

It is no secret that the enormously prolific and popular author of fifty or sixty teen-age science fiction adventure novels who writes under the pseudonym of Andre Norton is really a former children's librarian from Cleveland, Ohio, whose real name is Alice Mary Norton.

Miss Norton has now retired and moved to Maitland, Florida, where she is busily at work on her next fifty or sixty enormously popular teen-age science fiction adventure novels.

In person she is a gray-haired, sweetly smiling, fiftyish woman of tremendous energy and enthusiasm. Her first novel, an adventure story entitled *The Prince Commands*, was published by Appleton, Century, Crofts in 1934. She has written lots of other stuff beside science fiction, including juvenile fantasy novels, historicals, westerns, pirate yarns, Civil War stories and at least one murder mystery. While by far the bulk of her work has been in the area of fast-paced, colorful space adventure stories for young readers, she merits a place in SAGA for an unusual sequence of (thus far) eight books which began with *Witch World* (1963) and continued with *Web of the Witch World* (1964), *Three Against the Witch World* (1965), *Year of the Unicorn* (also 1965), *Warlock of the Witch World* (1967), *Sorceress of the Witch World* (1968), and, most recently, *Spell of the Witch World* and *The Crystal Gryphon*.

While I have nothing against her science fiction juveniles, I must admit that to my personal taste these 'Witch World' books seem far and away her best. They are mature works of sensitive craftsmanship, written with slower pace and richer background detail and more adult character development than I have found in her other novels. Unfortunately the series seems to have ended: at least we have had no new 'Witch World' story from her hand for some time now.

The acceptance by Dell Books of this two-volume SAGA anthology prompted me to write Miss Norton (our only Swords-

woman & Sorceress, by the way), asking for a new story – preferably a Witch World tale. She replied with alacrity that she would be delighted to return to Witch World for at least one more story, and the result follows next.