

ANDRE NORTON

MISTRESS OF ADVENTURE

By

Owen C. Girley



Alice Mary Norton was born and reared in Cleveland, Ohio where she now makes her home. Her career began in 1930 when she was a member of a class in creative writing at Collinswood High School. There, under inspired teaching, she developed the talent that has made her famous today.

Early in her career she published several highly successful children's novels. The first, The Prince Commands, was in print before she was twenty-one. In 1944 she began a series of mysteries with Sword is Drawn, which brought her an award from the Dutch Government, since it dealt with the Dutch Underground during the Second World War.

"People of the Crater", her first Science Fiction story, appeared in Fantasy Book #1 in 1947. Her first full length Science Fiction novel, Star Man's Son, was published by Harcourt, Brace & World in 1952, and with its publication her fame was assured.

For many years Miss Norton was children's librarian in a Cleveland library. This was interrupted briefly when she worked for one year at the Library of Congress in Washington during the war. Here she read many of the rare and little known books of Fantasy and Science Fiction, which, I am sure, had a great influence on her writing.

In 1951 she retired from library work and has since devoted her full time to writing.

A foster mother, she helps support an Apache girl on an Arizona reservation and a little Chinese girl in Hong Kong. Her foster children are Ludy Burnette, now in her late teens, and Lee Fung Ho, of Hong Kong, who is not yet ten years old. Contact with both is by mail.

Much of her spare time is spent in her flower garden and she also likes to cook.

Miss Norton has received awards other than the one given to her by the Dutch Government. They are Honorable Mention, Ohionana Library; Headliner Award, Theta Sigma Phi; and Little Men's Invisible Little Man Award.

Her works have been translated into Danish, Dutch, French, German, Russian, Portugese (Brazil), Spanish, Italian, and Arabic (Egypt).

Her best seller through the years has been Scarface, a pirate story for young readers. Among Science Fiction titles the excellent Star Rangers has sold the greatest number of copies.

Many of her stories feature mutated animals who work closely with their human masters. These animals are always highly intelligent and are depicted so well they usually become characters in their own right.

A number of her books are in series. The first of these was the "Sword" spy series, a trio of "cloak and dagger" mysteries. Perhaps the most famous is the "Time Agents" series, four really fine books. Most unique are her "Dipple" tales. The Dipple is a city for refugees from a galactic war. Every planet has one. Life is hard in the Dipple and most of its citizens live outside the law. The main characters in the three books which thus far make up this series are completely unrelated, but they all come from the Dipple of some planet.

When asked where she received the inspiration for so many of her novels she wrote: "Star Rangers came from one idea; that of the Roman Legion sent to march to the ends of the unknown earth--which I came across in my reading. Crossroads of Time because of my interest in If Theory of history; Time Traders was born from my reading about the Bronze Age traders in Conquest by Man (one of the most fascinating of books). Sea Siege was based on the island of Inagua. I was there just before the war and it lingered in my memory for years. The idea for Night of Masks was really triggered years ago by reading Hodgson's Night Land, which remains for me one of the most exciting invocations of mankind's inborn fear of the dark and what might crawl therein."



Why have Miss Norton's novels gained such high esteem? A critical analysis of any of her stories will show an unusually high degree of sheer writing skill. Plots are always strong and well laid. Description is of the highest order and characterization is unequalled. In one of her more recent books, Night of Masks, events are so vividly portrayed the reader literally "lives" through the story. A great deal of this is due I'm sure, to research. She thoroughly researches each book before writing it. Where others may write a few good novels and then rest on their laurels, Miss Norton makes every book a masterpiece.

Many authors today are following the trend set some years ago by Mickey Spillane. Contrary to this trend, Miss Norton's works always show a clear distinction between the hero and the villain. Her stories are clean. Sex is not the chief topic. Her success is proof that this is not required to sell. Instead of feeding the lusts of hoodlums and delinquents, I am sure that she has been the inspiration for many young people to become good and useful citizens.

Even though most of her books are written for young people, they have found great favor with adults as well. This is further proof of her outstanding writing ability.

