



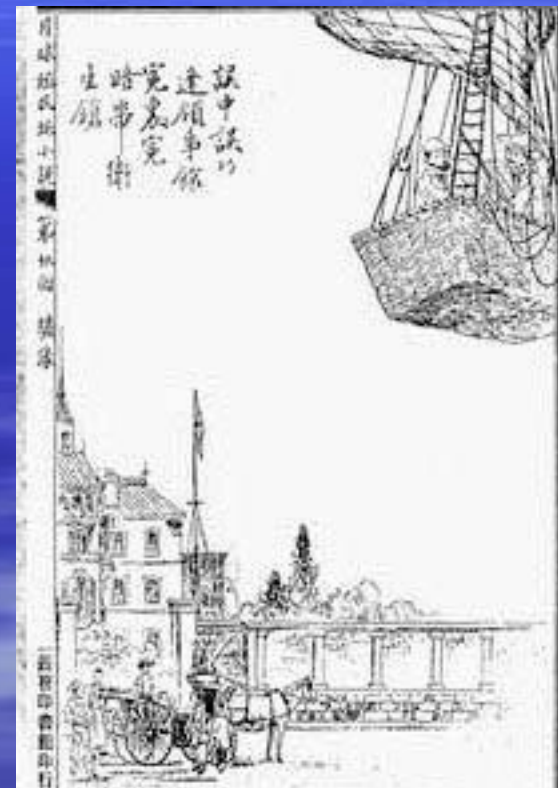
# Science Fiction in China

R-Spec, 01/01/2008

by: Ruhan Zhao

# The First Recognized Modern Chinese SF Novel

*Yueqiu Zhimindi Xiaoshuo* [*Tales of Lunar Colonization*] (1904, travel to other continents and the moon by a balloon)



## Other Early Chinese SF

- *Xinfaluo Xianshengtan* [*New Tales of Mr Absurdity*] (1905, about the separation of body and soul/mind);
- *City of Cats* (1932, About Society of Cat-like people on Mars) by the famous writer Lao She
- *Heping de Meng* [*A Dream of Peace*] (1940, a short story, about using mind waves to make peace), by Gu Junzheng



## The First Booming Period (50's-60's)

Starting from the publication of the book *From Earth to Mars*, 1954, by Zheng Wenguang (An astronomer, Considered by some people the Father of Modern Chinese Science Fiction).

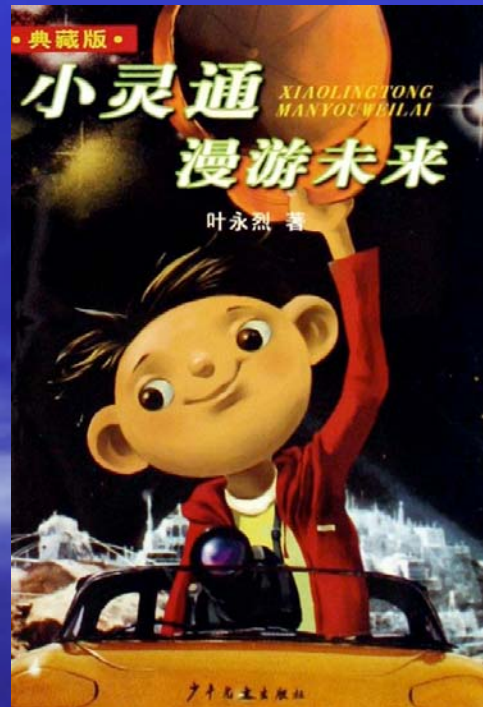


## Some characterizations of the first booming period

- Influence from Russia
- Science Fiction considered as part of popularization of science and Children's literature
- Cut-off by the *Cultural Revolution* (66-76)

## The second booming period (76-early 80's)

*Xiaolingtong Manyou Weilai* [Little Know-It-All roams the future], by Ye Yonglie (1978, sold over 3 million copies)



