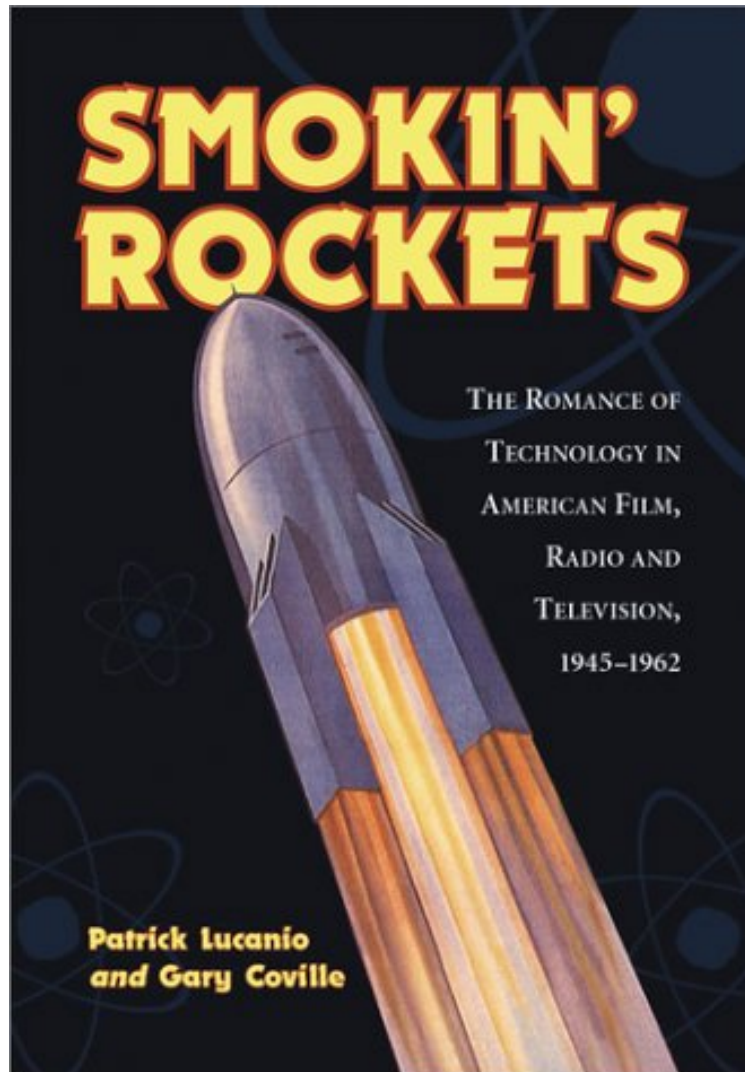


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## Smokin' Rockets: The Romance of Technology in American Film, Radio and Television, 1945-1962

*Patrick Lucanio*

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**Patrick Lucanio : Smokin' Rockets: The Romance of Technology in American Film, Radio and Television, 1945-1962** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Smokin' Rockets: The Romance of Technology in American Film, Radio and Television, 1945-1962:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Links social/political changes to trends in science fictionBy Midwest Book ReviewHow have science and technology been celebrated in American film, radio and TV from 1945-1962? Smokin' Rockets examines science and science fiction worlds in American culture from a scholarly standpoint; up to

the Cuban missile crisis. Shifts in themes and presentation are studied in chapters that link social and political changes to trends in science fiction.

Science and technology had a significant influence on American culture and thought in the years immediately following World War II. The new wonders of science and the threat of the Soviet Union as a powerful new enemy made science fiction a popular genre in radio, television, and film. Mutant creatures spawned by radioactive energy and intergalactic dictators unleashing horrific weapons upon Earth were characteristic of science fiction at the time and served as warnings to the very real dangers posed by the atomic age. This work examines science and science fiction in American culture beginning in the year World War II ended and going to 1962, the year of John Glenn's orbital flight and the Cuban Missile Crisis. The radio work of Arch Oboler and the significance of his "Rocket from Manhattan," which aired only one month after the dropping of the first atomic bomb and asked serious questions about the use of atomic energy, are examined. Other topics are the conflict between the free world and the Communist world in the context of science fiction plot lines, the dangers of science as shown in films like *Godzilla*, *Them!*, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, and radio and television programs, the flying saucer phenomenon and the treatment of such stories in the media (with special attention given to the 1956 documentary *UFO*), the changing and more positive depictions of scientists, television programs like *Flash Gordon* and *Space Patrol*, the shift in the balance of world power due to the successful launching of *Sputnik I* by the Russians in 1957, the "end of the world" theme in science fiction, and the American journey into space.

"bravo...[the authors] manage to imbue the subject with freshness and intelligence...really well written and thoughtful"--Classic Images; "recommended"--Interzone; "scholarly"--Midwest Book ; "fun reading but with a serious side as well"--Communication Booknotes Quarterly; "thoroughly researched, thought provoking...every SF fan will want"--Cult Movies. About the Author Patrick Lucanio lives in Springfield, Oregon. Gary Coville has written on Jack the Ripper and coauthored several books on film and television. He lives in Dallas, Oregon.