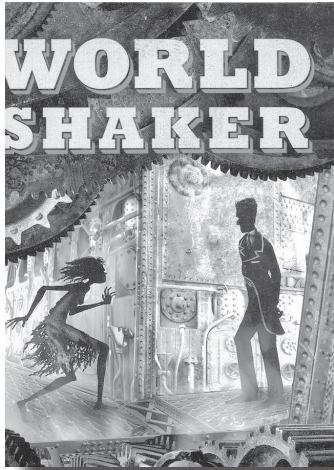


STEAMPUNK



Steampunk is a sub-genre of fantasy and speculative fiction. At the core of steampunk is the notion of altered history (often Victorian, and London-Victorian at that) combined with technology that is historically impossible, and therefore all the more intriguing.

Beyond being a literary sub-genre, steampunk has developed into a fashion trend, an artistic movement and indeed, for some fans, a philosophy and lifestyle. Popular steampunk blogs include *Brass Goggles* [<http://brassgoggles.co.uk>] which celebrates the lighter side of steampunk and *The Steampunk Home* [<http://thesteampunkhome.blogspot.com>] which asserts that 'Steampunk is more than just brass and watch parts'. *The Clockwork Century* blog [<http://theclockworkcentury.com>] includes extensive archived information about the steampunk movement which can be accessed using the 'steampunk info' link listed under Categories. Readers who enjoy podcasts will appreciate *Steampod* [<http://steampod.org>] where you can listen to audio stories and interviews.

Steampunk has quite a following here in Australia. Michael Pryor's *Laws of Magic* series and Richard Harland's *Worldshaker* are both excellent examples of steampunk written by Australian authors. Steampunk blogs with an Australian slant include: *Antipodean Steampunk Adventures* [<http://austeampunk.blogspot.com>] and *The Antipodean League of Temporal Voyagers* [<http://antipodeanleague.org/blog>]. There is also a LiveJournal community - *Australian Steampunk and NeoVictorian*. [<http://community.livejournal.co/au-steampunk>]



In YA writing, many look to Philip Reeve as the master of steampunk, not only for the *Mortal Engines* quartet but also for the rousing fun of *Larklight* and its sequels *Starcross* and *Mothstorm*.

Leviathan, the much-anticipated first volume of Scott Westerfeld's new steampunk trilogy was released on October 6th - too recently for a review to appear in this issue of Fiction Focus. [Watch for it in Issue 1, 2010]

The next novel in the *Leviathan* series, *Behemoth*, will be released in October 2010.

Reviews of other titles mentioned in this article are available to be read at the CMIS Resource Bank. [<http://amlib.det.wa.edu.au>]