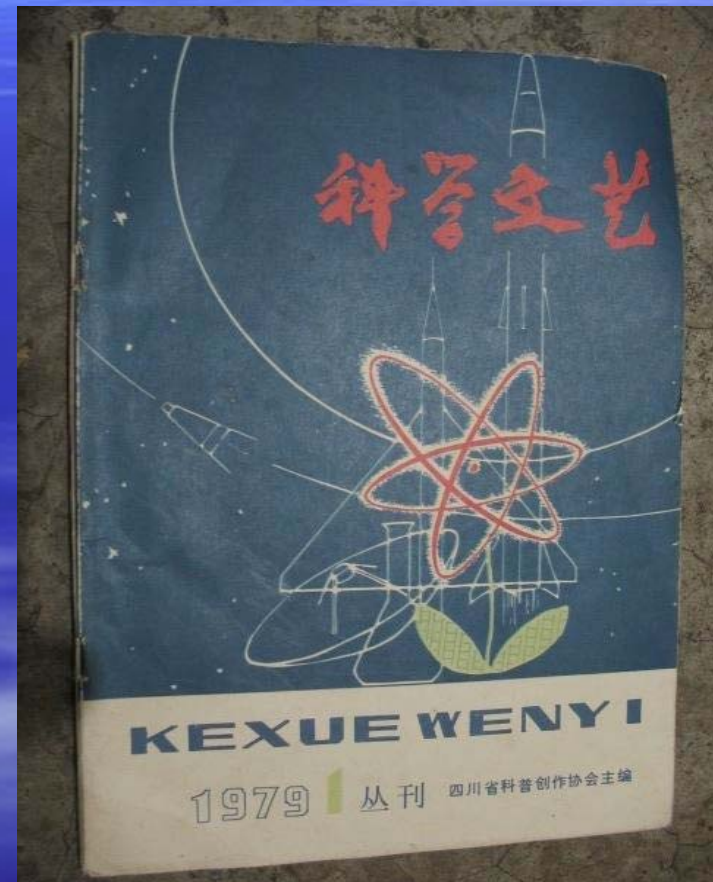


## Some characterizations of the Second booming period

- Still considered as part of popularization of science and children's literature
- Some SF authors started publishing SF stories in pure literature magazines
- Many SF books (translations, story collections) are published, but only a couple of original SF novels are published.
- Several popular science magazines published SF stories
- Halted by a political movement called *Anti-spiritual-pollutions*, most magazines stopped publishing SF stories except one.

## *Kehuan Shijie [Science Fiction World] Magazine*

First published in 1979, under the name *Kexue Wenyi* [Science Literature and Art]. It survived from the frozen SF environment by publishing science essays, science poems, story of scientists, science fairy tales, and a few SF stories. *It changes to its current name in 1991.*





## The third booming period (early 90's-present)

*Kehuan Shijie [Science Fiction World] Magazine organized the first international SF conference at Chengdu in 1991. Brian Aldiss, Frederik Pohl, Jack Williamson, among other foreign SF writers came to the conference. This event marks the starting of the third booming period of Chinese SF.*



# Science Fiction World Magazine



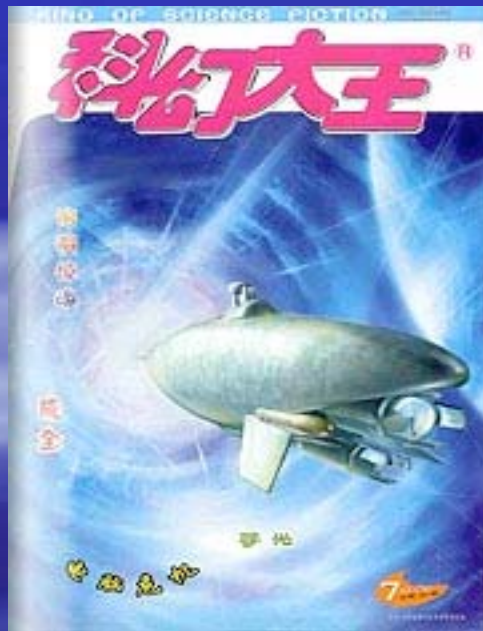


## Some characterizations of the third booming period

- SFW magazine leads the wave
- SFW magazine spins-off several SF/F magazines
- Several new SF magazines establish
- Systematically introduce current western SF (by SFW and several publishing houses)
- Many young SF writers emerged (influenced by western SF and mostly first published on SFW)
- SF finally goes away from popularization of science, tries to merge into mainstream
- Following SFW, the market focuses on young readers (college/high school students)
- Emerges of Fantasy



# Some New SF/F Magazines



# Some Chinese SF/F Writers

*Liu Cixing*



*Wang Jinkang*



*Zhao Haihong*



*Han Song*



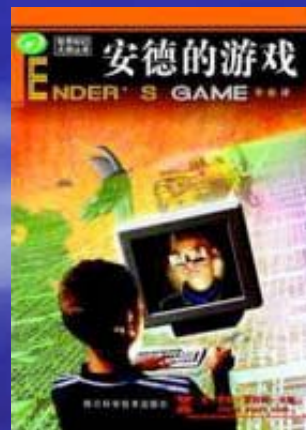
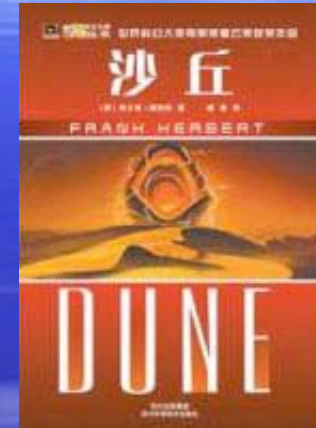
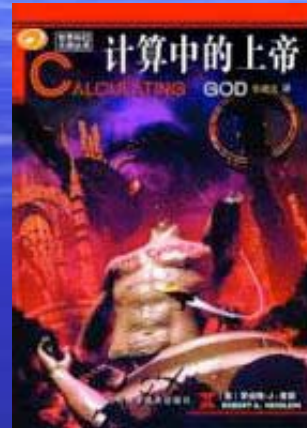


# Liu Cixing's Novel *Three-Body*





# Some Translated SF/F Novels



## Chinese SF in the Internet

Starting from late 90's, with the spread of the internet, Chinese SF fans found a new place to show their enthusiasm in SF. Several SF BBS mainly for original SF creations were established. Among them, maybe the most significant one is *Qingyun Shuyuan (Qingyun Book Room) SF/F BBS*, established in 1999, for which I am among one of the three moderators. Many good SF writers/fans posted numerous SF stories on this BBS. From 2001, SFW started publishing SF stories from online BBS. Later on, many of those online stories eventually got published, some of them won the Galaxy Award (the only Chinese SF annual award).



