

OT: Vance Autobiography

The Urth list — 38 messages, 18 voices, 15 Dec 2008

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5279>

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.

Matthew Keeley — 15 Dec 2008, 15:06

I remember there was some discussion a while back of Jack Vance's autobiography. Apparently Subterranean Press is publishing it in 2009. I'm guessing I won't be the only member of the Urth list to order a copy. No word yet as to whether or not this is a Subterranean exclusive, but I wouldn't be surprised if it were: I doubt there's a huge market for it.

<http://subterraneanpress.com/index.php/2008/12/14/new-robert-block-and-jack-vance-titles-just-acquired/>

-Matt

Craig Brewer — 15 Dec 2008, 15:14 · in reply to Matthew Keeley

Speaking of Vance, who else has written "dying earth" stories? I know we like to call it a subgenre, but how widespread is it, really?

The only other example I can think of offhand is Michael Shea's "sequels" to Vance's series.

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

From: Matthew Keeley <matthew.keeley.1 at gmail.com>

To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>

Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 9:06:19 AM

Subject: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography

I remember there was some discussion a while back of Jack Vance's autobiography. Apparently Subterranean Press is publishing it in 2009. I'm guessing I won't be the only member of the Urth list to order a copy. No word yet as to whether or not this is a Subterranean exclusive, but I wouldn't be surprised if it were: I doubt there's a huge market for it.

<http://subterraneanpress.com/index.php/2008/12/14/new-robert-block-and-jack-vance-titles-just-acquired/>

-Matt

Adam Thornton — 15 Dec 2008, 15:44 · in reply to Craig Brewer

On Dec 15, 2008, at 9:14 AM, Craig Brewer wrote:

Speaking of Vance, who else has written "dying earth" stories? I know we like to call it a subgenre, but how widespread is it, really?

The only other example I can think of offhand is Michael Shea's "sequels" to Vance's series.

Clark Ashton Smith? Those are more, uh, prequels, of course.

Adam

Matthew Keeley — 15 Dec 2008, 16:14 · in reply to Craig Brewer

On Mon, Dec 15, 2008 at 10:14 AM, Craig Brewer <cnbrewer at yahoo.com> wrote:
Speaking of Vance, who else has written "dying earth" stories? I know we like to call it a subgenre, but how widespread is it, really?

The only other example I can think of offhand is Michael Shea's "sequels" to Vance's series.

William Hope Hodgson's The Night Land?

And of course there is that upcoming Vance tribute anthology, Songs of the Dying Earth.

-Matt

Tim Walters — 15 Dec 2008, 17:17 · in reply to Matthew Keeley

Matthew Keeley wrote:
On Mon, Dec 15, 2008 at 10:14 AM, Craig Brewer <cnbrewer at yahoo.com> wrote:
Speaking of Vance, who else has written "dying earth" stories?

Aside from the aforementioned Smith and Hodgson:

H.G. Wells, _The Time Machine_
John Campbell, "Twilight"
Brian Aldiss, _Hothouse_ (aka _The Long Afternoon of Earth_) Richard Lupoff, _One Million Centuries_ Arthur C. Clarke, "Against the Fall of Night" M. John Harrison, _The Pastel City_ (and other Viriconium books) Michael Moorcock, _An Alien Heat_ (and the rest of the series) Olaf Stapledon, _Last and First Men_

There a lot of differences among these books and stories, but all involve far-future decline.

Tim Walters | The Doubtful Palace | <http://doubtfulpalace.com>

Craig Brewer — 15 Dec 2008, 17:19 · in reply to Tim Walters

Ah, thanks! This is great. Can't believe I forgot about Viriconium...

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

From: Tim Walters <walters at doubtfulpalace.com>
To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:17:08 AM
Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography

Matthew Keeley wrote:
On Mon, Dec 15, 2008 at 10:14 AM, Craig Brewer <cnbrewer at yahoo.com> wrote:
Speaking of Vance, who else has written "dying earth" stories?

