

VOL 5 # 6 (SIC, SHOULD BE 7)

December, 1981

Ninety Cents

WHOLE #55

# THE BOOK-MART

*A Monthly Journal For Buyers, Sellers & Collectors*

✓  
 Andre Norton  
 World famous  
 author  
 gives you  
 guidelines  
 for collecting  
 science-fiction  
 and fantasy  
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 Collecting  
 Cook Books  
 Barbara Gallo  
 takes a second  
 look at a  
 mouth-watering  
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# COLLECTING Science Fiction and Fantasy

ANDRE NORTON

## SOME NEW GUIDELINES



Photo by Rebecca Pohle

*Editor's Note: Andre Norton's is one of those rare names which really need no introduction. She is, by common consent, one of the truly legendary authors of Science Fiction and Fantasy in our--or any--time. BOOK-MART has been bringing you a serial-*

*ised version of her never-before-published book The Scribbling Women, and last month BOOK-MART reader (and Norton expert) Richard Frahm commented on this and on the "galactic" prices her first editions were fetching on the rare book market. Turn to 30*

By ANDRE NORTON

To many collectors, the field of fantasy fiction may be new. However, one need only consult the prices listed in the catalogues of dealers specializing in this genre to realize that building such a collection can be costly. Early books (most dated in the 1950's) are quoted well into the two and three figure class, mainly because then the publication of such titles was largely limited to the issues from small specialty houses which brought out first editions of 1500 copies or less, and sometimes never reprinted on many titles.

Even the ephemeral paperbacks did not publish large printings. It is even more difficult to locate these today when they are in high demand--the first printings of many titles are true prizes. Therefore, hardback titles bearing the imprint of such publishers as Gnome Press, or Arly Arkham House, are selling to collectors who are willing to pay up to a thousand dollars or more. While paperbacks, such as the "DQ" series of Ace (when the work of "name" writers), can bring near to fifty dollars asking price. Most of these choice buys are offered at the various science-fiction

and fantasy conventions where dealers in the field find eager customers.

However, we are not all collectors of rare items. Some buyers are more interested in assembling a personal library of books to be read and reread for enjoyment. During the past five years there has been a vast upswing in the number of such books, and the average reader may not be aware of some titles well worth buying--since, unfortunately, a paperback printing is apt to vanish quickly within a month or so, while the distribution by news agents tends to be spotty and erratic. Titles, unless chosen for display, or advertized can be well overlooked.

Each reader has his or her own tastes, knowing best the type of book which answers the need for enjoyment. Thus, those mentioned in this article are merely ones I, myself, have found of value, because of what I deem to be good writing, vivid and unusual plotting, the ability to hold interest to the last page.

The test of any work of fiction is how deeply it can impress the reader. Does it

## Some New Guidelines Continued

indeed become "real" for the space of time one scans the pages? Are the characters presented such that you can believe these people could or did some time exist? Is the plot fast moving and engrossing, with an ending satisfactory to you?

For the first tool any would-be fantasy collector should reach I suggest Dr. Roger Schlobin's LITERATURE OF FANTASY. This provides wide listing, much of it annotated, of first editions of scores of outstanding titles, both of the past and those nearly current. It is also a "must" for those intent on seeking finds of value which sometimes turn up in the Salvation Army stores, at the ever present garage sales, or in rummage sales for charitable purposes. So many of the public know so little about the value of fantasy publications that a volume which might be priced at from five to twenty-five dollars at a convention could well appear on the stands mentioned for a dollar or less. Know your authors, titles, and "first editions"—then go looking.

Now for the building of your own library among the moderns still easily obtainable. While it is a gamble as to which of these may turn out to be "classics" in the future, you will discover them entertaining reading for the present.

There are new writers appearing every year—as well as new editions of past popular ones—some of the latter are limited and beautifully illustrated, meant from conception to be collectors' fare. I shall not attempt to list the latter. In Dr. Schlobin's book one can learn of Conan, the works of Moorcock and Leiber—books which have acquired prestige for twenty years or more. Then there are the well chosen, reissued titles of an even earlier period which have appeared in paperbacks under the competent editorship of Linn Carter.

Those I shall mention and list are classified under general subject matter so that one can make choices of samples of each type.

Humor is rare in the fantasy field, but there are some writers who handle it expertly. Among these is the old master, Sprague de Camp. Pushing now to the front are

Robert Asprin, Piers Anthony, John Jakes (of Kent Family fame).

