



ALBERT ROBIDA

COMPIÈGNE, FRANCE, 1848 - NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE, FRANCE, 1926

Considered as the Jules Verne of illustration, this painter, cartoonist and chronicler left us a legacy of over sixty thousand drawings and two hundred illustrated books. A master of anticipation, his most popular work is the futurist trilogy consisting of *Le Vingtième siècle*, *La Guerre au vingtième siècle* and *La Vie électrique*, published between 1883 and 1891. Albert Robida didn't have the scientific background or knowledge of Verne, but he had a very intuitive imagination that allowed him to show us a future where scientific innovations were perfectly integrated into everyday life. Robida was an archetypal representative of the electromania and faith in progress that pervaded his time, and he drew inventions like high-speed land tubes, airships or the telephonoscope, a system halfway between television and the Internet. Robida also sets his machines in a changing social context: women, free of household chores thanks to new technologies, are free, vote, smoke, become lawyers, bankers, journalists and politicians. In this aspect, Robida went well ahead of a misogynistic Jules Verne.



ISAC ASIMOV

PETROVICH, RUSSIA, 1920 - NEW YORK, UNITED STATES, 1992

Isaac Asimov is one of the masters of science fiction. When he was three he moved to the United States, and when he was nineteen he published his first story in a pulp magazine. This was the first step of a prolific career as a writer that resulted in five hundred works, including masterpieces like his *Foundation* saga, Hugo Award for the all-time best series of science fiction and fantasy; or his *Robots* series, where he coined the term *robotics* and created his famous Three (or Four!) Laws of Robotics regulating the future behaviour of thinking machines. He had diplomas in Chemistry and Biochemistry, but wrote popular science books covering practically all fields of knowledge, some of them as well-known as his *Asimov's Guide*. He took the torch of Verne's literary vision (he considered him "the greatest science-fiction author of the 19th century"), combining a very demanding scientific verisimilitude with the inclusion of structures belonging to genres as popular as detective fiction, as well as the determination to encompass all areas of knowledge. We owe him the recovery of a true treasure found by chance: the series of cards that Jean Marc Côte drew in 1899 showing his personal vision of what life might look like in the year 2000.