SOFTWARE & TECH

Encyclopedia Of Science Fiction And Fantasy Through 1968 M Z

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795583940154599

The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1968 M–Z: Completing a Monumental Genre Reference

For dedicated readers, collectors, and scholars of speculative fiction, few resources hold the reverence commanded by Donald H. Tuck's **Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1968 M–Z**. This volume, the second of a landmark three-part set, is far more than a simple directory of authors and titles. It is a meticulously curated time capsule, capturing the vibrant landscape of science fiction and fantasy publishing up to a pivotal year in genre history. While the first volume covered authors A through L, this companion tome completes the alphabetical survey, offering an indispensable key to understanding the creators and works that shaped the early foundations of modern science fiction and fantasy. For anyone seeking to navigate the rich, often chaotic history of these genres, the M–Z volume remains an essential, authoritative guide.

The Genesis of a Genre Bible: Understanding Donald H. Tuck's Vision

To appreciate the **Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1968 M–Z**, one must first understand the herculean effort of its creator. Donald H. Tuck, an Australian bibliographer and fan, dedicated decades to compiling what would become the most comprehensive reference work of its kind for the English-speaking world. Unlike many modern databases that benefit from digital collaboration, Tuck's encyclopedia was a product of painstaking manual research, correspondence with authors and publishers, and a profound personal passion for the field. The M–Z volume, published in 1978 by Advent Publishers, was not merely an addendum; it was the crucial second half of the author index, providing deep dives into the careers of hundreds of writers whose surnames fell into the latter part of the alphabet. Tuck's goal was simple yet ambitious: to create a definitive record of every significant author, magazine, and book series within the genres, from their earliest appearances through the end of 1968.

What the M–Z Volume Covers: A Wealth of Bibliographic Data

The **Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1968 M–Z** is structured primarily as a biographical and bibliographic dictionary. Each entry typically includes:

- Biographical Information: Birth and death dates, real names (including pseudonyms), and a brief professional history.
- Complete Bibliographic Listings: Perhaps the most valuable feature for collectors and scholars. Entries list books, short stories, and series appearances, often with publisher, date, and page count information.
- Pseudonym Cross-References: Tuck meticulously unraveled the web of pen names used by authors, linking them to their primary identities.
- Series and Theme Indexing: Significant series, such as those by E.E. "Doc" Smith or Andre Norton, are indexed with their component titles.

Michael Moorcock and Andre Norton, to A. E. van Vogt and John Wyndham. It does not stop at individual authors, however. It also includes entries for major magazines like **Weird Tales** and **Amazing Stories**, and for important publishers such as **Scribner's** and **Gnome Press**. This layered approach gives the encyclopedia a richness that a simple author list cannot match, placing each creator within the broader ecosystem of genre publishing.

Notable Entries and Thematic Trends in the M–Z Range

Browsing the **Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1968 M–Z** reveals distinct patterns and clusters of talent. The "M" section alone is a treasure trove, featuring giants like **Walter M. Miller, Jr.** (of *A Canticle for Leibowitz* fame), **Catherine Moore** (half of the celebrated husband-wife team with Henry Kuttner), and **Ward Moore**. The "N" section introduces the incomparable **Andre Norton**, whose work bridged fantasy and science fiction for young adults and adults alike. Tuck's entry for Norton, like all his major entries, is a detailed roadmap of her prolific output, noting her many series, from the Beast Master to the Witch World.

The "S" section is arguably the most densely populated, featuring **Robert Silverberg** (in his early, prolific period before his later artistic renaissance), **Clifford D. Simak**, and the master of the short story, **Robert Sheckley**. The "V" section introduces **A. E. van Vogt**, a titan of the Golden Age, and the "W" section includes **Jack Williamson** and the ever-popular **John Wyndham** (*The Day of the Triffids*, *The Midwich Cuckoos*).

What becomes clear when reading through these entries is the sheer volume of material published in a relatively short span. Tuck's work highlights the explosion of paperback originals in the 1950s and 1960s, the rise of the specialty press, and the significant contributions of British and Commonwealth authors to a field often perceived as American-dominated.

The Significance of the "Through 1968" Cutoff

The date restriction is a critical element of the **Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1968 M–Z**. 1968 was a watershed year for both science fiction and fantasy. It was the year of **Philip K. Dick**'s *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*, **Ursula K. Le Guin**'s *A Wizard of Earthsea*, and the peak of the New Wave movement. By ending the survey at this point, Tuck created a cohesive snapshot of the genres before they underwent yet another major transformation in the 1970s. This cutoff allows the encyclopedia to serve as a definitive record of the "pulp era" and the "Golden Age," as well as the transitional period of the early to mid-1960s. It avoids the complexity of the explosion of women's speculative fiction and the rise of cyberpunk that would follow, providing a clear, focused lens on a foundational period. For the serious historian, this boundary is a feature, not a flaw, as it allows for a complete and uninterrupted view of an era.

