VOL 5 #7 (SIC)
(SHOULD BE #9)

February, 1982 Ninety Cents

WHOLE #57

THE BOOK-MART

A Monthly Journal For Buyers, Sellers & Collectors

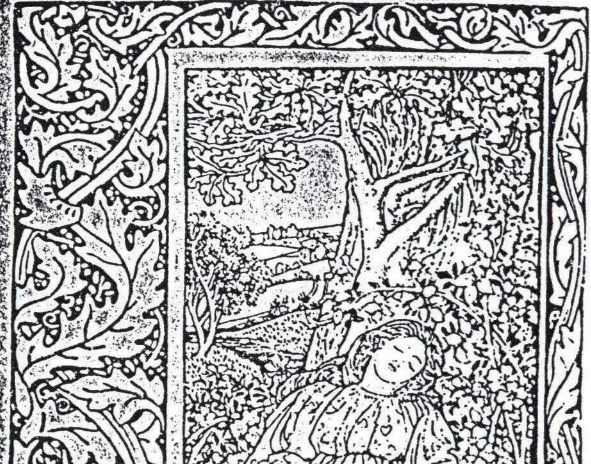
New Series
Page 16

Ghostly Girls

Page 8

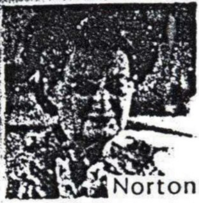
Andre Norton
Page 3

Index
Page 15



New Look at Audubon Page 6

Scribbling Women Susan Warner


Norton

Editor's note: As old BOOK-MART readers will know, this is the fourth original article (and third episode of *The Scribbling Women*) we've brought you from the versatile pen of Ms. Norton--who, of course, as one of the most illustrious names of all among Fantasy & Science Fiction writers, needs no further introduction whatsoever.

TEARS, BUSY TEARS

By ANDRE NORTON

Although Henry Whitney Warner was an unsuccessful lawyer rather than an impractical philosopher, the life lived by his daughters paralleled in insecurity and driving responsibility that of the Alcott girls. Existing even closer to the edge of dire want than the Alcotts--for the Warners were ultra-reserved and had no friends to supply both material and spiritual aid--Susan Warner taught herself how to write best sellers which lifted the whole family into fairly comfortable circumstances for the remainder of their quiet lives. There was, however, one great and abiding difference between the Warners and the Alcotts, and perhaps it was the difference which made Little Women a living work to be read unto this day, while The Wide, Wide World is now a literary curiosity. The Warners had no sense of humor, life was indeed "duty" as far as they were concerned. While the Alcotts felt free to laugh, and they did.

The Warner family came of rock-ribbed New England stock. Henry Warner's father was one of nine sons who lined up together (the youngest was fifteen at the time) to join the Continental army in a body. The young recruit survived the war and ended by marrying his Colonel's daughter. But farm life was all Jason Warner had to offer his bride. Their sons, Henry and William, worked early and late to gain book-learning not thought necessary to their station in life. They taught the lower grades in school while they themselves studied in the higher ones.

Young Henry Warner, equipped with the training in law he had struggled so hard to earn for himself, migrated to the fast growing city of New York. During 1812 he served in the army in an administrative post in the city. And there he married Ann Bartlett who had been raised in a home of wealth.

Susan was their second child and for a time the only surviving one. The only granddaughter of a wealthy grandmother, she was petted and favored. Her father was following the court circuit and was often away from home for weeks, leaving young Susan the center of a household of adoring women.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST
by
FREDERICK W. FARRAR, D.D., FRS
First Edition--Excellent Condition
Autographed by author:
F.W. Farrar Westminster July 1, 1885
MAIL BIDS and SASE TO:
Book, P.O. Box 7687 Monroe, LA. 71203

The birth of a sister, Henrietta, was bitterly resented by the small girl. And from this period her home life was divided between the more modest establishment of the young lawyer father and the estate of her grandmother where she lived for long periods of time. Henrietta and another baby born later did not live long and Susan again became the only child and the center of the family.

How much this see-saw in family relationships contributed to her later insecurity we can not determine. But she was always painfully reserved with strangers, given to bouts of sick fear which actually prostrated her, and for the rest of her life had little communication with those outside a small circle of friends who managed to breach the wall the Warners erected about themselves. It is apparent that to be a friend of the family it was necessary to go all the way and not be frightened by rebuffs.

