

## INTRODUCTION

*Witch World* was never planned—it grew more or less by itself. I once intended a small portion of the first volume to be part of an historical novel about the knights who settled in Outremer during the Crusades and built up small kingdoms and holdings for themselves. The jump into *Witch World* came almost by chance. However, it seems to be a very demanding place nowadays and I find myself visited with more and more ideas for a new venture into Escore or some derring-do in the hills of High Hallack. Though the stories are not written chronologically, they have, during the years, developed a skeleton framework for two sections of that world—Estcarp and Escore in the East, and High Hallack and Arvon in the West.

I have had so many requests for more stories and suggestions from other writers as to good plot material that this anthology, *Tales from the Witch World*, was born. It has been an exciting experience for me to see how other writers use my backgrounds and react to the various customs and histories which have grown over the years. It has been an illuminating experience for me to watch my world stretching out and growing deeper, under the pens

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(or word processors) of others, one which makes me both  
humble and proud.

—Andre Norton