The Encyclopedia's Legacy and Impact on Genre Scholarship

Before the internet, before ISFDB and Wikipedia, the **Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1968 M–Z** was the ultimate authority. It was the go-to resource for editors, collectors, and scholars who needed to verify a publication date, identify a pseudonym, or trace the history of a series. Its impact on genre scholarship is immense. Tuck's work set a new standard for accuracy and completeness in fan-based research. It inspired later generations of bibliographers and was a direct predecessor to the more comprehensive *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* edited by John Clute and Peter Nicholls.

Even in the age of digital databases, the M–Z volume retains its value. The careful, human-curated nature of Tuck's entries often includes contextual notes and observations that are absent from bare-bones online listings. He frequently comments on the significance of a particular story or the circumstances of a book's publication, adding a layer of narrative that a simple data dump cannot replicate. The physical book itself is a joy for collectors, often found in libraries and private collections as a testament to a bygone era of scholarly fandom.

No discussion of the **Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1968 M–Z** is complete without acknowledging its companion, the A–L volume. Together, they form the core author index of Tuck's masterwork.

(A third volume, dedicated to magazines, publishers, and miscellaneous references, was also published.) The M–Z volume complements the other, ensuring that no major figure from the period is omitted. Owning both volumes provides a complete bibliographic foundation for studying English-language science fiction and fantasy up to 1968. They stand as a matched set of monumental scholarship, a pair of pillars supporting the study of the genres' formative decades.

How the M–Z Volume Benefits Modern Readers and Collectors

For the modern enthusiast, the **Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1968 M–Z** serves several practical purposes. First, it is an excellent tool for building a reading list of classic works. Browsing the entries for authors like **Mack Reynolds** or **Kris Neville** can reveal overlooked gems. Second, for book collectors, the precise bibliographic data is invaluable for identifying first editions, authenticating signatures, and understanding the publishing history of a particular title. Third, for writers and students of the genre, it provides a deep, contextual understanding of how these authors saw themselves and their work, free from the later critical judgments that often color modern analyses. Finally, it preserves the memory of many lesser-known but still influential writers, ensuring they are not completely lost to the passage of time.

A Peek Inside: Representative Entries from the M–Z Volume

To illustrate the depth of the **Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1968 M–Z**, let us consider a few representative entries. The entry for **Michael Moorcock**, who was at the height of his New Wave influence by 1968, includes his early Jerry Cornelius stories, the Elric saga, and his tenure as editor of *New Worlds*. Tuck's entry captures the revolutionary energy of that period. The entry for **Andre Norton** is a testament to her incredible productivity, listing dozens of novels and series with precise dates. The entry for **Jack Vance** catalogs his intricate Dying Earth stories and his celebrated science fiction novels, such as *The Dragon Masters*. These entries are not merely lists; they are mini-biographies, telling the story of an author's career through their published works. This approach makes the encyclopedia a compelling read, even for those just browsing for inspiration.

It would be a mistake to see the **Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1968 M–Z** as merely the second half of a larger project. It is a distinct and powerful volume in its own right. Because it covers the latter part of the alphabet, it includes a high concentration of authors who were active later in the Golden Age and into the 1950s and 1960s. This gives the volume a slightly different flavor than the A–L, which is more heavily weighted toward the early pulp pioneers. The M–Z volume captures the maturation of the genre, the rise of more sophisticated themes, and the emergence of writers who would go on to dominate the field for decades. It is the volume you turn to when you want to explore the rich, complex period of transition from the pulps to the paperback revolution.

Conclusion: An Enduring Pillar of Genre Reference

The **Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1968 M–Z** is far more than a dusty old reference book. It is a labor of love, a monument to a passionate fan and scholar, and an indispensable key to the first seven decades of two of our most imaginative literary genres. While digital

Related Articles

- **Are James Blunt And Emily Blunt Related**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/are-james-blunt-and-emily-blunt-related.pdf
- **Was Remember Me Based On A True Story**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/was-remember-me-based-on-a-true-story.pdf
- **Ess Employee Self Service Costco**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/ess-employee-self-service-costco.pdf
- **The Case For Christianity By Cs Lewis**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/the-case-for-christianity-by-cs-lewis.pdf

TOPIC INDEX

#encyclopedia • #science • #fiction • #fantasy • #through

DIGITAL EDITION

encyclopedia-of-science-fiction-and-fantasy-t

DIGITAL EDITION

encyclopedia-of-science-fiction-and-fantasy-t

DIGITAL EDITION

encyclopedia-of-science-fiction-and-fantasy-t

DIGITAL EDITION

encyclopedia-of-science-fiction-and-fantasy-t