Science, Literature and Revolution: The Life and Writings of Dyson Carter

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Victorian literature is the body of poetry, fiction, essays, and letters produced during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901) and during the era which bears her name. It forms a link and transition between the writers of the romantic period and the modernist literature of the twentieth century. Extraordinarily popular in his day with his characters taking on a life of their own beyond the page, Dickens is still the most popular and read author of the time. The slow trend in his fiction towards darker themes is mirrored in much of the writing of the century, and literature after his death in 1870 is notably different from that at the start of the era. Other important non-fiction works of the time are the philosophical writings of John Stuart Mill covering logic, economics, liberty, and utilitarianism. The Industrial Revolution runs in parallel with the impact of modern scientific thought, signaled by Newton in the Principia and, quite dramatically, in Opticks, which influenced Locke, Pope and many others. (There is a full-length study on the subject: Newton Demands the Muse) The Enlightenment, the spirit of which infuses 18th century England and French literature, in large part arises from the beginnings of modern scientific thought as well as political philosophers like Locke. The major impact of the Industrial Revolution on literature was, initially, reaction. Blake spoke of “dark Satan Science fiction: Science fiction, a form of fiction that deals principally with the impact of actual or imagined science upon society or individuals. Science fiction. literature and performance. Written By: Bruce Sterling. See Article History. Alternative Titles: SF, sci-fi, speculative fiction. Science fiction, abbreviation SF or sci-fi, a form of fiction that deals principally with the impact of actual or imagined science upon society or individuals. The term science fiction was popularized, if not invented, in the 1920s by one of the genre’s principal advocates, the American publisher Hugo Gernsback.