Her formal schooling was limited to a six months' period away from home to which very limited reference was afterwards made in the family chronicles. But she had a talent for drawing, and she wrote stories in copy books, and kept a journal. Above all she read, constantly and voluminously. Her much younger sister Anne recalls in her biography of her sister a vivid memory of watching Susan ride off in their grandmother's coach, eating some special sweetmeat and reading so engrossedly that she did not wave goodbye to those left behind.

Even after the birth of Anne and the death of her mother, Susan continued to spend much of her time at her grandmother's. Her father's sister, Aunt Fanny, came to take over the management of the Warner household and there were no ties of duty to hold Susan.

She was fiercely independent, seeking in this desire to be "different" the attention she had not been sure of since early childhood. A sybarite by nature, with a strong love for warmth and bright colors, she objected to Anne's copying of her dresses or in any way infringing upon what she had taken for her own in manners and ways.

The life which was most real to her lay between the pages of the books she devoured. When bedtime candles were extinguished she would huddle on the hearth and read by the light of the dying fire. For her absorption in this other world, the carriage waited and breakfast went uneaten unless she was forceably aroused.

Not pretty, tall, with a long neck and sloping shoulders, she was frail and a worry to more practical members of the family. And since she was a perfectionist, the displeasure of those about her whom she loved could and did goad her into trying to fit herself to a more conventional pattern of living.

Her journal entry at the age of twelve reads:

"I find that I have spent a most unprofitable week, and as unprofitable a Sunday. The more shame for me. I am now old enough to do better."

And:

"Father and Aunty would be glad if I would give up playing sedentary plays altogether: and he has prohibited my playing them for two or three days past; it is not improbable that I am the better for it."

These sedentary plays--reading the descriptions of them left by Anne, as fragmentary and illusive as they are, can only remind one strongly of the Angora in which the Brontës found an outlet for their undisciplined genius. The Brontës began with a company of wooden soldiers on which to pin the action of their imagined kingdoms. But the Warners made their own actors and actresses--cardboard dolls, the earliest ones an inch or so long. With these were tables, chairs, bedsteads, all cut and put together. An old footstool turned on its side formed the stage and the plays went on for days. Later, even as the Brontës had discovered, they found that it was not necessary to have the actual physical properties--the play could go on in the mind--in "talking stories."

During the summers the family moved to the old colonial homestead in Canaan where the Warner girls had the companionship of cousins close to them in age. In one corner of the big living room their voices made a hum which rivaled that of the spinning wheel still in use there as they worked out these long series of adventures together. Complicated plots, stetching sometimes not over days or weeks, but years, occupied them all. Susan got the current heroes out of difficulties with flights of imagination which left the others gasping and claiming unfair competition. She drew up lists of proper names and of nations for the others to choose from for their portions of the tale. But they suspected, and often accused her of studying up the story during the day and plotting ahead. To her the dangers were all real and critical and the people present and alive.

On Sunday afternoons, gathering up shawls and scarves for costumes, the younger generation went into the meadows where, by the hay stacks, they read the Bible aloud, debated Bible questions, and acted out Bible stories.

While Susan Warner's pious stories were to begin the school of "Sunday School Literature" in the days to come, she was well read in the secular literature of the day. Her education was mostly self-gained for, though she had regular tutors, she was but an irregular pupil. Her father taught his daughters grammar, history, and literature, the use of the globes (a quaint addition to the feminine education of that day), and tried to teach Susan Latin and Greek but her awkwardness so offended his critical sense that he at last gave up this task in disgust. She had tutors for singing, Italian, and the piano.

But she continued to depend upon reading for her education. In an attempt to ration her inordinate consumption of fiction her father began reading aloud. And between these sessions she was not permitted to touch the books. Though during the reading of Waverly [by Sir Walter Scott] she begged to be allowed to see the name "Flora McIver" in print. In this way as a family group they enjoyed the Waverly novels, Shakespeare, Dickens, Paradise Lost, Maria Edgeworth's works, Boswell's Johnson, Goldsmith, Hume, and The Swiss Family Robinson.

But the censorship imposed by "Victorianism" was already in force. There were works not "suitable for a young lady." Mr. Warner marked those passages of The Wandering Jew [by Eugene Sue] which his daughters might read and the rest of the book remained a closed secret.

