

Variations in the Canonical Text of Philip K. Dick's "Stability"

This is the first of a series of documents in which I intend to compile and publish a list of variations between the original published text of Philip K. Dick stories and the "canonical" texts established in COLLECTED STORIES (Underwood/Miller 1987). I will also list any variations that I find between the original text and the text in the perennial reprints in the U.S. (Citadel Twilight 1990-1992, later Citadel Press) and the ongoing reprints from Subterranean Press. Where a Project Gutenberg text is available, I will also note all variations between that text and the original. In addition, I will consult the text of stories in other Dick collections and the electronic texts that I have for the Sony Reader in order to resolve ambiguities or to determine where a variation was first introduced. Although I have access to several British reprints of COLLECTED STORIES, I will not typically consult those texts.

I report all differences in the words and punctuation, regardless of significance. But I usually ignore stray marks, variations in "house style," and the spacing of punctuation. I do not report ambiguities in the original text such as in hyphenation and capitalization unless I think there is a strong case that the reprint texts depart from what Dick wrote. However, I intend to eventually document Dick's use of hyphenation in a separate project.

"Stability" was first published in 1987 by Underwood/Miller in COLLECTED STORIES (I count 4,835 words in the story) and thus there is no previous "original" text to compare with other than Dick's surviving typescripts, which I do not have copies of. Nonetheless, I have found three variations, which I offer for the sake of completeness in the table below. I include snippets of text with the relevant portion underlined. I have listed page numbers from the first printing of VOLUME ONE of the Underwood/Miller, Citadel Twilight, and Subterranean Press editions that I consulted. The notes represent my opinions about these variations. I leave creation of a "corrected" text as an exercise for the reader.

ID	Original Text	Reprint Variations	Notes
A	only <i>two</i> major inventions <u>had</u> been filed. — Underwood/Miller 2 — Subterranean 10	only <i>two</i> major inventions <u>has</u> been filed. — Citadel 2	erroneous word change introduced in the Citadel edition but not carried forward in Subterranean
B	the Controller called <u>angrily</u> , ¶ " <u>I don't</u> know what you're up to, — Underwood/Miller 3	the Controller called <u>angrily</u> . " <u>I don't</u> know what you're up to, — Citadel 3 — Subterranean 12	removal of paragraph break that would make more sense as a correction if also applied elsewhere in the text

ID	Original Text	Reprint Variations	Notes
C	<p>“And this is perhaps the model of <u>it.</u>” the Controller continued. — Underwood/Miller 9 — Citadel 9</p>	<p>“And this is perhaps the model of <u>it,</u>” the Controller continued. — Subterranean 18</p>	<p>correction to punctuation that is new to the Subterranean edition.</p>

I have quoted any copyrighted material in this document under the "fair use" provisions of U.S. copyright law for purposes such as commentary, criticism, research, teaching, and scholarship. I dedicate my own work of authorship herein to the public domain.

Frank Hollander
frankhollander@gmail.com
facebook.com/frankhollander (also search for "The PKD Fan Group")
March 13, 2011 (with minor revisions through March 25, 2012)