

science fiction news

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Selectors: Kingsley Amis, John Carnell, Dr J. G. Porter

NEXT MONTH'S CHOICE

Tales of Ten Worlds

by Arthur C. Clarke

A MAGNIFICENT collection of fifteen stories from 'the best-known sf writer in the world' (*Daily Herald*). Some of them are set in the world of today: 'I Remember Babylon', for instance, describes with a chilling credibility the uses to which a satellite like Telstar could be put by an enemy; 'Hate' is a terrifying study of revenge, the revenge taken against a Russian astronaut whose rocket has come down in the sea off the coast of Queensland; other stories in the collection are concerned with the world of the near future: 'An Ape About the House', one of these, is very amusing: one way of solving the problem of domestic help is to employ a monkey, or rather 'a Superchimp (Registered Trade Mark) . . . trained to perform all types of domestic work or routine manual labour, docile, affectionate, housebroken and particularly good with children'; Dorcas lived up to all these claims and was a real 'treasure'—until she relearned the art of painting. . . . Then there is the ironic and touching 'Death and the Senator': an ambitious, ruthless man, close to the height of his career, learns that he is incurably ill; the inevitability of death makes him reconsider and redirect the life left to him, and then he is told of a cure. . . . The most impressive and characteristic stories in the book are, however, projections into the remote future, like 'The Road to the Sea', a poetic, haunting, visionary *novella* about mankind six thousand years hence; it is one of the most original and prophetic pieces of work in this whole field of literature.

Tales From Ten Worlds includes some of the finest work from one of the leading sf writers in the world.

'Arthur C. Clarke has written so many stories—in a medium that requires fantastic fertility of idea—that his descent into self-repetition might seem only a matter of time. Well, perhaps it is, but it certainly hasn't happened yet, judging by his latest collection. . . . All the old freshness and variety is here, ironical, touching, alarming by turns.' KINGSLEY AMIS in the *Observer*.

Gollancz 16s; SFBC 6s

WANTED AND FOR SALE

IF ANY member of SFBC has a copy of *The Doppelgangers* by Gerald Heard which they would be willing to sell, would they please write to the editor of *SF News* (10-13 Bedford Street, London, W.C.2), indicating the price.

Mr Michael Turner of 54 Park Hill Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17, is anxious to obtain a copy of *I, Robot*.

Mr J. T. O'Rourke would like to buy a copy of each of the following: *Expedition to Earth*, *The Deep Range* and *Against the Fall of Night*: his address is 67 Balmoral Road, Farnworth, Bolton, Lancs.

Mr F. Marshall of 5 Kimberley Terrace, Lyminge, Folkestone, Kent, is anxious to get hold of a copy of Poul Anderson's *Flight to Forever*.

Mr W. Cooper of 89 Wellcarr Road, Woodseats, Sheffield 8, has for sale all the SFBC titles from No. 1 to No. 50.

All the above members should, of course, be contacted direct.

Science Fiction and Anarchism

Extracts from an essay by John Pilgrim,
published in *ANARCHY* 34

'THE MAIN difficulty experienced by an anarchist in trying to convince a non-anarchist of the validity, or even the sanity, of his views, is the basic idea that authoritarianism of some kind is necessary in order to prevent society from lapsing into a catch-as-catch-can barbarism. . . . Those members of the public who stop to think about the problem at all tend to dismiss anarchism as a beautiful but impossible ideal. . . . The vast majority are not even aware that such an ideal exists; to them anarchy is synonymous with chaos, and as they are not given to reading political pamphlets they remain isolated from the vanguard of liberal thought which is anarchism. . . .

'It was while thinking around this problem that I realized there was in existence a literary form which was, if not anarchist, at least consistently liberal and anti-authoritarian in its social views, and that was science fiction. . . . I feel that as sf is the medium in which most of the genuinely subversive thought of our time is set down, it has no need of the kind of academic respectability that Amis would wish on it. Indeed that sort of respectability could well lead to its early demise. The writing which I wish to discuss is the sort of thing that appears in monthly magazines [where] most of the criticism, discussion and examination of our present social and political attitudes is carried on. . . . As far as the general public is concerned, sf magazines are the only form of popular fiction that, as a matter of course, present ideas that the supporter of the *status quo* would regard as subversive. . . .