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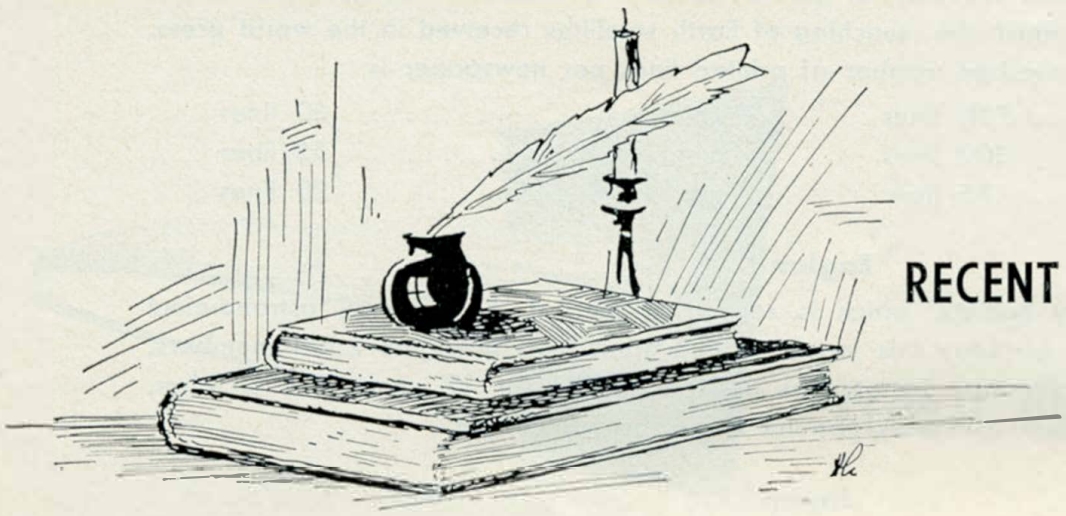
—SPACE BOOKS



RECENT & FORTHCOMING

Reviewed by

Ralph E. Jennings
James L. Daniels, Jr.
M. Raymond
David S. Akens

Spacepower. By Donald Cox and Michael Stoiko. 262 pages. Philadelphia: The John C. Winston Co. $4.50.

Messrs. Cox and Stoiko raise some pointed questions in *Spacepower*. For example: "What must I do now to prepare for the Space Age?" and "Where do I go from here?" They also offer some convincing answers. This is not a technical book nor is it space fiction. It is a thoroughgoing and thought-provoking book that analyzes the changes about to take place. It analyzes the changes that many men now alive will undoubtedly see. It tells how information gleaned from satellite-tracking systems will begin having its effect on our civilization and how every facet of our society will be affected —our farms, factories, jobs, travel, medicine, homelife, our international relations. The authors probe deeply and examine with startling clarity the hopes, needs, and problems in the fantastic new world which man is building for himself. The book is liberally sprinkled with illustrations created in the fertile imagination of N. Stanilla.

The Rocket Pioneers. By Beryl Williams and Samuel Epstein. 241 pages. New York: Julian Messner, Inc. $3.75.

In his introduction to the book by Williams and Epstein, Dr. Wernher von Braun aptly states: "With the advent of manmade satellites, it is quite appropriate that there be a new edition of *The Rocket Pioneers*." In covering the last 150 years, the authors take the reader from Sir William Congreve who astounded the conservative military men of Napoleonic Europe with a war rocket to the present day Explorers and Sputniks. The authors are interested in the pioneering of rockets, and they steer away from space travel. Their purpose is to show what has been achieved thus far. They show how Konstantin Ziolkovsky, physicist and mathematician, provided theories that led to the belief that space ships would have to be powered by rocket motors; how Robert Hutchings Goddard, father of American rocketry, bridged the gap between theory and accomplishment by actually making and firing rockets; how Hermann Oberth designed the first rocket ship, though it never left the ground; how Wernher von Braun and his team designed the supersonic rocket—V-2. And, of course, the book tells of the VfR, the German Society for Space Travel; the American Rocket Society; the Peenemuende Group

—of all who deserve to be known as the great rocket pioneers. They deserve it because their dreams and their achievements will have led to the fulfillment of space travel when it becomes an accepted transport operation in the not too distant future. Amateur space travel enthusiasts and professional rocket men alike will find this revised edition of *The Rocket Pioneers* to be informative and well written.

Space Book For Young People. By Homer E. Newell, Jr. 114 pages. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. $2.95.

Dr. Newell's *Space Book For Young People* offers a clear and dramatic explanation of the Earth and its position in the Universe—atmosphere, the Moon and satellites, the Sun and the other planets of the Solar System, galaxies, comets, meteors, asteroids, and eclipses. It supplies the mathematics which is necessary for a real understanding of space distances, rocket speeds, and the like. With exciting black-and-white illustrations that bring everything into easy focus for the reader, it is a highly readable book on a subject vital to today's young scientists. It is also the answer to the harassed parent's prayer. Dad can now avoid embarrassment by referring Junior, with his unanswerable questions, to this book.

—Ralph E. Jennings

What's Going On In Space. By Commander David C. Holmes, USN. New York: Funk & Wagnalls. $3.95.

