

Fuligin in illustration

The Urth list — 31 messages, 12 voices, 23 Oct 2008

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5192>

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Son of Witz — 23 Oct 2008, 23:49

Old topic, I know. hopefully it's not unwelcome to respond to some very old posts.

I'm an illustrator, and I've been sketching some scenes from this book over the last month or so. Fuligin is a challenge that I didn't think it would be.

First of all, while the text says:

"the hue fuligin, which is darker than black, admirably erases all folds, bunchings, and gatherings so far as the eye is concerned, showing only a featureless dark."

Does anyone read this as saying that highlights wouldn't show up?

It seems to me that it says "folds, bunchings, and gatherings" — all things that create shadows, become a "featureless dark". But what of highlights? Surely when a light (like the claw's) hits it strongly, the cloak would catch some of the highlights. I picture this as a lot dimmer of a highlight than an ordinary black, but still a highlight.

Anyway, I'm aiming that my illustrations would be considered "legitimate" if they were seen by someone familiar with the story. Does anyone have thoughts on this, especially ones that would argue with what I've said above about highlights?

(sorry about the lack of formatting here)

From: Dan Parmenter <dan at lec.com>

Subject: (urth) cover art

Date: 16 Jan 2001 12:40:19

Hurm, I still like the Pennington (original UK) covers best. But why is it so hard for artists to draw a fuligin cloak? You'd think it would be easy, but these artists always insist on making it look like it's made of something shiny and reflective. And they can't seem to resist putting a shirt on him. I'm not looking for a Frazetta Conan here, but the first impression should be of the "classic torturer", usually depicted topless (see "The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins" by Dr. Seuss for a good example of the type, and come to think of it, an early example of the "compassionate torturer" (urgh, that sounds a bit like GWB, sorry)).

I agree, the Pennington covers rule.

First, Yes, Fuligin is a big challenge for the artist. It just looks wrong when you don't put any shadows or highlights. I imagine it would be VERY strange looking in real life, as the text demonstrates.

IF it doesn't catch highlights, how do you put any subtlety into his mask? how do you

differentiate the cloak from his pants from his boots?

The artist is either forced to do it literally, which looks very awkward, or forced to stylize it, I've used a white edging that is not intended to be physically present as a detail

Second:

the shirtless factor. I'm sorry. I've drawn this several times now. It is incredibly difficult to not make Severian look like he's a gay leather-daddy BDSM fetishizer. (absolutely nothing wrong with gay leather daddies, just that I'm sure we'd all agree that doesn't really fit Severian)

And, if you look at those classic shirtless Executioner illustrations, the guy is usually a grotesque ox of a man, not the strapping young lad Sev is.

as soon as you put an athletic figure into it, it looks like bondage gear.

From: "Steve Strickland"

Subject: Re: (urth) fuligin

Date: Sat, 23 Feb 2002 20:32:21 -0600

I was looking up the word 'fuligin' in the dictionary the other day. I was interested to see that sitting right in front of the 'fuligin'-like words (namely, 'fuliginated', meaning 'of a sooty color or appearance'; 'fuligo', meaning 'soot'; and 'fuliginous', meaning 'blackened with soot'), there were several similar sounding words derived from a root with a quite different meaning. These were 'fulgurate' ('emit flashes like lightening'); 'fulguration' ('the action of lightening'; 'in assaying, a brightening in the appearance of a molten metal'); 'fulgurous' ('resembling, full of or charged with lightening').

Like the little girl in the jacal Severian brought back to life, we all know that the fuligin that is blacker than black, when worn by Severian, the torturer who is not a torturer, is in reality whiter than white. Severian is the shadow of the torturer, which means, in Chesterton's terms, that he is not the torturer, not death, but something in fact like the opposite of death; and it is he who brings the white sun as the new sun. As I recall, toward the end of Citadel of the Autarch Severian even laughs at himself as he describes how he exchanged the cloth that is blacker than black for the white that is whiter than white.

So I wonder if Wolfe intentionally selected the term fuligin in part because its root word meaning 'soot' is so similar to the root word meaning 'lightening'. Sort of a play on words. Something like that would certainly be within his bags of tricks, uh, I mean, repertoire.

Steve

Brilliant point about this paradox. This speaks to the transubstantial meaning.

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 23 Oct 2008, 23:55 · in reply to Son of Witz

I think the point of fuligin is that it doesn't reflect light at all. Albedo 0.

On Thu, Oct 23, 2008 at 4:49 PM, Son of Witz <sonofwitz at butcherbaker.org> wrote:
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Son of Witz — 24 Oct 2008, 01:50 · follows Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

Albedo 0.

thanks.

