

Wolfe ebooks & stories

The Urth list — 34 messages, 14 voices, 04 Mar 2010

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5550>

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Gwern Branwen — 04 Mar 2010, 19:19

While searching for something entirely else, I ran into
http://bearsite.info/General/Library_of_Science_Fiction_and_Fantasy/Wolfe,%20Gene/

It's an eclectic but large collection of stories & ebooks in various formats & quality:

Against the Lafayette Escadrille.pdf
At the Point of Capricorn.pdf
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A Fish Story.pdf
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I already have them all, but no doubt there are hours of reading here for others.

gwern

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 04 Mar 2010, 19:30 · in reply to Gwern Branwen

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Rebecca Bushong-Taylor — 08 Mar 2010, 00:51 · in reply to James Wynn

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Matthew Keeley — 08 Mar 2010, 00:59 · in reply to Rebecca Bushong-Taylor

I think you might want to look into Revolutions SF? Link to my original post about the short story:

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-Matt

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Checking the PDF leads me to <http://www.revolutionsf.com/fiction/eastersunday/01.html>

Which definitely puts itself forth as by Gene Wolfe. The style is similar, but the twist strikes me as not particularly in Wolfe's vein, but also not implausible enough that I could confidently say it wasn't Wolfe.

But are you/Wolfe *sure* he didn't write it?

Google Books turns up an explicit claim and accurate description in The Long and the Short of It: More Essays on the Fiction of Gene Wolfe, by Robert Borski; "In the very early Wolfe short story, for example, 'Easter Sunday', a chance-met-exiled-aristocrat tells a reverend..."

http://books.google.com/books?id=7y1jBrpx4loC&pg=PA29&lpg=PA29&dq=%22Gene+Wolfe%22+%22Easter+Sunday%22+-pdf&source=bl&ots=8oZpDNE-qv&sig=VBScwUrBHsLR4Zrno1M58gu2ZH8&hl=en&ei=Y0uUS66WK9Sztgf-ofjUCg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=21&ved=0CEcQ6AEwFA#v=onepage&q=%22Gene%20Wolfe%22%20%22Easter%20Sunday%22%20-pdf&f=false

(I'll note in passing the other day I saw a blogger mention that he didn't enjoy recent Wolfe books as much because he felt the Christianity was getting too strong.)

gvern

Rebecca Bushong-Taylor — 08 Mar 2010, 01:16 · in reply to Matthew Keeley

Thanks, Matt.

I looked up the SFRev archives, and sent Gene the story, author blurb and dates in the slight event that it might have slipped his mind. He said...

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I am a fellow matriculant at Texas A&M and a couple of years ago I met Bill Page at his home, the infamous Monkey House. Bill is one of the curators of the University's SF collections, and listed "Easter Sunday" in his bibliographic history AGGIELAND/FANTASYLAND, presumably compiled from the original local and university publications.

Wolfe, Gene, "Easter Sunday," Commentator 4(4): 6, 26 (March 1951).
Minister meets a political exile, Satan.
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I've e-mailed Bill about the disclaim and to see if the original publication can be looked at.

Best,
Jeff

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
< <http://ieeetamut.org> >

Jerry Friedman — 08 Mar 2010, 05:33 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

--- On Sun, 3/7/10, Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> wrote:
On 3/7/2010 7:16 PM, Rebecca Bushong-Taylor wrote:

Thanks, Matt.

I looked up the SFRev archives, and sent Gene the story, author blurb and dates in the slight event that it might have slipped his mind. He said...

It's from the 4/18/03 issue. That issue calls it a classic reprint, but I was unable to locate the source. Or supposed source. Granted I am not a good web-searcher by any means. Rev. SF does indeed use my byline and includes a brief bio that is clearly mine. Either the editor was fooled or he was fooling. ? ? ? ? ? Gene

It's definitely a fake. So, who wrote it and where did it come from?

Rebecca

I am a fellow matriculant at Texas A&M and a couple of years ago I met Bill Page at his home, the infamous Monkey House. Bill is one of the curators of the University's SF collections, and listed "Easter Sunday" in his bibliographic history AGGIELAND/FANTASYLAND, presumably compiled from the original local and university publications.

Wolfe, Gene, "Easter Sunday," Commentator 4(4): 6, 26 (March 1951).

Minister meets a political exile, Satan.

This is _the_ Gene Wolfe, award-winning sf writer.

I've e-mailed Bill about the disclaim and to see if the original publication can be looked at.

An amusing way to play a hoax would be to find out the title of an undergraduate story by a famous writer, forge a story that matches it, and claim to have rediscovered it. Somebody did something like that with Nabokov. Of course, the famous writer and anyone who paid money to read the hoax might or might not find it amusing.

Not that that's the only possibility for "Easter Sunday".

