

This Week in Google Alerts: rare Wolfe editions and covers

The Urth list — 5 messages, 4 voices, 09 Sep 2013

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6433>

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.

Gwern Branwen — 09 Sep 2013, 15:42

<http://silk4calde.blogspot.com/2013/09/gene-wolfe-holdings-at-merril-collection.html>

One thing I loved about the Merrill Collection was its extensive holdings of Gene Wolfe material, including many of the limited/special editions produced by small presses. As I was sifting through some photos recently, I thought I'd post a few here, for those readers and collectors interested in the bibliographic side of Wolfe's work.

... I took the time, while I was at the collection, to check out some of the hard-to-find (and now incredibly expensive) printings of some of Wolfe's shorter fiction, such as this stunning embroidered and illustrated copy of *Empires of Foliage and Flower* (Cheap Street, 1987):

... Hidden in the basement of the Lillian H. Smith branch is the Merrill Collection's store room, which contains many shelves of uncatalogued foreign language materials, including many foreign language Wolfe books donated by Wolfe himself, who has visited and spoken at the Merrill Collection several times. I found these very interesting for the different cover art they used - I've noticed that there is almost no consistency between how different cover artists depict Severian and Silk, in particular (check out Hoof&Hide's great Wolfe cover art gallery for more examples of this).

You will have to visit the post to see all the photographs.

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

Gerry Quinn — 09 Sep 2013, 16:04 · in reply to Gwern Branwen

From: Gwern Branwen

... Hidden in the basement of the Lillian H. Smith branch is the Merrill Collection's store room, which contains many shelves of uncatalogued foreign language materials, including many foreign language Wolfe books donated by Wolfe himself, who has visited and spoken at the Merrill Collection several times. I found these very interesting for the different cover art they used - I've noticed that there is almost no consistency between how different cover artists depict Severian and Silk, in particular (check out Hoof&Hide's great Wolfe cover art gallery for more examples of this).

You will have to visit the post to see all the photographs.

The foreign-language book covers seem better than his English ones, on average.

- Gerry Quinn

Marc Aramini — 09 Sep 2013, 16:33 · in reply to Gerry Quinn

I agree in general. Puertas is so much better than "there are doors". Have you seen the Japanese covers? While not accurate there is some interesting stuff going on in those ones. I favor the covers that don't go for landscape, though.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 9, 2013, at 9:04 AM, "Gerry Quinn" <gerry at bindweed.com> wrote:

From: Gwern Branwen

... Hidden in the basement of the Lillian H. Smith branch is the Merrill Collection's store room, which contains many shelves of uncatalogued foreign language materials, including many foreign language Wolfe books donated by Wolfe himself, who has visited and spoken at the Merrill Collection several times. I found these very interesting for the different cover art they used - I've noticed that there is almost no consistency between how different cover artists depict Severian and Silk, in particular (check out Hoof&Hide's great Wolfe cover art gallery for more examples of this).

You will have to visit the post to see all the photographs.

The foreign-language book covers seem better than his English ones, on average.

- Gerry Quinn

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 09 Sep 2013, 16:37 · in reply to Marc Aramini

The "Puertas" cover is modified from an American Stephen R. Donaldson cover.

On Mon, Sep 9, 2013 at 9:33 AM, Marc Aramini <marcaramini at yahoo.com> wrote:
I agree in general. Puertas is so much better than "there are doors".
Have you seen the Japanese covers? While not accurate there is some interesting stuff going on in those ones. I favor the covers that don't go for landscape, though.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 9, 2013, at 9:04 AM, "Gerry Quinn" <gerry at bindweed.com> wrote:

From: Gwern Branwen

... Hidden in the basement of the Lillian H. Smith branch is the Merrill Collection's store room, which contains many shelves of uncatalogued foreign language materials, including many foreign language Wolfe books donated by Wolfe himself, who has visited and spoken at the Merrill Collection several times. I found these very interesting for the different cover art they used - I've noticed that there is almost no consistency between how different cover artists depict Severian and Silk, in particular (check out Hoof&Hide's great Wolfe cover art gallery for more examples of this).

You will have to visit the post to see all the photographs.

The foreign-language book covers seem better than his English ones, on average.

- Gerry Quinn

Marc Aramini — 09 Sep 2013, 16:44 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

I can imagine writing something and then winding up with one of those awful rustic Jordan covers where the people aren't even proportioned like people. Literary main stream book design is vastly superior to most genre covers, in general. Abercrombie got lucky with his papyrus looking gilt covers for the first law trilogy.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 9, 2013, at 9:37 AM, "Dan'l Danehy-Oakes" <danldo at gmail.com> wrote:
The "Puertas" cover is modified from an American Stephen R. Donaldson cover.

On Mon, Sep 9, 2013 at 9:33 AM, Marc Aramini <marcaramini at yahoo.com> wrote:

I agree in general. Puertas is so much better than "there are doors". Have you seen the Japanese covers? While not accurate there is some interesting stuff going on in those ones. I favor the covers that don't go for landscape, though.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 9, 2013, at 9:04 AM, "Gerry Quinn" <gerry at bindweed.com> wrote:

From: Gwern Branwen

... Hidden in the basement of the Lillian H. Smith branch is the Merrill Collection's store room, which contains many shelves of uncatalogued foreign language materials, including many foreign language Wolfe books donated by Wolfe himself, who has visited and spoken at the Merrill Collection several times. I found these very interesting for the different cover art they used - I've noticed that there is almost no consistency between how different cover artists depict Severian and Silk, in particular (check out Hoof&Hide's great Wolfe cover art gallery for more examples of this).

You will have to visit the post to see all the photographs.

The foreign-language book covers seem better than his English ones, on average.

- Gerry Quinn