I was not familiar with that concept.

that makes it all the more symbolically resonant as well. thanks. I suppose I won't cheat.

~SonOfWitz

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

From: Dan'I Danehy-Oakes [mailto:danldo at gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2008 04:55 PM

Pedro Pereira — 24 Oct 2008, 12:28 · in reply to Son of Witz

I may be mistaken, but I seem to remember that there was some red embroidery on the cloak? Or was that on only on the mask?

As an aside, in the GURPS roleplaying supplement Severian is actually depicted without a shirt. It's the most faithful illustration I've seen to date Severian.

As ANOTHER aside, I was reading the entry on MATACHIN on LEXICON URTHUS and the book states that it's based on a Spanish sword dance. This is incorrect. It's a Mexican dance with no connection per se to Spain, although it certainly incorporates influences from the history of the Spanish conquerors in Mexico, but still saying that it's a Spanish dance leads one to wrong conclusions.

Pedro

Son of Witz — 24 Oct 2008, 16:44 · follows Pedro Pereira

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

From: Pedro Pereira [mailto:domus_artemis at hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, October 24, 2008 05:28 AM

To: urth at lists.urth.net

Subject: Re: (urth) Fuligin in illustration

I may be mistaken, but I seem to remember that there was some red embroidery on the cloak? Or was that on only on the mask?

I missed that if so.

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I'll have to check that book out. I just read the intro pdf found online. thanks.

Adam Thornton — 24 Oct 2008, 17:28 · in reply to Son of Witz

On Oct 24, 2008, at 11:44 AM, Son of Witz wrote:

I may be mistaken, but I seem to remember that there was some red embroidery on the cloak? Or was that on only on the mask?

I missed that if so.

I imagine the lining as red, but that might be from one cover or another. I never imagined the exterior as ornamented.

For some reason "red embroidery on the cloak" makes me think of a mechanic's shirt, with

"Leonard" or whatever stitched above the pocket. I love the idea of "Severian" being stitched on the cloak. Maybe it's like a bowling league shirt, with "Citadel Pin-Pushers" and the logo (a rose, a fountain, a bowling pin?) on the back? I need a weekend.

Adam

Kerry Benton — 24 Oct 2008, 18:06 · in reply to Adam Thornton

I don't recall any reference to a red (or any other color) lining in the book, but I admit it's been a while.

The most common book cover illustration seems to be the one that's still on the current Orb "Shadow & Claw" edition, which shows not merely a red, but a beautiful varicolored lining that in fact spills over the top in a frilly sort of collar. It also shows a great deal of shadow and lighting effects on the fuligin and has severian wearing a black (or fuligin) shirt. I've always thought this illustration was gorgeous and would love to have a large sized print of it, but I also have a distinct memory of the moment I realized it wasn't accurate (upon my 2nd or 3rd reading probably).

There's a Japanese cover that I think is fascinating... it appears to be inspired by the painting referenced above, but with a really distinctive style : <http://flickr.com/photos/78615114 at N00/2481269054>

Anyway, my 1 or 2 cents.

-k

On Fri, Oct 24, 2008 at 1:28 PM, Adam Thornton <adam at io.com> wrote:

On Oct 24, 2008, at 11:44 AM, Son of Witz wrote:

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Adam

Son of Witz — 27 Oct 2008, 19:39 · follows Kerry Benton

Ah,

a simple caveat, for what it's worth:

Severian's clothes would be very dirty most of this journey. He gets dowsed in the lake that

found Dorcas covered in mud. I figure he gets a wash up in Thrax, but before and after, he'd have so much mud and dust that there would be some sort of diffuse reflectivity in the clothing.

Son of Witz — 29 Oct 2008, 18:13 · follows Son of Witz

I'll let this topic rest, but I wanted to share this illustration I found online to the Hungarian Shadow Of the Torturer.

http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2347/2417005336_602e07d1d1_o.png

the best, coolest illustration I've come across for this series besides the Pennington Shadow cover. Note the Avern in the lower left of the back cover.

The gauntlets aren't legit, and maybe the sabretache is overlarge, and of course, the Fuligin issue is avoided. (though another Caveat is that somewhere in Sword or Citadel he mentions his cloak being 'faded' by that point.) And Terminus Est lacks the carved heads on the quillions

The artist did draw him shirtless though, but shaded the body to deemphasize. (Does anyone know the artist's name) I love that there is absolutely nothing 'sci-fi' looking about this illustration. Great stuff.

alright,
back to AEG with you all.

