

Science Fiction

October 21. Harlan Ellison, Philip K. Dick.

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last time

Ballard: New Wave, avant-garde

“The only truly alien planet is Earth.”

indictment of outer-space SF: a double rejection

heroic, technocratic, Campbellian SF

Cold War space-race culture and policy

wariness of the caring state

formal dimensions of this stance...

the form

I firmly believe that science fiction is the true literature of the twentieth century, and probably the last literary form to exist before the death of the written word and the domination of the visual image.

Ballard, "Hobbits in Space?" (1977)

"A corner of Earth that is forever Mars." (349)

comparison

Is Ballard's *Way to Inner Space* the U.S. New Wave?

prolifics, award-winners

Philip K. Dick (1928–82)

1951 first stories

1962 *Man in the High Castle* (Hugo 1963)

1966 “We Can Remember It for You Wholesale”

about 44 novels, 120 short stories...

Harlan Ellison (1934–)

1965 “Repent, Harlequin!” (*Galaxy*)

1967 *Dangerous Visions*

<http://harlanellison.com/bib/> lists 1060 works...



Harlan Ellison, 1966 Hugo winner for ““Repent, Harlequin!”” at Tricon, Cleveland
[Ellison also won the Nebula Award in its first year for the story]
<http://www.thehugoawards.org/hugo-trophies/1966-hugo-award-trophy/>

Harlan Ellison, born in 1934, is an editor, screenwriter, media critic, and award-winning story writer. His honors include a Writers Guild of America Award for “Demon with the Glass Hand” (1965), the Nebula and Hugo Awards for “Repent, Harlequin, Said the Ticktockman” (1966), several other Nebulas and Hugos, the Edgar Allan Poe Award for “The Whimper of Whipped Dogs” (1973) and a Special Hugo Award for editing the groundbreaking anthology *Dangerous Visions* (1968). No cats.

“Notes on the Authors,” in Le Guin and Attebery, eds.,
The Norton Book of Science Fiction (1993), 854

Dangerous Visions

What you hold in your hands is more than a book. If we are lucky, it is a revolution.

These are stories so purely entertaining that it seems inconceivable the impetus for their being written was an appeal for ideas. But such was the case, and as you wonderingly witness these ducks of entertainment change into swans of ideas, you will be treated to a thirty-three-story demonstration of “the new thing”—the *nouvelle vague*, if you will, of speculative writing.

Ellison's introduction

Dangerous Visions

Yet speculative fiction (notice how I cleverly avoid using the misnomer “science fiction”? getting the message, friends? you’ve bought one of those s—e f—n anthologies and didn’t even know it! ...) is the most fertile ground for the growth of a writing talent without boundaries, with horizons that seem never get to any closer.

I hasten to point out *my* “new thing” is neither Judith Merril’s “new thing” nor Michael Moorcock’s “new thing.” Ask for us by our brand names.

Ellison’s introduction

what is to be done?

(Ellison edition)

Wesleyan headnote

Ellison headnote

revealing the System

Pohl/Kornbluth

advertising and corporate rule

dominate and hide

exploited labor, exploited planet

Ellison

all-encompassing state management and surveillance

ideologically and repressively enforce

universally Taylorized production

Dick

boring conformity of everyday life

leaves only

the meager pleasures of fantasy

revealing the System

Pohl/Kornbluth

advertising and corporate rule

dominate and hide

exploited labor, exploited planet

Ellison

all-encompassing state management and surveillance

ideologically and repressively enforce

universally Taylorized production

Dick

lawless corporations

secretly manipulate

a corrupt social and political order

revealing the System

Pohl/Kornbluth

advertising and corporate rule

dominate and hide

exploited labor, exploited planet

Ellison

all-encompassing state management and surveillance

ideologically and repressively enforce

universally Taylorized production

Dick

our totally malleable psychology

renders opaque

the actual rules governing everything about existence

the System

Pohl/Kornbluth

advertising and corporate rule

dominate and hide

exploited labor, exploited planet

Ellison

all-encompassing state management and surveillance

ideologically and repressively enforce

universally Taylorized production

Dick

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next time

Begin Le Guin (read at least the first six chapters)