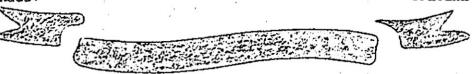
FEBRUARY 1964. ArthurHayes 512 College St. Bathurst, N.B. Canada.



28 - Jahzine # 314 KVASIR - YOU MARK - A. HILL SPECIAL - LEN COLLINS



STOP THE WORLD - I WANT TO GET OFF

Once again, Len Collins, of Church Hill, Tennessee, enriches the pages of a Jahzine publication, this time honouring a great author. YANDRO #132 says (Buck i.e) "Last month we circulated Hugo ballots. I filled mine out the other night, and in the interests of garnering a few more votes for my favorites I'll let you in on how I voted. BEST NOVEL: Witch World, by Andre Norton. I enjoyed this far more than I did any other novel of 1963; there really isn't any comparison." Well, what's good enough for YANDRO is good enough for me. Plans for this article started last summer and have only been successfully concluded early in February when I received the mss from Len. So, this article is nota last minute affair. I hope that it will serve. the readers of TTH a useful purpose. To me, it made me realize, as nothing else has, how prolific Miss Norton is.

This edition of TTH illustrates the determination of your editor, to return to the monthly schedule. Whether this can be main tained or not, only time will tell. No attempt will be made to make up for the lost issues. 1964 is a new year, and what issues that should have appeared in 1963, will remain with that year, something that might have been.

I have received, from time to time, worried letters asking for information on a friend to all of us, Bobeff Farnham. It is with pleasure that I'm including a page in this issue, in which I am quoting a very short letter I have just received from Bob. In the theme of a publication of Bob's, a publication I had the honour to assist in editing, and publishing for a while, this letter of Bob's is printed. The good news

is that Bob is kicking with both feet, and in the view that his feet were threatened with amputation, it is good news indeed tohear that he still has both feet to be able to kick with. On the more sombre side however, is the fact that it is extremely unlikely that Bob can answer letters except through such a method as utilized in this issue of TTH. Even this short letter was 'work' for him. Bob, while much improved over what his condition was several months ago, is not well, though I can see his spirit isperking up again. The spirit is strong, but the flesh is still weak.

A short special also appears in this issue a special that certainly has nothing to do withSF or Fandom. I've just run across a poem dealing with your former President. I say 'your! even though TTH has a fairly wide circulation beyond the borders of the USA, since the majority of TTH readers are Yankees. There may be some of you who have not seen this poem, and I believe that it should have as wide a circulation as is possible. Who thisAlfred Robins is, I do not know. I do not know where this poem originally appeared. It was sent to me by a relative and I do not know where she got it.

Richard O. Mann: 131 Belt Rd. APO 845,NY. 00604. "I am interested in establishing some kind of Round Robin with tape fans (not necessarily those who have tapers, but those with access to tapers). I would appreciate it if you'd mention it in TTH and so get as wide a mention of this as possible." (Not exact quote, but summarized. Jah. I do NO T have any back issues of TTH, in answer to Rich's other request and to forstall and answer the others who have or will ask this question. I print OVER 450 copies of each issue now, and do not have any spares, since I print exactly the number required.)

THE WORLD OF ANDRE NORTON

ON a hill overlooking Euclid Avenue in Northeast Cleveland, a short street named Mannering Road comes to a dead end. Near the end of Mannering Road, in a large, white, two-story house lives one of the foremost science-fiction writers in the field today. Oddly enough, this mantle is worn by a slender, gentle woman who specializes in space opera or science-adventure. Any survey would place her in the top bracket of science-fiction writers along with Heinlein or Simak. Yet her specialty is writing for young people but written so well that the older readers have joined ranks with the teenagers to push her upt to the pinnacle she now occupies. The writer is Andre Norton, creator of strange galaxies, far-flung planetary systems, alien life-forms and super animals. She is also Miss Alice Mary Norton, a retired children's librarian, horticul turist, collector, foster mother of two children and gourmet. Since 1961, she has been building a replica of the home of General John Hunt Morgan, a Confederate Officer of Lexington, Kentucky. The exterior was done by an archietect and the interior is finished with scale furniture and accessories of the Civil War period. It occupies the window seat in the dining room of her home, where she lives with her mother.

