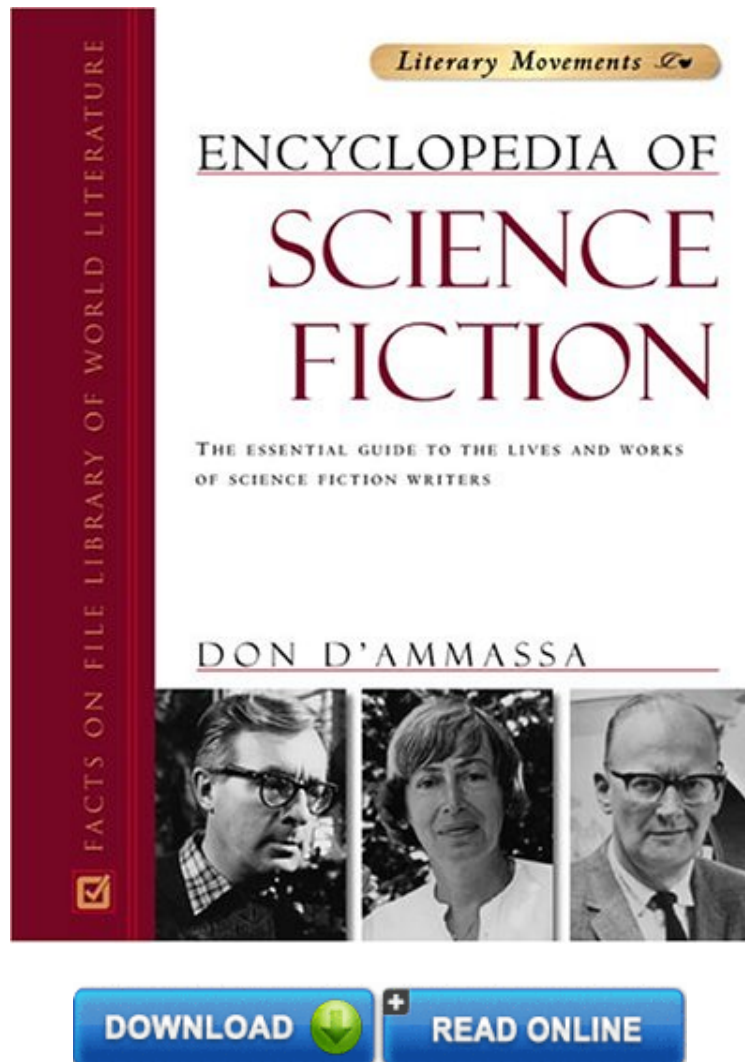


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Encyclopedia of Science Fiction (Literary Movements)

Don D'Ammassa

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Don D'Ammassa : Encyclopedia of Science Fiction (Literary Movements) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Science Fiction (Literary Movements):

4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. 500 entries place sci fi works in literary perspectiveBy D. Donovan, Editor/Sr. ReviewerPlenty of books analyze the world of science fiction, but few narrow the focus to literary impact, as does ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE LIVES AND WORKS OF SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS. College-level readers receive a comprehensive A-Z reference of over 500 entries for both authors and works, placing the writer and achievements in perspective of literary merits and including a bibliography, glossary of terms, and survey of the basic science fiction literary movements which evolved. Even peripheral writers like Stephen King who have made definitive marks on the genre receive recognition in this fine, college-level reference.

The new Literary Movements series examines the most influential literary movements in history. Pulling together the

people, events, and works that defined each individual movement, these A-to-Z references create a clear, vivid picture of the way literature was formed within these genres or time periods. Offering hundreds of entries, each compelling encyclopedia details writers and influences, works and characters, places, historical events, figures, terms, and much more, providing a comprehensive resource for high school and college literature students. Spanning the significant works and writers of the Harlem Literary Renaissance and the Chicago Literary Renaissance as well as the broad spectrum comprising Gothic literature, science fiction, and pulp fiction writers, the Literary Movements series thoroughly traces each movement and its development.

From BooklistThe book is part of Facts On File's Literary Movements series, and it has its uses. It also has flaws that make it less useful than it might be. It is the work of one writer, who is described in promotional material as "one of the world's leading experts on contemporary science fiction" and a writer of fiction and criticism. The prose is full of errors like muddling prophesy and prophecy. The work is alphabetical and combines articles on authors, novels, novellas, short stories, and series. A term in capitals in one article sends the reader to another. Articles range from a few paragraphs to a page or two. A glossary, a list of Hugo and Nebula Award winners, bibliographies of science fiction works and secondary sources, and an index complete the volume. Although the emphasis seems to be on British and American authors, there are entries for a few writers outside the English-speaking world. Coverage extends from Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* to the present. Since the emphasis is on science fiction as literature, this volume does not have the broad coverage of the field found in John Clute and Peter Nicholl's *Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* (St. Martin's, 1993). Terms related to themes and to subgenres, such as cyber punk, hard science fiction, and military science fiction, are defined in the glossary instead of being treated as main entries. The author includes some writers not generally associated with science fiction but has some curious omissions, including Karel Capek's *R.U.R.*, which gave us the term robot, and Mary Doria Russell's *The Sparrow* and *Children of God*. Information about authors' lives is cursory at best; someone looking for biographical information would do better with resources such as Gale's *Contemporary Authors* or *Dictionary of Literary Biography* series. Librarians will want to keep in mind this volume's narrow focus when considering purchase. Libraries with extensive science fiction criticism sections may find it useful. Kathleen Stipek Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved