

# ALIMERICKHISTORY OF SCIENCE FICTION

byMike Wadsworth Resnick

1926 At the start, Hugo brought out Amazing,

In spite of some serious hazing

From lawyers and writers.

(It seems that the blighters

Sought cash for their written star-gazing).

1939 John Campbell then surveyed the field,

And said, "Now this drivel must yield.

I shall draw a fine line

With writers like Heinlein,

And think of the power I'll wield!"

1949 Tony Boucher at once saw the light,

And he said (sounding quite erudite):

"I don't give a fig

If the concept is big --

\_My\_ authors must know how to write!"

1950 Then Horace Gold quickly appeared,

And he wasn't the failure we'd feared,

\_Galaxy\_ was afire

With wit and satire --

And the poorer stuff all disappeared.

1964 Then along came Mike Moorcock, who said:

"SF is most certainly dead.

Who wants to re-hash

Even more of this trash?

I'll give them the New Wave instead."

1978 Judy-Lynn del Rey said, "Lester,

Our readers will never dig Bester,

But with cute fuzzy robots

There's no ifs and no buts,

You'll be a most happy investor."

1984 A mirrorshade crowd made the scene,

And said, looking hungry and lean,

"With punks made of cyber,

And no moral fiber,

We'll sweep the bestseller list clean."

1996 When Lucas from college departed,

His vision to film was imparted;

The books have been pleasant,

But quite adolescent --

And now we're right back where we started.