

This Week in Google Alerts: new _Peace_ edition & afterword?

The Urth list — 9 messages, 6 voices, 21 Nov 2012

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6308>

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Gwern Branwen — 21 Nov 2012, 03:17

<https://twitter.com/mxpalmieri/status/269198900693434368>

The new edition of Gene Wolfe's PEACE is in da house, with a new afterword by @neilhimsel. Available 12/11!

By Marco Palmieri <https://twitter.com/mxpalmieri>

Editor of imaginative fiction at Tor Books and Otherworld Editorial. Occasional writer. Eternal optimist.

(@neilhimsel is <https://twitter.com/neilhimsel> or Neil Gaiman, of course. Who else would be writing a Wolfe afterword?)

gwern
<http://www.gwern.net>

Fred Kiesche — 21 Nov 2012, 12:27 · in reply to Gwern Branwen

Clarification: you typed "neilhimsel", make sure you look for "neilhimsel"!

On Tue, Nov 20, 2012 at 10:17 PM, Gwern Branwen <gwern0 at gmail.com> wrote:
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Fred Kiesche — 21 Nov 2012, 12:40 · in reply to Fred Kiesche

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On Wed, Nov 21, 2012 at 7:27 AM, Fred Kiesche <godelescherbach at gmail.com> wrote:
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Allan Anderson — 21 Nov 2012, 14:46 · in reply to Fred Kiesche

On Nov 21, 2012, at 4:27 AM, Fred Kiesche wrote:

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Must be that Autotheoanthropos you folks bring up at times.

Marc Aramini — 21 Nov 2012, 15:26 · in reply to Fred Kiesche

It's not, or at least not in mine. Neil has always been extremely useful as a mouthpiece and trumpeter - I don't honestly expect much new from his afterward, but it will still probably prompt me to pick up the new physical copy sooner rather than later.

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From: Fred Kiesche <godelescherbach at gmail.com>

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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/>).

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-----Inline Attachment Follows-----

Antonin Scriabin — 21 Nov 2012, 15:46 · in reply to Marc Aramini

My copy is beat up and old, I probably won't be able to resist a shiny new one.

On Nov 21, 2012 10:26 AM, "Marc Aramini" <marcaramini@yahoo.com> wrote:
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Fred Kiesche — 21 Nov 2012, 15:58 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

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If not, I'll buy it again (in paper or electronic).

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Fred Kiesche — 21 Nov 2012, 16:46 · in reply to Fred Kiesche

Looking at the eBook on Amazon...it says "Afterword by Neil Gaiman". And it's the same image that was up when I bought it (same artwork, etc.), so it appears the old file is up while the new image (date, afterword, art) is also up. I will download again in December to see if the file updates.

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Urth Mailing List

Andrew Bollen — 23 Nov 2012, 12:07 · in reply to Gwern Branwen

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The Neil Gaiman thing annoys me. In my opinion he's a forgettable, mediocre genre writer & having him constantly endorse Wolfe is very tail-wagging-dog-ish.

Whatever. I read PEACE again for the first time in many years a few weeks ago, after the Kindle version came out. I hadn't really gotten into it when I was a young'un - too many old people, too musty - but now, good lord, what a wonderful, mysterious book it is!

The biggest mystery for me, right now: Why did Olivia marry Julius? He's short, deformed, half-educated, church-ish and not apparently wealthy at the time of the marriage. Why him?

I think the wizard in the princess & her suitors story must be identified with Julius. The wizard is also deformed, and said to "live exclusively on tea", burlesquing Julius' teetotalism. Anyway, it would make a good story for the wizard to win the princess' hand in the end, perhaps shedding his skins and deformed guise to reveal a young prince, or something. But in the absence of any details about *how* he won her hand that doesn't shed much light on Olivia's decision.

Weer's dream of the walled garden is surely a dream of Olivia's soul, in some sense, at the time of her death when he was about 25. It is a very poignant image - Olivia maintaining high walls

against the outside world and ordering herself within them in beautiful, tranquil symmetry. The resonance with the princess in the tower is clear, and the three objects Weer sees - the bird, the troll and the paper lantern blowing in the wind - link to the suitors in the princess' story: the troll for the gnome prince; the merchant prince's bird; and the air prince's windiness. Olivia let little bits of Peacock, Macafee and Blaine through her wall - but just little bits, no more than litter really.

There is nothing in the garden to suggest that Julius was ever let inside, and to some extent that's the answer, I think. Julius was a man she could marry (in a time and place where it would be far more convenient to be married than not) without emotional demands, without having to let him into her garden or leave her tower. He's in his basement laboratory, she's upstairs in her bath or out enjoying assignations with her lovers, protected from any risk of serious entanglement by her married state.

But still ... I also wonder if perhaps Julius used some kind of potion on her ...