

obscure Wolfe

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 13 May 1997

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M. Gallo — 13 May 1997, 16:50

Gene Wolfe sells some of his own works by mail (autographed and everything), and among them are two I have not heard of: _Letters Home_ and _Bibliomen_, both small press releases. As much as I'd like, I can't really afford to buy every Wolfe title I come across, and I was wondering if anyone here was familiar with these two books, what they're about, how they compare with his other works, &c.

Thanks,
M

m.driussi — 14 May 1997, 05:42 · follows M. Gallo

Reply: Item #9662929 from URTN at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET00#

M. Gallo,

LETTERS HOME is just that--the letters Gene Wolfe wrote home while he was in Korea during the Korean War. Some wags seem to fancy it a fiction, a novel. Perhaps too gullibly I accept it at face value as non-fiction. As such it is difficult to compare with any of Wolfe's other work.

BIBLIOMEN (Broken Mirrors Press) is a special collection of short character sketches, most of which have not appeared anywhere else. (Thematically: all the characters are looking for books in one way or another.) Originally published by Cheap Street, the Broken Mirrors Press edition has a few more characters added =and= it costs a lot less! Comparing it to other Wolfe collections: well, it is much shorter and yet, as I wrote above, the pieces are thematically tied together--so it is almost like a very short novel. But it isn't.

I have this problem in reading a collection of Wolfe stories: I tend to gobble them up, one after another, about as fast as I can; as a result I get the equivalent of an ice cream headache after five or six stories. Point: I did not have this happen when I read BIBLIOMEN in one sitting (probably another reason why I sense it is "like a short novel").

=mantis=