

Severian in the Encyclopedia

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 16 Oct 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/1196>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Alex David Groce — 16 Oct 1998, 12:44

Well, there may be some question as to which Severian Wolfe was thinking of. The heretic sect Severians (who are indeed in the online Catholic Encyclopedia at www.knight.org/advent) are better known as the Encratites, and it is under that name that you will find them online.

However, there is also an entry for Severian. The Severians are actually named after a man named Severus mentioned in Eusebius' Hist. Eccl. (and a mention is all he gets in the article on the Encratites, and he doesn't appear to have an article of his own).

Severian was a bishop who battled with St. John Chrysostom, but doesn't appear to have been a heretic (he was noted as a good preacher, and apparently good at church politics). Assuming Wolfe didn't play around with the names (not necessarily a safe bet) it looks like this is our Severian's namesake. I'll type up the article and send it to the online encyclopedia and to the mailing list. I may go ahead and also transcribe and post the article on Severus, the Roman emperor, which given the Claudian connections might also be relevant.

Just an amusing side note--the facing pages in the CE with the entries on Severian and Severus end with an entry relevant to Wolfe's perennial favorite, Proust--an article on Madame de Sevigne!

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." - John 8:32

--

Alex David Groce (adgroce at eos.ncsu.edu)
Senior (Computer Science/Multidisciplinary Studies in Technology & Fiction)
'98-99 NCSU AITP Student Chapter President
608 Charleston Road, Apt. 1E (919)-233-7366
<http://www4.ncsu.edu/~adgroce>