Collectors of Science Fiction find her stories especially appealing. Such novels as Star Rangers, Star Gate, Crossroads of Time, The Time Traders and others abound in fast action and make a worthy addition to any collector's bookshelf. And, like Burroughs and other greats her first editions are becoming increasingly scarce and hard to find.

Miss Norton is also a fan and collector. Concerning her own collection she has this to say. "I fear that my own collection of Science Fiction would not bug out the eyes of any who are well established in the field--my most rare piece is probably the first Arkham House edition of THE OUTSIDER (which I picked up on a remainder table in a local bookshop umpteen years ago--the shop not knowing what a rare item it was even then!). I buy books for their contents, not for their editions--and pass a great many on as fast as I read them--there are just so many shelves one can build into a house! And we've reached our limit here with two rooms full and separate ones scattered elsewhere.

"Most of one room has to be given over to my research material--not being able to circulate freely and use the library as most other writers can--I have to buy my research material and keep it to hand--thus a good many cases loaded with archaeology, folklore, natural history, native religions, anthropology and the like. Then I have a section of historical novels I like and reread, a lot of adventure and English spy material, some mysteries I reread, some juveniles along lines I am exploring. Once a year all this has to be taken down and dusted and the shelves polished--a day long job for two of us. At that time I weed out in order to make room for the year's new accumulation. And sometimes it is a wrench to do that--have to be ruthless and with fiction just say, 'will I ever read this again?'

"I have managed to rebind most of the pbs I want to keep--though the easy binding material has gone off the market--unfortunately.

"I order quite a few books from England--their Fantasy in the teen age and juvenile fields is outstanding--their spy stories ditto--and the research books are far less expensive over there. I am also buying what I can in the higher priced pbs which are reprints of translations or things I can use for research. I have a rather extensive library now on ancient China (still hoping to do a novel I have long wanted to get on paper, based on the true story of the Lady Chao)--this includes English translations of all the major classic Chinese novels and the like.

"I started collecting Science Fiction on a very small scale--as I was limited to funds--bought library discard copies of Merritt, and the Balmer and Wylie books, ditto any that ever turned up on the sales tables. Nowadays I get all the new teen age ones for review--few of these are worth my keeping--but some I hold on to. When the various Science Fiction Book Clubs began I joined so I have a sprinkling of those. But I do not believe that my small collection can be compared to any of the ardent fans. I keep what I enjoy rereading and pass the others on. My favorites are those by Poul Anderson, Eric Frank Russell, Hal Clement, de Camp, the early Heinlein, Tolkien (reread the Rings each year), Leigh Brackett, C. L. Moore, the Conan tales and a host of things which are one volume output. My Science Fiction magazines pile up for months before I have a chance to read them--so I am never very current as far as the magazine writers are concerned.

"I had a big collection of Planet, Startling Stories, Thrilling Wonder, etc. about ten years ago--but had to let them go for lack of storage space. That is one of the problems of any collector (though I no longer deem myself one of those in the strict sense)."

The following is a listing of all Miss Norton's novels published to date in book form, with a brief description of each. The list is arranged according to the year published and names the original publisher.

THE PRINCE COMMANDS, Appleton-Century 1934: A mythical kingdom romance about a revolution to set an American-born prince on a Balkan throne.

RALESTONE LUCK, Appleton-Century 1938: mystery about an old family of New Orleans; but laid in contemporary period with flashbacks to days of lafitte. (The first novel Miss Norton wrote but the second published.)

FOLLOW THE DRUM, Penn 1942; Historical: Early colony in Maryland. A girls story about a Royalist exile in the 1660s. (This is her rarest book.)

SWORD IS DRAWN, Houghton-Mifflin 1944; Mystery: A story of the Dutch Underground in the East Indies and Netherlands during the Second World War. (The first of the "Sword" spy series.)

ROGUE REYNARD, Houghton-Mifflin 1947: A retelling of the traditional Beast Saba for young children; based on the first English translation from the original Flemish source.

SCARFACE, Harcourt 1948: A tale of pirates and a young cabin boy who searches for the secret of his birth. (Miss Norton's best seller.)