Brought up in a retired fashion, not even mingling with her contemporaries in school, fastidious to a high degree, and extremely reserved, Susan also showed signs of that snobbishness which was later apparent in her books. Such an entry in her journal as the following foreshadowed Fleda's reaction to the country women of Queechy:

"One thing annoys me much. The girls who come to help her in harvest time will call Aunt Fanny by her Christian name, and will come into the front room and sit down as if they were equal. This worries me and makes me angry, though Aunty says it is foolish."

We can well imagine that any farmer's daughter "helping out" in the Warner household honestly believed herself to be the equal of Miss Susan Warner and would have been not only hurt but angry at the suggestion that she was not.

Susan was fifteen in 1837, a tall, too-slender, introverted girl, her health poor, largely because of constant study and lack of exercise. But to this time she had led the sheltered, cloistered existence of a convent bred novice. And she visibly shrank from romance and men except as they appeared in print. When a friend laughingly commented on the frequent visits of a gentleman to the house, she returned bitingly:

"I hope I shall never be reduced so low as to make my conversation about such things."

But it was in this year that their peaceful, happy life came to a sudden and dark end. Henry Warner to this date had prospered in the financial schemes being spun out of New York. No merchant, he had drifted along on the stream of rising income making a series of investments, eager to gather enough to retire and live as a scolarly country gentleman. His brother was now chaplain at West Point and, having visited there often, Henry took a fancy to the small island in the river, privately owned and within rowing distance of the Academy.

He finally purchased Martlaer's Rock (now Constitution Island) and drew up plans for making it into a fine estate. The old pre-Revolutionary farm house was deemed to old-fashioned and crude to be the Warner home. But it was this same house which sheltered them after the crash.

For 1837 was a panic year, and Henry

Continued on Page 25

Tears Continued

Warner was not only wiped out but left with a vicious law suit and a mountain of debts. Beaten and unable to face the future in the city or attempt another start, he withdrew with his family to the island.

Anne was young enough and stable enough to accept the change eagerly. But to Susan it was the end of the secure world. She was ridden by fears, the list of which, made out in her sister's account, is lengthy. She was, we are told precisely, afraid of storms, burglars, steamboats, horses, cattle, worms, snakes, mice, hats, and caterpillars. Before she seated herself on any chair out of doors she would inspect it carefully up and down for the presence of any creeping thing. During the night she arose at intervals to try the bedroom door to be sure it was locked. Papers had to be kept from her in times of public disaster and a few years later she passed through a nervous crisis during which the tester rings of her high poster bed rattled with the force of her trembling body.

Yet she was transported into the wilds of an overgrown island, there, by main force of an iron will, to make herself the staunch core of a family, to defer to and bolster a defeated man, and be the support of a sister and an aunt. What a torture this was is revealed in her slow physical breakdown and the sufferings (undoubtedly psychosomatic) which made the rest of her life a misery.

In place of the gentleman's estate they had pictured only months before, planning extensive gardens, private bridle paths, pacing off the foundations of the mansion-to-be, the Warners found themselves engulfed by ragged fields waist-high in uncut hay, tangled brush, and thickets of scrubby trees. There was no money to hire other hands to hack at this maze. So the Warner girls themselves tackled the problem of clearing living space about the century old house they were trying to make habitable. They chopped branches to free ground and to provide their own firewood. Thereby breaking the local bounds of conventionality. Once when so at work some trick of acoustics across the water brought them the words of an oarsman in a passing boat

Continued on Page 27

Wanted Perpetually
★ ★ ★ . BOOKS ★ ★ ★
by or about:
• P. G. WODEHOUSE •
• MAX BEERBOHM •
• EVELYN WAUGH •
H.B.Thomsen, 1509 Stardust, Colo. Spgs., CO 80906

by appointment 516-766-8602

MYSTERY, DETECTIVE
SCIENCE FICTION
RARE! RARER!! RAREST!!!
bought and sold
PAULETTE GREENE, BOOKS
140 PRINCETON ROAD
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. 11570
—catalogues issued

USED, RARE & O-P BOOKS
Paper Collectibles
Honest Descriptions, Reasonable Prices
H. R. MOORE
P.O. Box 182, Carlyle, IL. 62231

