

# CONTENTS

## I HISTORY

### 1 • A Brief Literary History of Science Fiction, 3

The Beginnings, 3

The First Century A.F. (After *Frankenstein*), 7

H. G. Wells (1866-1946), 15

The Twenties and Thirties, 26

*A Political Europe*, 26

*A Pulpy America*, 35

Anti-Science Fiction, 42

The "Golden Age" and After, 51

Some Achievements of the Sixties, 70

Making Waves and Crossing Lines, 87

### 2 • Science Fiction in Other Media, 100

## II SCIENCE

### 3 • The Sciences of Science Fiction, 113

Scientific Method, 114

Physics and Astronomy, 116

Computers, 131

Thermodynamics, 136

Biology, 138

Psychology, 151  
Pseudoscience, 157

### **III VISION**

#### **4 • Forms and Themes, 165**

Myth and Myth-making, 165  
Fantasy, 169  
Utopias, 173  
Imaginary Worlds, 175  
Imaginary Beings, 179  
Sex and Race in Science Fiction, 185

#### **5 • Ten Representative Novels, 190**

*Frankenstein* (1818), 191  
*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (1870), 196  
*The Time Machine* (1895), 200  
*We* (1920), 204  
*A Voyage to Arcturus* (1920), 207  
*Star Maker* (1937), 212  
*Childhood's End* (1953), 216  
*A Canticle for Leibowitz* (1959), 221  
*The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969), 226  
*The Shockwave Rider* (1976), 230

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHIES, 235**

#### **INDEX, 245**