

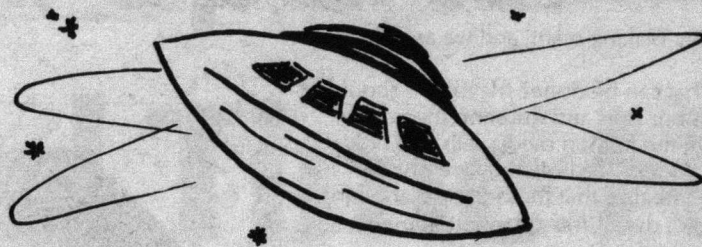
# Asimov's *Foundation and Earth* draws it all together

**Foundation and Earth**  
by Isaac Asimov  
Doubleday & Co., 1986

review by Alex Shetsen

Isaac Asimov's first published short story, in 1938, was science fiction. He has been churning out books ever since, spanning almost the whole of human knowledge. But it is science fiction he remains best known for. In his latest novel, *Foundation and Earth*, he brings together much of his previous science fiction work and then pushes the plot forward.

The setting of the novel is the Milky Way Galaxy 32,500 years from now. Five hundred years before, the entire Galaxy had been ruled from a planet of the central star Trantor. But now, with the Galactic Empire having fallen as a result of internal decay, the Galaxy is fragmented. Its largest unified portion is ruled from a planet of



the star Terminus — near the Galaxy's edge and first inhabited by a scientific "Foundation" under the psychohistorian Hari Seldon at about the same time the Empire was breaking up. (Psycho history is a mathematical science for predicting the future actions of humanity.)

The main characters of the book are Janov Pelorat, an ancient historian, and Golan Trevize, an exiled member of the council governing Terminus. Aboard a

spaceship furnished to Trevize when he was exiled, Pelorat and Trevize are accompanied by a young woman named Bliss.

The trio travel across the Galaxy. They are looking for the planet Earth (yes, that Earth): a planet now almost forgotten, reputed to be radioactive and, presumably, uninhabited. They finally reach Earth; but there, surprises await them.

*Foundation and Earth* draws together and amplifies much of Asimov's prior

science fiction. That fact alone makes the book of great interest to his more devoted fans. That fact alone, however, is the greatest problem for the first-time reader. Since the book is, in fact, a continuation of two of Asimov's prior series (the positronic robot theme and future Galactic history), so much background is involved that the book is incomprehensible unless the prior volumes in the *Foundation* series are read.

In the end, however, it is Asimov's ability to write that sets him apart from other science fiction writers. Unlike the vast majority of science fiction, his writing is both good science and good fiction. *Foundation and Earth* is very interesting and extremely well written. Along the way, the reader is set to thinking about the proper relationship between man and his created technology. The book is very highly recommended; but read some other Asimov first.

## Making Waves

by Dragos Ruiu

Tangerine Dream.  
Yes, another unknown space music synthesizer band.

You don't know them?  
Did you see *Thief*, or maybe *Firestarter*, or *Risky Business*, or *Legend* or *Sorcerer* or *The Keep* or . . . the list goes on? They did soundtracks for all these movies.

They have 22 (or more by this time of night) record albums. They have been around since 1967. Publicity hounds they aren't. Each album is introduced quietly. They have strange names for the albums (*Phaedra*, *White Eagle* . . .) and the credits usually only list a recording date and place. Hmm . . . The enigma begins!

Recently Virgin (whose contract with T.D. expired in '83) put out a whopping two and a half hour double CD named *Dream Sequence* containing the 'best' of Tangerine Dream. There is a whole lot of 'best' when you are talking about that much music.

This band gets NO press. This makes them truly unusual! Just the fact that they have survived until now, should say something about their uniqueness. It's also been said that they have affected electronic music today more than you or I can know.

They are the original synthesizer group. They play only instrumentals (excepting a brief experimentation with vocals on



*Cyclone*, widely regarded as their worst). They use flutes, violins, pianos, guitars, and any other musical instrumental that has ever existed. They INVENTED the music Jean Michel Jarre, Vangelis and Philip Glass play.

They were started in Germany by Edgar Froese (who is still with them), as a cult

band among political students (!) and kept going. The members have changed over the years but the texture of their music is always innovative. They look like an aging motorcycle gang. The origins of the members of the group, who mostly number around three, vary from jazz to soul music, to classical piano.

They would play to rebellious college students in the early seventies (69-72); getting up on stage and improvising for six hours at a time. Then they would haul their space-age (antique and bulky by modern standards) synthesizers around in 1950's furniture moving vans all over Europe for other gigs (with a top speed of 40 mph!).

They recorded albums. Albums so radically far from commercial that few knew they existed (as today!). These days, their music hasn't altered much. You might even say the music industry has finally almost caught up to them!

Their history is dotted with strange anecdotes:

Perhaps one of the most unusual occurrences in music history was when the band's album *Phaedra* hit the British top ten in 1974 . . . with no airplay, no touring, no press interviews, no publicity in general!

T.D. developed a reputation among listeners for being very, very loud. This was

often attributed to the lack of a mixer (sound-person) in the crowd!

Their first U.S. tour broke ground in many ways. It was one of the first to feature laser effects by Laserium.

They were the first Western rock group to play in East Germany. And a West Berlin group at that! In East Germany, tickets for that concert were trading at the cost of two months wages on the black market!

They once gave a free concert to 60,000 people (!!), within earshot of the Berlin Wall.

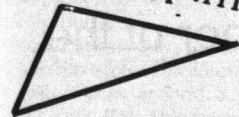
The interesting things that happen to a band in 20 years go on and on . . .

They are a landmark. These guys have been around forever, and seem to have every intention of staying for the next forever. It's absolutely amazing in these days of glam-rock, and mega-publicity. Here is a band that only cares about their music. And probably intends to do it until hell freezes over and damn the image business.

If you like instrumentals, be it Manheim Steamroller, Pink Floyd or Switched-On Bach, you owe it to yourself to check these guys out. And *Dream Sequence* is the best way to start. It is a sampler (a BIG sampler) of the biggest 'space' music around. Bigger than the biggest thing ever. It should be played very, very loudly.

**STAFF MEETING**

Thurs. Jan. 15/87  
4:30 p.m.



**Agenda:** We will be picking 5 Gateway Staffers to sit on the Editor-in-Chief selection committee.

**DON'T MISS IT!**

**DINWOODIE LOUNGE**

SUB - 2nd Floor

New Hours: 8:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.



presented by U of A Mechanical Engineering and S.U. Cabarets  
(part of Engineering Week '87)

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16**

\$5 Advance \$6 Door

Tickets: Jubilee Box Office,  
Varsity Drugs, HUB & SUB Info  
Booths & Club Members  
No Minors — Age I.D. Required

**The Regular Guys**



Great R & B from Los Angeles plus guests  
presented by U of A Faculty of Nursing and Faculte Saint-Jean

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17**

Advance Tickets - \$5.00