

## Letter: L. Sprague de Camp to Isaac Asimov re Hubbard, 1946

From: "Android Cat" <androidcat98@hotmail.com>  
Newsgroups: alt.religion.scientology  
Subject: What L. Sprague de Camp wrote to Isaac Asimov in 1946 about Hubbard  
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I've just picked up a copy of Strange Angel, The Otherworldly Life of Rocket Scientist John Whiteside Parsons, by George Pendle. Hahahaha!

p.271, Chapter 11, Rock Bottom:

Parsons' pursuit of Hubbard had been closely followed by Hubbard's fellow science fiction writers. For L. Sprague de Camp, a Caltech graduate in aeronautical engineering and now one of the most popular science fiction and fantasy writers of the day, the events confirmed his already low opinion of Hubbard. In a letter to Isaac Asimov, he wrote:

The more complete story of Hubbard is that he is now in Fla. living on his yacht with a man-eating tigress named Betty-alias-Sarah, another of the same kind ... He will probably soon thereafter arrive in these parts with Betty-Sarah, broke, working the poor-wounded-veteran racket for all its worth, and looking for another easy mark. Don't say you haven't been warned. Bob [Robert Heinlein] thinks Ron went to pieces morally as a result of the war. I think that's fertilizer, that he always was that way, but when he wanted to conciliate or get something from somebody he could put on a good charm act. What the war did was to wear him down to where he no longer bothers with the act.

(L. Sprague de Camp, letter to Isaac Asimov, 27 August 1946.)

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L. Sprague de Camp later wrote the critical "El-Ron and the City of Brass" about Hubbard, Dianetics and Scientology, August 1975.  
<http://www.xenu.net/archive/oca/elron.html>

According to rumour (which I hope to pin down), L. Sprague de Camp was afterwards shuddered into silence on the topic by the usual methods. Hubbard wouldn't want anyone who knew him back then telling it the way it was, rather than Hubbard's pack of lies that the Guardians Office was publishing.

There's plenty more in the book, but that one dead-accurate prediction made my day!

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Ron of that ilk. Thread