

short story project so far

The Urth list — 29 messages, 16 voices, 31 Jul 2014

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6589>

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Marc Aramini — 31 Jul 2014, 17:36

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Greg Bates — 01 Aug 2014, 01:03 · in reply to Marc Aramini

All I can say is that I've really enjoyed reading this series so far, and I'd be all for putting it in a book format!

On Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 1:36 PM, Marc Aramini <marcaramini at gmail.com> wrote:
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Marc Aramini — 01 Aug 2014, 05:13 · in reply to Greg Bates

Thanks Greg I appreciate it!

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Mo Holkar — 01 Aug 2014, 08:00 · in reply to Marc Aramini

At 18:36 31/07/2014, Marc wrote:

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I think if it was me I would make it available print-on-demand as well as ebook. It's an extra chunk of work to prepare the files, but not a huge one compared to the project as a whole. (I would buy a printed version but probably wouldn't buy an ebook version, and I don't suppose I'm alone in that.) I don't know where you were thinking of selling the ebook, but some outlets make it fairly easy to sell POD and ebook versions in parallel.

Either way though you're probably not going to sell a huge number of copies, or make enough money to contribute significantly to the time you'll have spent. But definition of 'viable' for a labour of love like this may be quite a low hurdle: would a thousand or so sales make you feel it was worth the effort?

best,

Mo

Mark Lewin — 01 Aug 2014, 08:19 · in reply to Marc Aramini

+1 for a print-on-demand version for my Wolfe shelf :)

It's been a great series and has really added to my enjoyment of the stories themselves. Good job, Marc!

On Fri, Aug 1, 2014, at 09:00 AM, Mo Holkar wrote:

At 18:36 31/07/2014, Marc wrote:

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Daniel Otto Jack Petersen — 01 Aug 2014, 11:12 · in reply to Greg Bates

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I would read a printed book of them post-haste and with pleasure!

-DOJP

On Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 2:03 AM, Greg Bates <gregory.a.bates at gmail.com> wrote:

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Piotr Szczesny — 01 Aug 2014, 11:16 · in reply to Marc Aramini

If you are going to ship internationally, I'm down for a copy ;). Also Marc, did you compile a list of all Wolfe short stories? If you did, could you share it, would be great to have it and cross off read stories :). 31 lip 2014 19:36 "Marc Aramini" <marcaramini at gmail.com> napisa?(a):

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David Stockhoff — 01 Aug 2014, 12:31 · in reply to Daniel Otto Jack Petersen

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On 8/1/2014 7:12 AM, Daniel Otto Jack Petersen wrote:

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<http://www.wolfewiki.com/pmwiki/pmwiki.php?n=WolfeWiki.StoriesListByDate>

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Marc Aramini — 01 Aug 2014, 14:18 · in reply to David Stockhoff

Thanks for the support, guys!

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Marc Aramini — 01 Aug 2014, 14:21 · in reply to Marc Aramini

Here is the list compiled from the wolfe wiki with doubled stories removed and with a few missing ones added in.

X Easter Sunday

X1951. The Case of the Vanishing Ghost

X1951. The Grave Secret

X1965. The Dead Man

X1966. Mountains Like Mice

X1967. Screen Test

X1967. The Green Wall Said

X1967. Trip, Trap

X1967. Volksweapon

X1968. House of Ancestors

X1968. The Changeling

X1969. Paul's Treehouse

X1970. A Method Bit in "B"

X1970. Car Sinister

X1970. Eyebem

X1970. How the Whip Came Back

X1970. King Under the Mountain

X1970. Morning-Glory

X1970. Of Relays and Roses

X1970. Remembrance to Come

X1970. Sonya, Crane Wessleman, and Kittee

X1970. The Island of Doctor Death and Other Stories

X1970. The Packerhaus Method

X1970. The HORARS of War

X1970. Thou Spark of Blood

X1970 Operation Ares

X1971. Slaves of Silver

X1971. Sweet Forest Maid

X1971. The Blue Mouse

X1971. The Toy Theater

X1971. Three Million Square Miles

X1972. "A Story" by John V. Marsch

X1972. Against the Lafayette Escadrille

X1972. Alien Stones

X1972. Beech Hill

X1972. It's Very Clean

X1972. Loco Parentis

X1972. Mathoms from the Time Closet

X1972. Robot's Story

X1972. Tarzan of the Grapes

X1972. The Fifth Head of Cerberus

X1972. The Headless Man

X1972. The Recording

X1972. V. R. T.

