

## Introduction

The future history of man in space will depend in the main upon the conduct and resourcefulness of individual men—men of diversified character and talents. One type may bring a space freighter successfully through threatened disaster, while another very different sort will “sweat out” a commercial deal involving both human and non-human traders, a deal which will open a new solar system to galactic trade and, incidentally, cement closer a stellar peace.

The law guardian stationed in the black outer regions where the stars are cold and small will, in awful loneliness, live up to a code imposed upon his corps by tradition. And the pioneer will go into unknown wastelands, driven both by the ancient hunger for new land and a gripping desire to be the first “man” to walk that way.

To knowledge and the search for knowledge we have yet found no limit. For every new job—or old job in a new dress—which the future will open there will rise a man ready to assume the responsibilities it offers.

Twenty years ago science-fiction predicted radar, atomic energy, rockets. Now it offers the stars unlimited. Imagination may be more often right than wrong. Who can say that in 1990 or 2250 or 4950 there will not be born a William Terry or a Harry Redkirk or a Herald Alen?

*Andre Norton*