

sling stones as shooting stars

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 30 Sep 1999

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 30 Sep 1999, 16:02

Mitchell A. Bailey wrote:

No, I think these bullets are of the sort the kelau use in their slings.

The firework arbalests used a type of bolt or dart.

Yes, they are the lead shot used in slings (we are told that directly, aren't we?). OTOH, I don't think they are the only type of projectile used by the slingers: I remember their song in CLAW, "Born Under a Shooting Star," and I seem to recall their fiery presence on the battlefield much later in CITADEL. So my sense of it has always been that there are pyrotechnic bullets as well as the lower tech lead bullets (with lowest tech stones below that).

Oh, look--here we go: `Their slings projected pyrotechnic missiles, the "shooting stars" of their song' (THE CASTLE OF THE OTTER, article "Hands and Feet," last page).

FWIW, I think I remember seeing the historical slogan bullets ("Ouch!" "Strike!" etc.) at use in Flaubert's SALAMBO . . .

. . . still trying to recall where I might have seen the Venus de Milo "secret history" before reading PEACE . . . a few minutes ago, while idling on this, I suddenly thought of all the post-1950 fictions I've read that have Victorian fellows going off to dig up fossils, the more recent example being A.S. Byatt's POSSESSION and another example being Fowles's THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN . . . and if these random thoughts are related (message from the Overmind), maybe TFLW has a Venus de Milo story in it? Then I would have mistaken this crypto-byte with THE MAGUS, I can see that very easily . . .

Who knows.

=mantis=