Aside from the aforementioned Smith and Hodgson:

H.G. Wells, _The Time Machine_
John Campbell, "Twilight"
Brian Aldiss, _Hothouse_ (aka _The Long Afternoon of Earth_) Richard Lupoff, _One Million Centuries_ Arthur C. Clarke, "Against the Fall of Night" M. John Harrison, _The Pastel City_ (and other Viriconium books) Michael Moorcock, _An Alien Heat_ (and the rest of the series) Olaf

Stapledon, _Last and First Men_

There a lot of differences among these books and stories, but all involve far-future decline.

Tim Walters | The Doubtful Palace | <http://doubtfulpalace.com>

Son of Witz — 15 Dec 2008, 17:19 · follows Craig Brewer

So I've never read any Vance. I see that The Dying Earth is influential to Wolfe. Worth reading? I saw a Dying Earth compendium, is that worth bothering with?

~witz

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

From: Matthew Keeley [mailto:matthew.keeley.1@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 07:06 AM

To: 'The Urth Mailing List'

Subject: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography

I remember there was some discussion a while back of Jack Vance's autobiography. Apparently Subterranean Press is publishing it in 2009. I'm guessing I won't be the only member of the Urth list to order a copy. No word yet as to whether or not this is a Subterranean exclusive, but I wouldn't be surprised if it were: I doubt there's a huge market for it.

<http://subterraneanpress.com/index.php/2008/12/14/new-robert-block-and-jack-vance-titles-just-acquired/>

-Matt

Adam Thornton — 15 Dec 2008, 17:27 · in reply to Son of Witz

On Dec 15, 2008, at 11:19 AM, Son of Witz wrote:

So I've never read any Vance. I see that The Dying Earth is influential to Wolfe. Worth reading? I saw a Dying Earth compendium, is that worth bothering with?

Yes.

Adam

Andy Robertson — 15 Dec 2008, 17:28 · in reply to Matthew Keeley

Matthew Keeley writes:

William Hope Hodgson's The Night Land?

And some humble ornaments thereto

<http://www.thenightland.co.uk>

- hartshorn

Tim Walters — 15 Dec 2008, 18:14 · in reply to Son of Witz

So I've never read any Vance. I see that The Dying Earth is influential to Wolfe. Worth reading?

Yes, very much so. The Eyes Of The Overworld, set in the same milieu, is also excellent.

Tim Walters | <http://doubtfulpalace.com>

Matthew Groves — 17 Dec 2008, 17:40 · in reply to Son of Witz

On Mon, Dec 15, 2008 at 11:19 AM, Son of Witz <sonofwitz at butcherbaker.org> wrote:

So I've never read any Vance. I see that The Dying Earth is influential to Wolfe. Worth reading? I saw a Dying Earth compendium, is that worth bothering with?

~witz

Actually, Witz, given your reaction to Wolfe and PKD, I wonder what Vance will have to offer you. Vance's artistry seems to operate almost entirely at the level of style. Have you read A Voyage to Arcturus or C.S. Lewis's Space Trilogy? I don't exactly recommend them, but I do think you might find them interesting.

John Watkins — 17 Dec 2008, 17:42 · in reply to Matthew Groves

I, ah, agree with this.

I read The Dying Earth entirely because of Wolfe and this list, and I found it not to be too my taste.

On 12/17/08, Matthew Groves <matthewalangroves at gmail.com> wrote:

On Mon, Dec 15, 2008 at 11:19 AM, Son of Witz <sonofwitz at butcherbaker.org> wrote:

So I've never read any Vance. I see that The Dying Earth is influential to Wolfe. Worth reading? I saw a Dying Earth compendium, is that worth bothering with?

~witz

Actually, Witz, given your reaction to Wolfe and PKD, I wonder what Vance will have to offer you. Vance's artistry seems to operate almost entirely at the level of style. Have you read A Voyage to Arcturus or C.S. Lewis's Space Trilogy? I don't exactly recommend them, but I do think you might find them interesting.

