

ON BOOKS . . . & A MOVIE

by Charles N. Brown

- Science Fiction at Large* edited by Peter Nicholls: Gollancz, 1976, 224 pp., £5.95; Harper & Row, 1977, 224 pp., \$8.95.
- The Ophiuchi Hotline* by John Varley: Dial, 1977, 237 pp., \$8.95.
- The Future Now: Saving Tomorrow* edited by Robert Hoskins: Fawcett, 1977, 286 pp., \$1.75 (paper).
- Michaelmas* by Algis Budrys: Berkeley/Putnam, 1977, 253 pp., \$7.95.
- Under Pressure* by Frank Herbert: Ballantine, 1977, 220 pp., \$1.50 (paper).
- The Dosadi Experiment*, by Frank Herbert: Berkely/Putnam, 1977, 320 pp., \$8.95.
- The Santaroga Barrier* by Frank Herbert: Berkely/Putnam, 1977, 255 pp., \$7.95.
- The Heaven Makers* by Frank Herbert: Ballantine/Del Rey, 1977, 183 pp., \$1.50 (paper).
- Witch World* by Andre Norton; Gregg, 1977 xxxix + 222 pp., \$7.95.
- Web of the Witch World* by Andre Norton: Gregg, 1977, 192 pp., \$7.95.
- Three Against the Witch World* by Andre Norton: Gregg, 1977, 189 pp., \$7.95.
- Warlock of the Witch World* by Andre Norton: Gregg, 1977, 222 pp., \$7.95.
- Sorceress of the Witch World* by Andre Norton: Gregg, 1977, 221 pp., \$7.95.
- Year of the Univorn*, by Andre Norton: Gregg, 1977, 224 pp., \$7.95.
- Spell of the Witch World* by Andre Norton: Gregg, 1977, 159 pp., \$7.95.
- Modern Science Fiction* edited by Norman Spinrad: Gregg, 1976, viii + 540 pp., \$25.00.
- Rite of Passage* by Alexei Panshin: Gregg, 1976, xiv + 254 pp., \$12.00.
- Hothouse* by Brian W. Aldiss: Gregg, 1976, xvii + 253 pp., \$12.50.
- 10,000 Light Years From Home* by James Tiptree, Jr.: Gregg, 1976, xxxvi + 312 pp., \$13.50.
- The Fiction of James Tiptree, Jr.* by Gardner Dozois: Algor, 1977, 36 pp., \$2.50 (paper).

in *Dune*. Many SF authors have tried to portray a super-being fully on stage, but only Stapledon and Herbert have come close to succeeding, and only Herbert has managed to do it in an exciting, action-filled novel. I read this on a transcontinental flight and managed to forget where I was. The only reason I equivocated in the first line of this review is because I've read it only once and the complex plotting overwhelmed me. Two words of warning: although this book is nominally a sequel to *Whipping Star* (1970), I'd advise you to read it first. The earlier book is completely different and does not add anything not covered here. Also, read the complete book, not the cut version serialized in *Galaxy*. This is the best novel published so far this year.

Not everything by Frank Herbert is great by any means. Berkley has published the first hardcover edition of *The Santaroga Barrier*, a so-so Herbert novel first published in paperback in 1968. Herbert is popular and I assume it will sell, but I wish they had reset the book instead of photocopying the original paperback text and producing the blurred monstrosity we have here. I gave up part way through to save my eyes. Another 1968 Herbert novel, *The Heaven Makers*, has been revised and reissued. It's a not very good example of the "We're Property / Unknown Alien" theme. The revisions seem minor and haven't improved it any.

Gregg Press does hardcover reprints with photo-offset text from the originals; but, unlike Berkley, they do it well and never blur the text. Their latest offering is a set of the first seven "Witch World" books by Andre Norton (see the individual title listing at the beginning of this column). Unlike the usual Gregg Press books, these have handsome dust jackets by Jack Gaughan and endpaper maps by Barbi Johnson. They're also beautifully bound and printed on acid free paper. The series contains some of Norton's best writing; *Witch World* (1963) and *Year of the Unicorn* (1956) are particularly fine. The whole series is the type of fantasy adventure which stands up very well to constant rereading. Highly recommended. The prices are surprisingly low for hardcover limited edition reprints, and the whole series is available at a discount (\$50.00 for the seven books). If you're a Norton fan but can't afford the full set, try picking up the first volume, which has a long introduction about Norton, a bibliography of the complete series (this set only reprints the books which appeared first in paperback), and a chronological chart, all by Sandra Miesel.

Gregg also sent along some more volumes in its earlier series,