

Science Fiction

September 30. [asimovsturgeonbradbury](#).

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last time

- I. Evolution and narrative
 - a. popularizing science / “fighting words”
 - b. tree or series
 - c. human / animal
 - d. intentional / non-intentional
 - e. teleology or arbitrariness (what is fitness?)
 - f. brain monsters as figures of social change
 - g. degeneration / reversion / the cycle

last time

2. Another gender swap. Estrangement again
 - a. critique of purdah (but: purdah?)
 - b. masculine values:
 - i. rigidity (of bodies...of categories?)
 - ii. technology
 - iii. progress / use
 - iv. profit

Federation as Borg

“Under the orders of the Federation I will have to take you forcibly, for we are determined that Gola become one of us, if you like it or not.”

“Women are all right in their place, but it takes the men to see the profit of a thing like this—er—you are a woman, aren't you?”

Stone, 105, 104

last time

2. Another gender swap. Estrangement again
 - a. critique of purdah (but: purdah?)
 - b. masculine values:
 - i. rigidity (of bodies...of categories?)
 - ii. technology
 - iii. progress / use
 - iv. profit
 - c. interpellating the pulp audience as daughters
(readerships: to be continued...)

Campbell / Astounding

John W. Campbell (1910–71), *Amazing* 1930–
Editor 1937–71: *Astounding Stories*; *Astounding Science Fiction*; *Analog Science Fact & Fiction*

Isaac Asimov (1920–1992), *ASF* 1939–
“Reason” (1941 in *ASF*)

Theodore Sturgeon (1918–1985), *ASF* 1939–
“Thunder and Roses” (1947 in *ASF*)

Ray Bradbury (1920–2012), *ASF* reader but *not* writer
“There Will Come Soft Rains”
(1950 in *Collier's*; 1950 in *Martian Chronicles* [Doubleday])

Campbell / *Astounding*

“Good morning, Pohl,” he says — we knew each other for ten years before he ever addressed me as Fred — “Do you know why television can never replace radio in the American home?” And I knew that all was well with the world and John Campbell had begun work on his next month’s editorial.

Frederik Pohl in 2009

<http://www.thewaythefutureblogs.com/2009/12/astounding-campbell-years/>

brass tacks

“I accept nothing on authority.”

brass tacks

“I accept nothing on authority.”

Asimov, 165

“Well, well,” replied Cutie soothingly, “we won’t argue.”

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*Editors of Science
Fiction Magazines
Yawn at Atomic Bomb*

Printed Stories About It Long
Ago—Now They're Writing
About a Post-Atomic World

The sensational news of the atomic bomb which left most of the nation breathless was just a bore to the editors of science fiction magazines.

"Why," says John W. Campbell, editor of *Astounding Science Fiction*, "we've covered the atomic bomb thoroughly some time ago. Now, we're writing about what comes after the world is destroyed by atomic bombs."

"The Lion and the Unicorn," in the July issue of his magazine, gives an idea about what that post-atomic world will be like. The article is one of a series which describes the "mutants." These are the descendants of people who've been affected by atomic bomb raids but have lived through them. They may have three eyes or no eyes; they may be armless or have as many arms as an octopus. The favorite "mutant" of the science fiction men, however, is the telepath. He can tell what you're thinking, but you can't tell a thing about him.

Mr. Campbell says the science fiction men, while all the rest of the press was muzzled by censorship, have been allowed to write freely about the atomic bomb for the last two years.

"They didn't take us seriously," he says, "but it's just like it was in the case of the rocket ship and radar. We were years ahead of everybody else."

Wall Street Journal,
August 8, 1945

A weapon has been developed that is potentially destructive beyond the wildest nightmares of the imagination; a weapon so ideally suited to sudden unannounced attack that a country's major cities might be destroyed overnight by an ostensibly friendly power. This weapon has been created not by the devilish inspiration of some warped genius but by the arduous labor of thousands of normal men and women working for the safety of their country.

“General Summary,” Smyth Report (1945)
http://www.atomicarchive.com/Docs/SmythReport/smyth_xiii.shtml
also excerpted in *Astounding* (December 1945)

It is conceivable that totally different methods may be discovered for converting matter into energy since it is to be remembered that the energy released in uranium fission corresponds to the utilization of only about one-tenth of one per cent of its mass. Should a scheme be devised for converting to energy even as much as a few percent of the matter of some common material, civilization would have the means to commit suicide at will....

The people of the country must be informed if they are to discharge their responsibilities wisely.

Ibid.

“You sound like the first chapter of *One World or None*.”

... “If people had paid more attention to it when it was published, perhaps this wouldn’t have happened.”

Sturgeon, 203

A REPORT TO THE PUBLIC ON THE
FULL MEANING OF THE ATOMIC BOMB

Edited by DEXTER MASTERS and KATHARINE WAY

ONE WORLD

Or None

Foreword by
NIELS BOHR

Introduction by
ARTHUR H. COMPTON

H. H. ARNOLD

J. R. OPPENHEIMER

HANS BETHE

LOUIS RIDENOUR

E. U. CONDON

FREDERICK SEITZ

ALBERT EINSTEIN

HARLOW SHAPLEY

IRVING LANGMUIR

LEO SZILARD

WALTER LIPPMANN

HAROLD UREY

PHILIP MORRISON

EUGENE P. WIGNER

GALE YOUNG

and the Federation of American Scientists

A SCIENCE ILLUSTRATED BOOK

Whittlesey House

MacGraw-Hill

The Doomsday Clock
(Martyl Langsdorf, 1947)

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

JUNE 1947

HAROLD C. UREY

An Alternative Course for the Control of Atomic Energy

AUSTIN M. BRUES

With the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in Japan

YOSHIO NISHINA

A Japanese Scientist Describes Destruction of Cyclotrons

SYLVIA EBERHART

How the American People Feel About the Atomic Bomb

WAR DEPARTMENT THINKING on the Atomic Bomb

HARRISON BROWN

The World Government Movement in the United States

THE SENATE DEBATES Mr. Lilienthal's Confirmation

BOOKS UN Atomic Energy News

Vol. 3

PRICE: 35 CENTS

No. 6

THE AUTHORS

ISAAC ASIMOV received his academic degrees from Columbia University and is Associate Professor of Biochemistry at the Boston University School of Medicine. He is a prolific author who has written over 83 books in the past 18 years, including about 20 science fiction works, and books for children. His many excellent science books for the public cover subjects in mathematics, physics, astronomy, chemistry, and biology, such as *The Genetic Code*, *Inside the Atom*, *Building Blocks of the Universe*, *The Living River*, *The New Intelligent Man's Guide to Science*, and *Asimov's Biographical Encyclopedia of Science and Technology*. In 1965 Dr. Asimov received the James T. Grady Award of the American Chemical Society for his major contribution in reporting science progress to the public.



<http://archive.org/details/raybradburysfahr00burn>
2006



National Endowment for the Arts

TEACHER'S GUIDE



RAY BRADBURY'S

Fahrenheit 451

“THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS”

(War Time)

THERE will come soft rains and the smell of the
ground,
And swallows circling with their shimmering
sound;

And frogs in the pools singing at night,
And wild plum-trees in tremulous white;

Robins will wear their feathery fire
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;

And not one will know of the war, not one
Will care at last when it is done.

[89]

“THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS”

Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree
If mankind perished utterly;

And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn,
Would scarcely know that we were gone.

[90]

next time

Some materials on readership

Astounding editorial & readers' columns from August 1938

A few bits and pieces from newspapers and periodicals
(available later tonight)

Bring *Wesleyan* so we can keep talking about these stories