

S.R. Delany's "Neveron" Stories

The Urth list — 17 messages, 9 voices, 21 Jul 2013

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6401>

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Fred Kiesche — 21 Jul 2013, 13:13

Anybody know if Samuel R. Delany is a fan of Gene Wolfe? I'm seeing parallels in pacing, "feel" between the New Sun and SRD's "Neveron" stories and books. Or are both just influenced by (for example) Borges?

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/>).

Gerry Quinn — 25 Jul 2013, 10:12 · in reply to Fred Kiesche

From: Fred Kiesche

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Common interests seem more likely. Delaney was mostly writing before Wolfe - I think he's been writing mostly autobiographies and gay porn since the '80s. He has a new SF novel out recently, though the Tor review suggested it is for the strong of stomach.

- Gerry Quinn

Nessun Saprà — 25 Jul 2013, 11:38 · in reply to Gerry Quinn

In "A Few Points About Knife Throwing" GW makes a reference to Delany's "melody machete".

Nessuno

-----Urspr?ngliche Nachricht-----

Von: urth-bounces at lists.urth.net [mailto:urth-bounces at lists.urth.net] Im Auftrag von Gerry Quinn
Gesendet: Donnerstag, 25. Juli 2013 12:12
An: The Urth Mailing List
Betreff: Re: (urth) S.R. Delany's "Neveron" Stories

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Jerry Friedman — 25 Jul 2013, 13:32 · in reply to Gerry Quinn

From: Gerry Quinn <gerry at bindweed.com>

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Though the influence of Proust and other French classics seems possible and might have a lot to do with similarities of pacing and feel. Also, Wolfe has said he admires Nabokov, and Delany started his latest novel (see below) with a quotation from Nabokov. Another common interest or influence is the pulps.

In some ways, Wolfe is the anti-Delany, though. I don't think that Wolfe has any interest in the structuralist and post-structuralist literary theory that's a basic part of Delany's worldview, or that Delany has any interest in the religious and mystical ideas that are a basic part of Wolfe's.

Delaney was mostly writing before Wolfe -

Good point, though theNeveron (Nev?r?on) books were after TBotNS. (I'm pointing out the spelling with the y because it's "never" + "yon".)

I think he's been writing mostly autobiographies and gay porn since the '80s. He has a new SF novel out recently,

Thanks, I might have to read that.

Am I the only person here waiting for _The Splendor, the Misery, of Bodies, of Cities_?

though the Tor review suggested it is for the strong of stomach.

According to Wikipedia, but with a "citation needed" tag, he's said he wanted it to straddle the lines between literature, science fiction, and pornography.

Jerry Friedman

Fred Kiesche — 25 Jul 2013, 13:53 · in reply to Jerry Friedman

"Am I the only person here waiting for _The Splendor, the Misery, of Bodies, of Cities_?"

I'd love to see it as well, but is it actually moving forward?

As for the sequence of writing (Delany before Wolfe?), I recall getting volumes of Damon Knight's ORBIT anthology with both appearing (maybe not the same volume, but definitely in the same couple of years). And I recall reading both in the NEBULA collections of the same era.

Delany probably moved into novels sooner (and faster), but production there has tailed off as he did more and more teaching.

Religion vs. non-religion, I don't know, passages from NOVA and other works feel pretty damn religious to me. Maybe Delany doesn't believe, but he sure can talk the talk.

On Thu, Jul 25, 2013 at 9:32 AM, Jerry Friedman <jerry_friedman at yahoo.com> wrote:
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Marc Aramini — 25 Jul 2013, 14:52 · in reply to Gerry Quinn

Yeah his last is a bit cropo-mucophagic. Delany is a good writer who writes about some nasty stuff. Not sure if his later output is worth the effort, but Dark Reflections was at least a little but less pornographic than his other late stuff. I guess I don't see neveryon as New Sun like because of the absence of religious obsession, the thing that so captivated me about New Sun. I think Delany is more interested in the "traditional" (oxymoron) postmodern look at power relationships and sociological constructions. Haven't read Neveryon in many years though, mostly I remember a bridge and male prostitution ...
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 25, 2013, at 3:12 AM, "Gerry Quinn" <gerry at bindweed.com> wrote:

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Jeff Wilson — 25 Jul 2013, 22:33 · in reply to Gerry Quinn

On Thu, July 25, 2013 05:12, Gerry Quinn wrote:
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Often, both at the same time.

Jeff Wilson - <jwilson at clueland.com >
A&M Texarkana Computational Intelligence Lab
< <http://www.tamut.edu/cil> >

Jerry Friedman — 26 Jul 2013, 03:14 · in reply to Fred Kiesche

From: Fred Kiesche <godelescherbach at gmail.com>
Jerry Friedman wrote:

Am I the only person here waiting for _The Splendor, the Misery, of Bodies, of Cities_?
I'd love to see it as well, but is it actually moving forward?

Not that I know of. I was just hoping.

As for the sequence of writing (Delany before Wolfe?), I recall getting volumes of Damon Knight's ORBIT anthology with both appearing (maybe not the same volume, but definitely in the

same couple of years). And I recall reading both in the NEBULA collections of the same era.

If
you look at the ISFDB, you'll see that aside from those college stories that Wolfe forgot, Delany published several years earlier, was nominated for awards several years earlier, and won his first award several years earlier. Certainly they've overlapped a lot. Delany probably moved into novels sooner (and faster), but production there has tailed off as he did more and more teaching.

Delany's
first publication at the ISFDB was a novel (_The Jewels of Aptor_ in 1962). And is it maybe vice-versa--did he do more and more teaching because his literary production was falling off?

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I believe he can do that. Maybe I was too sure of myself, but I very, very strongly suspect that he simply dismisses the talk, except maybe in occasional moods.

Jerry Friedman

David Stockhoff — 26 Jul 2013, 19:44 · in reply to Jerry Friedman

On 7/25/2013 11:14 PM, Jerry Friedman wrote:

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I think Delany is concerned with, among other things, words and language and symbols as a form of power. Neveryona and some other novels are preoccupied with this idea (and sex).

I don't see such a person as being interested in religion except as another form of power and another source of language. But I could be wrong.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 26 Jul 2013, 19:49 · in reply to David Stockhoff

Delany is (or at least was) a Marxist with very little interest in religion.

On Fri, Jul 26, 2013 at 12:44 PM, David Stockhoff <dstockhoff at verizon.net> wrote:

On 7/25/2013 11:14 PM, Jerry Friedman wrote:

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aaron — 27 Jul 2013, 17:39 · in reply to David Stockhoff

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 27 Jul 2013, 18:33 · in reply to aaron

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On Sat, Jul 27, 2013 at 10:39 AM, aaron <aaronsingleton at gmail.com> wrote:
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aaron — 27 Jul 2013, 19:11 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 27 Jul 2013, 19:20 · in reply to aaron

The difference is that he's not that particular kind of pervert, but politically supports their right to exist. His argument (which I do not agree with) is that man-boy love was acceptable in society much longer than it's been unacceptable, and that it became unacceptable when it was no longer beneficial to the economic ruling classes.

As I said: A Marxist.

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 28 Jul 2013, 01:29 · in reply to aaron

Delany has been fascinated since early days with the idea of "artist as outlaw," and he sometimes takes this to extremes in his own writing. That said, he has gone too far for me to follow at least twice (HOGG and THE MAD MAN).

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