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Andre Norton: *The Grande Dame of Science Fiction and Fantasy!*

Exploring the Works and Life of.

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All About Andre



Andre Norton

Say her name to someone who's read her work, and watch the flash in their eyes. There's something about Andre Norton.

She calls herself an old-fashioned storyteller and, indeed, whether it's fantasy, science fiction, adventure, romance or any other genre of popular literature, she manages to capture the audience's attention in the gracious style of the long-gone bardic masters. This quality, acknowledged by both the readers and critics has given her the title of the *Grande Dame of Science Fiction and Fantasy*.

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Andre Norton 10/21/2002



The "Grande Dame" of Science Fiction and Fantasy

~ An Introduction ~

Andre Norton is one of the best known authors of contemporary science fiction and fantasy. A number of her works in the Ace paperback editions have sold over one-million copies (*Locus*, December 1977, pp. 1, 2), and many of her novels regularly remain in print for long periods of time. *Scarface* (</worlds-of-andre/stand-alone-novels/390-scarface>) has sold over thirty-thousand copies, an amazingly high number for a juvenile novel. Six other novels have been reprinted by various book clubs, and librarians and book dealers are well aware of the popularity of Ms. Norton's books with both young and old. Her works have been published in nine Foreign languages---French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Italian, Hungarian, Russian, Arabic, and Portuguese---and two books, *Star Rangers* (</worlds-of-andre/andre-s-series/central-control/260-star-rangers>) and *The Sword is Drawn* (</worlds-of-andre/andre-s-series/sword/335-sword-is-drawn-the>), have been reproduced as talking books for the blind. The former has also been published in Braille.

To classify Ms. Norton as strictly a science-fiction and fantasy writer or as a juvenile author would be an error. Her genres range far beyond the confines of only a few types of literature. Her canon includes mysteries, westerns, gothic fiction, historical novels, adventure stories, a biography, poetry, and non-fiction (see titles by genre (</miscellaneous/title-listings/titles-by-genre>)), as well as science fiction and fantasy. [Webmaster's note: the "titles by genre" link takes you to the list created for this site which is based off of lists by Roger C. Schlobin and others, combined.]

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Despite her popularity and the range of her fiction, she has never received the critical acclaim that might be expected in the case of so creative and prolific a writer. Both Barry McGhan ("Andre Norton: Why Has She Been Neglected?", *Riverside Quarterly*, 4 [January 1970] pp. 128-131) and Donald A. Wollheim ("Introduction (</articles-about-andre/internet-articles/37-introduction-the-many-worlds-of-andre-norton>)" *The Many Worlds of Andre Norton*. Ed. Roger Elwood, Radnor, PA: Chilton, 1974) have examined this unexpected phenomenon. McGhan speculates that the reasons for this neglect are the general critical disinterest in fantasy, and the classification of Ms. Norton's works as escapist and juvenile literature. While also noting that her books have been restrictively labeled as "young adult," Wollheim points to more concrete concerns: Ms. Norton's works have rarely appeared in the popular science-fiction magazines, and her poor health has prevented her from promoting herself, as many authors do, at the numerous science-fiction conventions that are regularly held throughout the country each year. In addition to the reasons advanced by these two critics, another may be suggested: she is a superb storyteller, and her command of the narrative form is at times so effective that even the most critical reader becomes too enthralled to reflect and analyze.

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Andre Norton's only "Estate Authorized" website



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Andre Norton.

Here you will find information on over 300 titles by Andre. Hundreds of articles, thousands of images, and five hours of video, about Andre Norton and her works. Please, take the time to look at everything. You may very well discover a bit of Andre you were previously unaware of. Check back often as we are adding new content every day.

We have come a very long way since we started online way back in 2004. Since that time we have earned the right to call our site the only “**Estate Authorized**” Andre Norton website. Because of the extensive quantity of information we have amassed over the years and our dedication to the preservation of Andre’s legacy the Estate granted us this right in 2013, but this is our only true attachment to the Estate. Spend some time on this site and learn all about Andre's wonderful work. There are books to read and share with friends, interesting tidbits of trivia and interesting images spread throughout the site. You may just find something you have never seen before or titles that you have never heard of. What a great find – a previously unread Andre Norton novel!