X1973. An Article About Hunting

X1973. Beautyland

X1973. Continuing Westward

X1973. Feather Tigers

X1973. Going to the Beach

X1973. Hour of Trust

X1973. How I Lost the Second World War and Helped Turn Back the German Invasion

X1973. La Befana

X1973. Peritonitis

X1973. The Death of Dr. Island

X1973. Westwind

X1974. Cues

X1974. From the Notebook of Dr. Stein

X1974. Melting

X1974. The Dark of the June

X1974. The Death of Hyle

X1974. The Rubber Bend

1974. Forlesen

X1975 Peace

X1975. Civis Laputus Sum

X1975. St. Brandon (Excerpt)

X1975. Straw

X1975. Thag

X1975. The Hero as Werwolf

X1975. When I Was Ming the Merciless

X1975. Tracking Song

X1975. Silhouette

X1976 Devil in a Forest

1976. The Eyeflash Miracles

X1976. Three Fingers

X1977. Many Mansions

X1977. The Marvelous Brass Chessplaying Automaton

X1977. To the Dark Tower Came

X1978. Our Neighbour by David Copperfield

1978. Seven American Nights

1978. The Doctor of Death Island

X1979. The Woman Who Loved the Centaur Pholus

X1979. War Beneath the Tree

X1980. A Criminal Proceeding

1980. In Looking-Glass Castle

1980. Kevin Malone

1980. Suzanne Delage

1980. The Adopted Father

1980. The Detective of Dreams

1980. The God and His Man

THE BOOK OF THE NEW SUN

1981. A Cabin on the Coast

X1981. The Tale of the Student and His Son

X1981. The Woman the Unicorn Loved

1981. Date Due

1982. Cherry Jubilee

X1982. Folia's Story: The Armiger's Daughter

1982. Last Day

1982. My Book

1982. The Last Thrilling Wonder Story

1983. A Solar Labyrinth

1983. Creation

1983. Death of the Island Doctor

1983. The River

1983. From the Desk of Gilmer C. Merton

1983. At the Volcano's Lip

1983. In the Mountains

1983. In the Old Hotel

1983. On the Train

1983. The Cat

1983 Love Among The Corridors

1984 Bibliomen

1984. Redbeard

1984. The Map

1985. The Boy Who Hooked the Sun

1985. The Green Rabbit from S'Rian

1985. The Nebraskan and the Nereid

X1985. The Woman Who Went Out

X1985. FREE LIVE FREE

1986. Checking Out

1986. Choice of the Black Goddess

1986. The Peace Spy

1987. All the Hues of Hell

1987. Empires of Foliage and Flower

1987. In the House of Gingerbread

1987. Parkroads: A Review

1987. The Arimasbian Legacy

1987. The Most Beautiful Woman on the World

1987. The Other Dead Man

SOLDIER SERIES

THERE ARE DOORS

1988. Alphabet

1988. At the Point of Capricorn

1988. Game in the Pope's Head

1988. Houston, 1943

1988. Lukora

1988. Read Me

1988. Sightings at Twin Mounds

1988. The Flag

1988. The Tale of the Rose and the Nightingale (And What Came of It)

1989. How the Bishop Sailed to Inniskeen

1989. Slow Children at Play

1989. The Friendship Light

1989. The Tale of the Four Accused

PANDORA BY HOLLY HOLLANDER
CASTLEVIEW

1990. Lord of the Land

1990. The Haunted Boardinghouse

1990. The Monday Man

1991. The Old Woman Whose Rolling Pin Is the Sun

1991. The Seraph From Its Sepulcher

X1992. The Largest Luger

X1992. The Last Casualty of Cambrai

1992. The Legend of Xi Cygnus

1992. The Sailor Who Sailed After the Sun

1993. And When They Appear

1993. Useful Phrases

1994. Queen of the Night

BOOK OF THE LONG SUN

1995. The Death of Koshchei the Deathless

1995. The Ziggurat

1996. Ain't You 'Most Done?

1996. Bed And Breakfast