Miss Norton was born in the southeast section of Cleveland to Adalbert Freely and Daisy Bertha Norton, the younger of two daughters. Here she grew up into the depression years of the nineteen-thirties. Economic reasons forced her to forgo a formal college education. However, in 1930 at Collinswood High School, a class in creative writing began shaping her cireer. Here, under the inspired teaching of Miss Sylvia Cochran, in a class of ten boys and girls, she learned the fundamentals of her craft, to which she brought distinction and imagination. Members of the class were from the staff of the school paper, SPOTLIGHT. They worked on their own time with no credit. From this group came two collections of short stories as well as other work. Five of the class became professional writers, certainly a record in itself.

Before she was twenty one, her first novel was published, by Appleton-Century. This, THE PRINCE COMMANDS, concerns a mythical kingdom, which was possibly a foretaste of the imaginative worlds she was to conceive later. She published at four-year intervals at first until 1944 when her books began coming out more often. In the late nineteen-thirties, shewas approached by William Crawford about publishing her shorter stories in a collection. Crawford had published Eugene Keys' MARS MOUNTAIN in 1935 under Visionary Publishing's imprint and had drawn up plans for publishing a variety of material by different authors. He ever, the idea concerning an original hard cover collection never reached fruitation, although two short stories were published in FANTASY BOOK after World War Two.

During these years, she was children's librarian in a Cleveland library. She went to Washington to work in the Library Of Congress for a year during the war. Here, she was able to read many of the obscure and little known books of fantasy and science-fiction she had heard so much about. She came back to Cleveland and resumed work at the library. She began what was destined to be a trio of cloak and dagger thrillers with THE SWORD IS DRAWN. One of these brought her an award from the Dutch government dealing as it did with the Dutch underground.

Ill health forced her retirement from library work. So in 1951, she was able to turn her talents full time to writing. She edited three anthologies and a collection of Malcolm Jameson stories for World Publishing. In 1952, her first science-fiction novel was brought out and she had found her niche. The enthusiastic acclaim this first novel received showed her there was a place for space opera written for young people, as Heinlein and a few others had done earlier. She had written historical novels earlier and had done very well with SCARFACE, her best seller. So she began alternating science fiction and historicals, written for young people but obviously finding favor with older readers from the response the books were getting.

Quite distinctively, her novels often use an American Indian as the hero. She has extensively researched the Indians and feels they are naturals for the type of story she writes because, she says, "of their ability to live with nature and adapt to it; their kinship with the animals and the land." It hardly comes as a surprise to find she is quite proud of her Wyandotte ancestry on her maternal side that dates back to the eighteenth century. And she is foster mother and helps support an Apache girl on an Arizona reservation as well as a C inese girl in Hong Kong.

Another distinctive charact eristic of her science-fiction novels are the unusual and charming animals found in most of them. D picted so well they become characters in their own right, they usually are teamed with a human to make a far more competent creu than the individuals alone. She has used dune cats, common cats, meerkats, coyotes, foxes, an African eagle, a kinkajcu and wolverines, all mutated and highly intelligent. Her fans are quits taken with these furred and feathered creatures and keep asking for more.

She has had other honors aside from the award by the Notherlands government. On March 30, 1963, her novel, STAR BORN, was discussed on NBC's READING ROOM. At the Westercon in July 1963, she was presented with The Little Invisible Man Award by The Elves', Gnomes' and Little Men's Science-Fiction, Chowder and Marching Society Of Los Angeles. And August 12, 1963, she received the Hoadline Award presented by Theta Phi Society of Women Journalists — Professional in Cleveland.

