

Digest urth.v028.n158

The Urth list — 2 messages, 1 voices, 24 Feb 2000

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2138>

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.

Alice Turner — 24 Feb 2000, 19:03

Thomas,

All of Calvino's work has been available in English for decades, plenty of time for Wolfe to see it. His books were translated here almost at once, and have remained in print.

-alga

Alice Turner — 25 Feb 2000, 11:26 · follows Alice Turner

Thomas questioned:

Back to the question if there is a influence of Calvino on Wolfe: To finally settle this, one must know which of Calvino's books were when translated into English (and I don't know that). Or can Wolfe speak (or at least understand) Italian? It would generally be an interesting question which languages Wolfe is versed in. To speak a foreign languages is a cultural influence which should not be underestimated.

Calvino's books have been available in English for decades. The one I reviewed (-Elephant Bangs Train-) came out in 1975 or so. Calvino is considered a major author here, and his books appeared in English within about a year of their Italian publication, i.e. as soon as Weaver could translate them. (I'm pretty sure Weaver translated them all; it's part of what has made his considerable reputation.) My guess is that Wolfe does not read Italian, or not beyond tourist's Italian, which is about what I have myself.

-alga