Son of Witz — 17 Dec 2008, 17:50 · follows John Watkins

Thanks for the comments on Vance.

I'm okay with style stuff, and more standard genre works.

(I LOVES me some Conan)

It's just probably not the sort of stuff that inspires me to get online and try to hash out what the hell is going on with some other readers.

I suppose there is a lot more I should read first.

thanks,

~witz

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

From: John Watkins [mailto:john.watkins04 at gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 09:42 AM

To: 'The Urth Mailing List'

Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography

I, ah, agree with this.

I read *The Dying Earth* entirely because of Wolfe and this list, and I found it not to be too my taste.

On 12/17/08, Matthew Groves <matthewalangroves at gmail.com> wrote:

On Mon, Dec 15, 2008 at 11:19 AM, Son of Witz <sonofwitz at butcherbaker.org> wrote:

So I've never read any Vance. I see that *The Dying Earth* is influential to Wolfe. Worth reading? I saw a *Dying Earth* compendium, is that worth bothering with?

~witz

Actually, Witz, given your reaction to Wolfe and PKD, I wonder what Vance will have to offer you. Vance's artistry seems to operate almost entirely at the level of style. Have you read *_A Voyage to Arcturus_* or C.S. Lewis's *Space Trilogy*? I don't exactly recommend them, but I do think you might find them interesting.

Tim Walters — 17 Dec 2008, 18:17 · in reply to Son of Witz

It's just probably not the sort of stuff that inspires me to get online and try to hash out what the hell is going on with some other readers.

For that, I would recommend John Crowley, especially *_Engine Summer_* and *_Little, Big_*.

Tim Walters | <http://doubtfulpalace.com>

David Stockhoff — 17 Dec 2008, 23:34 · follows Tim Walters

I will second that, on both counts. And add *The Deep and Beasts*, as well.

Message: 1

Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 10:17:04 -0800 (PST)

From: "Tim Walters" <walters at doubtfulpalace.com>

Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography

To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>

Message-ID: <37532.198.1229537824.squirrel at o2.hostbaby.com>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

It's just probably not the sort of stuff that inspires me to get online and try to hash out what the hell is going on with some other readers.

For that, I would recommend John Crowley, especially *_Engine Summer_* and *_Little, Big_*.

-- Tim Walters | <http://doubtfulpalace.com> -----

Craig Brewer — 18 Dec 2008, 01:04 · in reply to David Stockhoff

Very different, but if you like "mystery" sf/fantasy, at least in the sense of starting without a clue and slowly having to puzzle your way toward figuring out what's going on, Steven Ericson's "Malazan Book of the Fallen" series is a fun read. It's a very different kind of read from Wolfe. But if you find yourself at all attracted to the the Robert Jordan/George R. R. Martin 10 book epics, this is the best of the bunch, imo. It has its problems, but I also find that it has its fair bit of puzzling that increases the fun.

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

From: David Stockhoff <dstockhoff at verizon.net>

To: urth at lists.urth.net

Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 5:34:02 PM

Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography

I will second that, on both counts. And add The Deep and Beasts, as well.

Message: 1

Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 10:17:04 -0800 (PST)

From: "Tim Walters" <walters at doubtfulpalace.com>

Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography

Lane Haygood — 18 Dec 2008, 01:30 · in reply to Craig Brewer

I never could get into Erikson's stuff, and I picked it up because it had a blurb from Stephen Donaldson on the cover, and I like Donaldson's work.

Erikson's characterization wasn't as sharp as Martin's, his prose nowhere near as solid as Jordan's, and he lacked Martin's ability to work in different narrative voices to the same story. I felt it was a shame, because it seemed like the rarest of all birds, good epic fantasy (in terms of what he wanted to do with the series, which from reading websites, Wikipedia, etc., and talking to my friends, seems rather awesome). I hate to sound like one of those guys who always says that the oldies are the best, but for that kind of fantasy, I find Glen Cook to be an undisputed master. And what luck! You can get his "Black Company" novels in anthology format now. I have both "The Chronicles of the Black Company" and "The Books of the South" on my bookshelf right now and they're both excellent. For modern authors of epic fantasy that have thrilled me, Patrick Rothfuss' "The Name of the Wind" was a good exercise in frame stories, extraordinarily well written and very easy to get into. Scott Lynch's Locke Lamora books remind me a lot of one of my absolute favorite authors, Fritz Leiber. And finally, Joshua Palmatier's "Throne of Amenkor" series is refreshingly original and a blast to read.

