



Phyllis Eisenstein, Frederik Pohl, Erle Korschak (1997)

PHYLLIS EISENSTEIN
by James Frenkel

Phyllis Eisenstein was not like most SF/fantasy authors. In a way she was a throwback, insofar as she was a fan before she was a professional writer, and remained a fan in spirit. Also, she wrote a wide variety of sf and fantasy, much of

her output short fiction. When her novel *Sorcerer's Son* was published by Del Rey, it sold extremely well, which surprised a lot of people, including Del Rey. But it was simply terrific, fresh, powerful. As was its sequel, published elsewhere. But the final book in the trilogy, was one of the victims of the collapse of Meisha Merlin, and has never been published. Which is a serious shame.

Phyllis's short fiction was a real mix of SF and fantasy. Phyllis's puckish sense of humor could be found within much of her fiction, and in the rest of her life as well. One of her stories, "Lost and Found", remains a story I treasure. Not because it's deep, but because it is the best explanation I have ever seen for the phenomenon of the lost sock or the missing object. Her stories of Alaric have been a source of great pleasure for fantasy readers in books and in *F&SF* since the 1970s, and the most recent tale was as rich and resonant as the earliest. Rare consistency and inspiration that endures for decades.

Phyllis also was a teacher, a very good mentor to young writers, and sometimes to established writers. Phyllis gave George R.R. Martin a key that made a big difference in *A Song of Ice and Fire*, and I expect there are other

writers she's helped to achieve their best work.

She had health problems over the past decade or so, but she had written the first novel of a big epic fantasy trilogy and was well into the second book when she was stricken by her final illness. We've lost someone who deserved a lot better than she's gotten.

Those of us who knew her miss her already, and mourn the loss of her friendship, as well as her talent.

—James Frenkel ■



Phyllis & Alex Eisenstein (1970s)

OTHER OBITUARIES

Artist **RICHARD CORBEN**, 80, died December 2, 2020 after heart surgery.

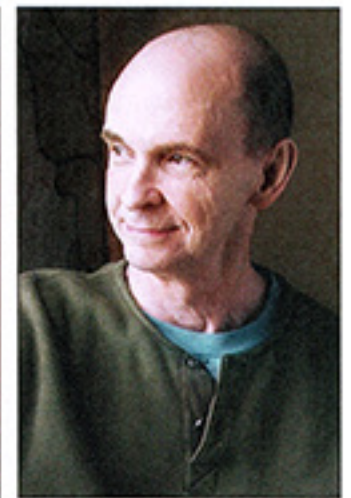
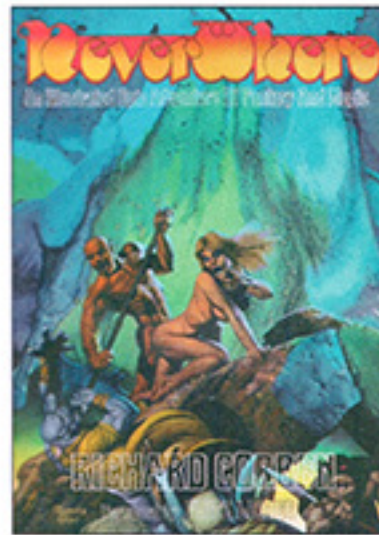
Though best known for his comics work and album art (most famously for Meat Loaf's *Bat Out of Hell*, 1977), Corben also created numerous SF book covers, including for titles by Edgar Rice Burroughs, L. Sprague de Camp, Philip K. Dick, Harlan Ellison, Harry Harrison, Damon Knight, and more. He produced interior art for magazines, and for fanzines devoted to Burroughs, Robert E. Howard, and H.P. Lovecraft. His books include *Richard Corben's Funny Book* (1976), *New Tales of the Arabian Nights* (1979, with Jan Stmad), *Richard Corben: Flight into Fantasy* (1981, with Ferhid Barucha), and *Richard Corben's Art Book* (1991). In 2009 he was named a Spectrum Grand Master, and in 2012 was inducted into the Will Eisner Hall of Fame.

Corben was born October 1, 1940 in Anderson MO and grew up in Sunflower KS. He attended the Kansas City Art Institute, graduating with an art degree in 1965. He got his start as an animator, and soon developed an interest in underground comics, working on numerous titles. He began working professionally with SF and horror illustrations for Warren Publishing in 1970. He went on to publish extensively in *Heavy Metal*, including a series of fantasy comics later collected as *NeverWhere* (1978). He was prolific throughout his career, producing artwork for major comics publishers including Marvel, DC, and Dark Horse, as well as book and album covers.

He is survived by his wife Madonna (née Marchant), married 1965.



Dean Ing (1981)



Richard Corben (2000s)

DEATH NOTED

SF writer **DEAN ING**, 89, died July 21, 2020 at home in Ashland OR. He was best known for his technothrillers and near-future survivalist novels.

Ing was born June 17, 1931 in Austin TX. He served in the US Air Force from 1951-55, graduated from Fresno State University in 1956, earned a master's at San Jose State University in 1970, and got his doctorate at the University of Oregon in 1974. Ing worked for many years as an engineer, and also taught college.

Ing's first work of genre interest was "Tight Squeeze" in *As-tounding* (1955), and he began to publish regularly starting in the late 1970s. "Devil You Don't Know" (1978) was a Hugo and Nebula Award finalist. Some of his short fiction is collected in *High Tension* (1982), *Firefight 2000* (1987; as *Firefight Y2K*,

2000), and *Pulling Through* (1983; as *The Rackham Files* 2004). *Anasazi* (1980) collects linked short pieces.

Debut novel *Soft Targets* (1979) is near-future SF. His Ted Quantrell series, set in a USA devastated by nuclear war, is *Systemic Shock* (1981), *Single Combat* (1983), and *Wild Country* (1985). Other works of SF interest include *Blood of Eagles* (1986), *The Big Lifters* (1988), *Silent Thunder* (1991), and *Butcher Bird* (1993).

He wrote numerous genre titles under the name of late author Mack Reynolds (based on Reynolds's outlines), including *Home Sweet Home: 2010 A.D.* (1984), *Eternity* (1984), *The Other Time* (1984), *Trojan Orbit* (1985) and *Deathwish World* (1986). Ing also contributed to Larry Niven's Man-Kzin Wars series, and wrote popular thrillers, including *The Ransom of Black Stealth One* (1989) and *The Nemesis Mission* (1991). He coauthored non-fiction titles *Mutual Assured Survival* (1984, with Jerry Pournelle) and *The Future of Flight* (1985, with Leik Myrabo).

Ing is survived by his wife. ■