Fantasy from traditional plot sources is now appearing in a much wider range than ever before, the writers venturing farther outward in their combing of mythic back-grounds. Just as Robin McKinley can turn to the well known fairy tales, familiar to us all, and make entirely new use of them, so can Thomas Burnett Swann and Richard Purtill sink themselves into the classical past of Greece and Rome for inspiration. Elizabeth Walton has chosen the rich lore of Wales, while Poul Anderson, Vera Chapman, Gillan Bradshaw, and I. Warner Munn mined Arthurian material.

Recently there have appeared books by Grania Davis, E. Hoffman Price, Eric Van Lustbrader, using Hindu, Chinese, and Japanese lore, opening new vistas.

Animal stories have always found avid supporters. There have been recently the popular fantasies of Richard Adams (English) and William Horwood. Who ever thought that rabbits could be heroic? Or a colony of idealistic moles triumph over dire evil?

There have been a number of excellent books dealing with phases of straight magic. Randall Garnett has been able to successfully merge fantasy with traditional detective story in his Lord Darcy books. Elizabeth Boyer gives us the sorcerer's inept apprentice from a new angle. Poul Anderson's magic is matter-of-fact, and the adventures of John Bellairs' beleaguered wizards rivet attention. Diana Wynne Jones and Phyllis Eisenstein use the actual, physically weaving of spells to entrap a reader. While Lyden Hardy, in a recent novel, carefully expands the five traditional forms of sorcery as part of the background of his action.

Some authors transport characters from this world into others where magic is the accepted norm. Stephen Donaldson, Joy Chant, Brian Daley, Robert Adams (American), lift their protagonists thus into another space-time. But Katherine Kurtz, Ursula Le Guin, Patricia McKillip, Ansen Dibell and Ardath Mayhar simply supply a dream world complete with complicated histories, mores and natives. Then there are

the terran past or very far futures--existing under new, entirely fantastic conditions. Clifford Simak, Dean Kootz, Sterling Lueder have created changes in what lies about us now into something rare and strange.

The quest tale is the traditional theme for fantasy and has been, ever since the first "fairy tale" was told. Though it is so often offered, it is ever new under the writer's skill. Read the books of Fred Saberhagen, G.R. Diamond, Shirley Murphy, Daine Duane, Lynn Abbey, and Ianith Lee and see what can be done with quests!

Companying the quest in popularity is the straight sword and sorcery adventure, which generally, concerned itself with the exploits of a mighty hero--or heroine. These return in type to the John Carter stories of Edgar Rice Burroughs and the Conan tales of Robert E. Howard. But as satisfying reading for rousing action are the books of Gardner Fox, Roland Green, David Mason, Michael Moorcock--and--Well, add your own choices after you taste, enjoy and wish to stride along (vicariously) with sword in fist.

Fantasy has given birth recently to films; it is part of the phenomenally popular DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS game. There is the Society for Creative Anachronism gaining members across the nation, wherein one is giving scope to create one's own fantasy character in one's person. A number of "fan" publications (which, in turn become collectors' sought for items) allow readers to try their hands at their own stories or art work. Collections of fantasy art, by the way, are now very popular entries into the book field and have enthusiastic buyers waiting for them.

Certainly this form of writing may be escape from the problems of our day -- as so it is deplored by some-- but there are numbers of us who welcome the color, action, sometimes the honest beauty, to be found in this particular product of the imagination. Casual readers have become serious collectors and the field is widening all the time.

#### ONE MORE CATALOGUE

BOOKSELLER, 412 N. Palm St., Turlock, CA 95380, (209) 632-6984, Volume XI, Number 11, wants and for sales by various booksellers.

# CHECKLIST

Schlobin, Roger--Literature of Fantasy,  
Garland Press

## HUMOR:

Anthony, Piers--Magic of Xanth (omnibus  
volume--three books)

Asprin, Robert--Another Fine Myth; Myth  
Conceptions

De Camp, Sprague--Clocks of Iraz; Goblin  
Tower; Falible Fiend

Jakes, John--Mention My Name In Atlantis

Jones, Diana Wynne--Charaed Life

## FAIRY TALES:

Boyer, Elizabeth--Elves and Otterskin

McKinley, Robin--Beauty; Door in Hedge

Pope, Elizabeth--The Perilous Gard

## CLASSICAL SOURCES:

Purtill, Richard--Golden Gryphon Feather

Swann, Thozas Burnett--Works

Williamson, Jack--Reign of Wizardy

## CELTIC SOURCES:

Anderson, Poul--Broken Sword

Walton, Evangeline--Works

## HINDU SOURCES:

Davis, Grania--Rainbow Annals

## CHINESE SOURCES:

Price, E. Hoffman--Devil Wives of Li  
Fong

## JAPANESE SOURCES:

Van Lustbrader, Eric--Dai-San; Shallows  
of Night; Sunset Warrior

## ARTHUR AND CHARLEMAGNE:

Anderson, Poul--Three Hearts and Three  
Lions

Bradshaw, Gillan--Hawk of May; Kingdom  
of Summer

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- ESP

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Post Office Box 50, Cooper Station  
New York, New York 10276

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Calender

MARCH 20, 21: Second West Side Antiquarian Book Fair, Cong. Rodelph Sholow, 7 West 83rd St., New York, NY 10024

MARCH 26, 27: Wright State University Antiquarian Book Fair, University Center, Dayton, OH.