SWORD IN SHEATH, Harcourt 1949; Mystery: Two ex-GIs find excitement and danger in the Dutch East Indies. (Second of the "Sword" spy series.)

HUON OF THE HORN, Harcourt 1951; Historical: a retelling of part of the Charlemagne Saga. Huon, the young Duke of Bordeaux, is sent on a dangerous and almost impossible quest.

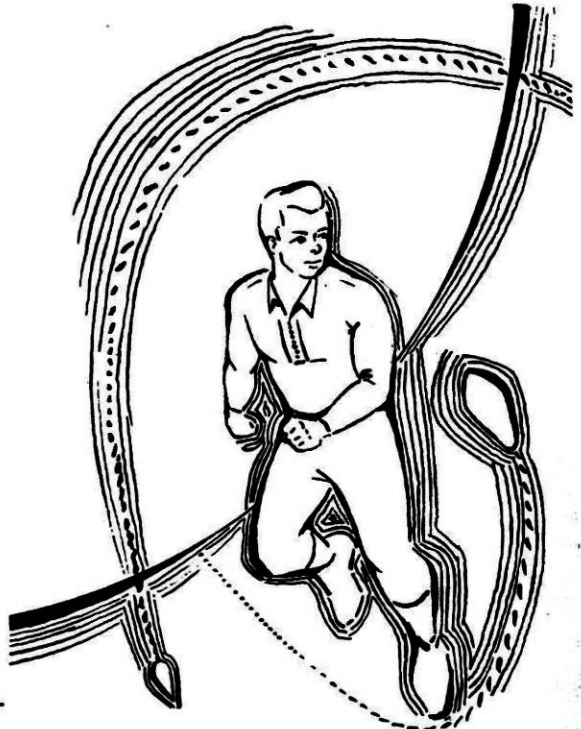
STAR MAN'S SON, Harcourt 1952; Science Fiction: The story of a young mutant who is banished from his clan and seeks to regain his honor by undertaking a dangerous journey of exploration in a post-atomic world. (Miss Norton's first Science Fiction novel.)

STAR RANGERS, Harcourt 1953; Science Fiction: With their starship wrecked on an unknown world, members of the Stellar Patrol wage a desperate fight for survival. (Her best seller among Science Fiction titles.)

THE STARS ARE OURS, World 1954; Science Fiction: Dard Nordis aids a group of scientists in their escape from the brutal "peacemen" of a future earth, then finds new danger on another planet.

AT SWORDS'POINTS, Harcourt 1954; Mystery: Young Quinn Anders investigates his brother's mysterious death in the Netherlands. (The third of the "Sword" spy series.)

SARGASSO OF SPACE, Gnome Press 1955; Science Fiction: When Dane Thorson is assigned to the trade ship Solar Queen as apprentice-cargo master, he finds adventures aplenty on a planet that traps spaceships! (The first of the "Solar Queen" series. This is 6-



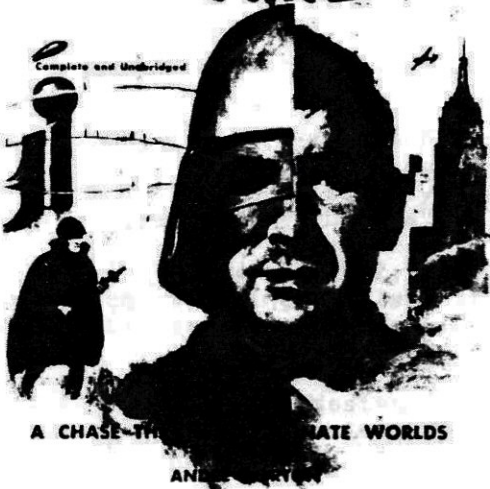
one of several stories written under the pen name of Andrew North.)

YANKEE PRIVATEER, World 1955; Historical: A young American is shanghaied into the dangerous life of a privateer.

STAR GUARD, Harcourt 1955; Science Fiction: As a member of Earth's mercenary forces, Arch Swordsman Kana Karr faces danger and intrigue on the planet Fronn.

