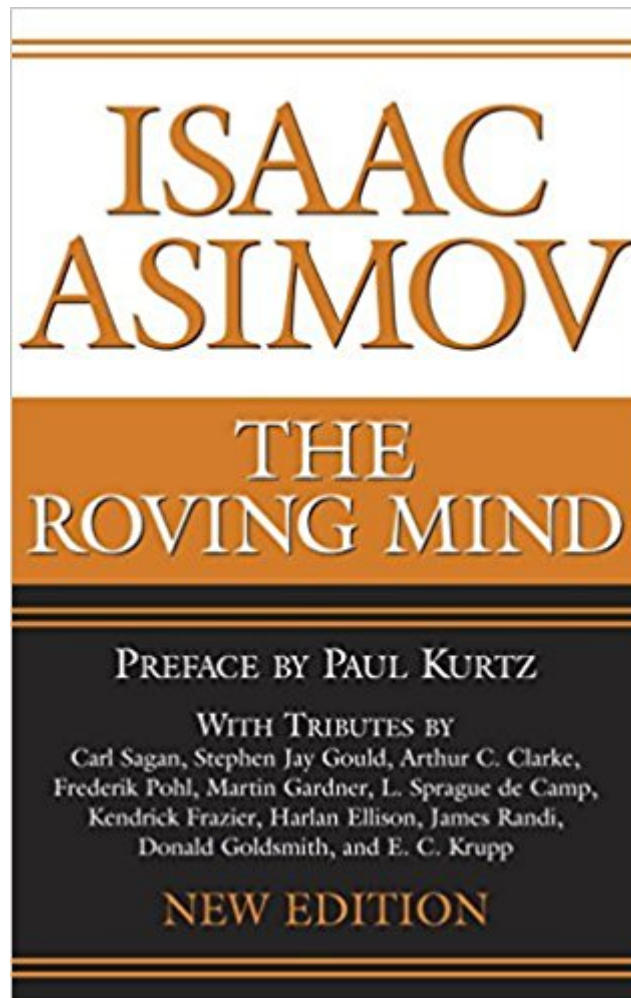




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The Roving Mind



Synopsis

Isaac Asimov's death on April 6, 1992, was a great loss to the world of literary science and freethought. The prolific author's vision is unmatched today, and his pointed honesty shines through in *The Roving Mind*, now reissued in this special tribute edition. This collection of essays is wide-ranging, reflecting Asimov's extraordinary skill in disseminating knowledge from across the spectrum of human thought. Some of the areas explored in this volume of 62 essays include creationism, pseudoscience, censorship, population, philosophy of science, transportation, computers and corporations of the future, and astronomy. His predictions about cloning which has only recently become the topic of public debate the theory of "technophobia," and other scientific developments are astounding. In a lighter tone, Asimov includes several personal stories from his life including thoughts on his style of writing and memories of family in younger days. With tributes by Arthur C. Clarke, L. Sprague de Camp, Harlan Ellison, Kendrick Frazier, Martin Gardner, Donald Goldsmith, Stephen Jay Gould, E. C. Krupp, Frederik Pohl, and Carl Sagan

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Customer Reviews

"Want to encourage your offspring to pursue a career in science? Buy them this book." -- Midwest Book Review
The book remains as edifying as ever, and as deserving of a place in every school library in the nation. -- Analog, Tom Easton

Isaac Asimov's death on April 6, 1992, was a great loss to literature, science, and free thought. The

vision of one of America's most prolific authors is unmatched today, and his pointed honesty shines through in this fascinating collection of essays, now reissued in this special tribute edition. Asimov demonstrates his extraordinary skill at disseminating knowledge from across the scientific disciplines as his "roving mind" ranges from the polemical to the persuasive, from the speculative to the realistic. The sixty-two essays in this volume include such subjects as creationism, the distinction between real science and pseudoscience, censorship, the population explosion, technophobia, the social consequences of technological progress, cloning, the possibility of contacting extraterrestrial life, and the wonders of the cosmos. There are also thoughts on his style of writing, stories about his personal life, and recollections of family history--all written in the clear and elegant prose for which Asimov was noted.

I am willing to read just about anything Asimov wrote. And this collection of essays was a pleasure to read. My favorite is the one about Asimov's attempt to learn to use a word processor. There are a few essays about what the world will be like in the year 2000. He uses the word "hologram" a little too much, but he comes really close to predicting a world where something like the internet exists. Really close, but not quite.

Top marks for *The Roving Mind*. This is a collection of essays on current Science Thought. Asimov is the man who said: "The true delight is in finding out rather than in the knowing." Well, finding out from Issac Asimov is really, really delightful. His writing style is funny, thought-provoking & enlightening, w. loads of inspiration. Religious folks will probably turn away from such writing/thoughts as terrible heresies. So they will lose out on this gem. But i wish that i had this yet to read.

As a long-time Asimov robot science fiction fan, I was extremely pleased to find this collection of brief essays on important science topics -- such as creationism versus evolution, the completely unnecessary tension between the pure and applied sciences, the importance of science education for creating an informed electorate -- that had been published years ago in a wide variety of publications to which I had not subscribed. If you concerned about the decline in the teaching of science by teachers trained in the subject or about the proliferation of programs on cable TV that treat pseudo-scientific claims as if they were valid scientific topics or if you just want to read spritely and engaging prose on science subjects that are still current today, you could not select a better book.

Great

Isaac's clear and simple writing on various subjects (scientific and political) in these essays is always welcome reading. I wish he were still around so we could continue to benefit from his vast knowledge and insight!

Isaac Asimov is one of the most intelligent people that I've ever read, I have thoroughly enjoyed this book!

Isaac Asimov is probably one of the brightest minds of the Twentieth Century and this book is a fascinating look into the man behind the books. I love Asimov and now even more so.

This is Isaac at his best!

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