

Early Stories / Contexts

This is the first story I ever got paid for; the second story I ever got published; and maybe the thirtieth or fortieth story I wrote...."April in Paris" was the first "genre" piece—recognizably fantasy or science fiction—that I had written since 1942, when I wrote an Origin-of-Life-on-Earth story for *Astounding*....By age thirty-two I was very pleased to get a check. "Professionalism" is no virtue; a professional is simply one who gets paid for doing what an amateur does for love. But in a money economy, the fact of being paid means your work is going to be circulated, is going to be read; it's the means to communication, which is the artist's goal. Cele Goldsmith Lalli, who bought this story in 1962, was as enterprising and perceptive an editor as the science fiction magazines have ever had, and I am grateful to her for opening the door for me.

Introduction to "April in Paris," in *The Wind's Twelve Quarters* (New York: Harper & Row, 1974), 25.

"The Masters" was my first published genuine authentic real virgin-wool science fiction story, by which I mean a story in which or to which the existence and the accomplishments of science are, in some way, essential. At least that is what I mean by science fiction on Mondays. On Tuesdays sometimes I mean something else.

Introduction to "The Masters," in *ibid.*, 40.

1920	Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution ratified
1926	<i>Amazing Stories</i> begins publication (first SF pulp)
1929	b. Berkeley, CA, to anthropologist Alfred Kroeber and writer Theodora Kroeber
1940 ca.	reads SF pulp magazines; story rejected by <i>Astounding Science-Fiction</i> magazine
1939	first World Science Fiction Convention, New York
1950	has an abortion (illegal until 1973; so is birth control) <i>Galaxy</i> magazine begins publication, claiming "Science fiction...has finally come of age"
1951	A.B., Radcliffe, in Romance languages
1952	M.A., Columbia, in Romance languages; begins Ph.D. (abandoned 1954) Ace Books founded (first paperback SF/fantasy imprint) by A.A. Wyn and Donald Wollheim
1953	Fulbright fellow in Paris; meets and m. Charles Le Guin
1954	J.R.R. Tolkien, <i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i> (London: Allen & Unwin; New York: Houghton Mifflin)
1955	submits Orsinian novel to Alfred Knopf, a family friend: rejected
1957	daughter Elizabeth b.
1958	moves to Portland, OR (Charles: history professor, Portland State)
1959	"Folksong from the Montayna Province," <i>Prairie Poet</i> daughter Caroline b.
1960	The Pill (first legally approved contraceptive medication in US)
1961	"An die Musik," <i>Western Humanities Review</i> (Orsinian story) Robert Heinlein, <i>Stranger in a Strange Land</i> (New York: Putnam's): first mainstream American SF bestseller Theodora Kroeber, <i>Ishi in Two Worlds</i> (Berkeley: University of California Press): excellent sales
1962	"April in Paris," <i>Fantastic</i> (ed. Cele Goldsmith)
1963	"The Masters," <i>Fantastic</i>
1964	son Theo b. drafts <i>Rocannon's World</i>
