

Clute, STRANGE TRAVELERS, and Hartwell the Hierogrammate

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 06 Nov 1999

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Nicholas Gevers — 06 Nov 1999, 21:40

Various points raised by Kevin Maroney and alga:

1) On Clute: it's true that Clute's contortions of style can hinder accessibility of his mass-audience reviews for that audience; but I think this misses the point of why SF WEEKLY, Dorling Kindersley, and others similarly commercial have employed Clute to produce material for them. It's because of his style, which, for whatever reasons, has won him a wider popularity. Maybe his critical poetry strikes chords in unexpected places; but he is very widely read, and not because he dumbs down his prose.

2) The contents of STRANGE TRAVELERS: disappointing. I had really hoped for a volume including "Empires of Foliage and Flower", "The Night Chough", "Houston, 1943", and various other major late stories. Is a further collection in prospect? I hope so.

3) David Hartwell's role in persuading GW to produce UOTNS: as he is Wolfe's long-time editor, couldn't we see Hartwell as a sort of Hierogrammate, patiently recording the rescripts of the Increate? And sometimes prompting them?

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