Jerry Friedman

Rebecca Bushong-Taylor — 08 Mar 2010, 06:30 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

Thank you, Jeff! Now we have the supposed source material. Gene's asked to be kept apprised of anything we may find.

Rebecca

On Sun, Mar 7, 2010 at 10:19 PM, Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> wrote:

On 3/7/2010 7:16 PM, Rebecca Bushong-Taylor wrote:

Thanks, Matt.

I looked up the SFRev archives, and sent Gene the story, author blurb and dates in the slight event that it might have slipped his mind. He said...

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Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
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Jeff Wilson — 08 Mar 2010, 08:01 · in reply to Rebecca Bushong-Taylor

On 3/8/2010 12:30 AM, Rebecca Bushong-Taylor wrote:

Thank you, Jeff! Now we have the supposed source material. Gene's asked to be kept apprised of anything we may find.

While we are at it, what does he say about another early story?

Wolfe, Gene, "The Case of the Vanishing Ghost," Commentator 5(2): 6-7, 17-18 (Nov. 1951). Sherlock Holmes pastiche, with a ghost.

And I mistakenly reversed Bill's title. It is FANTASYLAND/AGGIELAND, linked from this page:

<http://cushing.library.tamu.edu/collections/browse-major-collections/the-science-fiction-collection>
n

or <http://preview.tinyurl.com/ya8xgo8>

Jeff Wilson - [jwilson at io.com](mailto:jwilson@io.com)
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
< <http://ieeetamut.org> >

Rebecca Bushong-Taylor — 08 Mar 2010, 20:52 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

In this morning's mail -

Dear Rebecca,

I recant. I probably did write it, back in 1951. I wrote a few short pieces for the Commentator — that was what got me started as a writer. So I read my own work from almost sixty years ago without recognizing it. Considering that the gentleman is hugging 80, I suppose it's not surprising that a few of these early little "gems" from the days before he even thought of himself as a writer might have slipped his mind. And that includes the SH pastiche. That was him, too. Sorry to mislead you all.

Rebecca

On Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 3:01 AM, Jeff Wilson <[jwilson at io.com](mailto:jwilson@io.com)> wrote:

On 3/8/2010 12:30 AM, Rebecca Bushong-Taylor wrote:

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or <http://preview.tinyurl.com/ya8xgo8>

--

Jeff Wilson - [jwilson at io.com](mailto:jwilson@io.com)
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
< <http://ieeetamut.org> >

brunians at brunians.org — 08 Mar 2010, 20:56 · in reply to Rebecca Bushong-Taylor

This is really taking the unreliable narrator thing to new level.

Next, I guess, there will be another letter saying this one is a froggery...

.

In this morning's mail -

Dear Rebecca,

I recant. I probably did write it, back in 1951. I wrote a few short pieces for the Commentator — that was what got me started as a writer. So I read my own work from almost sixty years ago without recognizing it. Considering that the gentleman is hugging 80, I suppose it's not surprising that a few of these early little "gems" from the days before he even thought of himself as a writer might have slipped his mind. And that includes the SH pastiche. That was him, too. Sorry to mislead you all.

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Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
< <http://ieeetamut.org> >

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 08 Mar 2010, 20:59 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

Has anyone determined yet whether this site is legal? They've got a huge library of stuff up there...

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

Jeff Wilson — 08 Mar 2010, 21:05 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

This is really taking the unreliable narrator thing to new level.

Next, I guess, there will be another letter saying this one is a froggery...

Good ol' Brunians, always the first to leap to conclusions.

John Watkins — 08 Mar 2010, 21:07 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

Possibly it was written by a different iteration of Wolfe.

On Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 4:05 PM, Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> wrote:
This is really taking the unreliable narrator thing to new level.

Next, I guess, there will be another letter saying this one is a
frogger...

Good ol' Brunians, always the first to leap to conclusions.

brunians at brunians.org — 08 Mar 2010, 21:24 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

Hey, we might as well start the alternative traditions early.

.

This is really taking the unreliable narrator thing to new level.

Next, I guess, there will be another letter saying this one is a
frogger...

Good ol' Brunians, always the first to leap to conclusions.

brunians at brunians.org — 08 Mar 2010, 21:26 · in reply to John Watkins

Indeed.

This story was leakage in from a parallel World, and the story of this story as it appears here will
leak into yet another.

If you think back, you may remember it now.

.

Possibly it was written by a different iteration of Wolfe.

On Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 4:05 PM, Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> wrote:
This is really taking the unreliable narrator thing to new level.

Next, I guess, there will be another letter saying this one is a
frogger...

Good ol' Brunians, always the first to leap to conclusions.

Matthew Keeley — 08 Mar 2010, 21:28 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

Of course he didn't remember — Wolfe hasn't actually written this story yet. He will write it
shortly after this whole affair concludes, then send it back to his younger self to publish in 1951.

