



# The Culture Series of Iain M. Banks: A Critical Introduction

By Simone Caroti



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This critical history of Iain M. Banks' Culture novels covers the series from its inception in the 1970s to the *The Hydrogen Sonata* (2012), published less than a year before Banks' death. It considers Banks' origins as a writer, the development of his politics and ethics, his struggles to become a published author, his eventual success with *The Wasp Factory* (1984) and the publication of the first Culture novel, *Consider Phlebas* (1987). His 1994 essay "A Few Notes on the Culture" is included, along with a range of critical responses to the 10 Culture books he published in his lifetime and a discussion of the series' status as utopian literature.

Banks was a complex man, both in his everyday life and on the page. This work aims at understanding the Culture series not only as a fundamental contribution to science fiction but also as a product of its creator's responses to the turbulent times he lived in.

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#### **About the Author**

**Simone Caroti** is the course director of Science Fiction and Fantasy for the Creative Writing BFA at Full Sail University. He is a senior research scientist for the Astrosociology Research Institute (ARI), a nonprofit organization devoted to bringing the arts, humanities and social sciences into the debate on the future of humanity in space.

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