Lane

On Wed, Dec 17, 2008 at 7:04 PM, Craig Brewer <cnbrewer at yahoo.com> wrote:

Very different, but if you like "mystery" sf/fantasy, at least in the sense of starting without a clue and slowly having to puzzle your way toward figuring out what's going on, Steven Ericson's "Malazan Book of the Fallen" series is a fun read. It's a very different kind of read from Wolfe. But if you find yourself at all attracted to the the Robert Jordan/George R. R. Martin 10 book epics, this is the best of the bunch, imo. It has its problems, but I also find that it has its fair bit of puzzling that increases the fun.

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

From: David Stockhoff <dstockhoff at verizon.net>

To: urth at lists.urth.net
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 5:34:02 PM
Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography

I will second that, on both counts. And add The Deep and Beasts, as well.

Message: 1
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 10:17:04 -0800 (PST)
From: "Tim Walters" <walters at doubtfulpalace.com>
Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography

Craig Brewer — 18 Dec 2008, 01:51 · in reply to Lane Haygood

I entirely agree. For style, Erikson is NOT your man. (And that made me seriously hesitate mentioning him on this list.) And, like you said, his characterization is inconsistent, which is a real problem in books with upwards of 200 characters sometimes. Still, the fun there is the world building/history/politics. The problem is that he forgot to populate it with interesting people. So I read it like fake history (Silmarillion-style), and I can overlook the shortcomings. (Although I think that even Silmarillion had its stylistic charms.)

And I've heard only good things about Rothfuss, too. But I always have a problem starting a series before it's finished. You never know if the author is going to die before finishing it (e.g., Robert Jordan).

Tim Walters — 18 Dec 2008, 02:00 · in reply to Craig Brewer

at least in the
sense of starting without a clue and slowly having to puzzle your way
toward figuring out what's going on

John Clute's Appleseed is great for that vertiginous total-immersion feeling.

(Add me to the list of readers who needed a few shies before leaping the hurdle of Gravity's Rainbow. Loved it by the end, though.)

Tim Walters | <http://doubtfulpalace.com>

Dave Tallman — 18 Dec 2008, 12:35 · in reply to John Watkins

John Watkins wrote:
I read The Dying Earth entirely because of Wolfe and this list, and I
found it not to be too my taste.

I read and enjoyed it a long time ago (before reading much Wolfe), and also his "Demon Prince" series, which I liked for style and culture-building.

From this list, I started reading some Stephenson. I loved "The Diamond Age" and "Anathem" -- both have strong techno-nerd plots that lead into esoteric mysteries by the end. He also has a weird sense of humor that sometimes works for me and sometimes not. I tried to start "Snow Crash" but found it too absurd. A protagonist named Protagonist? No way.

Tim Walters — 18 Dec 2008, 16:49 · in reply to Tim Walters

Just remembered another Dying Earth entry: the excellent, strange, and relatively obscure _Earthchild_ by Doris Piserchia.

Tim Walters | The Doubtful Palace | <http://doubtfulpalace.com>

Adam Thornton — 18 Dec 2008, 17:04 · in reply to Tim Walters

On Dec 18, 2008, at 10:49 AM, Tim Walters wrote:
Just remembered another Dying Earth entry: the excellent, strange,
and relatively obscure _Earthchild_ by Doris Piserchia.

I just remembered C.J. Cherryh's _Sunfall_.

Adam

David Stockhoff — 18 Dec 2008, 17:05 · follows Adam Thornton

that's HIRO Protagonist, to you! (At least the Japanese name is plausible.)