~sonofwitz

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

From: Pedro Pereira [mailto:domus_artemis at hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, October 24, 2008 05:28 AM

To: urth at lists.urth.net

Subject: Re: (urth) Fuligin in illustration

As an aside, in the GURPS roleplaying supplement Severian is actually depicted without a shirt. It's the most faithful illustration I've seen to date Severian.

Pedro Pereira — 29 Oct 2008, 20:03 · in reply to Son of Witz

I've seen that one before. I still think the GURPS illustration is more faithful although not as stylish.

Son of Witz — 29 Oct 2008, 22:09 · follows Pedro Pereira

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

From: Pedro Pereira [mailto:domus_artemis at hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2008 01:03 PM

To: urth at lists.urth.net

Subject: Re: (urth) Fuligin in illustration

I've seen that one before. I still think the GURPS illustration is more faithful although not as stylish.

I've not gotten ahold of this book.

is it worthwhile? I'm not going play the game.

Is the illustration you're talking about the one found on the table of contents, as shown in the pdf found here?:

<http://www.sjgames.com/gurps/books/newsun/>

click on the red excerpts "table of contents" to see the pdf.

Pedro Pereira — 29 Oct 2008, 22:28 · in reply to Son of Witz

No, it's in another part of the book. I think the book is worthwhile. It's a nice compilation of stuff related to the cycle.

Son of Witz — 29 Oct 2008, 22:32 · follows Pedro Pereira

No, it's in another part of the book. I think the book is worthwhile. It's a nice compilation of stuff related to the cycle.

Pedro>

thanks. Just realized Mantis wrote it.

Adam Thornton — 29 Oct 2008, 22:52 · in reply to Son of Witz

On Oct 29, 2008, at 5:09 PM, Son of Witz wrote:
I've not gotten ahold of this book.
is it worthwhile? I'm not going play the game.

Well, I liked it, but then I'm a GURPS player.

Adam

Jeff Wilson — 30 Oct 2008, 00:22 · in reply to Son of Witz

Son of Witz wrote:
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The artist did draw him shirtless though, but shaded the body to deemphasize.
(Does anyone know the artist's name) I love that there is absolutely nothing 'sci-fi' looking about this illustration. Great stuff.

The tower tops seem to have canard "fins" on their cones.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

Jeff Wilson — 30 Oct 2008, 04:22 · in reply to Pedro Pereira

Pedro Pereira wrote:
No, it's in another part of the book. I think the book is worthwhile.
It's a nice compilation of stuff related to the cycle.

Pedro

This middle picture on this page?

<http://www.sjgames.com/gurps/books/newsun/art.html>

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

Nessuno — 30 Oct 2008, 08:30 · follows Jeff Wilson

Hi there,

just a quick not to let you know that the artist's name is Rich rd Vass (www.vassrichard.hu
<<http://www.vassrichard.hu/>>).

Nessuno

Pedro Pereira — 30 Oct 2008, 12:15 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

Nope.

Son of Witz — 30 Oct 2008, 15:57 · follows Pedro Pereira

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

From: Nessuno [<mailto:nessun-sapra@web.de>]

just a quick not to let you know that the artist's name is Rich rd Vass
(www.vassrichard.hu <<http://www.vassrichard.hu/>>).

Nessuno

+++++

Thanks Nessuno, some great stuff on his site.

+++++

This middle picture on this page?

<http://www.sjgames.com/gurps/books/newsun/art.html>

++

Nope.

Pedro

+++++

Great, I was hoping neither of those were it. That one on the gallery page doesn't strike me as accurate. It seems to imply sleeves at the wrist. Terminus Est has no quillions, and there is no justification for any designs on the mask. The mask is described as Fuligin leather stiffened with strips of bone, so one could argue for a bit of white in there, but it's reaching.

I hope to finish this Avern Duel scratchboard piece this weekend. I'm trying to make it look like similar to the style of D?rer's Nurenburg woodcuts. If people express an interest, I'll share it here.

thanks all.
~Witz

Matthew Keeley — 30 Oct 2008, 16:23 · in reply to Son of Witz

On Thu, Oct 30, 2008 at 11:57 AM, Son of Witz
<sonofwitz at butcherbaker.org> wrote:

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thanks all.
~Witz

I'd be interested.

-Matt

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 30 Oct 2008, 17:22 · in reply to Matthew Keeley

On Thu, Oct 30, 2008 at 8:23 AM, Matthew Keeley
<matthew.keeley.1 at gmail.com> wrote:
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I'd be interested.

-Matt

Me too.