1996. Bluesberry Jam

1996. Counting Cats in Zanzibar

1996. One Two Three for Me

1996. The Man in the Pepper Mill

1996. To the Seventh

1996. Try and Kill It

1997. Flash Company

1997. No Planets Strike

1997. Petting Zoo

1997. Wolfer

1998. The Night Chough

1998. The Wrapper

1999. A Fish Story

1999. A Traveler in Desert Lands

1999. Has Anybody Seen Junie Moon?

1999. How I Got Three Zip Codes

1999. The Tree Is My Hat

1999. The Walking Sticks

BOOK OF THE SHORT SUN

2000. Pocketsful of Diamonds

2000. The Eleventh City

2000. The Fat Magician

2001. Copperhead

2001. In Glory Like Their Star

2001. Queen

2001. Viewpoint

2002. From the Cradle

2002. Mute

2002. Shields of Mars

2002. The Dog of the Drops

2002. The Waif

2002. Under Hill

2002. A Walking Tour of the Shambles

2003. Black Shoes

2003. My Name is Nancy Wood

2003. Calamity Warps

2003. Castaway

2003. Graylord Man's Last Words

2003. Hunter Lake

2003. Of Soil And Climate

2003. Talk of Mandrakes

2003. The Lost Pilgrim

2004. Golden City Far

2004. Monster

2004. Prize Crew

2004. Pulp Cover

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Nessun Saprà — 01 Aug 2014, 15:34 · in reply to Marc Aramini

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Yes, that was the whole volume, Last Drink Bird Head. I will look up the individual story title. I had never heard of Dumpster World before, a mock review of his own fiction, but found it online. Can't find anything about "A visit from his confidant" ... what is that and where is it? Do you have a copy? Kid Sister is nonfiction so I didn't include it but will talk about it when I cover "How I Got Three Zip Codes" as well as the intro to Brian Hopkins Phoenix, which is the same story told in Kid Sister more poetically.

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Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 01 Aug 2014, 16:31 · in reply to Marc Aramini

Then I would suggest two volumes, "the short fiction of" and "the novels of."

On Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:31 AM, Marc Aramini <marcaramini at gmail.com> wrote:
On Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 8:39 AM, Dan'I Danehy-Oakes <danldo at gmail.com> wrote:

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Nessun Saprà — 01 Aug 2014, 16:44 · in reply to Marc Aramini

"A visit ..." is a Mark-Twain-Story, published in: Brody, Ellen; Duffy, Richard (eds.): Readercon 22: Souvenir Book (2011), pp. 65?6. PN me for a copy. Nessuno

-----Ursprüngliche Nachricht-----

Von: Urth [mailto:urth-bounces at lists.urth.net] Im Auftrag von Marc Aramini Gesendet: Freitag, 1. August 2014 18:28 An: The Urth Mailing List Betreff: Re: (urth) short story project so far

Yes, that was the whole volume, Last Drink Bird Head. I will look up the individual story title. I

had never heard of Dumpster World before, a mock review of his own fiction, but found it online. Can't find anything about "A visit from his confidant" ... what is that and where is it? Do you have a copy? Kid Sister is nonfiction so I didn't include it but will talk about it when I cover "How I Got Three Zip Codes" as well as the intro to Brian Hopkins Phoenix, which is the same story told in Kid Sister more poetically.

On Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 8:34 AM, Nessun Sapr? <nessun-sapra at web.de> wrote:

Good list, Marc. I have some slightly different publication dates in mine (which I have to check again). I am missing "Kid Sister", "A visit from his confidant" and "Dumpster World", though. Since the Bibliomen editions are different, you might include "Captain Roy" and "Seaman" which are only in the 1995 edition. And I am not sure about "Last Drink Bird Head". Wasn't that the title of the whole volume?

Best, Nessuno

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

Von: Urth [mailto:urth-bounces at lists.urth.net] Im Auftrag von Marc

Aramini

Gesendet: Freitag, 1. August 2014 16:21

An: The Urth Mailing List

Betreff: Re: (urth) short story project so far

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Matthew King — 01 Aug 2014, 17:00 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

On Aug 1, 2014, at 11:31 AM, "Dan'l Danehy-Oakes" <danlido at gmail.com> wrote:

Then I would suggest two volumes, "the short fiction of" and "the novels of."

Book of the Short Fiction, Book of the Long Fiction

Antonin Scriabin — 01 Aug 2014, 17:05 · in reply to Nessun Saprà

Is it possible Tor would be interested? They seem to be fans of Wolfe and publish things like collections in honor of Vance and the Peace reprinting. Another possibility is McSweeney's. They have published all sorts of strange, big projects, like Vollman's 3,000 page, 7 volume "Rising Up and Rising Down". Not sure if Wolfe would be hipster-cool enough for them, however.

On Aug 1, 2014 12:45 PM, "Nessun Saprà?" <nessun-sapra at web.de> wrote:

"A visit ..." is a Mark-Twain-Story, published in: Brody, Ellen; Duffy, Richard (eds.): Readercon 22: Souvenir Book (2011), pp. 65-6. PN me for a copy. Nessuno

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Von: Urth [<mailto:urth-bounces at lists.urth.net>] Im Auftrag von Marc Aramini

Gesendet: Freitag, 1. August 2014 18:28

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Betreff: Re: (urth) short story project so far

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Gesendet: Freitag, 1. August 2014 16:21

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Robert Pirkola — 01 Aug 2014, 19:53 · follows Antonin Scriabin

I also really appreciate the work you've been doing on the short story project Marc and having looked at a couple of the stories deeply and written about them cannot imagine the amount of

time and energy it has required for you to keep this up for as long as you have (and hope to continue doing)! I have actually been making a "book" of your writings from the project, with add-ins of interesting posts from urth list members, for my own personal use. I have been doing light editing to it as I go along (I am up to your post on Operation ARES, which I coincidentally just finished reading) and it is at about 126 pages in a Word document. When I catch up to where you are at present, I can send it to you if you want. In any event, keep cranking away, it is a very worthwhile project and one that hopefully one day can stand next to the Andre-Driussi, Gordon, and Borski books as go-to secondary source material for serious Wolfe readers.

antonio at gmail.com — 02 Aug 2014, 01:10 · in reply to Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

I've been wanting to say something about this since the beginning but only now did I find the time. My first thought was precisely that you should split it according to the type of work. As to the publishing, please avoid the kind of outfit that would make this a \$200 edition! If you do end up publishing it electronically, great, but don't give it away for 2c either. This is a beautiful work.

No dia 01/08/2014, ?s 17:31, "Dan'I Danehy-Oakes" <danldo at gmail.com> escreveu:

Then I would suggest two volumes, "the short fiction of" and "the novels of."

On Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:31 AM, Marc Aramini <marcaramini at gmail.com> wrote:

On Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 8:39 AM, Dan'I Danehy-Oakes <danldo at gmail.com> wrote:

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The novels are discussed with fairly short essays and have some of my best observations - latro as ares, Skip as sleeper assassin, Number Five as the only human, Marsch as shadow child, Typhon as Silk's father, Ben Free as America, etc. I would want it to be a holistic kind of work. That would probably only add maybe 150 pages. Maybe 200.