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THE CROSSROADS OF TIME



THE CROSSROADS OF TIME, Ace Books 1956; Science Fiction; Blake Walker accompanies cross-time agents as they chase a cunning and desperate criminal through alternate worlds, (Though not as well known as some of her other works, this is nevertheless one of Miss Norton's best novels.)

PLAGUE SHIP, Gnome Press 1956; Science Fiction: The crew of the Solar Queen struggles desperately to solve the mystery of the strange malady with which they are stricken. (The second of the "Solar Queen" series.)

STAND TO HORSE, Harcourt 1956; Western: The adventurous story of a young cavalry recruit as he faces the hardships and dangers of early western frontier life. (This story is based on the actual diaries of enlisted men of that period.)

STAR BORN, World 1957; Science Fiction: Young Dalgard Nordis and his merman companion brave deadly peril as they battle to save an earthman from nonhuman aliens. (Sequel to "The Stars are Ours". This book has had seven printings as a hardcover with a total sale of 15,500 copies.)

SEA SIEGE, Harcourt 1957; Science Fiction: On a West Indies island, the survivors of an atomic war fight for their lives against intelligent monsters from the sea.

STAR GATE, Harcourt 1958; Science fiction: A rousing tale of action and adventure in the time levels of a future world.

THE TIME TRADERS, World 1958; Science Fiction: American special agents go backward in time to find the secret of spaceflight, but they have to fight Russians and alien "Baldies" along the way. (The first of the "Time agents" series and a fine novel.)

THE BEAST MASTER, Harcourt 1959; Science Fiction: On the planet Arzor, Amerindian Beast Master Hosteen Storm fights the alien Xiks who have destroyed Terra. (Many think that this is her best novel.)

SECRET OF THE LOST RACE, Ace Books 1959; Science Fiction: Joktar was different from other men. His life was constantly threatened and he didn't know why!

GALACTIC DERELICT, World 1959; Science Fiction: Travis Fox, Apa-

the Indian, joins Ross Murdock and Gordon Ashe on an involuntary journey to strange planets--not knowing if they can return to Earth. (The second of the "Time Agents" series.)

RIDE PROUD, REBEL, World 1960; Historical: The comradeship of the open field, the heat of battle, the joy of winning a fight, the anxiety for a lost friend, and the bitter heartbreak of final defeat. These are the experiences of a young Confederate soldier during the Civil War. (This novel is based on the actual experiences of one of Morgan's young raiders.)

THE SIOUX SPACEMAN, Ace Books 1960; Science Fiction: The Space Service sends Kade Whitehawk on a special mission to the planet Klor. If he fails he will be banished from the service!

STORM OVER WARLOCK, World 1960; Science Fiction: On Warlock Shann Lantee faces the sternest test of his life as he is pitted against the almost invisible Wyvern Witches.

SHADOW HAWK, Harcourt 1960; Historical: Rahotep, the son of a noble Egyptian family, seeks to drive hated oppressors out of his country.

CATSEYE, Harcourt 1961; Science Fiction: Troy Horan finally gets a chance to leave the Dipple. Then, he is accused of murdering his employer and is trapped in an alien city where an unseen danger drives men insane! (The first of the "Dipple" tales.)

THE DEFIANT AGENTS, World 1962; Science Fiction: When Operation Cochise does not go according to plan, Travis Fox and his Indian companions find themselves on a strange planet and at war--with Russians. (The third of the "Time Agents" series.)

REBEL SPURS, World 1962; Western: When the Civil War is over, Drew Rennie heads west to find his father and start life anew. (Sequel to "Ride Proud, Rebel!".)

LORD OF THUNDER, Harcourt 1962; Science Fiction: The further adventures of Beast Master Hosteen Storm and his animal companions. This time they investigate the mysterious "Sealed Caves" of Arzor, which shelter powerful, unseen forces. (Sequel to "The Beast Master".)

KEY OUT OF TIME, World 1963; Science Fiction: Ross Murdock and Gordon Ashe go through an underwater time gate and end up fighting their old enemies, the "Baldies". Even if they save the planet Hawaika, they do not have the key by which they may return to their own time! (The fourth of the "Time Agents" series. This book has had three hardcover printings with a sale of 14,500 copies.)