-Matt

On Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 4:26 PM, <brunians at brunians.org> wrote:
Indeed.

This story was leakage in from a parallel World, and the story of this story as it appears here will leak into yet another.

If you think back, you may remember it now.

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Possibly it was written by a different iteration of Wolfe.

On Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 4:05 PM, Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> wrote:

This is really taking the unreliable narrator thing to new level.

Next, I guess, there will be another letter saying this one is a froggery...

Good ol' Brunians, always the first to leap to conclusions.

Jeff Wilson — 08 Mar 2010, 21:38 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

Hey, we might as well start the alternative traditions early.

.

This is really taking the unreliable narrator thing to new level.

Next, I guess, there will be another letter saying this one is a froggery...

Good ol' Brunians, always the first to leap to conclusions.

But don't want to get so many going that we'd be swamped.

James Wynn — 08 Mar 2010, 21:44 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

Has anyone determined yet whether this site is legal? They've got a huge library of stuff up there...

It depends on where it is hosted, I suppose. That's the way it has always been with copyright laws, I think. Fortunately, I suspect the actual harm these publishers and authors is almost nil since (looking them over) almost anyone who would download these stories would prefer to own the books anyway. They're probably more greatly harmed by used book stores.

Incidentally, I'm finishing up Pirate Freedom right now and it made me think of those modern day pirates: cyber-thieves who use tactics from phishing, malware, and outright extortion to net millions each year. Like the sailors in the ships, I imagine the programmers make a small fraction of what they pull in. A large number of attacks seem to originate out of Eastern Europe and China, and I'd imagine those countries could shut them down quickly if they wanted to. But if you share a world with a lone superpower that is technologically dependent, they are a useful tool in your chest..

So just as the English and French looked the other way regarding privateers as long as they did not poach their own nation's ships, I imagine it is the same in Eastern Europe and Asia.

J.

James Wynn — 08 Mar 2010, 21:50 · in reply to James Wynn

Fortunately, I suspect the actual harm these ?publishers and authors is almost nil since (looking them over) almost anyone who would download these stories would prefer to own the books anyway. They're probably more greatly harmed by used book stores.

Also, out of curiosity I downloaded Nightside of the Long Sun and had my suspicions confirmed. The text was merely OCR'd and never cleaned up. So these texts are of limited value even as a reference tool. One would be better off using Google Books.

J.

Jerry Friedman — 08 Mar 2010, 22:01 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

--- On Mon, 3/8/10, Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> wrote:
From: Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com>
Subject: Re: (urth) Wolfe ebooks & stories
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>
Date: Monday, March 8, 2010, 2:38 PM
Hey, we might as well start the alternative traditions early.

.

This is really taking the unreliable narrator thing to new level.

Next, I guess, there will be another letter saying this one is a froggery...

Good ol' Brunians, always the first to leap to conclusions.

But don't want to get so many going that we'd be swamped.

"Good ol'" looked like toadying, but actually I think the tone was pretty newtral.

Jerry Friedman

Roy C. Lackey — 08 Mar 2010, 22:40 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

On the subject of the Sherlock Holmes pastiche, Michael Andre-Driussi had this to say:

"However, Jeff Wilson raises the question about "The Case of the Vanishing Ghost." This one was collected in the United Mythologies Press (a.k.a. "U. M. Press") book _Young Wolfe_ (1992). It is the first story, in fact, and has a new intro by Wolfe."

-Roy

Zachary Kendal — 09 Mar 2010, 07:40 · in reply to Roy C. Lackey

I've added "Easter Sunday" to my little list of "Uncollected Gene Wolfe Short Stories" - <http://silk4calde.blogspot.com/2009/09/list-of-gene-wolfes-uncollected-short.html>

It makes me wonder how many early short stories are missing from the list. I put it together

after hours of laborious internetting, but the earliest stories on the list (until now) were from 1970. Given that "Easter Sunday", like a couple of the stories in *_Young Wolfe_*, was originally published in 1951, I wonder how many uncollected stories there are from the 1950s and 1960s. Oh, and please let me know of any errors or omissions in the list. And if you have any problems downloading the version hosted on Scribd (embedded on the blog page linked to above) then let me know and I'll e-mail you a copy.

Zac

On 09/03/2010, at 9:40 AM, Roy C. Lackey wrote:

On the subject of the Sherlock Holmes pastiche, Michael Andre-Driussi had this to say:

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-Roy

Rebecca Bushong-Taylor — 09 Mar 2010, 18:10 · in reply to Zachary Kendal

Well, since even Gene didn't remember, it would probably be a good idea to check with the A&M archives and see what else might have been saved from his college days....

One of these days when he's in a reminiscing sort of mood, I'll see what he has to say about the later 50s and the 60's.

