



Spacecraft: 2000-2100 AD

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One of a series of "Terran Trade Authority Handbooks" Using illustrations from a wide range of artists of the time

Spacecraft: 2000-2100 AD Details

Date : Published October 1st 1978 by Chartwell (first published January 1st 1978)

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Author : Stewart Cowley

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Brent says

One of the cool science fiction illustration books I would check out of the library over and over, Some of the narratives were cheesy even as a kid, but with that great art you could easily imagine your own stories.

Antonio Ippolito says

Wonderful: this shaped my imagination when I was 11.. it's finally back, and I'm proud to have created its Italian card in Goodreads: incredibly, it was missing!

Julian Meynell says

I had this book as a child. The magic of this book is that while the background is pure Space Opera the book is more concerned about telling you about design flaws in the engines or where the best museum examples of the spaceships are, than with telling a poor space opera and that makes the whole thing come beautifully alive.

It is my favorite work of mock nonfiction, although it is probably not the best. It might be because the art is evocative and the text brings this out without degenerating in pointless pulpy space opera. It leaves the Space Opera as an imaginative possibility.

Terry says

In middle school, I used to stare at this book for hours on end, imagining that distant future. Let's put this in context: Star Wars was one movie, Cylons were chrome-plated clods, and Space Invaders vied with Astroids for the title of 'Best Video Game.' Can't remember a thing about the text, but the pictures were captivating. About the same time, I stumbled upon Robert Heinlein and applied his stories to the images Cowley assembled. Now I'll have to go seek out a very expensive used copy just to relive my past affection for the now-present future.

Michael says

Why didn't I keep this book? It has some brilliant illustrations in it, which I used to love leafing through. The text, if I remember correctly, is inspired by the images and isn't related the the books which used the art for their covers.

Well, I guess you can't keep all the books that pass into your life, but I wish I'd kept this one!

Curtiss says

A clever incorporation of various science fiction artwork into a storyline.

Rob says

I loved this book. One painting, maybe a schematic or two, and Cowley had a story about the ship pictured in the painting. Never mind how weird or unlikely the painting was; he had the odd parts covered, too.

Michele Torbidoni says

This book is really full of "that kind of future" we imagined in late 70's. Something that eventually found its popularity in things like "Star Wars", "Close Encounters" (but also Hyams' "Outland") and in the works of late Chris Foss. If you're an avid Hard Sci-Fi lover, find a copy on eBay and you'll enjoy it!

Andrew says

I first got this book around 1979, and it tapped into the explosion of popular sci-fi around that time, including 'Star Wars', 'Battlestar Galactica' and 'Buck Rogers'. Relying on artwork from numerous sci-fi illustrators, Cowley produced some thing along the line of a fictional Observers book of future space craft, combined with a narrative focused on an interstellar war.

This is hardly a significant entry in sci-fi fiction, and the prose is almost totally colourless. Yet I (and perhaps others) found the creativity of such an entertaining vision of the future most enjoyable.

There are also some sly if silly jokes interspersed within the pages, so Cowley can't be accused of taking himself too seriously.

Eric Johnson says

I can't remember the exact time I read this book (been a long time that's for sure) but otherwise a great collection of SF fictional spacecraft. It was also illustrated and again, well done and a good read for SF buffs.

Joe Labriola says

Featuring stunningly imaginative retro-artwork as well as engaging technical descriptions, "Spacecraft: 2000 to 2100" is as much a speculative narrative of humanity's exploration of the cosmos as it is a fun spaceship guidebook, illuminating mankind's age-old drive for innovation and adventure through both times of future peace and war.

Richard says

As a kid, this book confused the hell out of me. I knew it couldn't be real but the historical schematic format - akin to reading promotional literature for electronics device - sure made it seem real.

I cracked it open recently and was immediately struck by how strongly the book had imprinted on my memories.

Damon says

I used to spend hours at the Camas library pouring over every inch of every page of this book, immersed in fearsome and fantastical day-dreams. I didn't have to try very hard, such is the talent on display in this fun exposition of alien art. Even when my family accompanied me or when I was distracted by some other piece of literature-- from what my mom called "the *weird* section"-- it would glisten out of the corner of my eye, off across the room in the lonely corner of K through 12. "Open me up, Damon. Read me," it whispered. "There are other worlds than these."

Say what you will about the overly dramatic, "aged" look and feel of the late-70's coloring and composition; I think it accentuates the subject matter perfectly. I can't remember the writing for the life of me, but every picture is a unique story in itself, a slice of adventure in some inconceivable future universe, giving the impression of immense unseen depths. I was convinced that Mr. Cowley must have been a time-traveler. The attention to detail on each ship and overwhelming sense of scale in some of the vistas was one of my first exposures to art in service of the purely hypothetical, and I found it all very Goth and alluring.

To this day I have a very strong emotional reaction to the images in this book; it's one of the main sources of my religious devotion to Science Fiction. Even if you're not looking for a nostalgic chemical trip, it's still fun to study and admire all of the little details on all the different spaceships and drool.

Timothy Boyd says

Great SiFi art book. Nice pics and entries. Recommended

Mouldy Squid says

Ah, nostalgia. I remember these books from when I was a kid, spending my time in grade school library. I ran across the set at a flea market and added them to the collection. They aren't quite as amazing as I remember, but they get full marks for the cool concept and the remembered joy of my younger self.