Snow Crash is much like those movies, especially action comedies it seems, that are truly great for the first half and then fall into cliched resolutions. It was also sloppily executed in many ways. But Stephenson's dark laissez faire world is effective.

Message: 8
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 05:35:11 -0700
From: Dave Tallman <davetallman at msn.com>
Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography
To: urth at lists.urth.net
Message-ID: <494A437F.8090000 at gmail.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

John Watkins wrote:

I read The Dying Earth entirely because of Wolfe and this list, and I found it not to be too my taste.

I read and enjoyed it a long time ago (before reading much Wolfe), and also his "Demon Prince" series, which I liked for style and culture-building.

From this list, I started reading some Stephenson. I loved "The Diamond Age" and "Anathem" -- both have strong techno-nerd plots that lead into esoteric mysteries by the end. He also has a weird sense of humor that sometimes works for me and sometimes not. I tried to start "Snow Crash" but found it too absurd. A protagonist named Protagonist? No way.

James B. Jordan — 18 Dec 2008, 22:15 · in reply to David Stockhoff

Anybody know why Gene W. is not among the authors in Songs of the Dying Earth? Seems to me that's a place he'd really like to be included.

Patera Nutria

James B. Jordan
Director, Biblical Horizons
Box 1096
Niceville, FL 32588
<http://www.biblicalhorizons.com>

brunians at brunians.org — 18 Dec 2008, 23:30 · in reply to James B. Jordan

Same reason he hasn't won a Hugo.

Anybody know why Gene W. is not among the authors in Songs of the Dying Earth? Seems to me that's a place he'd really like to be included.

Patera Nutria

James B. Jordan
Director, Biblical Horizons
Box 1096
Niceville, FL 32588
<http://www.biblicalhorizons.com>

Matthew Keeley — 19 Dec 2008, 00:03 · in reply to James B. Jordan

On Thu, Dec 18, 2008 at 5:15 PM, James B. Jordan <jbjordan4 at cox.net> wrote:
Anybody know why Gene W. is not among the authors in Songs of the Dying Earth? Seems to me that's a place he'd really like to be included.

Patera Nutria

I gather he was asked to contribute, but declined? I think George R.R. Martin said something to that effect in the comments section on his blog.

Odd - Wolfe has done so many pastiches and homages in the past. He even did a story with Robert E. Howard's Kull (Six From Atlantis) a few years back. (For the curious, it wasn't one of Wolfe's best, it was very short, and the anthology is out-of-print - <http://www.revolutionsf.com/article.php?id=3363>)

-Matt

James Crossley — 19 Dec 2008, 00:27 · in reply to Matthew Keeley

I don't think it's that odd. The man is what, 77 years old now? We know he has more than one project in progress in his own voice, so I expect he's just husbanding his available time.

James

On 12/18/08 4:03 PM, "Matthew Keeley" <matthew.keeley.1 at gmail.com> wrote:
On Thu, Dec 18, 2008 at 5:15 PM, James B. Jordan <jbjordan4 at cox.net> wrote:

Anybody know why Gene W. is not among the authors in Songs of the Dying Earth? Seems to me that's a place he'd really like to be included.

Patera Nutria

I gather he was asked to contribute, but declined? I think George R.R. Martin said something to that effect in the comments section on his blog.

Odd - Wolfe has done so many pastiches and homages in the past. He even did a story with Robert E. Howard's Kull (Six From Atlantis) a few years back. (For the curious, it wasn't one of Wolfe's best, it was very short, and the anthology is out-of-print - <http://www.revolutionsf.com/article.php?id=3363>)

-Matt

David Stockhoff — 19 Dec 2008, 02:00 · follows James Crossley

Pray, tell!

Message: 5
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 18:30:13 -0500 (EST)
From: brunians at brunians.org
Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>
Message-ID: <13042.67.142.130.29.1229643013.squirrel at brunians.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

Same reason he hasn't won a Hugo.