Reagan

EDITOR'S NOTE: Continued from 8

pearance anywhere of this major new project by one of the world's leading bibliographers. Prof. De Waal is, of course, the recipient of prestigious John H. Jenkins Award for the best work of bibliography published in the U.S. (1974) for his monumental World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. His 1980 companion volume The International Sherlock Holmes has been reaping equal accolades, and we have no doubt that this pioneering entry into Reaganesque bibliography will eventually achieve a similar status.

...RWP

New Guidelines

EDITOR'S NOTE: continued from 3

We're delighted to announce that Miss Norton has been inspired to write the following exclusive article for our readers, giving guidelines for the beginning SF&F collector, and hints as to what you can buy now which will become tomorrow's valuable collectable.

Of course, we'll have more of Miss Norton's Scribbling Women for you, too--and soon.

...RWP

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## Some New Guidelines **continued**

Chapman, Vera--Green Knight; King's Damosel; King Arthur's Daughter  
 Munn, H. Warner--Merlin's Godson; Merlin's Ring  
 Powers, Tom--Drawing of the Dark

### ANIMALS:

Adams, Richard--Watership Down; Shardik  
 Horwood, William--Duncton Wood

### STRAIGHT MAGIC:

Anderson, Poul--Operation Chaos  
 Bellairs, John--Face in the Mist  
 Boyer, Elizabeth--Sword and Satchel  
 Eisenstein, Phyllis--Born to Exile; Sorceress' Son  
 Garnett, Randall--Lord Darcy Investigates; Murder and Magic; Too Many Murders  
 Hardy, Lyden--Master of Five Magics  
 Jones, Diana Wynne--Spell Coats  
 Zelazny,  
 Zelazny, Roger--Changling; Chronicles of Amber (Volumes I and II)

### TRANSPORTED TO OTHER WORLDS:

Adams, Robert--Castaways in Time  
 Chant, Joy--Grey Mare of Morning; Red Moon and Black Mountain  
 Daley, Brian--Doomfarers of Caramonde; Starfollowers of Caramonde  
 Donaldson, Stephen--The Lord Foul series

### OTHER WORLDS:

Dibell, Ansen--Pursuit of the Screamer; Circle, Screscent, Star  
 Kurtz, Katharine--The Camber--Deryni series

## **WANTED! ! !**

Everything related to Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle  
 ALSO: Miniature Books 1" high or smaller

JOHN BENNETT SHAW, B.S.I.  
 1917 Fort Union Drive  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Le Guin, Ursula--Earthsea series  
 McKillip--Forgotten Beasts of Eld; Riddlemaster series

### OUR WORLD TRANSFORMED:

Adams, Robert--Horseclan tales (a growing series)  
 Koontz, Dean--Nightmare Journey  
 Lanier, Sterling--Herio's Journey  
 Simak, Clifford--Enchanted Pilgrimage; Fellowship of the Talisman

### QUEST TALES:

Abbey, Lynn--Daughter of the Bright Moon; Black Flame  
 Diamond, G.R.--The Haven Series  
 Duane, Diane--Door Into Fire  
 Lee, Ianith--Birthgrave series  
 Murphy, Shirley--Children of Ynell; Ring of Fire; Wolf Bell; Castle of Hape; Caves of Fire and Ice; Joining of the Stone

### ADVENTURE:

Fox, Gardner--The Kothar series; the Kyrik series  
 Green, Roland--The Wandor series  
 Lieber, Fritz--The Fahrd--Grey Mouser series  
 Mason, David--Kevin series  
 Moorcock, Michael (has created a number of different series, all of them exciting reading.)



## Permanent Wants

Penmanship -- Handwriting -- Graphology  
 Any languages, period, format: self-instructors, copy-books, technical treatises, forgeries & disputed documents, pre-1870 works by the writing masters, bibliographies by Nash, Heal et al. Also: WESTERN NEW ENGLANDIAN local histories, view books, trade catalogues, etc. ASTRONOMY, SCIENCES, MEDICINE, MAGIC, GAMBLING, HOAXES, VENTRILOQUISM.

STEVE FINER

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