Rebecca

On Tue, Mar 9, 2010 at 2:40 AM, Zachary Kendal <zackendal at optusnet.com.au> wrote:

I've added "Easter Sunday" to my little list of "Uncollected Gene Wolfe Short Stories" -

<http://silk4calde.blogspot.com/2009/09/list-of-gene-wolfes-uncollected-short.html>

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"U.

M. Press") book *_Young Wolfe_* (1992). It is the first story, in fact, and has a new intro by Wolfe."

-Roy

Craig Brewer — 09 Mar 2010, 18:17 · in reply to Rebecca Bushong-Taylor

Does Wolfe plan on doing any book signings or release parties for *_The Sorcerer's House_*? I finally got to meet him when he did a small one for AEG in a store outside Chicago, and I'd love to go again. My google skills are failing me at this, however, so I thought I'd see if anyone here had any inklings.

Craig

Gwern Branwen — 22 Mar 2010, 19:19 · in reply to James Wynn

On Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 5:50 PM, James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com> wrote:
Fortunately, I suspect the actual harm these ?publishers and authors is almost nil since (looking them over) almost anyone who would download these stories would prefer to own the books anyway. They're probably more greatly harmed by used book stores.

Also, out of curiosity I downloaded *Nightside of the Long Sun* and had my suspicions confirmed. The text was merely OCR'd and never cleaned up. So these texts are of limited value even as a reference tool. One would be better off using Google Books.

J.

I would point out that all the entries in Google Books are either not available or cut you off at roughly half the contents - usually around 150-200 pages, I'd guess, based on how far the downloading scripts get.

OCR errors are annoying, but at least everything is accessible.

gwern

Son of Witz — 22 Mar 2010, 21:17 · in reply to Gwern Branwen

I found a motherload of Wolfe pdfs online. (Fenopy I think it was). Tons of short stories in there, but I'm hesitant to read any of them as a first read because of the massive amount of OCR errors found in the *New Sun* ones that were included. They are great for reference, for searching and for having the text at your fingertips while arguing about minor plot points on the internet, but I don't think their usefulness extends to cozy reading, even on an eReader. I find them very useful when I'm looking up details for illustrations. (yes, still chugging on that as much as I can. it's getting in the way of my less interesting for hire jobs actually...)

On Mon, March 22, 2010 3:19 pm, Gwern Branwen wrote:

On Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 5:50 PM, James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com> wrote:

Fortunately, I suspect the actual harm these ??publishers and authors is almost nil since (looking

them over) almost anyone who would download these stories would prefer to own the books anyway. They're probably more greatly harmed by used book stores.

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OCR errors are annoying, but at least everything is accessible.

--

gvern

jeff — 24 Mar 2010, 03:42 · follows Son of Witz

Gvern Branwen wrote:

Checking the PDF leads me to

<http://www.revolutionsf.com/fiction/eastersunday/01.html>

Which definitely puts itself forth as by Gene Wolfe. The style is similar, but the twist strikes me as not particularly in Wolfe's vein, but also not implausible enough that I could confidently say it wasn't Wolfe.

But are you/Wolfe **sure** he didn't write it?

Reading this story sparked a major deja-vu moment for me. I read a story decades ago in Isaac Asimov's "100 Great Fantasy Short Short Stories" that follows this story almost exactly. After some digging around on the net (I don't have the book anymore) I found that the story I remembered is "Displaced Person" by Eric Frank Russell, originally written for *Weird Tales* in 1948.

I can't find it posted anywhere online. As I recall in the Russell story it wasn't a priest who sits down next to the exile, and in keeping with the time it was written, the man at first mistakes the stranger for a refugee from Europe. The twist was exactly the same, except the stranger just says who he really is. I remember it as better written than "Easter Sunday", which I actually hope now **wasn't** written by Wolfe.

Rebecca Bushong-Taylor — 24 Mar 2010, 04:32 · in reply to jeff

Initially, Gene didn't remember writing it. It was one of several short pieces he wrote while he was quite young and a student. When I suggested that it seemed a little heavy-handed and obvious for him, he simply said, "I've written worse". I'm still wondering what he had in mind....

Rebecca

On Tue, Mar 23, 2010 at 10:42 PM, jeff <killbabykill2000 at yahoo.com> wrote:

Gvern Branwen wrote:

Checking the PDF leads me to
<http://www.revolutionsf.com/fiction/eastersunday/01.html>

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Gwern Branwen — 29 Mar 2010, 23:09 · in reply to Gwern Branwen

On Thu, Mar 4, 2010 at 2:19 PM, Gwern Branwen <gwern0 at gmail.com> wrote:
While searching for something entirely else, I ran into
http://bearsite.info/General/Library_of_Science_Fiction_and_Fantasy/Wolfe,%20Gene/

Found one new to me online: "Unrequited Love"
<http://goldenpigsy.blogspot.com/2010/03/sorcerers-house-by-gene-wolfe.html>

gwern