

## **ContactZone**

Peer-reviewed International E-Journal  
Call for Papers

### **James Tiptree Jr. and Alice Sheldon**

edited by Oriana Palusci and Umberto Rossi

The 1970s were indeed an innovative decade in the development of American science fiction, also thanks to the massive foray of women writers employing the genre in its fluidity, its openness towards the Alien Other, by achieving a new depth of utopian and dystopian visions. Among them, one of the most interesting authors is Alice Bradley Sheldon aka James Tiptree Jr. aka Raccona Sheldon. After her death in 1987, her novels, short stories, and poetry have been put aside for some time by critics. It is time that her role as a science fiction writer, especially of short stories, should be reconsidered in the light of recent methodological perspectives. This special issue wants to first of all to explore Sheldon's relationship with contemporary writers such as Ursula Le Guin, Joanna Russ and P.K. Dick, with whom she/he corresponded. Obviously, her playing with pen names, that is, with a male pseudonym, in the field of science fiction which was perceived as the privileged domain of male writers, made her literary persona much more intriguing in the 1970s. Recent work has been done at At Eugene, University of Oregon, where James Tiptree Jr. Symposium was held in December 2015. After that event a digital exhibition on the writer's life and work was inaugurated in the Special Collections and University Archives of the University of Oregon.

Winner of Nebula Awards and Hugo Awards, Sheldon has stimulated debates by both writers and critics: her 'irreverent' and often unconventional voice questioned, reshaped, and turned upside down some of the fundamental concerns of the SF genre. Sheldon/Tiptree investigates the traditional white male identity from an alienated point of view, while manipulating previous formulaic devices and introducing ironical twists.

Possible areas of inquiry may include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Gender and genre.
- Gendering bodies.
- Sexual mimicry.
- Reproduction, abortion, mothering
- Sex, rape, death, annihilation.
- The boundaries of humanity.
- Apocalyptic visions.
- The annihilation of Earth and human survival.
- The influence of experimental psychology in her works.
- The influence of visual arts on her writing.
- Ethological perspectives.
- Eschatological ecology.
- Humans/aliens and the postcolonial viewpoint.
- Mating with alien forms.
- Tiptree/Sheldon and feminist SF: influences and legacy.
- Narrative techniques, points of view, style.
- Adaptations of her works: radio, theatre, comic books, TV films.

**Abstract submission:**

Please send a 300-word abstract and a 100-word bio-note to the following email:  
umbertorossi\_000@fastwebnet.it and [aisff.starfiction@gmail.com](mailto:aisff.starfiction@gmail.com)

Language: English or Italian

**Important dates:**

Deadline for abstract submissions: 9 January 2023

Notification of acceptance: 19 January 2023

Submission of paper: 20 March 2023

*ContactZone* is a double-blind peer-reviewed journal.