

ANDRE NORTON

Since 1963, when her brilliant novel *Witch World* was first published, Andre Norton has written at least nine volumes which chronicle the history of her imaginary world. And a colorful and exciting world it is, this strange and medieval milieu where magic works and weird, uncanny forces lurk ever ready to exert their grim dominion over the keeps and kingdoms of humankind.

Quite frankly, none of us would have expected that Miss Norton quite had it in her to produce such a subtle, well-crafted, brilliantly realized series of chronicles. Prior to the appearance of that fine first novel in the *Witch World* cycle, she was principally known as a reliable and prolific author of innumerable space adventure novels aimed at the teen-aged trade. Most of us had dipped into at least a few of these early books and found them sturdy adventure stories about youthful heroes and heroines in the galactic future.

To turn from the writing of wholesome action yarns for the adolescent reader to something as beautifully subtle and mature as *Witch World*

represented a major change of style and pace. That first book exploded upon us fantasy buffs with enormous excitement and impact, and the echoes have not yet died down; for the series has continued ever after with unabated craftsmanship and imaginative invention. As this latest Witch World story ably demonstrates. . . .