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——*Nature*

穆蕴秋¹ 江晓原²

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摘要：本文以英国《自然》*Nature* 杂志上发表的科幻作品作为主要研究对象，对这些作品的科学史意义进行了系统考察。在此基础上得出结论，《自然》从 1869 年创刊至今，从来就不像我们想象的那样“科学”，它一直在刊登许多并不那么“学术”的东西。尽管我们也有理由认为，这些在今天的科学评价体系中通常都被当成“无成”之物而遭过滤的“常常异想天开，有时荒唐无稽，总是让人吃惊”的文本，同样在参与科学探索活动。

关键词：《自然》杂志，科学史，科学幻想，科学探索

一、绪论

	<i>Nature</i>	1869			
		1932	1939	DNA	1959
	1966		1968		1985
	1997				
	<i>A Century of Nature</i>		1900		
1997		102			21
		[1]			

Nature: the Living Record of Science

“ ” “

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作者简介

” “ ” [2] “ ”

Science 1869 1959 90 *A Bedside Nature: Genius and Eccentricity in* “ ” “ ”

” “ ” 19 20 [3] *Futures From Nature: 100 Speculative Fictions* 1999

[4] “ futures ” “ ” “ 850-950 ” “ ” [5] 2007 Henry Gee

100

二、《自然》杂志荣膺“最佳科幻出版刊物”

“ ” 1999 5

2000 12 2005 2 2006 12 2007 7 5

Nature Physics [6][7][8] (Year's Best SF)

1 [9]

表 1: 《自然》杂志科幻作品入选美国《年度最佳科幻》数据统计

	2001	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	7	10	3	3	1	0	1	0
	2	8	10	4	4	5	3	2
	4	1	3	2	3	3	3	4

2000 “ ” 7

Year's Best SF 6

Asimov's Science Fiction *F&SF* 2 4
 2006 ——“ ” 10
 “ ”

2005
 “ Best Science Fiction Publisher ”
 “ ” [10][11]
 “ ”

2

表 2: 《百篇精选》的作者背景

56	27	17	77	23

Arthur C. Clark 1917 2008
 Brian Aldiss 1925 [12]
 1929 [13] “ ”
 1939 [14] Ursula K. Le Guin
 Michael Moorcock
Improving the
Neighbourhood [15]
 1968
 Stanley Kubrick 1928 1999
 2001 *2001:Space Odyssey*
 “ ” “ ”
 “ ” [16] 2008
 91 [17][18]
 (Vernor Vinge 1944) [19]
 Robert J. Sawyer 1960) [20] Greg Bear 1951 [21]
 Neal Asher 1961 [22]
 (Gregory Benford 1941) NASA
 Geoffrey A. Landis 1955 “ ” [23]
 [24] Jack Cohen 1933 [25] (Ian Stewart

1938) [26]

“ ”

A Concrete
[27]

Example

J. Casti

Daddy's Slight Miscalculation
[28]

11

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三、《自然》杂志科幻作品主题分析

(1) 科幻作品对科学难题的解答——“费米佯谬”

“ ”

“ ”

1

2

3

“ ”

[29]

3 [30]

表 3: 《自然》杂志上解决“费米佯谬”难题的科幻小说举例

	2000	
	2005	
	2005	
	MAXO 2005	
	2007	

“ ”

——

“ ”

[31]

G. Cocconi

P. Morrison 1959

Searching for Interstellar Communications

“ ” [32]

(2) 《自然》杂志与时空旅行科幻作品的历史渊源

“ ”
 [34] *Build Your Own Time Machine* [33]
 [36] *Operation Tesla* [35] *Taking Good Care of Myself*
Grandfather Paradox

Wells 1866 1946 1895 H.G.
Time Machine
 ” [37] “
 “ ”
 1915 “ ”

Thorne Kip.
 1985 *Contact*

Physical Review
 “ ” [38]
 1995
 “ ” [39]

(3) 科学与幻想存在互动关系的典型例证——多世界理论

1957 H. Everett “ ”
Olympic Talent *The Visible Man*
 2007 7 5 “ ” 50
 “ ”
 “ ”
 “ ”
 [40]

Gary Wolfe 1946
The Eternal Champion

1962
Timescape, 1981

(*The Man in the High Castle*, 1962) 、
The Time Ships, 1995

“ ”
“ ” [41]

(4) 对生物技术滥用的反思

Kitten [42] *Meat* [43] *The Godmother Protocols* [44] *The Forever*

“ ”

The Secret [45][46] *Jurassic Park*
“ ”
Indiana Jones *Nature*
Biotechnology “ ” [47]

Eva Hoffman

.....
“ ” [48]

(5) 对气候环境问题的关注

The Republic of

George's Island [49]

Hotdogs at the end of the world [50]

Sandcastles: a dystopia [51]

