

Whom Does Wolfe Read?

The Urth list — 8 messages, 8 voices, 15 Apr 2005

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John Barach — 15 Apr 2005, 16:11

Urthers --

When I read *_Castle of Days_* for the first time earlier this year, I learned a bit about Wolfe's reading. For instance, it's evident that he likes Ursula LeGuin, Nancy Kress, and Algis Budrys.

Today, in a used book store, I came across Sharon Baker's *_Journey to Membliar_*, which had a blurb from Wolfe on the front, praising Baker highly. I've never heard of her. *_Journey_* is apparently her second novel, following *_Quarrelling, They Met the Dragon_* (<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0380892014>: the Amazon blurb is written by her son, apparently) and followed in turn by a sequel *_Burning Tears of Sassurum_*. Anyone read these novels (besides Wolfe)? Any good?

What other authors has Wolfe praised or indicated that he enjoys? What other books has Wolfe written blurbs for?

Curious....

John

Andy Robertson — 15 Apr 2005, 16:14 · in reply to John Barach

Anyone read these novels (besides Wolfe)? Any good?

No, but I will

What other authors has Wolfe praised or indicated that he enjoys?

Tolkien

<http://home.clara.net/andywrobertson/wolfemountains.html>

pthwndxrclep — 15 Apr 2005, 16:24 · in reply to John Barach

I know he's got a blurb on (of all things) Jennifer Stevenson's terrific "Trash Sex Magic" - see

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/1931520127/qid=1113606743/sr=8-1/ref=pd_csp_1/103-9442090-4694246?v=glance&s=books&n=507846

Stevenson's novel is a bit unusual, not to mention somewhat indescribable (and highly erotic, which Wolfe's work just is not, hence my surprise at the Wolfe blurb), but well worth reading. YMMV, of course.

On 4/15/05, John Barach <jbarach at telus.net> wrote:

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Richard Payton — 15 Apr 2005, 16:28 · in reply to Andy Robertson

What other authors has Wolfe praised or indicated that he enjoys?

Borges, certainly. Also, from a 1986 interview with Larry McCaffery:

LM: Who are some of the contemporary writers you most admire?

GW: Among SF writers I'd include Algis Budrys, Joanna Russ, Ursula Le Guin, Damon Knight, Kate Wilhelm, Michael Bishop, Brian Aldiss, Nancy Kress, Michael Moorcock. Among non-SF writers I most enjoy are Nabokov (*Pale Fire* is a truly amazing book) and Borges. Of course . . . Lovecraft (who is usually regarded as a SF writer, but to me he's the real successor -- if that's possible -- to Poe's line of horror.)

James Wynn — 15 Apr 2005, 17:27 · in reply to John Barach

What other authors has Wolfe praised or indicated that he enjoys? What other books has Wolfe written blurbs for?

I going to presume we're talking fiction here. He wrote a gushing blurb for a book of Avram Davidson's short stories. He's referred to Kate Wilhelm in several interviews and chats and Number 5 finds one of her books in "The Fifth Head", so that's gotta be one. He **seems** to have been great friends with Le Guin at one time but his affection for her work **seems** like it may have declined with that friendship.

He's certainly not just a SF fan. He is a big fan of the Sherlock Holmes mysteries...probably the whole Mystery genre including Poe. He likes Dickens and Thackeray (but you would know that from "Castle of Days"). He read a whole lot of Kipling as a kid. He seems to have read most of C.S. Lewis and G.K. Chesterton. I'm told there are a lot Proust references in "The New Sun" but I don't know enough about Proust to verify that.

He clearly likes Robert Graves and openly praises "I, Claudius". His references to Greek Mythology are very often tapped directly from Graves' "The Greek Myths". And he likes World Mythology (not just the Greek stuff) -- look for a lot of Persian and Hittite mythology in his next Latro book if it is ever finished.

~ Crush

Chris — 16 Apr 2005, 01:44 · in reply to James Wynn

He also dished out a big juicy quote on the virtues of the writing of Frankowski, which ended up attached as a blurb to one of the worst excuses for a pulp novel I have ever seen. Lesson learned: do not trust blurbs, even from Wolfe.

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Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 16 Apr 2005, 13:49 · in reply to James Wynn

On 4/15/05, James Wynn <thewynns at earthlink.net> wrote:
He seems to have read most of C.S. Lewis and G.K. Chesterton.

I don't think even Chesterton read most of Chesterton. There's just too much to read in one lifetime.

You probably do not want to know what that odor is.
<http://www.livejournal.com/users/sturgeonslawyer>

PacoGonzz at aol.com — 16 Apr 2005, 16:32 · follows Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

Neil Gaiman, of course!