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes, writer, trainer, bon vivant

<http://www.livejournal.com/users/sturgeonslawyer>
<http://www.danehyoakes.com>

I once absend-mindedly ordered Three Mile Island dressing in a restaurant and, with great presence of mind, they brought Thousand Island Dressing and a bottle of chili sauce. -- T. Pratchett

Nigel Price — 30 Oct 2008, 19:31 · follows Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

Son of Witz said...

If people express an interest, I'll share it here.

Matt said...

I'd be interested.

And Dan'I said...

Me too.

Yes, please.

Nigel

Son of Witz — 30 Oct 2008, 22:55 · follows Nigel Price

cool.

I'll send some links.

This one I'm working on now will hopefully end up on a band tee-shirt. The band likes the idea, but hasn't seen the art yet.

~witz

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

From: Nigel Price [mailto:nigelaprice at talktalk.net]

Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2008 12:31 PM

To: 'Urth List'

Subject: (urth) Fuligin in illustration

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Me too.

Yes, please.

Nigel

Jeff Wilson — 30 Oct 2008, 23:02 · in reply to Pedro Pereira

Pedro Pereira wrote:

Nope.

Which page?

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com

< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

Pedro Pereira — 31 Oct 2008, 00:36 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

12.

Ranjit Bhatnagar — 31 Oct 2008, 04:53 · in reply to Pedro Pereira

Jeff Wilson kindly scanned the Severian illustration from the GURPS manual, but the attachment was too large for the mailing list so I've posted it on the web site here:

<http://www.urth.net/urth/pics/12sm.jpg>

- Ranjit

Daniel Slatkin — 31 Oct 2008, 05:24 · in reply to Ranjit Bhatnagar

I'm a bit of a cover art enthusiast so I've got about six versions of the cover art for all four books saved with the authors' names and locations. Vass Rich rd has covers for a well as Claw and Sword, all which carry the same style as Shadow. I couldn't find Citadel, though. If anybody would like uploads it wouldn't be too hard.

Danny

On Thu, Oct 30, 2008 at 9:53 PM, Ranjit Bhatnagar <ranjit at moonmilk.com> wrote:
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Son of Witz — 31 Oct 2008, 16:45 · follows Daniel Slatkin

You guys are great.

thanks so much for scanning and hosting the illustration.

yes i agree its the most faithful thing I've seen for Severian. and very well rendered ta boot.

and yes, I'd LOVE to seen the additional Vass Richard covers.

this rendering does bring up one other question I've been toying with, which is, wouldn't these future ice age folk be sorta hairy. Anything I've seen has a sort of modern whiteboy look, ie, not so hairy. I suppose he might look like a manly russian old school dude. I mean, he's a wolf and the name Severian is Russian, No? anyway, I don't really think there is much mention of his hair, other than the black hairs on the back of his hands and head, and his shaving. I don't think there is anything to say he's not a hairy chested man.

Christ, I'm such a nerd.

best,

~witz

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

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Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2008 10:24 PM

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hands and head, and his shaving. I don't think there is anything to say
he's not a hairy chested man.

There's a passage -- I can't recall whether it's in the Book proper or Castle of the Otter -- where
either Severian or Wolfe says that each continent has its proper racial "type" of person, and that
after invaders have been there a few thousand years they begin to look like the people they've
displaced.

By that logic I would expect Severian's people to look like native South Americans.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes, writer, trainer, bon vivant

<http://www.livejournal.com/users/sturgeonslawyer>

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He does complain that he has lost his resistance to cold after wearing a shirt since his ascension
IIRC, and at one point awakens to find ants crawling on his chest. Both would be wonderful
times to describe his chest hair, if there were any of prominence.

Cutting with the other edge, he is likely the descendant of Exultants and their prettified
servants, so gene selection for mooky whiteboyhood is very likely.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com

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John Smith — 31 Oct 2008, 20:37 · in reply to Son of Witz

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anyway, I don't really think there is much mention of
his hair, other than the black hairs on the back of his
hands and head, and his shaving. I don't think there is
anything to say he's not a hairy chested man.

Christ, I'm such a nerd.

best,
~witz

If we're counting on natural selection to cause ice-age people to become hairy, they probably won't. Clothes, fire and other gifts of civilization will be much more important to survival than body hair. Those who retain the most civilization will most likely survive and pass on their genes.

And let's not forget sexual selection, another of Darwin's great insights. If women choose men who are relatively hairless, then hairlessness becomes more common. On the other hand, if women prefer hairy guys, we'll all end up looking like gorillas.

Best wishes,

Jack