WITCH WORLD, Ace Books 1963; Fantasy: A "Sword and Sorcery" novel combining witchcraft, super-science, romance, and high adventure. This novel was nominated for the "Hugo". (This is an adult novel and not for children.)

JUDGEMENT ON JANUS, Harcourt 1963; Fantasy: Niall Renfro leaves the Dipple as a laborer bound for the planet Janus. There he contacts the "green sick" and discovers to his horror that he has changed into another being! (The second of the "Dipple" tales and an excellent fantasy.)

ORDEAL IN OTHERWHERE, World 1964; Science Fiction: Charis Nordholm is assigned to trade with the mysterious Wyvern Witches. Then, she meets Shann Lantee and quickly learns of their deadly menace. (Sequel to "Storm Over Warlock" and Miss Norton's first heroine adventure. After a 2nd hardcover printing, this book has sold 12,500 copies.)

WEB OF THE WITCH WORLD, Ace Books 1964; Fantasy: Simon Tregarth and his witch-wife seek to destroy completely the menace from Kolder--but the odds are against them. (The second of the "Witch World" series.)

NIGHT OF MASKS, Harcourt 1964; Science Fiction: Nik Kolherne and little Vandy are imprisoned on a planet of darkness. Their chances for escape seem hopeless but they must try. (The third of the "Dipple" tales. Excellent Characterization and description of events make this an outstanding novel.)

THREE AGAINST THE WITCH WORLD, Ace Books 1965; Fantasy: The three children of Simon Tregarth and the Lady Jaelith are forced to flee from the witches of estcarp, but they do not find safety in the eastern lands. (The third of the "Witch World" series and the best so far.)

THE X FACTOR, Harcourt 1965; Science Fiction: The story of a misfit (a throwback in a breeding experiment) who runs away from a future stellar civilization to find a place for himself and does so in a hallucinatory dead civilization.

QUEST CROSSTIME, Viking Press 1965; Science Fiction: This is the story of Blake Walker's first case as a wardsman--a kidnapping and hiding out of the victim on another successor world. (This is the long awaited sequel to "Crossroads of Time".)

STEEL MAGIC, World 1965: This Fantasy for children is based on the old legend of Huon of Bordeaux, but laid in the modern time.

All the Ace Books editions are paperback. Ace has also reprinted most of her Science Fiction novels.

Miss Norton has had three fine novellettes published by Ace. They are VOODOO PLANET 1959 (the third of the "Solar Queen" series), STAR HUNTER 1961, and EYE OF THE MONSTER 1962. Four stories have been published in magazines. "People of the Crater" (Fantasy Book #1), "The Gifts of Asti" (Fantasy Book #3), and "All Cats Are Gray" (Fantastic Universe, Aug.-Sept. 1953) were all published under the pseudonym of Andrew North. "Mousetrap" appeared in Fantasy and Science Fiction (June 1954). I am sure that these particular magazines will now become prime targets for collectors.

"People of the Crater" was recently reprinted in the Anthology Swordsmen in the Sky, which is reviewed elsewhere in this issue. Miss Norton states that she wrote a sequel to this which she thought much the better story but Fantasy Book folded before it was published. (I hope someone will find this story and print it!)

Miss Norton has also edited a number of books. Those on which her name appears are Bullard of the Space Patrol, a collection of stories by Malcolm Jameson, and three Anthologies, Space Service, Space Pioneers, and Space Police; all published by the World Publishing Co..

During the middle and late fifties she edited a good many books for Gnome Press. The most notable of these was a really fine novel written by Tom Godwin entitled The Survivors. Concerning The Survivors she wrote; "That was the last book I did for Gnome. I noted it as a novelette in a much shorter length in a magazine and urged the editor at Gnome to get Godwin to lengthen it for a book--marked out the sections to be extended etc.. That was an outstanding tale, and I have read it several times."

Unselfishly she aids others and is unstinting in her praise of their works. Andre Norton is truly one of the most outstanding authors living today!

