



Andre Norton

One of the finest qualities of Don Wollheim was his interest in new authors. I always found it a pleasure to work with him, even when I was a near-unknown, for he understood very well the labor that writers endure in creating their books and gave even aspiring wordsmiths both credit and approval.

When he was still an editor at Ace, I met him and Elsie at a country picnic. Both of them were most friendly—a behavior that impressed me, to whom editors were VIPs of the highest rank. At that time, I mentioned my idea for the first *Witch World* book, and Don asked to have the manuscript sent to him for a reading. Since no one else up till then had been interested in a book-length adult fantasy, I was surprised by his encouragement. It was directly through Mr. Wollheim's interest that Estcarp and the rest of that alternate world were brought to readers' attention.

When Don was about to leave Ace and informed me of that fact, I asked him to take with him, if he thought it measured up, the collection of *Witch World* stories I had just brought in. I was greatly honored that *Spell of the Witchworld* became the first work published by the newly-incorporated DAW Books—and I still am. Don Wollheim was both a professional associate and a personal friend, and I, and the genre of fantasy, will always owe him a great deal.