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## Emergence of Fantasy

From early 2000's, publishers started introducing western fantasy into China. Suddenly, many young readers found a new world. One of the early introduced ones is the Dragonlance series, which formed a great impact to Chinese younger SF writers. Many of them switched/started writing fantasy stories/novels. Most of them purposely tried to add eastern elements to their fantasy worlds. They posted their fantasy stories/novels in the Internet, some (many) of them got published. Several Fantasy magazines were established (including one from SFW).

## Some Fantasy Magazines





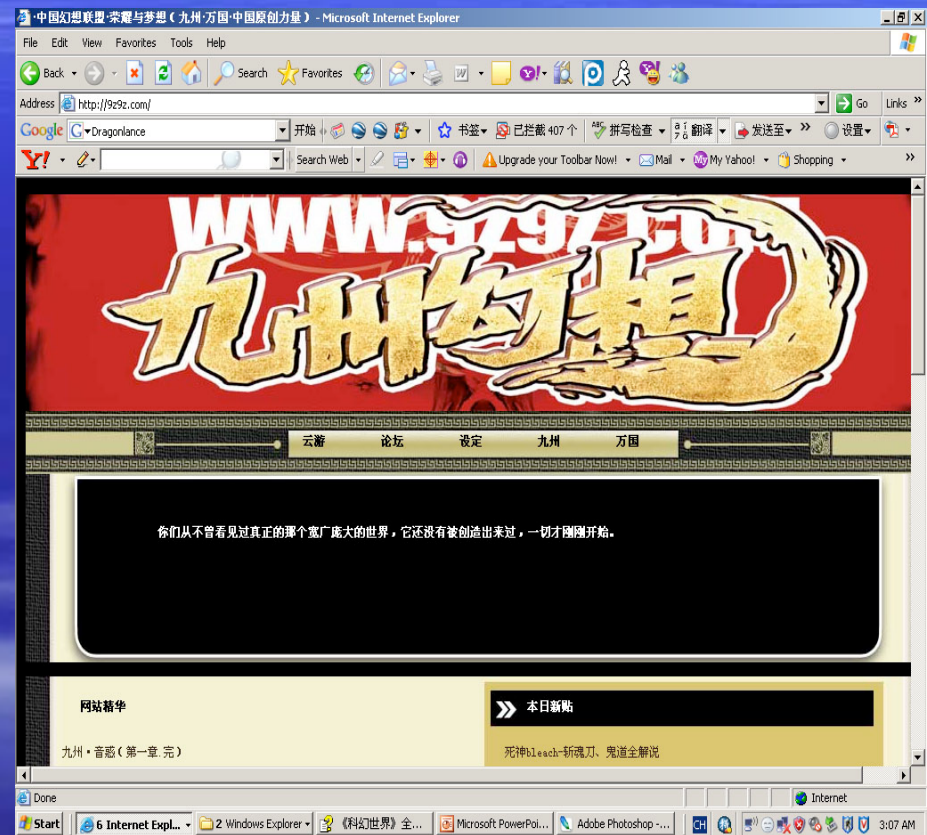
## Eastern Fantasy World--Jiu Zhou (Nine States)

Starting from December, 2001, a group of very talented young writers from Qingyun SF/F BBS discussed and started to build an easternized fantasy world Jiu Zhou [Nine States]. Many people were getting interested in Jiu Zhou. Those young writers started posting their Jiu Zhou stories on Qingyun SF/F BBS. It quickly became so popular that SFW decided to publish a fantasy magazine *Flying--Fantasy World*, mainly for publishing Jiu Zhou stories.



## Jiu Zhou (Nine States)

The magazine and Jiu Zhou group became very successful so that Jiu Zhou group created their own web page and BBS. Later, Jiu Zhou group moved out from SFW and published their own magazine—*Jiu Zhou Fantasy*. Last year the group was sadly split and now they have two magazines based on Jiu Zhou. The other one is called *Fantasy 1+1*. Now both of them started publishing wider range of SF/F stories.



# Jiu Zhou Magazines





# Map of Jiu Zhou



## Impacts of Fantasy to Science Fiction

Since the emergence of fantasy, many talented science fiction writers switched to write fantasy, many young science fiction readers were attracted by those fantasy worlds. Jiu Zhou itself has numerous fans. However, there are still numerous science fiction fans.



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*Thanks!*

