

University Library, Special Collections & Archives  
Highlight for May 2011

**Out of this World Science Fiction exhibition at the British Library, May-September 2011**



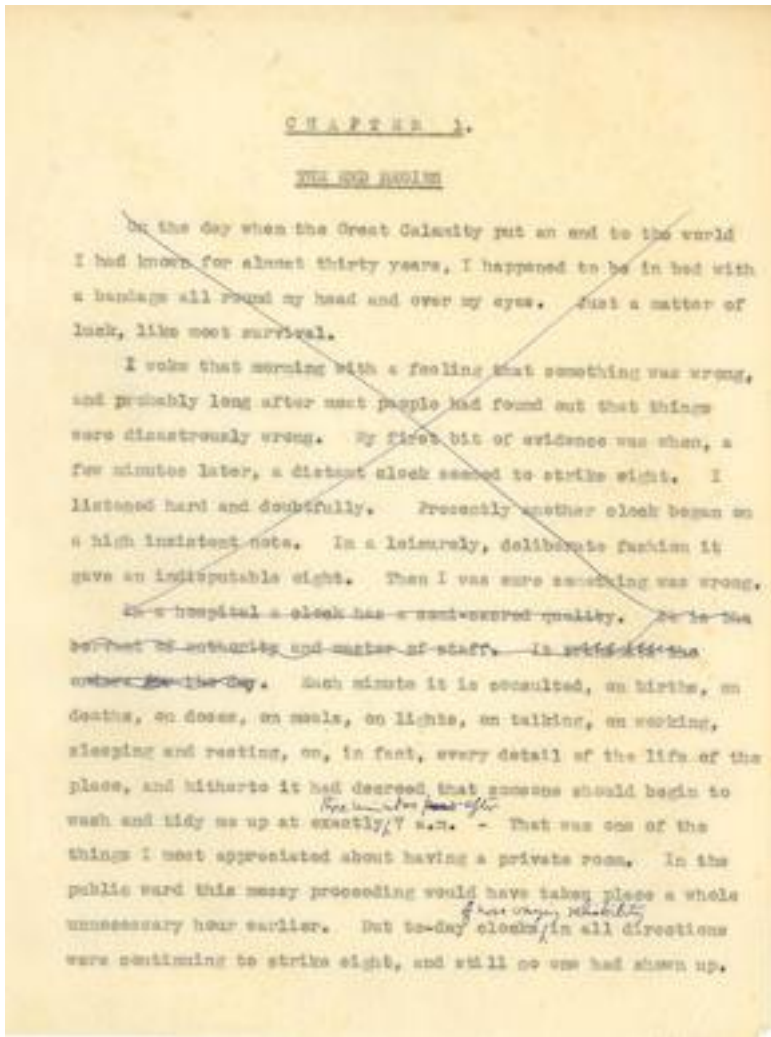
Issue of *Eagle* comic for 8 March 1957. University of Liverpool SPEC PN6738.E234 holdings: 1950-1960

An issue of the *Eagle* comic from 1957 is one of the items loaned from the Science Fiction Foundation Collection to the forthcoming British Library exhibition *Out of this World: Science Fiction but not as you know it*, which will be on display from 20 May to 25 September [www.bl.uk/sciencefiction](http://www.bl.uk/sciencefiction).

Dan Dare's implacable enemy, The Mekon, confronts Dan and his friends when they discover that the "master-mind of Venus" has led an invasion of robots. The exhibition, curated by Andy Sawyer from Special Collections and Archives, focuses upon the many worlds of science fiction, and ranges from an edition of a second-century AD "moon voyage" to the latest winner of the Arthur C. Clarke award for the best sf novel published in the UK:

(<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/booksblog/2011/apr/28/arthur-c-clarke-award-lauren-beukes>).

The exhibition aims to reveal science fiction not merely as a popular literary genre but as a way of looking at today's world and presenting radical ideas and critical alternatives to science, politics, society and the future. It is accompanied by an extensive events programme of speakers, panel discussion, and performances, and an accompanying exhibition book and related audio CD.



Other items loaned from SCA's science fiction collections include:

- a copy of *Famous Fantastic Mysteries* featuring the original publication of a story which became part of Arthur C. Clarke's *Childhood's End* (below left, Science Fiction Foundation Collection)
- the first volume of one of the best-selling Chinese science fiction novels of recent years, Liu Cixin's *San Ti* (Three Body) (below centre, Science Fiction Foundation Collection)
- a typescript page of the beginning of John Wyndham's *the Day of the Triffids* (John Wyndham Archive) which shows a deleted opening (left)
- the first US edition of Olaf Stapledon's *Last and First Men* (below right, Olaf Stapledon Archive)

#### References:

British Library exhibition:  
<http://www.bl.uk/sciencefiction>

Special Collections & Archives website:  
<http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/index.html>

Science Fiction hub:  
<http://www.sfhub.ac.uk/>



SPEC PX1000.F354 (1939-1953)



SPEC PL2947.C59.S36.2008



SPEC PR6037.T18.L34.1930