Usually, she works from 8:30 a.m. to ll a.m., lunches, works from noon until l p.m., takes an hour break, then another stint from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Longer hours are worked to meet a deadline but this is the exception, not the rule. Her frail condition necessitates these hours and will not allow prolonged sessions of work. Her spare time is spent in her flower garden, making floral arrangements, collecting spoons, cups and saucers with historical backgrounds and doing gourmet cooking.

Miss Norton is noted as a collector. Two large upstairs rooms bear this out. These are the work room and the library room. The work room is filled to overflowing with reference works on biography, autobiography, archaeology, anthropology, history, natural history, zoology, folklore, legends, ghosts, witchcraft, travel, true crime, Chinese and Japanese novels in translation, gem stones, costumes, household matters through several historical periods, guns, horses, the Southwest and Indians. Here she researches and writes her novels both historical and science-fiction. Across the hall is the library which is filled, though not to the extent of the work room. Here is science-fiction, fantasy, historical novels, detective stories, adventure and spy and thriller tales. A complete set of Eighty-seventh Precinct fills a shelf. Here are THE OUTSIDER, BEYON D THE WALL OF SLEEP and MARGININALIA. There are volumes of Haggard, Burroughs! John Carter series, Talbot Mundy and a most comprehensive cross-section of the last twenty years in science fiction between hard covers. She rev iews for the CLEVELAND PRESS and gets a great many novels and collections from science-fiction publishers. She collects Dornford Yates thrillers and C.L. Moore and Leigh Brackett. Miss Norton has a personal acquaintance with Leigh Brackett since she visited Miss Brackett and Edmond Hamilton in Kinsman, Ohio.

Writers are well known for saving material and often selling it to another market. A.E. van Vogt is probably the best known exponent of this system; for years he has been rewriting, editing and reviving stories forgotten and now being published without actual ly bringing out any new work. Miss Norton is no exception to this rule. A case in point was a novel originally title! QUATPE OF SWORDS. It was sold to be published in hard covers; something of a publishing experiment. Nothing came of it and the idea was abandoned. She bought it back and later submitted it to Ace Books where it was published as WITCH WORLD. It's a tightly-woven novel with the pace and high adventure of a Merritt tale. A sequel is now ready for publication. These novels are not written for younger readers and are quite remantic.

Eighteen chapters usually comprise a novel and she does the first draft of a chapter each day. Her books sell up to 15,000 copies and continue selling. She is committed for a book each year to World Publishing, Harcourt, Brace and World and Ace Books though she sometimes betters this schedule.

A visit to her home is a very special experience. Miss Norton is a gifted conversationalist and has such a wide range of interests, she can find a common interest with anyone. Despite her frail health, she is vivacious, sparkling, witty and charming and a most gracious hostess. Her coffee is superb and is served with delicacies from Holland, Denmark and England. She admits she likes to talk "shop" and at one time belonged to a science-fiction society in Cleveland, probably the same one that sponsored the World Convention in 1954.

Though a prolific writer, she maintains a high degree of artistry and sheer craft-manship. A contemporary of Heinlein and similiar in the meticulous care used in creating her alien worlds, she is a younger writer since her tenure goes back only to 1947 in science fiction. She has come a long way since her first science-fiction novel was published.

The legion of Norton fans sincerely hope she continues creating her marvelous worlds for a second thirty years.

-END-

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- END -

⁽WRITTIN 5Y len collins. All material checked with Miss Norton, and permission to print received. It is unfortunate that a photograph of Miss Norton, a photograph that also showed the replica of the Morgan home, did not have sufficient contrast to be usable via electronic stencilling.

ERRORS NOTED AFTER STENCILLING: SARGASSO OF SPACE.. German edition was the German BOOK CLUB edition and paperback.

STAR GUALD: This should have the ACE edition listed ahead of the Utopia edition. Whether this had significance or not, I do not know, but believe this error should be mentioned.

The Publisher.)