Gerry Quinn — 02 Aug 2014, 11:42 · in reply to David Stockhoff

On 01/08/2014 13:31, David Stockhoff wrote:

I'm in the same boat. What I need is a handy Aramini desk reference!

It could be called 'The Wolfe Short Story Companion' or something. Maybe some clever title could be invented that alludes to the companions that frequently attach themselves to the protagonist in Wolfe's stories.

- Gerry Quinn

Marc Aramini — 02 Aug 2014, 12:14 · in reply to Gerry Quinn

My first thought was something dramatic like "between the light and the shadow: the fiction of Gene Wolfe" (implying the undistorted object itself, but without resorting to "sun" in place of light) but I rather liked the clever book of the short fiction/book of the long fiction.

Since I have more or less reached the 80s, this isn't entirely off topic- I actually think the increasing influence of Kafka, while it had atmospheric impact in a positive way for New Sun,

problematizes interpretation of Wolfe. It makes the difficulty in discerning absurdity from elision a bit more prominent. The Borgesian metafiction is easier to identify and more localized (parkroads, last thrilling wonder story). The syncretic fairiefolk of cabin on the coast/friendship light/Monday men/twin mounds also open up infinite frames of reference - does logic apply as assiduously as it did in almost everything written before 1980?

On Saturday, August 2, 2014, Gerry Quinn <gerry at bindweed.com> wrote:

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- Gerry Quinn

Marc Aramini — 02 Aug 2014, 12:46 · in reply to Marc Aramini

And as I was showering, a great and terrible fear overcame me that I had written Kefka instead of Kafka once again. Final Fantasy's Kefka's influence on Wolfe would problematize reality itself.

Marc Aramini — 03 Aug 2014, 02:29 · in reply to Robert Pirkola

A quick note and public thank you to Matthew King for putting me in touch with a publisher willing to consider the work - the basic idea is to split the book in twain, stopping at about 1987, so the first volume, if it is accepted (let's not get too hasty) would have about half the stories. That would give me time to work on the second half, which would probably be slightly shorter.

I am editing the beginning stories extensively now and incorporating some of the astute observations of the list, so hopefully no one will mind being referred to by name in the text if I quote them. I am also trying to tighten up the prose - some of the early stories were pretty rough. Thank you guys for all your kind words and support. I am also very happy with the pricing options the publisher has for physical and digital copies, so I am hoping he will accept the draft. Time to get busy, as some of the entries need some severe stylistic polish, which I can see two years removed from their composition.

Thanks again!

Fernando Q. Gouvea — 03 Aug 2014, 16:51 · in reply to Marc Aramini

I'll chime in with the others: I'd certainly buy the book(s) and read them. And probably refer to them on re-reading the stories. I don't always agree with your interpretations, but they are always fun to read.

Some years ago, the college where I teach had created a way for students to get a little bit of academic credit for taking part in a "book seminar" meeting once a week. They wanted faculty participation, so I volunteered and chose as my book /The Island of Doctor Death and Other Stories and Other Stories/. It was fun, but most of the students thought the stories were far too difficult. One came to me at one point and said "You do realize that most of these book seminars are /much/ easier than this, don't you?" Alas, no, I didn't realize.

The college later stopped the book seminars, probably because they felt students were getting

credit for very little work...

I hope you will keep at it. I'm having fun, and feel grateful for the immense amount of work you've clearly put into this.

Fernando

On 7/31/2014 1:36 PM, Marc Aramini wrote:

Well, I am about 33 percent done with Wolfe's published stories after this next one, "The Doctor of Death Island" ... I plan on skipping two numbers and returning to "The Eyeflash Miracles" and "Seven American Nights" after I consider them a bit more.

I would really like to tear through the 80s more quickly than the 70s, and it should be possible since Wolfe's time on long novels and series vastly reduced the length and allusive depth of his short fiction. ... However, I feel that 7 American Nights and probably Cabin on the Coast in the early 80s marked a shift away from SF tropes to more fantastic ones, which are a bit less easy to mark "objectively" - some stories might actually have unresolvable mysteries, though I don't think anything written before 1980 actually does.