Keep in mind that many of Andre Norton's "early" novels were written for what is considered the adolescent male market from another time (1950's and 60's). Andre Norton soon became the gateway to *Science Fiction and Fantasy* for many and remains an excellent author for introducing all readers to her works. ~ She can't help but inspire their imaginations.

*(Please note that our site has no paid ads and our purchase links in the **Book Store (/at-amazon)** are for our visitor's convenience only.)*

Thank You for your continued support ~ Jay Watts (aka Lots-A-Watts)



Andre Norton's Biography

by Maciej Zaleski - Ejgierd



Andre Norton in her Office : Winter Park, Florida in the 1990's

Alice Mary Norton was born on February 17, 1912 in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. She was the second daughter of Adalbert Freely Norton, owner of a rug company, and Bertha Stemm. Being a late child, born seventeen years after her sister, she never developed close relationships with her siblings or contemporaries and was influenced primarily by her parents, especially her mother, who later on did all her proofreading and served as a critic-in-residence.

Much attention was paid in Ms. Norton's family to books, the visible sign of which was the weekly visit to a public library. Even before she could read herself, her mother would read to her and recite poetry as she went about various household chores. Even the good grades at school were rewarded by books, namely by copies of Ruth Plumly Thompson's Oz novels. It was this fondness of her parents that marked her whole life. She started writing at the Collinwood High School in Cleveland, under the tutelage and guidance of Miss Sylvia Cochrane. She became an editor of a literary page in the school's paper, called *The Collinwood Spotlight*. As such, she had to write many short stories. It was at the school hall, where she wrote her first book - "Ralestone Luck", which was finally published as the second in 1938 (the first one was "The Prince Commands" in 1934). Also in 1934, she legally changed her name to Andre Norton (Andre Alice Norton, to be exact). She was expected to be writing for young boys, and the male name was expected to increase her marketability.

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Days Gone By

J. Geoffrey Jones

Artist, Poet, Historian, Researcher into lost and forgotten lore.

Andre Norton and Sue Stewart

Some meetings are designed to happen. The old ideas of fate and destiny get a royal shot in the arm at intervals. We need to keep our eyes open and watch closely when we see it, it is one of life's major treasures.

When Andre Norton met Sue Stewart, Andre was recognized as one of the best known, most published female writers in the world, and in fact, in all history! She is one of only three Grand Masters in the field and was the first female writer to receive this honor. Andre won several awards during her seventy year writing career which began in 1934. Andre is best known for her story "The Beast Master" which became a popular syndicated television series.

Sue Stewart is a dedicated caregiver who chose to work with hospice patients rather than work in hospitals or nursing homes. When she met Andre Norton, Sue treated her as she would have any of her patients i.e. fairly and kindly (But with firmness). This established an early bond between them. It impressed Andre that, Sue did not bow nor scrape to the Grand Master. And this is what Andre appreciated and wanted.

Sue and her husband Ollie eventually became Andre's main caregivers moving her into their Murfreesboro home which



Andre Norton

Shortly before she moved into Sue's home, Andre had made Sue her Power of Attorney. Both women worked side by side to oversee Andre's literary business. Sue took up the work like Andre's right hand. This week, Sue showed me the advance uncorrected proof of Andre's last work titled "A Taste of Magic". Andre had begun writing the novel but was unable to finish it. Jean Rabe, one of Andre's friends and co-writers happily agreed to finish telling Andre's wonderful story. Sue wrote the introduction. I read that with pleasure. It told of the concepts behind the work and of their own work together on jewelry and on

culty writing, Sue encouraged Andre to take up a beading craft. She began making jewelry and left a marvelous group of creations showing her keen and varied imagination.

Sue has placed quanned people to look after Andre's work ,overseeing the proper publication of her editions with great care. She is keeping the spirit of that great lady alive, here, where Andre Norton chose to be.



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