The mass-market paperback edition of Robert J. Sawyer’s eleventh novel, FLASHFORWARD, is April’s lead science-fiction title from Tor Books, New York, following its successful run in hardcover last year.

FLASHFORWARD tells of a physics experiment that goes awry, causing the consciousness of everyone on Earth to jump ahead twenty-one years for a period of two minutes.

The book is the first to make it to SFWA’s 2000 preliminary Nebula Award ballot, and it was third on Barnes and Noble’s list of 1999’s best science fiction and fantasy.

FLASHFORWARD also won Europe’s top SF award, the Cdn$10,000 Premio UPC de Ciencia Ficción.

In its starred review, denoting a book of exceptional merit, Publishers Weekly called the book “a creative, soul-searching exploration of fate, free will, and the nature of the universe,” adding that “this first-rate, philosophical journey, a terrific example of idea-driven SF, should have wide appeal.”

Meanwhile, CNN called the book “thoroughly entertaining, with characters to care about,” and Library Journal said it’s “fresh and startling.”

Next: Calculating God

Rob’s twelfth novel, CALCULATING GOD, will be June’s lead SF hardcover from Tor Books, the world’s largest SF publisher.

An alien scientist arrives at Toronto’s Royal Ontario Museum and asks to see a paleontologist. The extraterrestrial thinks that by examining the museum’s fossils, she can prove the existence of God.

The paleontologist, Tom Jericho, is a lifelong atheist. But now that life is about to come to an end: decades of inhaling mineral dust have given him terminal lung cancer. As he faces his mortality, will he waver in his convictions? Calculating God combines the intimately human and the grandly cosmic.

A launch party — open and free to the public — will be held Sunday June 25, from 2:00 to 4:00, at the Richmond Hill Central Library, Yonge Street just south of Major Mackenzie, Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Rob will tour to Buffalo and Rochester, NY; Milford, NH; Boston; Montreal; Ottawa; Toronto; and Vancouver to promote the book.
Sawyer in Year’s Best

The short story “The Blue Planet” by Robert J. Sawyer will be reprinted in David Hartwell’s anthology YEAR’S BEST SF 5, to be published in June by Avon Eos. This story, commissioned by The Globe and Mail: Canada’s National Newspaper, explains what really happened to the Mars Polar Lander, which disappeared December 3, 1999. The Globe gave Rob just twenty-four hours to write the story; it first appeared under the title “Mars Reacts!,” beginning on page one of section “R” of The Globe’s Saturday, December 11, 1999, edition.

New Three-Book Deal!

In November 1999, Robert J. Sawyer contracted with Tor Books to write three new hardcover novels — his thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth books.

At the same time, Tor contracted for a trade-paperback reissue of Rob’s 1994 novel End of an Era, which won Japan’s Seiun Award for Best Foreign Novel of the Year.

The new books will compose the NEANDERTHAL PARALLAX trilogy, dealing with contact between parallel Earths, one in which Homo sapiens became the technological race, and another in which Homo neanderthalensis did.

This is the first series Rob has written since his acclaimed 1992-94 trilogy of Far-Seer, Fossil Hunter, and Foreigner — and the first he’s ever done that was planned as a trilogy from the outset.

Rob has been traveling a lot to research his new series, visiting Neanderthal experts at Brown University, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Smithsonian, and attending the 2000 Paleoanthropology Society annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Above: Rob and a 1919 Neanderthal bust made by J. H. McGregor (Rob is the one on the right).

Bookstore Alert

Do you have these Robert J. Sawyer titles in stock?

LATEST HARDCOVER:
• Calculating God (Tor, June 2000, ISBN 0-312-86713-1).

LATEST TRADE PAPERBACK:
• Golden Fleece (Tor, Nov. 1999, 0-312-86865-0). Aurora winner!

MASS-MARKET PAPERBACKS:
• Flashforward (Tor, April 2000, 0-812-58034-6). Starred PW review!
• Factoring Humanity (Tor, May 1999, 0-812-57129-0). Hugo nominee!
• Illegal Alien (Ace, Jan. 1999, 0-441-00592-6). Locus bestseller!
• Frameshift (Tor, Nov. 1998, 0-812-57108-8). Hugo nominee!
• Starplex (Ace, October 1996, 0-441-00372-9). Hugo & Nebula nominee!
• The Terminal Experiment (HarperPrism, May 1995, 0-061-05310-4). Nebula winner!

Writer in Residence

Rob will be Writer in Residence for the Richmond Hill Public Libraries for the months of April, May, and June. Part of Greater Toronto, Richmond Hill is Canada’s fastest-growing city. Rob will spend fourteen hours a week working with local aspirant writers on developing their manuscripts; he will also lead public seminars at the library’s central branch. Rob’s residency is sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Richmond Hill Public Library Board.

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SFWRITER.COM is published occasionally to spotlight news about Nebula Award-winning Canadian science-fiction writer Robert J. Sawyer. You can send e-mail to Rob at sawyer@sfwriter.com, or write to him at: Robert J. Sawyer • P.O. Box 911 • Promenade P.O. • One Promenade Circle • Thornhill, ON, Canada • L4J 8G7