady, and we don't have too much trouble. But recently our problem has been the other way about: there has been so much good SF that we have decided to try an experiment. If you don't like it we hope you'll tell us.

In short, during 1961 (as an experiment) we shall issue nine books instead of six; you will get a book in January, February, March, May, July, September, October, November and December. (We at least tend to read more in winter than in summer.) Apart from our present glut of good books, there are other reasons for this move. One is that you will be able to get the books sooner after original publication. Another is that we are adding to the current titles we publish with American books not published here.

There will of course be a reshuffle of the books we have already announced—as follows:

January: *The Lincoln Hunters*, as before

February: *Wasp*

March: *The Outward Urge*

May: *The Canopy of Time*

Others will be announced in next month's Programme Number.

We would like to add that this is at the moment only an experiment. If enough of you write in to object, or if our supply of good books dwindles again at some later date, we will run SFBC on the old basis of a book every other month.

Stay with us, then: we're out to make life a lot livelier for everyone.

I. H.