

1949 SFF – The Big Picture

Dave Hook's favorites for 1949 SFF, with links to his essays on each area. He will update this after the panel or Worldcon.

Novels ([see link to full essay](#)): I read, or considered reading, 19 novels published in 1949. My favorites were the two classics, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell, Secker & Warburg/Harcourt, Brace & Company, *Earth Abides* by George R. Stewart, Random House/Gollancz, and the superlative *What Mad Universe*, Fredric Brown, E. P. Dutton. I recommend all of these.

Short Fiction ([see link to full essay](#)): My favorites include superlative short stories "[The Long Watch](#)", by Robert A. Heinlein, and "[The Martian](#)" (AKA "Impossible"), of The Martian Chronicles, by Ray Bradbury, superlative novelettes "[Opening Doors](#)", by Wilmar H. Shiras, and "[The Witches of Karres](#)", by James H. Schmitz, along with the great novellas "[Agent of Vega](#)", by James H. Schmitz, and "[The Lion of Comarre](#)", by Arthur C. Clarke. Hidden Gems include a first story, "[In the Days of Our Fathers](#)", a short story by Winona McClintic, from the first issue of F&SF, and "[The NRACP](#)", a horrific novelette by George Elliott.

Anthologies ([see link to full essay](#)): My favorites are the first Best Of the Year anthology, *The Best Science Fiction Stories: 1949*, Everett F. Bleiler & T. E. Dikty editors, 1949 Frederick Fell, and the first original anthology of speculative fiction, *The Girl With the Hungry Eyes, and Other Stories*, Donald A. Wollheim editor, 1949 Avon. I recommend them both, although getting ahold of them has challenges.

Collections ([see link to full essay](#)): My favorites are *The Thirty-First of February*, by Nelson S. Bond, 1949 Gnome Press, and *The Wheels of If, and Other Science Fiction*, by L. Sprague de Camp, 1949 Shasta, both rated at "Very good", and *The Fox Woman and Other Stories*, A. Merritt, 1949 Avon Publishing Co., rounded up to "Very good". Although none of them got to "Great", I recommend these three.