

She Lives Ahead - -

to a landing in outer space but 'earths' to Terra."

Science-fiction writers are sincerely dedicated to their work. One of Miss Norton's favorite stories concerns two of her fellow craftsmen she overheard seriously discussing (and not agreeing) upon the proper way to load an imaginary space ship!

Andre Norton attributes her choice of profession as writer to her high school teacher of creative writing, Miss Sylvia Cochran, also a Cleveland Theta Sig. Miss Norton wrote her first book, *Prince Commands*, an adventure mystery for teen-agers, the year she graduated from high school.

"I was enthralled with mythical kingdom romances at the time," she confesses, her green eyes twinkling. The book was published before her twenty-first birthday!

With the exception of two adult novels, she has been writing juveniles ever since. After leaving Western Reserve University, she worked until seven years ago as librarian at the Cleveland Public Library and at the Library of Congress during the war, writing a novel about every eighteen months. Her present writing schedule calls for three books a year, two hard covers and one original for a paperback edition.

In 1951 *Star Man's Son*, Andre Norton's first science-fiction adventure, was published and enthusiastically received. It was followed the same year by *Hann of the Horn*, which was selected as one of the Distinguished Books of the Year by the American Library Association.

But honors had come to Andre Norton at an earlier date. Back in 1944 *The Sword Is Drawn*, the dramatic story of a Dutch boy during World War II, won a plaque and citation from the Netherlands Government. So graphic were the descriptions of Holland in the book that Dutch officials could not believe Miss Norton had not visited their country to secure her background material. The novel was also a Junior Literary Guild Selection and was dramatized for nine radio programs of "Ohio School of the Air" over WOSU, Columbus. Its sequel, *Sword in Sheath*, received an Ohioana Library Honorable Mention.

Besides her 25 book-length works, two novelettes and short stories, Miss Norton has edited four anthologies. One anthology, *Bullard of the Space Patrol*, published in 1951, won the Boy's Club of America Junior Book Award. She has collaborated with Grace Hogarth on the adult mystery, *Murders for Sale*, a Brit-



Andre Norton, Cleveland chapter's famous science-fiction writer, with the beautiful fall table arrangement for her annual November tea.

"THAT REMARKABLE Space-Age Person"

... and Andre Norton of Cleveland chapter is just what the title implies! The very reverend gentleman, an Anglican clergyman visiting Cleveland (the Reverend Arthur Higginson, St. Mary's, Weldon, England), whose description of Miss Norton is quoted, was enthusiastically reiterating what press, publishers and readers at home and abroad have been saying for some time now.

Slim, five-foot, seven-inch Alice Mary Norton, who writes professionally as Andre (she prefers the English pronunciation) Norton and as Andrew North, is among the five top women in science-fiction in the almost all-male field—and she is the only recognized woman writer in the teen-age science-fiction realm. She is ranked with Robert Heinlein by leading science-fiction critics such as P. Schuyler Miller of *Astounding* and Anthony Boucher of *Fantasy & Science Fiction*.

Miss Norton expressed her views on science-fiction writing in her article "Living in 1980 Plus—" in *Library Journal* (September 15, 1952). She advised librarians:

"Whether you like science-fiction or not—read it before you condemn. Learn

to live ahead—in 1980 plus. It has its charms and you do meet the most interesting people!"

She pointed out that the best science-fiction leads to science in fact. The gadget story and space opera have been replaced by stories of higher literary standards dealing not with BEM's (bug-eyed monsters) but with human beings.

"We dare not laugh at the thought of a moon colony in 1980," she wrote. "Maybe this boy, who asks (a librarian) for Arthur C. Clarke's *Exploration of Space*, or one of Robert Heinlein's novels, will be among the first to walk the red sands of Mars. There is no longer much fiction in our science-fiction—the authors are only ahead of time. . . . The fiction of one generation is the reality of the next."

And hasn't current interplanetary progress borne out Miss Norton's prophetic words of but a few years ago?

Fascinating is the word for the vocabulary peculiar to the field of science-fiction which Andre Norton handles with such assurance and technical know-how. In her novels "stun rods," "blasters" and "off-world space ports" are vivid, exciting and meaningful.

"In the trade it is interesting to note," Miss Norton comments, making her point on the importance of proper terminology in science-fiction writing, "one 'planets'

In 1980 Plus

By ERNESTINE DONALDY

ish publication. Abroad, the Norton books have been translated into German, Italian, Danish, Spanish, Dutch, and Russian.

Andre Norton is now doing research for a Civil War cavalry novel. For her the Civil War holds a personal interest . . . a great-uncle, an Ohio cavalryman, died in Andersonville. Horses and "horse" Indians, or Plains Indians, are two of Miss Norton's favorite subjects. Proof: a Navajo, an Apache and a Sioux have all been heroes in her books, and horses are important to the action of many of her novels.

Miss Norton's family history is as exciting as any of her books. On the maternal side, her ancestor Major MacCulloch, who fought in the famous Maryland Line, was paid for his Revolutionary War service in "bounty land" in Ohio. Here he married a Wyandotte Indian girl and served with Colonel Zane at the fort of Zanesville in southern Ohio. Family tradition has it that he lost his scalp to an Indian intent upon collecting the fifty pounds in gold that "Hair-Buying" Hamilton, British general at Detroit, had placed upon his head.

On the paternal side, the family can be traced back to the Abbeyes of Enfield, Connecticut. Captain Thomas Abbey, who founded the family in the colonies, was an outstanding figure in King Philip's War, an engagement which foreshadowed the French and Indian hostilities. Miss Norton's paternal grandmother was descended from a witness at one of the Salem witchcraft trials.

Andre Norton works intensively for about four hours a day, six days a week. Her best plotting, she says, has been done riding streetcars and buses.

When she is not creating fast-moving adventures dealing with the historical past or the future in outer space, Miss Norton is busy with plans for her new Florida home. Most pertinent at the moment is solving the dilemma of shelf space to house her tremendous personal library.

In her spare moments she loves to cook gourmet dishes for her friends and to go antiquing for Victorian pieces. Her most prized possession is an ornate Victorian tea service. For relaxation she also enjoys doing fine needlework and experimenting with flower arrangements.

Browns, rusts, and dull reds are her favorite colors and are reflected in the cheerful decor of her Cleveland home and the casual clothes she prefers.

"I like low-heeled shoes," she explains with a smile. "I can't be glamorous and comfortable, too!" Her dark brown

hair she wears pulled back in a gently tailored chignon.

A scintillating conversationalist with the delightful sense of humor which is reflected in her books, Andre Norton is as much fun to talk with as her novels are to read.

As the reverend gentleman has said, she is indeed "remarkable." With this his American cousins concur and add a few words these days about Miss Norton's newest books, *Beastmaster* (Harcourt) and *Galactic Derelict* (World).

To quote Jim Turner of the *Cleveland Press*: "Andre Norton, queen of outer space for the younger set, has come up with two more jewels in her already dazzling crown."

This latest duo, plus her other 1959 publications, *Voodoo Planet* (Ace) and *Secret of the Lost Race* (Ace), continue to prove Andre Norton is second to none in interstellar adventure.

It may be a man's world, but Cleveland's Theta Sigma Phi has a firm feminine grasp on the galaxy!



Andre Norton and teen-age fan Costance Welter of East Cleveland, Ohio. Connie, who plans a career as librarian-writer, is desk assistant at Caledonia Branch Library in East Cleveland.