

= Clare Winger Harris =

Clare Winger Harris (January 18 , 1891 ? October 1968) was an early science fiction writer whose short stories were published during the 1920s . She is credited as the first woman to publish stories under her own name in science fiction magazines . Her stories often dealt with characters on the " borders of humanity " such as cyborgs .

Harris began publishing in 1926 , and soon became well liked by readers . She sold a total of eleven stories , which were collected in 1947 as *Away From the Here and Now* . Her gender was a surprise to Gernsback , the editor who first bought her work , as she was the first woman to publish science fiction stories under her own name . Her stories , which often feature strong female characters , have been occasionally reprinted and have received some positive critical response , including a recognition of her pioneering role as a woman writer in a male @-@ dominated field .

= = Life = =

Clare Winger was born on January 18 , 1891 , in Freeport , Illinois and later attended Smith College in Massachusetts . In 1912 she married Frank Clyde Harris . Her husband was an architect and engineer who served in World War I and was chief engineer with the Loudon Machinery Company in Iowa and one of the organizers of the American Monorail Company of Cleveland , Ohio .

Harris gave birth to three sons (Clyde Winger , born 1915 ; Donald Stover , born 1916 ; and Lynn Thackrey , born 1918) . She died in Pasadena , California in 1968 .

Harris wrote her most acclaimed works during the 1920s . In 1930 , she stopped writing to raise and educate her children .

= = Writing career = =

Harris published her first short story , " The Runaway World , " in the July 1926 issue of *Weird Tales* . In December of that year , she submitted a story for a contest being run by *Amazing Stories* editor Hugo Gernsback . Harris 's story , " The Fate of the Poseidonia " (a space opera about Martians who steal earth 's water , placed third . Harris soon became one of Gernback 's most popular writers .

Harris eventually published eleven short stories in pulp magazines , most of them in *Amazing Stories* (although she also published in other places such as *Science Wonder Quarterly*) .

In 1947 Harris 's short stories were collected under the title *Away from the Here and Now* . Her stories have also been reprinted in anthologies such as *Daughters of Earth : Feminist Science Fiction in the 20th Century* (with a critical essay) , *Sci @-@ Fi Womanthology* , *Amazing Science Fiction Anthology : The Wonder Years 1926 @-@ 1935* , and *Gosh Wow ! Sense of Wonder Science Fiction* . She wrote one novel , *Persephone of Eleusis : A Romance of Ancient Greece* (1923) .

Harris also wrote one of the first attempts to classify science fiction when , in the August 1931 issue of *Wonder Stories* , she listed 16 basic science fiction themes , including , " Interplanetary space travel , " " Adventures on other worlds , " and " The creation of synthetic life . "

= = Critical view and influence = =

When Gernback published Harris 's first short story in *Amazing Stories* , he praised her writing while also expressing amazement that a woman could write good scientifiction (as science fiction was then called) , saying " That the third prize winner should prove to be a woman was one of the surprises of the contest , for , as a rule , women do not make good scientification writers , because their education and general tendencies on scientific matters are usually limited . But the exception , as usual , proves the rule , the exception in this case being extraordinarily impressive . "

For many years Harris claimed to have been the first woman science @-@ fiction writer in the United States . While this can be debated (since Gertrude Barrows Bennett , writing under the

pseudonym Francis Stevens , published science fiction stories as early as 1917) , Harris is recognized as the first woman to publish stories in science fiction magazines under her own name .

Even though Harris published only a handful of stories , almost all of them have been reprinted over the years . Of these , " The Miracle of the Lily " has been reprinted the most and praised by many critics , with Richard Lupoff saying the story would have " won the Hugo Award for best short story , if the award had existed then . " Lupoff also wrote that " [w] hile today 's reader may find her prose creaky and old @-@ fashioned , the stories positively teem with still @-@ fresh and provocative ideas .

" The Fate of the Poseidonia " has also been reprinted a number of times and is credited as an early example of a science fiction story with a heroic female lead character . Other of Harris 's stories are also noted for featuring strong female characters , such as Sylvia , the airplane pilot and mechanic in " The Ape Cycle " (1930) . Harris also wrote one story utilizing a female point of view (in 1928 's " The Fifth Dimension ") .

Because Harris was the first woman published in science fiction magazines , and because of her embrace of female characters and themes , she has been recognized in recent years as a pioneer of women 's and feminist science fiction .

= = = Novels = = =

Persephone of Eleusis : A Romance of Ancient Greece (1923)

= = = Collections = = =

Away from the Here and Now : Stories in Pseudo @-@ Science (Philadelphia : Dorrance , 1947)

= = = Short stories = = =

(All stories included in Away from the Here and Now) .

" A Runaway World " (Weird Tales , July 1926)

" The Fate of the Poseidonia " (Amazing Stories , June 1927)

" A Certain Soldier " (Weird Tales , November 1927)

" The Fifth Dimension " (Amazing Stories , December 1928)

" The Menace From Mars " (Amazing Stories , October 1928)

" The Miracle of the Lily " (Amazing Stories , April 1928)

" The Artificial Man " (Science Wonder Quarterly , Fall 1929)

" A Baby on Neptune " with Miles J. Breuer , M.D. (Amazing Stories , December 1929)

" The Diabolical Drug " (Amazing Stories , May 1929)

" The Evolutionary Monstrosity " (Amazing Stories Quarterly , Winter 1929)

" The Ape Cycle " (Science Wonder Quarterly , Spring 1930)

= = = Essays = = =

Letter (Air Wonder Stories , September 1929)

Letter (Wonder Stories , August 1931)