

Editor's introduction vii

Part I Early landmarks: from the beginnings to 1900

The literary background to science fiction 2
Mark R. Hillegas

Jules Verne: the last happy utopianist 18
Marc Angenot

The science fiction of H. G. Wells 34
John Huntington

Part II Two formative traditions

Utopia and science fiction 52
Raymond Williams

Science fiction and the scientific world-view 67
Patrick Parrinder

Part III Science fiction today: aspects of a contemporary literature

The cold war in science fiction, 1940–1960 90
T. A. Shippey

Science fiction, religion and transcendence 110
Tom Woodman

Characterization in science fiction: Two approaches 131
1. The disappearance of character
Scott Sanders
2. The alien encounter: or Ms Brown and Mrs Le Guin 148
Patrick Parrinder

American science fiction since 1960 162
J. A. Sutherland

British science fiction	187
<i>Christopher Priest</i>	
European science fiction	203
<i>Franz Rottensteiner</i>	
Notes on the editor and contributors	227
Index	228