

A LIMERICK HISTORY OF SCIENCE FICTION

by Mike 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 drivell 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.