

counter-Stuff

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 13 Mar 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/162>

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m.driussi — 13 Mar 1997, 22:07

Reply: Item #8250075 from WHORL at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET#

Dear Mr. Jordan,

Please call me mantis (or Michael if that's too silly). Yes, people keep telling me there are mistakes in LEXICON URTHUS--that's what the updates are all about: people write to me by snail or e-mail and the next thing they know they are caught like flies in the amber of another update.

Re: obtaining "Foundation #66" in the USA. I have no idea--maybe one of the mail-order booksellers? The best bet, if you live near a university library, is to go there and see if they carry it. (While at the library, also look up essays on Wolfe by Manlove, John Clute, and Joan Gordon!) "Foundation" c/o New Worlds, 71-72 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0AA, ENGLAND (price \$8).

Re: "crummy stuff out there." If we apply Sturgeon's Law, then 90% of anything is "crum," including 90% of the essays written about Wolfe's work. Maybe I'm being too selective in my reading (seems to me I read anything I can find! <g>), but I find it difficult to locate this 90%--from my perspective, there isn't very much out there, and most of it is really very good!

(I think that most of your questions about FIFTH HEAD are covered in an essay in Clute's STROKES. But before you read that, double-check with yourself to make sure you =really= want to give up on your own investigations, because Clute will give you some answers that may haunt you.) (Maybe not.)

Do you really mean to winnow out the crummy stuff in a pre-emptive strike? Refute the errors in logic and reading evident in a critical essay before the essay has been written? If so, then forgive me my scepticism, but I can't see how it will work.

We are not arguing here--we are both speaking (well, writing) from experience. It has been my experience over the last six years that trying to get to the root of the negative response (rather than the positive) when talking about matters Wolfean generally doesn't work, for the (ultimately diplomatic) reason that people are entitled to their own opinion. (So call me cassandra or chicken little?)

The best, most economical way to find an essay that you can agree with whole-heartedly is, alas, to write it yourself. And in the "rising tide lifts all boats" analogy, as it is published and read, this essay will inspire others to write their own, in favor or against.

But yes, it takes courage to expose your mind to such scrutiny--mainly it takes the labor of getting the thing written! Then published! And then, then!

(Go ahead and mention the stories you have questions about and I'll tell you if I have them on my "current play list" or otherwise have anything to say about them. If protean R wants to keep the topic clean of such clutter, we can always try e-mail.)

(Interesting--"Urth-Man Extraordinary" has listings for "Miesel" as an anthology editor at Baen for A SEPARATE STAR and HEADS TO THE STORM, both of which, naturally, have Wolfe stories. The only Afterword for FIFTH HEAD I can find is by Pamela Sargent, but this was in Ace editions only. Could you give bibliographic info on your edition?)

=mantis=

Questions or problems to whorl-owner at lists.best.com

Jim Jordan — 14 Mar 1997, 06:43 · follows m.driussi

At 10:07 PM 3/13/97 GMT, you wrote:

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=mantis=

Yesyesyes. I was going by memory. I was thinking of the Sargent essay. Apologies to Miesel and any of her friends.

JBJordan

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