

Thais

The Urth list — 4 messages, 3 voices, 28 Jul 2002

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Jennifer Van Goethem — 29 Jul 2002, 18:20

In Anatole France's "Thais" upon which the opera of the same name is based are found some interesting tidbits about our mystery girl.

Thais is an actress.
She is the daughter of innkeepers.
The inn is frequented by sailors.
Her only childhood friend, father figure and spiritual guide, a Nubian slave, was tortured/crucified for a crime he didn't commit.
She is deeply afraid of growing old and losing her beauty.

The historical or biblical accuracy of this rendition is certainly questionable, but I wouldn't put it past Wolfe to have read novel, or be a fan of the opera.

J

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 29 Jul 2002, 18:41 · follows Jennifer Van Goethem

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... particularly since Anatole France was, if I am not mistaken, a member of the extended "set" to which one of Wolfe's acknowledged ... heroes? Models? ... whatever ... , G.K. Chesterton also belonged ...

Andy Robertson — 28 Jul 2002, 22:05 · follows Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

----- Original Message -----

From: "Dan'I Danehy-Oakes" <ddanehy at siebel.com>
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I am almost certain this is not the case. I am very familiar with Chesterton's work and life, and while you are of course right that he is a model for Wolfe: but he was not AFAIK acquainted with Anatole France

hartshorn

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 29 Jul 2002, 23:26 · follows Andy Robertson

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I could well be wrong (twice in one day...) -- I've always associated France with the whole extended group that included Belloc, Chesterton, etc., but I can't for the life of me think how I got that impression.