

Ready for something NEW?

How about

**STEAMPUNK**

**FICTION?**

(what is it? read on...)

Courtesy of *Library Journal* 3/4/10  
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*What is "steampunk?" Think of the movie Sherlock Holmes – the subgenre of steampunk derives from science fiction. It typically, but not always, employs a Victorian setting where steam power and advanced technologies like computers coexist and often feature themes, such as secret societies, found in mystery novels. (John Klima, Library Journal, March 4, 2010).*

*Here are some classic titles and recent works to try:*

### Classics

#### **The Prophecy Machine** by Neal Barrett, Jr.

Stranded in the bizarre land of Makasar, Finn, the Master Lizard Maker, finds himself the target of members of the ambitious Nucci family, who want him to fix the strange machine that they have found in their basement.

#### **The Steampunk Trilogy** by Paul DiFilippo

Three stories are set in an offbeat and very alternative nineteenth century in which historical and fictional characters blend with hilarious results and include the titles, "Victoria," "Hottentots," and "Walt and Emily."

#### **Steampunk** (anthology)

Presents stories about mechanistic golems, infernal machines, airships, alternative histories, other planets, and how the genre has influenced movies, television, comics, and the Internet.

#### **The Time Machine** by H.G. Wells

A Victorian scientist uses his remarkable invention, a time machine, to hurtle himself some eight hundred thousand years into the future and encounters a world populated by two distinct races, the childlike Eloi and the disgusting Morlocks who prey on the Eloi.

#### **Infernal Devices** by K.W. Jeter

The devices of the title a TV set that tunes in the future, a machine that can split the earth in two are the inventions of a Victorian genius who dies without divulging their secrets.

#### **Homunculus** by James P. Blaylock

Homunculus is a fascinating trip to a London that never existed ... but perhaps should have. Darkly atmospheric, Homunculus weaves together the stories of Narbondo -- a mad hunchback who works tirelessly to bring the dead back to life, of the members of the Trismegistus Club -- a surly group of scientists and philosophers who meet at Captain Powers' Pipe Shop, and of the homunculus -- a tiny man whose powers can drive men to murder.

### Contemporary

#### **The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen** by Alan Moore & Kevin O'Neill

Features the Victorian era adventures of the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, comprised of Captain Nemo, Allan Quartermain, the Invisible Man, Wilhelmina "Mina" Murray, Detective Thomas Sawyer, and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

#### **Boneshaker** by Cherie Priest

Commissioned to build a machine that will promote gold-rush land-breaking efforts between Civil War-era Seattle and Alaska, inventor Leviticus Blue inadvertently triggers the release of a deadly gas that transforms people into the living dead, a situation that prompts his teenage son to restore the family reputation years later.

#### **The Manual of Detection** by Jedediah Berry

Unexpectedly promoted to detective when his predecessor goes missing and a supervisor is killed, agency clerk Charles Unwin struggles with inexperience and nerves during a case in which he encounters bizarre clues and is framed for murder.

#### **Mainspring** by Jay Lake

In a world in which the planets are run by a sophisticated clockwork solar system that connects everyday people to the Creator, a young clockmaker's apprentice is appointed by the Archangel Gabriel to rewind the Earth's Mainspring to prevent a disaster.

#### **Perdido Street Station** by China Miéville

In squallid and brutal New Crobuzon, a Garuda requests eccentric crisis theorist Isaac to work with lab specimens, particularly a caterpillar that feeds on a hallucinatory drug until its evolution, when it will invoke malignant terror.

#### **Heart of Veridon** by Tim Akers

When an old friend gives him a strange artifact, Jacob Burn--pilot, criminal, and the disgraced son of one of the founding families of the ancient city of Veridon--goes up against a dark entity that forces him to question everything he knows about himself.

#### **The Somnambulist** by Jonathan Barnes

A tale set in Victorian London introduces the characters of stage magician and detective Edward Moon and his silent sidekick, whose fiendish plot to re-create the apocalyptic prophecies of Samuel Taylor Coleridge threaten the British Empire.