

Neil A. Ottenstein/Phillip Menzies

Foundation and Dune

This paper compares and contrasts the Psychohistory of Isaac Asimov's Foundation Trilogy with the prescience of Paul Atreides in Dune. How do the predictions of psychohistory in Foundation which attempts to lessen the fall of the Galactic Empire compare with the various futures that Paul Atreides sees when his prescience first hits him and he attempts to avoid the future where fanatic legions are following the banner of the Atreides burning and pillaging across the universe? We'll look at the examples in both Dune and the Foundation trilogy.

Neil will present on behalf of both authors.

Neil A. Ottenstein holds a Ph.D. in theoretical nuclear physics and works in flight dynamics for one Goddard Space Flight Center contractor or another. He has been reading science fiction and fantasy most of his life, and going to science fiction conventions since 1980.

Born and raised in Sydney, Australia, Phillip Menzies has lived for the last 17/ years in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. Phillip has a Graduate Diploma in Leisure Management and has worked in the disability industry from front line worker to manager supporting people with intellectual disabilities. His introduction to science fiction was in primary school when his father gave him his old novels to read. He skipped Biggles and went straight for "Through Space to the Planets" by Winifred Law, but the turning point came in 1977 when aged 13 his English teacher gave him a copy of The Hobbit. He devoured it and within 12 months he had read The Lord of the Rings and The Silmarillion. His current obsession is a deep interest in the scores from the LOTR and Hobbit movies by Howard Shore. Phillip is married with children and cats along with an occasional wallaby and lyrebird paying visits to his backyard.



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