

The Great Gene Wolfe Rebuild

The Urth list — 7 messages, 5 voices, 26 Mar 2012

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6203>

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Fred Kiesche — 26 Mar 2012, 14:36

The rebuilding of missing (and never purchased) volumes continues. Mr. Mailman dropped off the Tor edition of "Fifth Head" and in the criticism department, I got Peter Wright's "Attending Daedalus".

The back of the book does not say much about Wright, but the name rings a bell. The only other credit they list is a book on British TV...did he write/co-author a book about Doctor Who as well?

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 (<http://theeternalgoldenbraid.blogspot.com/>).

Jeff Wilson — 26 Mar 2012, 14:59 · in reply to Fred Kiesche

On 3/26/2012 9:36 AM, Fred Kiesche wrote:
Peter Wright's "Attending Daedalus"

SHADOWS OF THE NEW SUN and _Teaching Science Fiction (Teaching the New English)_ are his as well.

Jeff Wilson - [jwilson at clueland.com](mailto:jwilson@clueland.com)
Computational Intelligence Laboratory - Texas A&M Texarkana
< <http://www.tamut.edu/CIL> >

Marc Aramini — 26 Mar 2012, 15:19 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

And for what it's worth "Shadows of the New Sun" totally redeems the slightly narrow materialistic interpretive scheme of "Attending Daedalus" - a wonderful collection of essays. I highly recommend it.

--- On Mon, 3/26/12, Jeff Wilson <[jwilson at clueland.com](mailto:jwilson@clueland.com)> wrote:
From: Jeff Wilson <[jwilson at clueland.com](mailto:jwilson@clueland.com)>
Subject: Re: (urth) The Great Gene Wolfe Rebuild
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <[urth at lists.urth.net](mailto:urth@lists.urth.net)>
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012, 7:59 AM
On 3/26/2012 9:36 AM, Fred Kiesche wrote:

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-- Jeff Wilson - [jwilson at clueland.com](mailto:jwilson@clueland.com)
Computational Intelligence Laboratory - Texas A&M
Texarkana
< <http://www.tamut.edu/CIL> >

Fred Kiesche — 26 Mar 2012, 15:22 · in reply to Marc Aramini

I just looked at my Excel spreadsheet (more or less accurate, it's a moving target!!!) of my book collection and I have "Shadows of the New Sun". So that probably explains why the name was familiar!

On Mon, Mar 26, 2012 at 11:19 AM, Marc Aramini <marcaramini at yahoo.com> wrote:
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From: Jeff Wilson <jwilson at clueland.com>
Subject: Re: (urth) The Great Gene Wolfe Rebuild
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>
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Computational Intelligence Laboratory - Texas A&M
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Nick Lee — 26 Mar 2012, 22:54 · follows Fred Kiesche

Fred Kiesche:

"The back of the book does not say much about Wright, but the name rings a bell. The only other credit they list is a book on British TV...did he write/co-author a book about Doctor Who as well?"

Wright is also heavily into film studies. He does analyze sci-fi television.

This might be the book you're thinking of:
<http://www.amazon.com/British-Science-Fiction-Television-Hitchhikers/dp/184511048X>

Marc Aramini:

"the slightly narrow materialistic interpretive scheme of "Attending Daedalus""

You have to be pretty familiar with Wright's theoretical basis to grasp his thesis. I think it's a valid reading of the novels though I don't agree with all of it. I was actually a little disappointed in Shadows as I already was familiar with most of that information, either in print or on-line.

Craig Brewer — 26 Mar 2012, 23:12 · in reply to Nick Lee

Wright is usually right (sorry) about Wolfe's relation to the reader, and he's really insightful about the way Wolfe crafts relationships between text, narrative, readers, etc. The problem is that he draws some pretty clear conclusions about the content of the books based on the ambiguities of the different levels he analyzes, rather than turning that ambiguity back on his

own reading.

I think people who dislike the book based on the materialistic/atheistic conclusions miss out on a lot of good stuff in his approach. Like you say, his real thesis or "theoretical basis" isn't primarily the materialism/atheism reading of New Sun; that's a consequence of his more important things to say about how he conceives of Wolfe relating to readers, fuzzing the relation between truth/fiction/manipulation and what not. I ultimately think that his approach to Wolfe is compatible with both atheistic and theological interpretations. It's not *what* you conclude about the book's relationship to Wolfe's religion that's important to him; it's how to arrive at those conclusions.

I do think Shadows is important just because it finally collects a lot of things in one place that were scattered. Whether or not it's worth the price it's going for now is another issue...

From: Nick Lee <starwaterstrain at gmail.com>
To: urth <urth at urth.net>
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 5:54 PM
Subject: Re: (urth) The Great Gene Wolfe Rebuild

Fred Kiesche:

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Marc Aramini — 26 Mar 2012, 23:34 · in reply to Craig Brewer

I love Shadows of the New Sun for the story of the Polish man who spoke broken English and throughout his entire life in America people struggled to understand him. His son was so excited to think that when they visited Poland his father would finally be able to express himself eloquently and without fear ... yet no one understood him when he went to Poland - the father was not fluent in any language. I knew a guy like that in the Circus from Brazil. He was in charge of publicity - he spoke his own hybrid.