

OT, Wolfe-like stories

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 18 Mar 2002

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 18 Mar 2002, 21:14

I recently read the Hartwell/Cramer anthology THE ASCENT OF WONDER: THE EVOLUTION OF HARD SF.

It is a good antho; it is a thick antho; it has two Wolfe stories in it ("Procreation" and "All the Hues of Hell"). It has a solid approach: it is like taking a course in Big(gest) Tent "hard sf," reading it through in order and seeing the various threads the editors are talking about. This is "value added" to the simple collection--a guided tour of the architecture and history by seasoned professionals.

There are a few stories I read for the first time in here that I thought were great, but one in particular that I would like to recommend: "Chromatic Aberration" by John M. Ford.

I find it Wolfe-like but in no way imitative. I will search for more of his work, because I am very interested based on this one story.

"Wolfe-like, how?" you might well ask. The story is not baroque science fantasy ala New Sun, it is more like magical realism and something else. It also seems like a Le Guin work, if that helps capture what I'm trying to convey without giving away too much of anything at all.

I can't help but wonder what other readers see--I'd love to compare notes in private email.

=mantis=

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