.

brunians at brunians.org — 19 Dec 2008, 02:22 · in reply to David Stockhoff

I don't know why, personally.

It is a mystery.

.

Pray, tell!

Message: 5
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 18:30:13 -0500 (EST)
From: brunians at brunians.org
Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>
Message-ID: <13042.67.142.130.29.1229643013.squirrel at brunians.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

Same reason he hasn't won a Hugo.

.

avast! Antivirus: Outbound message clean.
Virus Database (VPS): 081218-0, 12/18/2008
Tested on: 12/18/2008 9:00:47 PM
avast! - copyright (c) 1988-2008 ALWIL Software.
<http://www.avast.com>

John Watkins — 19 Dec 2008, 03:01 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

Hasn't written a best-seller?

On 12/18/08, brunians at brunians.org <brunians at brunians.org> wrote:
I don't know why, personally.

It is a mystery.

.

Pray, tell!

Message: 5
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 18:30:13 -0500 (EST)
From: brunians at brunians.org
Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>
Message-ID: <13042.67.142.130.29.1229643013.squirrel at brunians.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

Same reason he hasn't won a Hugo.

.

avast! Antivirus: Outbound message clean.
Virus Database (VPS): 081218-0, 12/18/2008
Tested on: 12/18/2008 9:00:47 PM
avast! - copyright (c) 1988-2008 ALWIL Software.
<http://www.avast.com>

brunians at brunians.org — 19 Dec 2008, 03:25 · in reply to John Watkins

This is a requirement?

.
Hasn't written a best-seller?

On 12/18/08, brunians at brunians.org <brunians at brunians.org> wrote:

I don't know why, personally.

It is a mystery.

.
Pray, tell!

Message: 5

Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 18:30:13 -0500 (EST)

From: brunians at brunians.org

Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography

To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>

Message-ID: <13042.67.142.130.29.1229643013.squirrel at brunians.org>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

Same reason he hasn't won a Hugo.

.

avast! Antivirus: Outbound message clean.

Virus Database (VPS): 081218-0, 12/18/2008

Tested on: 12/18/2008 9:00:47 PM

avast! - copyright (c) 1988-2008 ALWIL Software.

<http://www.avast.com>

aaron — 19 Dec 2008, 04:45 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

I received a letter from Mr. Wolfe recently, and he expressed that his schedule was full. He also sent me a nifty copy of Strange Birds signed and personalized as a 'thank you' for reading his work. He is a very cool person.

Aaron Singleton

Adam Thornton — 19 Dec 2008, 04:50 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

On Dec 18, 2008, at 9:25 PM, brunians at brunians.org wrote:
This is a requirement?

Hasn't written a best-seller?

Same reason he hasn't won a Hugo.

Well, pretty much.

Hugos are voted on by fandom (specifically, Worldcon members). Which does mean that a) a lot of people had to have read it, and b) a lot of people had to have liked it.

If I were being really snotty I'd say something about Wolfe's work clearly being too erudite for the mass of red-Lycra-wearing mouth-breathing Star Trek Reenactors, or something like that, but I'm not. Hell, I've gone to cons and enjoyed myself too. I'll just say that winning a Hugo does require a mass appeal that, perhaps, Wolfe lacks.

Has he won a Nebula? Why, yes. The Nebula, on the other hand, is voted on by SFWA members.

Adam

Tim Walters — 19 Dec 2008, 05:39 · in reply to Adam Thornton

Adam Thornton wrote:

Hugos are voted on by fandom (specifically, Worldcon members). Which does mean that a) a lot of people had to have read it, and b) a lot of people had to have liked it.

Surprisingly few Worldcon members actually vote. "Memorare" lost 182-146-124 on the first round (due to the Hugo's instant-runoff rules, it came in fourth rather than third).

Also consider that the nominees were available for free in electronic editions to Worldcon members, and that it's generally considered poor form to vote without reading them.

Some years the good guys mostly win--in 2008, the Wolfe loss was the only one I disagreed with. Some years, gag me with a spoon.

