

L.W. GURREY RARE BOOKS INC.
 Church Street, Elizabethtown, New York 12932
 (518) 873-6477

- Complete Inventory of new U.S. Titles.
- Extensive Selection of new British Titles.
- All new Reference and Critical Works.
- Standing Order Plans tailored to your Requirements.
- Out of Print Search Service.
- Largest Stock of Rare and Out of Print Titles in the U.S.
- Catalogues issued.
- Appraisals of Books, Periodicals and Literary Archives.

**Specialists in
 Science Fiction**

noticed of articles about the SF field. Another area of writing Norton has scrupulously avoided is the short story. "I don't write many of them, and I don't do it easily. The very short story is difficult for me because I think in longer terms, and plan in longer lengths. There are only a few writers I know that ever started with books instead of short stories, but they all have the same difficulty—short stories are very hard." In the meantime, more projects are in the works, including, hopefully, a tale set in the Florida Keys. But for those readers interested in sampling Norton's special style of magic, they needn't be content with only new or recent titles. One of the benefits of writing tales with strong historical backgrounds is that they are truly timeless.

One such story, *Scarface*, was originally published in 1948. "It's a pirate story," Norton explains, "and it's the result of a great deal of research on the pirates that operated out of Tortuga in the very early 18th century. It's partly based on the accounts of a Dutch doctor who was captured by the pirates, and kept because he was the only man with vivid imagination and the people that are so skillfully woven into her fantasy tales—wizards and witches and brave warriors, colorful and exciting people who never-the-less have emotions enough like ours that we may identify with them and cheer them on in their adventures. No small magic, that.

Outside, the rain is still pelting down into the enclosed patio of Norton's home—a house designed by the architect husband of her niece, Norton moved to Florida in the fall of 1966 primarily because of her niece, but she also admits that she couldn't take the cold winters of Ohio any more.

The cats, which have been distressed by the steady rain, are now pacing about nervously. And for good reason, as it turns out, since the local veterinarian soon arrives to give them their annual shots.

Those very same cats are, one suspects, directly responsible for a number of recent Norton books. *Catsaye*, for one; *The Jargon Pard* for another, in which a young man in the ancient land of Arvon discovers he has the ability to change into feline form; and *Iron Cage* as well, which opens with the earthly mistreatment of a cat and then proceeds to depict a world in which humans are treated no better by their superior animal masters.

The vet leaves and the talk returns to less mundane matters. One of Norton's new books is *Red Hart Magic*, another of the "Magic" series of stories that have delighted readers (*Steel Magic*, *Octagon Magic*, and *Dragon Magic*, to name a few). This new tale centers around a miniature inn, while past

books used such items as a doll house and an herb garden as the starting points for their fantasy adventures.

Another new one is *Wriths of Time*, and Norton has finished a new book for Walker entitled *Star Kat World*. Those fans of Norton's *Witch World* series, and they are legion, should look for a collection of *Witch World* short stories, *Trey of Swords*, due soon from Ace. Those same fans will also be pleased to know that Gregg Press has issued the original *Witch World* books in a special hard-bound set complete with maps.

When questioned about her prodigious output, Norton commented, "When I was working full-time, I could only bring out a book once every two years, because I had to write in little snippets of time, rather than steadily as I do now. Since then I've been doing four a year, up until this year." She is also quick to correct the impression that all four novels are full-blown projects. "They vary, though. You see, some of them are for younger children, and they're short. I usually do about two full length novels a year, and the others are shorter. I've been doing some for the Walker line, for very young readers—eight to ten years old. And then the *Magic* Series for the ten to twelve readers. Those are short, too."

Fiction is her primary interest. In fact, her only non-fiction work has concerned her face. "That's still selling, by the way . . . very well."

noticeable that they used it for a camp and a landmark. Well there was a rain, which doesn't usually occur in that area and an earth slippage showed that the pinnacle was on top of a roof of blocks. And the man who owned the property did everything to try to get an archeologist to come there and investigate it. He petitioned the universities in Australia and he wrote to archeologists—nobody would pay any attention to it. Now, Australia is supposed to have no ancient remains, yet the aborigines themselves have some peculiar drawings on the rock, and some legends of a white race that preceded them, that *did* build."