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AND THERE WAS LIGHT  
by Rudolf Thiel (André Deutsch 25s; SFBC 13s 6d)



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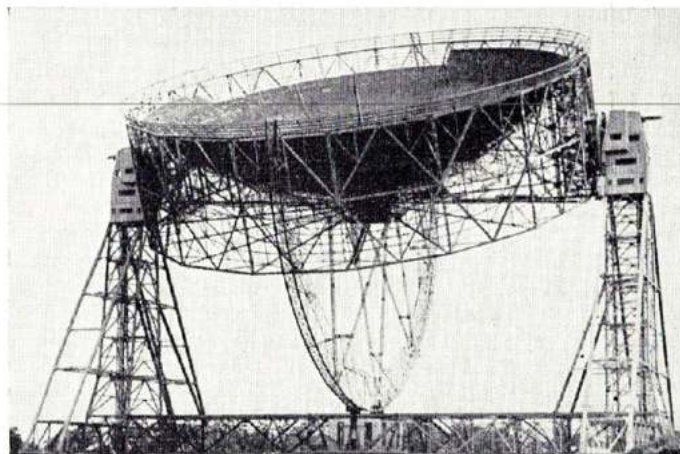
To replace *The Neon Halo*, stocks of which have dwindled to almost nothing, SFBC is offering Rudolf Thiel's brilliant and luxurious history of astronomy as an additional book, and also as an alternative gift for those who enrol new members into the club.

As an sf addict, you must know about astronomy. Do you? Whether you do or don't, this is a book you will enjoy owning. It isn't a textbook. Any serious technical work we could provide would be incomprehensible to laymen, and probably of little use to the serious astronomer, who might have it already. *And There Was Light* is a lavishly produced 398-page volume, illustrated with 16 full-page plates and 54 line drawings, which covers the history of the science from the star-gazing astrologers of Babylon and China to the astrophysicists of today. Well written, without a trace of jargon, it records man's search for knowledge, and how the earliest ideas of space and the stars grew step by step into the latest concepts. You can find in it the theories of the Greeks and other ancients, astrologers and Churchmen, then Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, the Jesuits in China, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, Herschel and all the discoveries since, set in their most

enlightening social contexts. Then comes a description of the latest techniques.

Another feature of the book—and one which marks it out from so many essays in popularization—is that it is based upon *original* research. The *New Scientist* makes this point: 'The author has evidently gone to many of the original sources for his information; for example, he does not fall into the almost universal error of ascribing Bruno's death at the stake as punishment for his revolutionary cosmological speculations.'

There are appendices giving essential astronomical data—velocities, distances, etc.—and a chronological table of discoveries and astronomers.



Rumer Godden wrote: 'One travels with perpetual interest, for this is an orderly, scholarly history and exploration of astronomy and its alluring but not as respectable sister, astrology, from earlier times right up to the sputniks. . . . There are diagrams, old drawings, photographs that are awe-inspiring as well as beautiful; there are anecdotes, biographies, much lore, above all facts, all told lucidly, readably. Even to read the index is to feel the mind soar.'

*And There Was Light* was six years in the writing, and throughout it is readable, enthralling, 'a layman's book of surpassing interest', as one reviewer called it. In all, very well worth your while.

Order your copy from Letchworth (stating membership number or source of supply).

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## EDITORIAL

ON the next three pages of this Programme Number you will find full descriptions of the forthcoming six books. Now that we are publishing nine books a year instead of six there will be a change in the system: Programme Numbers will describe fully the six books immediately ahead, instead of describing three books fully every six months, as before.

As you will see, they are wonderful books. *The Dragon in the Sea* must be one of the finest stories of its kind ever published, if not the finest. *Wasp*, espionage and sabotage in the fantastic Sirian Empire, is good, exciting, workmanlike reading. *The Outward Urge*, different from anything Wyndham has done before, and it incorporates a new final episode not included in the Michael Joseph edition. *The Canopy of Time*, as readers of *Non Stop* will readily believe, is one of the best collections of stories we have seen in many years, and they are linked into a whole. *Time out of Joint* (never before published in Britain in book form) is an unusual and somewhat eerie story, gripping from beginning to end. As for *City*, it is a classic of sf now out of print, well worth a place in SFBC.

As an additional book there is Rudolf Thiel's *And There Was Light*, which is informative in content and elegant in appearance. And, finally, most important of all, our March-August Special Bargain edition of EVERYMAN'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA—12 volumes for £8 8s (J. M. Dent £14 8s). A full descriptive leaflet is enclosed herewith.