There's a lot of luck involved. Wolfe just hasn't gotten the break he needs yet.

Tim Walters | The Doubtful Palace | <http://doubtfulpalace.com>

Tim Walters — 19 Dec 2008, 05:44 · in reply to Tim Walters

Tim Walters wrote:

[stuff about the Hugos]

I should add that anyone who wants can join as a non-attending member for a relatively low fee, and vote. (Please read all the nominees and vote based on those stories, not past glories!)

Tim Walters | The Doubtful Palace | <http://doubtfulpalace.com>

JBarach at aol.com — 19 Dec 2008, 07:03 · follows Tim Walters

So ... does it mean anything that Wolfe doesn't have a story in any of the 2008 Year's Best Fantasy or Science Fiction volumes? Did he just not publish any good stories this year? Or does this reflect some shift in the perception of what's best out there? Is there a story that the editors overlooked that should

have been included in a Year's Best?

John

*****One site keeps you connected to all your email: AOL Mail, Gmail, and Yahoo Mail. Try it now.
(<http://www.aol.com/?optin=new-dp&icid=aolcom40vanity&ncid=emlcntaolcom00000025>)

Jeff Wilson — 19 Dec 2008, 15:30 · in reply to Dave Tallman

Dave Tallman wrote:

From this list, I started reading some Stephenson. I loved "The Diamond Age" and "Anathem" -- both have strong techno-nerd plots that lead into esoteric mysteries by the end. He also has a weird sense of humor that sometimes works for me and sometimes not. I tried to start "Snow Crash" but found it too absurd. A protagonist named Protagonist? No way.

"Hiro Protagonist" is self-referential pseudonym that is also his brand name, and is part of his strategy to minimize identify theft.

Jeff Wilson - [jwilson at io.com](mailto:jwilson@io.com)
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

Fred Kiesche — 17 Mar 2009, 16:32 · in reply to Tim Walters

To follow up with "Against the Fall of Night", I'd also look to Clarke's "revision" (re-imagining?), "The City and the Stars".

Also, in a similar vein, his novelette "The Lion of Commarre". How about "Childhood's End"? Or the novelized/expanded "Songs of Distant Earth"?

For Stapledon: "Last Men in London" is a book that takes place within the timeline of "First and Last Men". And "Starmaker", encompassing a lifecycle of a universe, might be worth looking at.

F.P. Kiesche III

"Ah Mr. Gibbon, another damned, fat, square book. Always, scribble, scribble, scribble, eh?"
(The Duke of Gloucester, on being presented with Volume 2 of The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.) Blogging at The Lensman's Children and TexasBestGrok!

--- On Mon, 12/15/08, Tim Walters <[walters at doubtfulpalace.com](mailto:walters@doubtfulpalace.com)> wrote:

From: Tim Walters <[walters at doubtfulpalace.com](mailto:walters@doubtfulpalace.com)>

Subject: Re: (urth) OT: Vance Autobiography

To: "The Urth Mailing List" <[urth at lists.urth.net](mailto:urth@lists.urth.net)>

Date: Monday, December 15, 2008, 12:17 PM

Matthew Keeley wrote:

On Mon, Dec 15, 2008 at 10:14 AM, Craig Brewer <[cnbrewer at yahoo.com](mailto:cnbrewer@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Speaking of Vance, who else has written "dying earth"

stories?

Aside from the aforementioned Smith and Hodgson:

H.G. Wells, _The Time Machine_
John Campbell, "Twilight"

Brian Aldiss, *_Hothouse_* (aka *_The Long Afternoon of Earth_*) Richard Lupoff, *_One Million Centuries_* Arthur C. Clarke, "Against the Fall of Night" M. John Harrison, *_The Pastel City_* (and other Viriconium books) Michael Moorcock, *_An Alien Heat_* (and the rest of the series) Olaf Stapledon, *_Last and First Men_*

There a lot of differences among these books and stories, but all involve far-future decline.

Tim Walters | The Doubtful Palace | <http://doubtfulpalace.com>