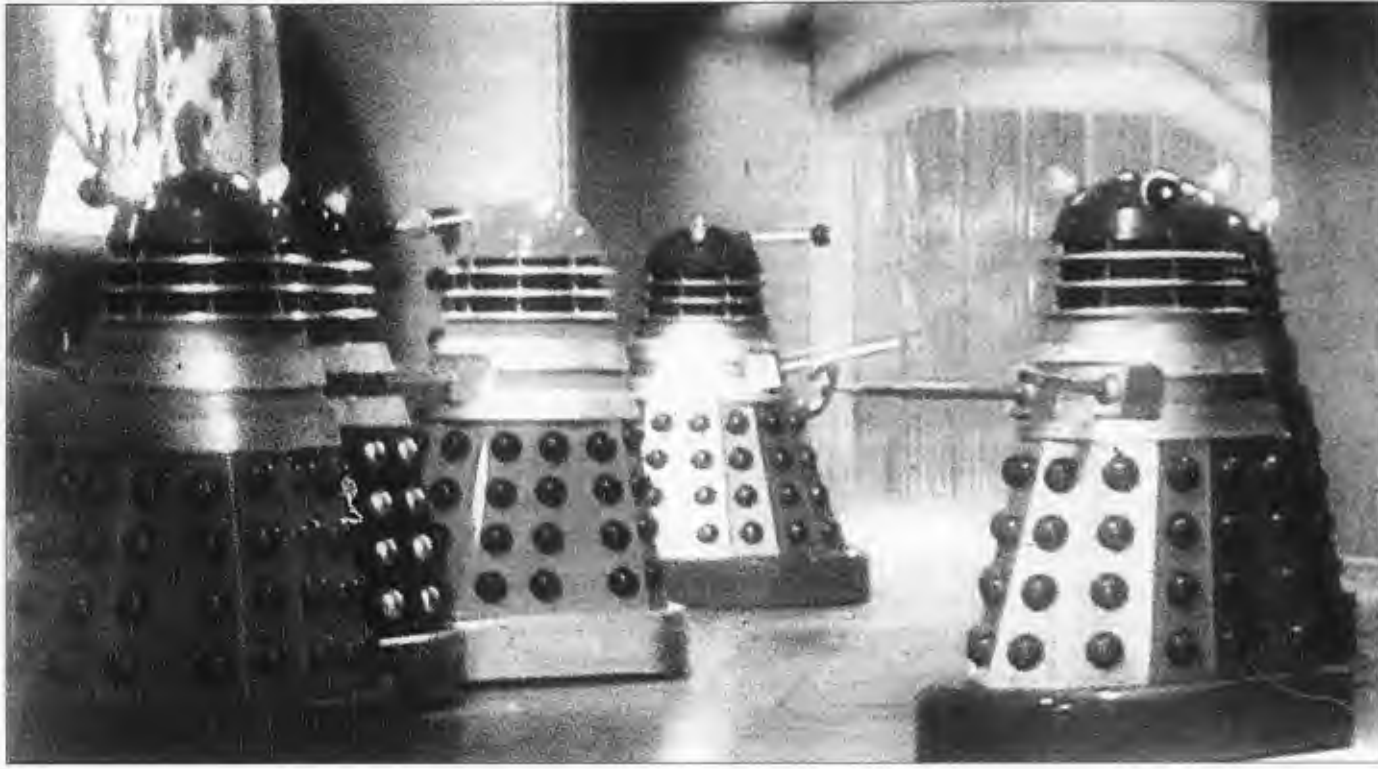


Before the Space Age ended

The images, missions and delights of science fiction



The Daleks from the television programme *Dr Who*

The *Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers* was published in the years between 1751 and 1772. Its editors, Diderot and d'Alembert, designed it to be something more than a mere work of reference, and the volumes produced under their direction celebrated the triumph of enlightenment and philosophical rationality. The *Encyclopedia Galactica* will begin publication some time in the 12,000th century of the Galactic Era. Hari Seldon and his psychohistorical collaborators will present the project as a summary of all knowledge, so that, when the interstellar empire of Trantor collapses, future generations will be able slowly to rebuild civilization on the basis of their mighty work of ref-

ROBERT IRWIN

John Clute

SCIENCE FICTION

The illustrated encyclopedia
312pp. Dorling Kindersley. £25.

0 7513 02023

their own encyclopaedias. (*The Dune Encyclopedia*, published in 1984, had entries on such matters as the astronomy of Arrakis, the wines of Caladan and the operations of the Spacing Guild.) Inevitably, some subjects are skimmed or

the beginning of our century the metropolis of the future was pictured as a dazzlingly clean grid-work of broad avenues passing between canyons of concrete and glass. Men and women in freshly laundered togas used to stroll (or will stroll?) down those avenues. In recent decades, the city of the future has turned nightmarish, dirty, overcrowded and violent. Books like William Gibson's *Neuromancer* and films like Ridley Scott's *Bladerunner* have made it so. A similar fate is overtaking spacecraft. The *Discovery* in 2001 was one of the last spotlessly gleaming ships to set out across the Solar system. It may have been the Russian film *Solaris* which started a fashion for scruffy space travel, a fashion that has been followed, for example, by the film *Alien* and by

the illustrations printed on the dust-jacket was no more than the contents of a book as it was one used to take it. It was a crazily introverted fantasy by Philip K. Dick featuring a tentacle that its way out of the designers have tentacles hand-me-down so disembodied head with spiralling Tanguish blobs wildernesses. But computer graphics nothing to the visual possible to feel not cannot think of the *Gordon* films with sets and naively en For, as Roland Barthes better than gold, gold has, plus path

Pictures apart, Clute's overall vision of the genre from this book for he is an intelligent excellent encyclopedia much as the eye begins with M (1818). Anything fiction. The might science fiction in Bulwer Lytton. C alcoholic and a posturing inflated work". But Lytton rambling *Zanoni*

even though, if me when a prize was excruciatingly backward named it a twentieth century page spreads allow have been Robert Arthur C. Clarke a Le Guin trailing Guin and Philip most popular subventions, tedious exertion, Marxist exegesis vent admirer of he regards as "perduced", but Wolfe



Dud Daleks

Sir, – I'm afraid the Daleks shown above the review of *Science Fiction: The illustrated encyclopedia* (November 3) are not from the television series, *Dr Who*, as credited, but from one of the two motion pictures, which ill-used the talents of the late Peter Cushing. (The TARDIS also suffered interior redesign, and, in one case, major changes in personnel.)

Unlike BBC Daleks, these have grapples instead of plungers, different side-lights, and exterminated in a most disappointing manner, imitating fire extinguishers, instead of going to negative image (coloured electric blue in their first encounter with Jon Pertwee's Doctor, the series having gone into colour in 1970). On a point of information in one other respect, the date of the Foundation Trilogy is 1953, not 1963, as cited.

DAVID MORTON

38 Exchange Street, Driffield, East Yorkshire.