

Space Assignment: Rocket to the Moon!

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 13 Jul 1998

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Dan Parmenter — 13 Jul 1998, 11:29

All the evidence of the novels suggests that the Matachin Tower in its original spaceship form was your basic rocket design with some windows; yet, somehow in my mind's eye I see it almost exactly as an unwieldy 1950's-style spacecraft as envisioned by say, Wally Wood (EC Comics), perhaps with some ridiculous fins, though of course it's never described as such.

Also, the Witch's Tower is described as being different, with no walls inside and cold. I imagine it as a cubicle-style office building where all the cubes are gone and there are only large open spaces that have been re-partitioned in different ways. It's never stated that
all the old Citadel buildings are ships is it? Damn, I don't have my copy of URTN handy.

Also, the Bear Tower: do we ever meet any Beast-Handlers? Severian believes that they take bears or sows in marriage, but is it possible that this is simply a joking put-down based around a misunderstanding of the term "animal husbandry" (which I see translated as "the art of working with farm animals") which could be indicative of Severian's naivete considering that he takes pains to dispell some of the misconceptions people have about his own guild.

Finally, the Bear Tower as Zoetic Transport as Noah's Ark: are we to picture a Monarch-era fellow who, acting on some inner compulsion which he interprets as instructions of the Increate gathers up as many animals as he can because of some impending disaster? His mission never materializes and the ship is never used for its original purpose, but he's got the animals and the know-how and so he sets up a small agribusiness concern which evolves into the modern Bear Tower?

D