"Sword" spy series

SWORD IS DRAWN
SWORD IN SHEATH
AT SWORDS POINTS

+ +

THE STARS ARE OURS
STAR BORN

* *

THE CROSSROADS OF TIME
QUEST CROSSTIME

* *

RIDE PROUD REBEL!
REBEL SPURS

+ +

SARGASSO OF SPACE
PLAGUE SHIP

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THE BEAST MASTER
LORD OF THUNDER

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"Time Agents" series

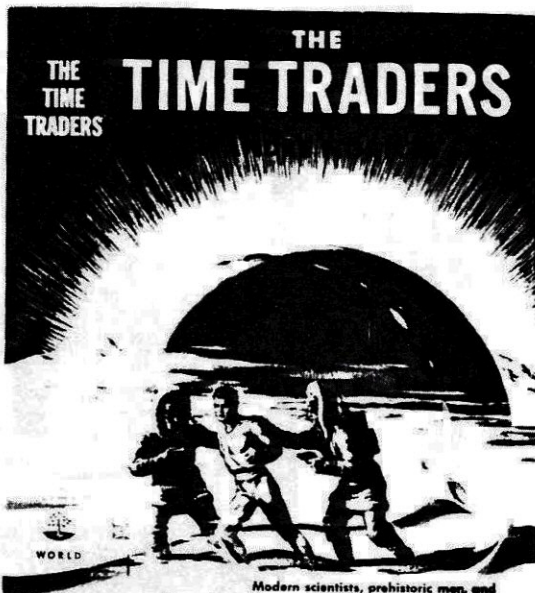
THE TIME TRADERS

GALACTIC DERELICT

THE DEFIANT AGENTS

KEY OUT OF TIME

* * * *



Modern scientists, prehistoric men, and aliens of a galactic world clash in this action-packed adventure based on a daring experiment in time transfer.

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STORM OVER WARLOCK
ORDEAL IN OTHERWHERE

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The "Dipple" tales:

CATSEYE
JUDGEMENT ON JANUS
NIGHT OF MASKS

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* Sincerely-- * * * * *

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* Ande North * * * * *

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ADDENDA

ANDRE NORTON

In your third paragraph on page four you state:

'Most unique are her "Dipple" tales. The Dipple is a city for refugees from a galactic war. Every planet has one. Life is hard in the Dipple and most of its citizens live outside the law. The main characters in the three books which thus far make up this series are completely unrelated, but they all come from the Dipple of some planet.'

There is but one Dipple; that being on Korwar. The characters are, as you say, unrelated but they were all residents of the same little spot of corruption on Korwar. The Dipple is the Dipole -- singular.

Richie Benyo

(We were in error and are happy to print your correction. Ed.)

One book is missing from your list. Miss Norton collaborated on a mystery novel which was published under another name but I don't recall either the title or the name used.

Charles N. Brown

The book Mr. Brown means is MURDERS FOR SALE by "Allen Weston", published by Hammond, Hammond & Co., London, England in 1954. Grace Allen Hogarth and I collaborated on this. It is still in print over there. Modern adult Mystery.

Andre Norton

LORD OF THE RINGS

The US first edition of THE HOBBIT that Richard Witter mentions has four color plates by Tolkien, plus nine b&w illos and two maps. The b&w illos all appear in the later editions, I think. The frontispiece in color which appears in the later editions is not, unfortunately, the best of the four plates. My own choice would have been the fourth plate, showing the dragon Smaug lying on the treasure. Mr. Witter's letter seems to imply that the British first edition did not have the three additional plates of the US first, which rather surprises me. Tolkien's British publisher has always been Allen & Unwin. They recently brought out a deluxe edition of the Ring Trilogy, bound in buckram stamped in gold and boxed. The box has an illo by Pauline Baynes, who illustrated Tolkien's FARMER GILES OF HAM (not part of the Middle Earth mythos).

... The ring inscription (page 59 of the standard hardcover edition) is upside down in the first volume of the Ballantine edition of the trilogy.

Ned Brooks

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