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I already know exactly what type of essays I will be finishing up on Long Sun, Latro, and Home Fires, but the rest will take some time and I might not return to New Sun until the majority of the short fiction and shorter novels are done.

All considered the project might be close to 2,000 pages or so when I am done.

Of course it would need hefty revision and citation, but lately I have considered perhaps trying to publish it upon completion - short essays on the long fiction in front which would be my own thesis based developments, not comprehensive looks at all, and the story analysis section after that. A traditional publisher would never touch it, I imagine, and it would be far too big for a small or university press, but perhaps an ebook would work. Anyone think that would be viable? Should I even, say, try to split it in half? Just thought I would see what you guys thought, as this has been a WHOLE lot of work, even though I love it.

Thanks Fernando. When I started it I imagined it as a bit more interactive than it became (but I also think I got better at it) - the insights posters like Craig had on the metaphysical implication of Maya in *The Dead Man*, for example, were astounding. If you have alternative readings to some of the stuff please feel free to respond to the write ups. The eventual conclusions I think are "correct" for fifth head and short sun would have never come to me alone without significant list help.

Back in 2003 or so I taught *Shadow of the Torturer* to a college class or two, and I used to teach "The Changeling" and "Suzanne Delage" between 2012-2013. Thanks to Gwern's little website on that one, they would find my name right away. (Before the worst conceivable scenario imaginable wound up costing me that position last December, unjust and traumatic ... and now I have been sending college teaching applications all over the US, and not one interview, none. philistines in HR departments. Believe it or not I work in a gym now ... but I do hope to teach college again, as it was the only fulfilling job I had in my life, unless writing counts.)

On Sun, Aug 3, 2014 at 9:51 AM, Fernando Q. Gouvea <fqgouvea at colby.edu> wrote:

I'll chime in with the others: I'd certainly buy the book(s) and read them. And probably refer to them on re-reading the stories. I don't always agree with your interpretations, but they are always fun to read.

Some years ago, the college where I teach had created a way for students to get a little bit of academic credit for taking part in a "book seminar" meeting once a week. They wanted faculty participation, so I volunteered and chose as my book **The Island of Doctor Death and Other Stories and Other Stories**. It was fun, but most of the students thought the stories were far too difficult. One came to me at one point and said "You do realize that most of these book seminars are **much** easier than this, don't you?" Alas, no, I didn't realize.

The college later stopped the book seminars, probably because they felt students were getting credit for very little work...

I hope you will keep at it. I'm having fun, and feel grateful for the immense amount of work you've clearly put into this.

Fernando

On 7/31/2014 1:36 PM, Marc Aramini wrote:

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Jeffery Wilson clueland.com — 04 Aug 2014, 04:37 · in reply to Marc Aramini

On 8/3/2014 12:37 PM, Marc Aramini wrote:

Before the worst conceivable scenario
imaginable wound up costing me that position last December, unjust
and traumatic

Condolences on your personal Oleanna..

.. and now I have been sending college teaching
applications all over the US, and not one interview, none. philistines
in HR departments. Believe it or not I work in a gym nowa finished novel?

So can we look forward to a finished Aramani novel?

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

David Stockhoff — 04 Aug 2014, 15:16 · in reply to Gerry Quinn

The Wolfe Short Story and Companions' Companion . . . ?

Something like that. Cleverer.

On 8/2/2014 7:42 AM, Gerry Quinn wrote:

On 01/08/2014 13:31, David Stockhoff wrote:

I'm in the same boat. What I need is a handy Aramini desk reference!

It could be called 'The Wolfe Short Story Companion' or something.
Maybe some clever title could be invented that alludes to the
companions that frequently attach themselves to the protagonist in
Wolfe's stories.

- Gerry Quinn