PENNSYLVANIA WANTED
PRE-1940 PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY AND
MEMORABILIA OF LOCAL INTEREST
Books, maps, documents, photographs, prints, etc
Please quote for resale and describe condition.
BOB GODSHALL
Box 207M Fairview Village, PA 19409

Used O-P Books
1840 s to Present
For list stamp to
Gary White - Books
1520 12th St.
Highland, Ill. 62249

Quote any scholarly Fish, Amphibians,
Reptiles, Venoms, Birds, Mammals,
or Molluscs any language;
wraps OK if over 100 p.
State & Country Faunas especially desired
DONALD E. HAHN
Box 1004, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

WANTED:
OP angling, archery, falconry, shooting, waterfowl related, Notable British Trails, R. Traver, J.J. Foote, S.M. Ellis, Louis Rhead;
Q's answered
FAIR PRICES PAID!
PISCES & CAPRICORN BOOKS
514 Linden Ave. Albion, Mich. 49224

Tears

continued

which gave them a fairly clear idea of how they stood in the eyes of the male members of the community:

"They go out to chop and saw instead of mending stockings. They'd a better a darn sight stay at home and wash the dishes, and let the servants do it."

TO BE CONTINUED

SUSAN WARNER'S COMPLETE WORKS:

Bread and Oranges
The Broken Walls of Jerusalem and the Rebuilding of Them
The Christmas Stocking
Daisy
Diana
The End of a Coil
The Flag of France
The Gold of Chickasee (with her sister Anne)
Heimwarts
The Hills of the Shatemuc
The House in Town
The House of Israel
The Kingdom of Judah
The Law and the Testimony
The Letter of Credit
The Little Camp On Eagle Hill
The Little House of Cape Cod
Melbourne House
Mr. Rutherford's Children
My Desire
Nobody
The Old Helmet
Opportunities
Pine Needles
Queechy
The Rapids of Niagara
A Red Wallflower
Say and Seal
Sceptres and Crowns
Stephen
Trading
Walks From Eden
"What She Could"
The Wide, Wide World
Den Vide, Vide Verden
Willow Brook
Wych Hazel

WANTED:
Books on fishing

Erling Rovick
7104 Wooddale Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55435

AFRICAN
BIG GAME HUNTING
GUN COMPANY CATALOGS
GUN BOOKS
Tom Munnerlyn, Books
P.O. DRAWER 15247 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78761

Cliff Moebius
(516) 333-3797
484 WINTHROP ST., WESTBURY, L. I., N. Y. 11590
WANTS
Henry Ford Memorabilia
Books, Brochures, Catalogs
Models, "T" Ads & Cast Iron Toys
Collector

Cem Productions & Alex Klein
Presents
THE BIG ONES FOR 1982
Make Your Plans Now For These Events
GLENDALE CIVIC AUD 1401 Verdugo Rd

PAPER COLLECTIBLES IV
JANUARY 16 & 17 - 2 BIG DAYS
Hours. SAT 10-7 SUN 10-4 EARLY ADMISSION 9 A M
General Admission $4.00 Good Both Days
125 TABLES Some Space Available
Featuring Books, Paperbacks, Pulps, Comics, Baseball Cards, Postcards, Trade Cards, Mags., Ad. Advertising, Checks, Stocks, Bonds, Sheet Music, Old Posters, Western Documents, Covers, Movie Items, Circus & Lots Lots More
Last Show was a Sell Out!!

THIS AD WORTH 50 CENTS OFF ADMISSION PRICE FOR ANY SHOW

1st Entertainment Collectors
FAIR
Motion Picture-Television-Radio-Stage-Video
MAY 15-16 Hours SAT 10-7 Sun 10-4
ADMISSION $5.00 Good Both Days
125 DEALER TABLES
Featuring Old Movies, Posters, Stills, Scripts, Records, Show Posters, Programs, Costumes, Props, Movie Sheet Music, Autographs, Old Radio Programs, Video Movies, and Lots lots more

ALL SHOWS TO BE HELD AT THE GLENDALE CIVIC AUD., GLENDALE, CALIF. Take Glendale Fwy. N. to Mountain
FOR DEALERS INFO CONTACT:

Cem Productions
736 Frazier St.
Baldwin Park, Ca. 91706
(213) 337-0973

or

Alex Klein
7252 Sepulveda Blvd.
Van Nuys, Ca. 91405
(213) 989-2513