Perhaps the only flaw in this summary of what is going on—and what has gone on—in outer Space is that it was prepared a little prematurely. Commander Holmes has done a good job of summarizing the many projects and problems which lead up to the present state of affairs in outer Space. But, perhaps out of loyalty to the Navy, he has devoted a considerable amount of verbiage to the Vanguard Project. Apparently relying on publicity releases, Commander Holmes gives a fairly complete story of what Vanguard was designed to do but, unfortunately, has failed to do. This emphasis on the role of Vanguard in America's space program results in little documentation of the Army and Air Force programs which have proved to be more reliable and more rewarding.

The book opens with the modest news release with which *Tass* announced the birth of Sputnik I and closes with a paraphrase of a quotation from N. J. Berrill's *Man's Emerging Mind.* In between there is a wealth of material concerning the more recent history of rocketry and its use in warfare, the many and various problems which must be solved before space flight becomes a reality, ICBM's, and a resume of the history of the American Rocket Society. However, there is a great deal of information in this book for those interested in the background of just what is going on in Space.

—M. Raymond

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Rocket Experiment Safety, Safety Suggestions for the Rocket Hobbyist. Prepared by the Atlantic Research Corporation, Alexandria, Virginia. 19 pages.

This small pamphlet, prepared and distributed free of charge by the Atlantic Research Corporation, is interesting for two reasons. It is an excellently organized and well-written booklet for the serious amateur of any age, and it illustrates the concern that a progressive manufacturer has for the safety of those interested in rocketry.

The pamphlet contains much valuable information concerning the manufacture, test, and firing of small rockets. It also includes details for making simple but reasonably accurate instruments for measuring rocket performance. In addition there is on excellent bibliography and many suggestions for organizing o rocket club.

The attitude which the Atlantic Research Corporation hos shown in preparing this timely little publication is commendable. It is also in sharp contrast with the attitude of one of the nation's second string aircraft industries which has taken a "public be damned" view toward such projects.

Satellites and Spaceflight. By Eric Burgess. 159 pages. New York: The Macmillan Company. $3.95.

This book is reminiscent of Willy Ley's *Rockets, Missiles and Space Travel,* but is not as broad in scope as that book. As its title implies, Mr. Burgess's book is limited to satellites and spaceflight. It is a well-written book which will serve the serious student of space travel as a valuable text. In addition to covering such subjects as instrumented satellites and space stations, it also has two timely chapters on lunar exploration and the construction of a base on the Moon. At a first glance the book appears to contain a bewildering assortment of mathematical charts and figures. However, as the reader progresses, it becomes apparent that Mr. Burgess has done on excellent job in simplifying the recondite mathematics of rocketry and space travel.

Relativity for the Layman. By James A. Coleman. New York: Mentor Books. $.50.

This reprint of Professor Colemon's popular and widely acclaimed introduction to relativity should be of great interest to the nontechnical devotee of space travel. It is a well-organized book in that it begins with the experimentation leading up to Einstein's special and general theories of relativity, then reviews the experimental proof of the theories and ends with the relationship between the theories and the nature of the Universe. The author has purposefully kept his text free of mathematical formulae—and to good advantage. *He explains relativity by analogy and example.* This method of explanation is done in terms which are familiar to the layman, and thus his explication succeeds rather than further complicates a subject the layman has long considered to be the epitome of scientific confusion.

—M. Raymond

The Space Encyclopaedia. By Sir Harold Spencer Jones & Others. New York: E. P. Dutton and Co. $6.95.

From ondromedids to zodiac, this Space Age compendium unsophisticatedly defines and describes those astrophysical, astronautical, and astronomical things and ideas stumbled over and mumbled over by the average Earthman in his newspapers and magazines. Although its definitive essays on the more complex and often less common terms are apparently authentic, the book commits inexcusable oversights in the case of the more Earthy entries. For example, the entry on Theory of Relativity neatly equates energy to mass times velocity of light squared, and explains some common applications of the theory; yet the entry for Redstone on the opposite page says it is now called Jupiter—competely false. A brief check even in a daily paper would have corrected the entry. Regardless of some such errors, the book's informative entries on comet, galaxy, meteor, rocketry, spectroscopy, star, sunspots, and many others make this a handy volume for the armchair spaceman.

—James L. Daniels, Jr.

AT LAST—The Complete International Story of

ROCKETRY AND SPACE EXPLORATION

By Andrew G. Haley

President, International Astronautical Federation

HERE IS the whole exciting story of modern rocketry from its earliest beginnings through World War II, right up to today's launchings of missiles and satellites. Here are the famous men and milestones in the development of rocketry . . . facts on rocket production in the U. S. and abroad, and a glimpse of the fantastic future of Man's conquest of space.

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Going Into Space. By Arthur C. Clarke. 117 pages. New York: Harper & Brothers. $2.50.

It is not surprising that Mr. Clarke once again crowds into a small book a large amount of space. "If you simply sit back and wait, you will reach your destination in due course, assuming, naturally, that you have started off in the right direction," writes the author, with typical poignancy of the British and obviously of Mr. Clarke, too.

As with his *Exploration of Space*, and *Interplanetary Flight*, the author's presentation though scientifically accurate is nontechnical and interesting. "Imagine that you were out in space and that floating beside you was some large heavy object. If you could brace yourself against this object and then give a good kick, you would move off in one direction and the object would move off in another." Thus, Mr. Clarke summarizes jet propulsion.

In a book well illustrated, Mr. Clarke projects space travel far into time and Space. It is a book definitely worth reading, not only for the amateur but for the more knowledgeable reader.

—David S. Akens