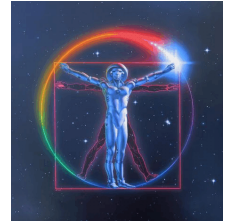


THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION



For Immediate Release

6 October 2021

With the release of the Fourth Edition of *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*, we have a new publisher and a new web server; but our long-familiar domain sf-encyclopedia.com is unchanged. The *SFE* remains free online for all users.

For ten years since the unveiling of the Third (and first online) Edition in October 2011, we worked closely with Orion/Gollancz, who had launched the online *SFE* simultaneously with their SF Gateway ebook operation and arranged for many links between the sites. Their support from 2011 to 2021, during which period the *SFE* has more than doubled in size, has been invaluable.

But the time has come for an amicable parting of the ways, following the expiry of our Orion/Gollancz contract on 29 September. The *SFE* is now jointly published by our holding company SFE Ltd, based in London, and Ansible Editions, based in Reading, Berkshire. The announcement of a Fourth Edition recognizes not only this internal change but also the introduction of several improvements not previously possible for us. The most obvious is the addition of foregrounded graphic content, with a relevant cover image (if one exists in the *SFE* Gallery) displayed in every entry. Improvements, some more visible than others, have been made to site navigation. Individual pages are – we hope – more intuitive to use. The *SFE* will continue to evolve along these lines.

We would like to thank our publishers and editors over the past 45 years, during which time the textual autonomy of *SFE* has been strictly honoured. We hope we have repaid their trust. Personal thanks are due to Hugh Elwes, John Jarrold, Colin Murray, Tim Holman, Malcolm Edwards, Darren Nash and Marcus Gipps. The first edition of *SFE* appeared in 1979 with Peter Nicholls – our founder – as editor and John Clute as associate editor; the publishers were Granada (UK) and Doubleday (USA). The second edition of 1993, jointly edited by John Clute and Peter Nicholls, was published by Orbit (UK) and St Martin's Press (USA); this was slightly expanded as a 1995 CD-ROM from Grolier. The third edition launched by Gollancz in 2011 was edited by John Clute, David Langford, Peter Nicholls until his lamented death in 2018, and Graham Sleight. All three editions won Hugos and other awards.

John Clute and David Langford