

The Rats in the Walls, etc.

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 06 Feb 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/355>

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.

David_Lebling — 06 Feb 1998, 14:24

alga, re South America:

While you are absolutely right that TBOTNS's South America isn't ours, I think it's safe to say it fills the role of South America on Urth. Recall that while Severian's universe isn't necessarily (maybe even certainly) ours, it is also stated that each successive universe resembles all the others, even down to minor details.

Rats: I guess I'm a literalist, but I think the rats in the library do have writing in the same sense that humans do. What better place for them to learn and practice the art, after all? There's a touch of Leiber's Lankhmar in Nessus, I think; and recall the rat civilization under that dark city!

Joshua Solomon, re rivers:

I know the Rio de la Plata runs more or less southeast. Its north bank tributaries may run into it in a southwesterly direction. I think in general rivers in Argentina run southeast or east. Rivers in Chile run westerly, but are pretty short as a rule. The Gyll is a wide deep river that cuts deeply into its continent west and south of high mountains: it's the mirror image of the Rio de la Plata.

mantis,

I found an interesting reference about carving the mountains, in _Urth_. When Severian is taken to Mount Typhon, he states in so many words that he's never before seen an uncarved mountain, and Typhon's is the only carved one at that time. He also states that the _autarchs_ who succeeded Typhon carved others in imitation of Typhon's. At that point in his life, he's in a position to know.

Also, someone asked about the name Legion. It's biblical, isn't it? From the story of Jesus casting the demons from a man into a herd of swine. Weren't those demons called Legion? It has become a semi-synonym for "a whole big bunch." I suppose it's possible the biblical reference is related to the Roman military unit, as well. If you call yourself Legion, it means "I have too many names to mention, enough for a whole Legion of troops."