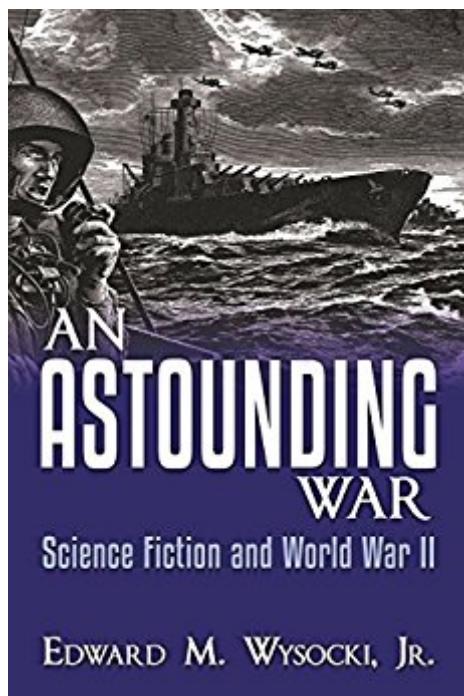


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An ASTOUNDING War: Science Fiction And World War II



Synopsis

In 1938, there were only a few pulp science fiction magazines on the newsstands. Slowly at first, the number of such publications began to increase. Events of much greater importance were also occurring at this time. In September 1939, World War II began in Europe. Eventually, the United States would be drawn into that conflict. What possible connections did pulp science fiction magazines have with World War II? That is the question that is investigated in *An ASTOUNDING War*. The title of this book is taken from the magazine *Astounding Science-Fiction*, which was considered the top of the field at that time. It still exists today as *Analog Science Fiction and Fact*. This book uses *Astounding* as the means to look at the question in two directions. In the first direction, the effects of the war upon science fiction are explored. How were *Astounding* and the other pulp magazines affected by the war? What were the wartime activities of various authors? How was the content of *Astounding*, both fiction and non-fiction, influenced by the war? Looking in the other direction, what effects did science fiction or those people associated with the genre have upon the war? Did the appearance of the story “Deadline” reflect a breach of Manhattan Project security? Is it possible that another atomic warfare story affected U.S. planning for the development of the atomic bomb? Was the system by which the Navy manages battle information inspired or influenced by stories of massive battles in space? What technical contributions were made by people linked with *Astounding*?

Book Information

File Size: 2121 KB

Print Length: 289 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 149964700X

Publisher: Edward M. Wysocki, Jr. (October 11, 2015)

Publication Date: October 11, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B016IQRYXA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #968,031 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #947 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Science Fiction & Fantasy #1058 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > History & Criticism #6327 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Criticism & Theory

Customer Reviews

Disclaimer: I know the author, but that does not influence this review. When I was growing up, I heard that science fiction writers helped the war effort with their ideas. I heard that one author was questioned by government agents about how he knew certain things (that were top secret). I heard other rumors as well. This was long before the internet, where you could track down these stories. Ed Wysocki tracked down these, and many more. He painstakingly researched documents, read letters to and from many science fiction authors, and put together this fascinating book. There are things in it that I had never heard of, like the fact that the government was seeking ideas from everyone, and that ideas were coming in all the time, whether the government wanted them or not. This is a fascinating book about that period of history. I highly recommend it.

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