

Is Mary really the name for all abo women? Or was that Scribner's error?

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 20 Jan 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2550>

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.

Talarican — 20 Jan 2001, 23:31

We had some discussion previously about some of the text shifts and editing missteps in 5HC from the original Scribner's 1972 edition and the Ace paperback. There was the infamous Ace "All the worlds will be born" contraction. According to Charles Scribner's sons, Phaedria's father "owned", most of the time, large sums which the lenders could not hope to collect unless they were willing to allow him more to recoup. The difficulty, I thought, was that he didn't "own" these sums, but speculated with others' money; Ace clarified that he "owed" these sums. Also, the Scribner clan would have us believe the carcass of the 'water-carabou' the real Dr. Marsch, great white hunter, was so proud of shooting from a range of 300 yards, would weigh "a good fifteen pounds" (oof!).

Well, the Scribnerites also tell us that, in "A Story", Seven Girls Waiting's infant was named Mary Pink Butterflies. It has become something of dogma among us Urthlings that "Mary" was the name of all abo women, just as "John" was stated in the text to be the name of all abo men, even though no such statement was made regarding "Mary", and the baby was the only example of a "Mary" in "A Story".

The subsequent Ace paperback threw an interesting twist in the scheme by naming Seven Girls Waiting's child "Many Pink Butterflies". The Ace version being the first (and for long only) I had read, I had accepted "Many Pink Butterflies" as the girl's name and imagined rapid movement of the infant's hands created the impression, in Seven Girls Waiting's doting eyes at any rate, of "many" butterflies.

But then again, "A Story", including the "John" rule, may have been a fabrication on Victor Trenchard's part, drawing on "abo" folklore passed on to him by his parents.

BTW, for those concerned about my patronage of "Breastless"; I actually purchased these used volumes from independent book dealers by means of the Internet shopping/marketing mechanism "Breastless" makes available to them for a price. I am quite cognizant and sympathetic to the plight of the independent bookdealer, there being few such on Urth; and furthermore my alter ego's own father having been one of a related and more specialized tribe, the independent college textbook dealer, which business is now in its turn getting "wal-mart-ized" by big players in that particular arena.

Talarican