

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

André Norton

1)The name Lin Carter has been associated with the fantasy field for a number of years. Not only has he been responsible for editing collections of little known or near forgotten works of an older day, in the volumes *Dragons, Elves, and Heroes* and *Golden Cities Far*, but he has also written such critical studies as *The Young Magicians*. He has created a hero of his own, Thonger of Lemuria, and has collaborated with Sprague de Camp on Conan tales. It is fitting that this master of fantasy be represented at Ithkar Fair; who has a better right to attend?

2) Winner of two Hugo novel awards, the Balrog, and other honors, C. J. Cherryh has the firm foundation of a classical education, something few Americans can claim in this day and age. From her home in Edmond, Oklahoma, streams a steady flow of tales, both fantasy and straight science fiction.

André Norton

In her own words she “tries out things”—like fencing, horsemanship, and firearms. She is well acquainted with wildlife from lizards to hawks, with more conventional fur and feathers in between. From the first appearance of *Gates of Ivrel* in 1976, her stories have added luster to the whole field.

3) From schoolteaching to writing is a path several writers have followed. However, Jo Clayton has in addition had the experience of belonging to a homesteading family of the West. Who, then, is better fitted to record the adventures of a farmer’s daughter at Ithkar Fair and produce so realistic an account of matters natural and magical?

4) Some writers seem able to evoke other times and places with such a sure touch as makes one ready to believe in time travel and personal exploration of the past. Morgan Llywelyn, of mixed Irish and Welsh parentage, may have been city born and bred, but her heritage drew her from those high walls wherein she was a model, a dancer, and followed other modern roles, to become an expert horsewoman and, at length, a writer able to draw different people of different times and cultures with infinite skill. Her primitive fletcher is as alive as the heroine in her recently very well received novel, *The Horse Goddess*.

5) Patricia Mathews started her spell-weaving by writing for fanzines (a method that has been an excellent stepping-stone for many an author). She has been represented by Darkover tales in several anthologies. If her story herein is a bit grim, still, it holds the reader. Her Ithkarian tale carries a germ of what she hopes in the future to make into a novel—and it is as polished as any piece of her jeweler heroine’s labors.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

6) Out of the wide plains of Texas to misty forelands of her own devising, Ardath Mayhar makes a remarkable transition. Her words sing, which is not remarkable in an author who was first a poet. She is able to recreate skillfully other writers' dreams, also, as in her justly acclaimed addition to H. Beam Piper's legends of the Fuzzies—*Golden Dream*. Then there are the worlds of her own in which one can lose oneself from the first sentence onward—*Soul Singer of Tyros*, *How the Gods Wove in Kyrannon*, and all the rest. Now she shows how, in Ithkar, one may point a needle and bring evil to justice.

7) Since it fell to my lot to write these "minute biographies," I find it difficult to write this one. I was won to fantasy in childhood by a cherished love of the Oz stories, and I have never looked back. Animals mean a great deal to me—thus my fairgoer is an animal trainer. Ithkar itself was born of an idea conceived in the reading of books about the great medieval fairs—an idea I have cherished for a number of years. I am pleased and proud that it has inspired such fertile response from others.

8) Judith Sampson's creative bent showed early. In spite of physical handicaps she proved there were no bonds on her imagination. In turn, she credits many of her plots to fantasy role playing. Her fiction mixes fantasy and science fiction, weaving new patterns from old threads. But with it all she has a light touch. Who would want to miss that night at Qazia's fairside tavern when that forceful landlady confronts the ferret-fetch?

9) Dr. Roger C. Schlobin approached Ithkar by a scholar's road. A professor of English, he is also the author of a number of noted analytical studies on the subject of fantasy—

André Norton

its use in both literature and art—as well as book reviewer for *Fantasy Newsletter*. A frequent speaker at conferences and on campuses, his grasp of his subject is well known. “For Lovers Only” is his first venture into fiction and we are honored to welcome him to Ithkar.

10) J. W. Schutz began his writing career in Africa while living in a tin-roofed shack on the borders of the Sahara. At the time he was acting ambassador to the Republic of Niger. He has lived through the hazards of modern diplomatic life, such as anti-American riots and the like, helped fight a fire aboard a ship, and once stole a railroad train for the embassy in Berlin. He says it has been a lively life, but it has not kept him from writing—nor from having a maker of dolls appear at Ithkar.

11) Susan M. Shwartz, having earned a Ph.D. in medieval studies from Harvard, now reviewing and contributing to a number of fantasy anthologies and editing one of her own, is also information coordinator at a Manhattan investment firm. Her interest in the bard as a source of literary lore shows clearly in “Homecoming.”

12) Again a mixture of Welsh and Irish blood has brought the field an outstanding writer in Nancy Springer. No one who has read her novels—*The Silver Sun*, *The White Hart*, *The Sable Moon*, and others, which create the history of her beautiful, if sadly haunted, imaginative world—can gainsay that she is firmly a mistress of the fantasy genre. Her adventure of the undemanding horseleech brings an autumnal glow to Ithkar’s chronicle.

13) A genuine note of humor in fantasy is one of the hardest to obtain, as any writer will declare. But in “Cold Spell” Elisabeth Waters inserts into the Ithkar pattern one of the

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

neatest turnabout bits of magic to be read in many a year. She has been writing for five years and lives in California with a well-known author, two teenagers, and two cats. Perhaps something in this mixed background has tightened her hold on the power and led her to such careful bespelling.