Godfather's river [52]

”

“ ”
“ ”

2005

The Day After Tomorrow

[53]

“ Anthropogenic Global Warming ”

Myles Allen

“ ”

Bjørn Lomborg

[54]

[55]

“ ”

四、《自然》杂志上和科幻有关的其它文本

“ ”

(1) 对科幻作品的述评

book review

“ ”

1

Trillion Year Spree-The History of Science Fiction,1986 [56]

2

Gene Roddenberry: The Last Conversation,1994

[57]

3

Fantastic Voyages: Learning Science through Science Fiction Films,1994 [58]

4 <X >

The Real Science Behind The X-Files: Microbes, Meteorites and Mutants,1999 [59]

5 < > *The Science of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, 2005 ^[60]

6 *Future Proof*, 2008 ^[61]
2

(2) 对科幻作家的访谈

M. Atwood “ ” 4

表 4: 《自然》杂志访谈的科幻人士及代表作品

R. Metzger		<i>Cusp</i> , 2005
P. Watts		<i>Rifters trilogy</i> 1999-2004
J. Slonczewski		<i>Brain Plague</i> 2000
K. Macleod		<i>The Star Fraction</i> 1995
P. McAuley		<i>Four Hundred Billion Stars</i> 1988
G. Bear		<i>Blood Music</i> , 1983
B. Aldiss		<i>Hothouse</i> 1962
D. Brin		<i>The Uplift War</i> , 1987
M. Atwood		<i>Oryx and Crake</i> 2003

^[62]

(3) 对科幻活动的参与和关注

2004 P. Allen
,
Imagine
2007
Science Film Festival ^[63]
^[64]

五、《自然》刊登科幻作品之缘由

“ ”

科幻作为一种文学类型，还具有除了娱乐之外的其它功能。作者通过它，不仅可以表达他们对未来的预期，还可以表达他们对当下的关注。而且，比起科学家，科幻作家也许能更好地理解 and 传达技术的改变会对人们生活产生怎样的影响。^[65]

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“ ” [66]

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“ ”

《自然》非常自豪“未来”专栏已成为目前最具号召力的科幻新论坛，专栏里的这些文章——无论出自名家还是新手——探索的主题，在接下去的半个世纪里都可能成为我们所要面临的挑战。^[67]

当前的系列——千禧之际新设的一个专栏——关注的是在下个 50 年可能出现的新事物，……^[68]

“ ”

—— “ ”

“ ”

Philip Campbell

1999

156

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那正是关键所在——科幻在当下意味着娱乐。（And that's the key——SF is meant to amuse in the present.）^[69]

“

” “ ” “ ”

，

2009

“

” [70][71]

“

” [72]

1989

“ ”

The Ringworld Engineers

Dune

[73]

“ *Science and Cinema* ”
Outbreak 1995
Gattaca 1997

“ ”
[74]

六、余论：《自然》是一本什么杂志

我们在编辑方针上是独立的，我们应当发表什么内容由我们自己来判断。关于作者所投论文的决定，由我们与专家审稿人协商做出。但我们没有编委会，所以我们经

验非常丰富的编辑人员可以不受约束地就哪些论文会对不同领域产生重大影响做出自己成熟的判断。完全独立的另一个好处是，在判断我们的读者喜欢阅读什么样的内容时，我们可以不必苛求意见一致，我们的学术思想可以更加灵活。^[75]

—— 它既不实行学术同行的匿名审稿制度，也没有编委会

Articles ”

16

“ *Letters* ” “

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“ 一个集记录科学与将科学的最新进展以易于理解的方式呈现给读者为一体的出版物” ——

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1869

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startling ” ^[76] often humorous, sometimes silly, consistently

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①

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13

②

Gregory Benford. Where might it lead? [J] Nature.2001-11-22.414:399

“

”

-
- ③ Quantified: Futures[J]. Nature .2006-07-06.442:xi . ” ” 15
- ④ “ multiverse ” David Deutsch
- ⑤ The Skeptical Environmentalist
- ⑥
- ⑦ . 2011 12 1
- 188

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The Investigation of Science fictions in the Journal *Nature*

Mu Yunqiu Jiang Xiaoyuan

The School of History and Culture of Science, Shanghai Jiaotong University

Shanghai 200240, China

Abstract: This paper taking the science fictions in the famous journal *Nature* as the major study object, systematically investigates and analyzes the significance of these works in the history of science. It is concluded that since founded in 1869, the science publication *Nature* has never been so “scientific” as we thought. It has published a lot of less academic articles. We also have reasons to suppose these “often humorous, sometimes silly, consistently startling” texts, regarded as nothing and eliminated in today’s scientific evaluation system, in fact are always participating in scientific activities.

Key words: Nature, history of science, science fictions, scientific activities