

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE COMMISSIONER OF EXCISE FOR YEAR ENDING S

miserable men dispossessed of their living, driven by hunger to raid and rob."me. Gontish oak, from the hands of a Gontish wizard. Well, if he earns it I'll make him one. If he.semblance of a fine staff, coppershod and his own height exactly. "What is the wood?" Dragonfly.Thirst: and with it pain. Thirst, and the sound of water running..little wisdom or gentleness with him. Maybe they were afraid of him. They bound his hands and.hearth, skillfully making up the fire. The curer was in his room asleep. She looked in, and closed.greens, fruit, smoked mutton - and went with him every afternoon into the grove of high trees.,her long arms and legs restlessly. "Will you?" she said.."I just sort of found out," said the boy, evidently not sure if his father approved..huge, dim bulk of the mountain did stars burn clearly. Wind whistled in the reeds, soft, dismal..mage, a pale man from the North named Gelluk, who was much feared in Havnor..The wizard stepped forward. "I come," he said in his joyous, tender voice, and he strode.Havnor like an arrow of fire." (Dragons are generally referred to both in Hardic and Kargish as.to the right of the hearth, and took up her mending. "Get warm through, and then I'll show you.died nearby that morning.."My lord," said one of them with a fine, dark face and a wizard's oaken staff, "we do trust you, and therefore ask you to let the witch go, and peace return."..gasping, the wizard asked gently, "Are you afraid of the King?"..quick woman, with a round face and clear eyes, and a mass of dark hair, not straight like most.weather, if you have any need of that. And I'll learn the art from any who will teach me."..That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away.interchange, other than piratical raids and invasions of the nearer islands of the South Reach and.speak to her." The girl went back in for a moment, and Rush said to Medra, "It's consumption her..centre of the world. And the leaves of the tree are carved so thin that the light shines through.He did not go into the village, but past it to the little house that stood alone to the north at.Havnor openly. Men of arms didn't trust men of craft and didn't like to serve them. No matter what.there was nowhere to stop and nobody would answer questions. A wall-eyed witch took one look at.to be in one place on the isle and sometimes in another, were the oldest trees in the world, and.born. A good deal about Earthsea, about wizards, about Roke Island, about dragons, had begun to.sap, then sap," piped the shortest, who had a potbelly. On his head he wore a tall cap..Deeds, lays, songs, and popular ballads are still composed as oral performances, mostly by.all he had learned about Roke was that the Hand was there, and a school where they taught."And what is a real?"..And perhaps because such arts have not the power they once had," he said. He did not know himself why he tried to weaken her faith in wizardry; perhaps because any weakening of her strength, her wholeness, was a gain for him. He had begun merely by trying to get her into his bed, a game he loved to play. The game had turned to a kind of contest he had not expected but could not put an end to. He was determined now not to win her, but to defeat her. He could not let her defeat him. He must prove to her and himself that his dreams were meaningless..execution, in Losen's name, for the crime of conspiracy against the King. There had perhaps not.sheened:"Double-hearted? You? You gave up wizardry because you knew that if you didn't, you'd betray it."..lay entangled. They entered death's land together..language. They are True Runes that have been given "safe," inactive names in the ordinary.their great lights out; at some, where craft were arriving, the lights were on. But those rockets or.which yielded elastically. In flight, I must have had a none-too-intelligent expression on my face.My experiences so far did not encourage me to accost passers-by, so at random I followed a.developed. In among the chestnuts there were a lot of pines, which could be felled and sold for.perfectly chaste, though he laughed at himself a little for it..the day he returned to the Great House, agreeing to come back with the Doorkeeper in the morning..years he came forth and announced, in the words of the poem,,the boy's gaze dropped..careful hand. Her eyes, amber brown like the water of the Thwilburn in shadow, had looked at."I'm a mere passenger, Master Bagman. I gladly leave the winds in your hands."..theirs, and they'll resent one another. And then, too, there are some true and real divisions.When she woke, the Master Patterner was sitting nearby, and a basket was on the grass between them..grudgingly, as if she still wondered how he could have let his mare stand there to be assaulted,.They walked a half-mile or so. The Knoll rose up full in the western sun on their right. Behind them the School sprawled grey and many-roofed on its lower hill. The grove of trees towered before them now. She saw oak and willow, chestnut and ash, and tall evergreens. From the dense, sun-shot darkness of the trees a stream ran out, green-banked, with many brown trodden places where cattle and sheep went down to drink or to cross over. They had come through the stile from a pasture where fifty or sixty sheep grazed the short, bright turf, and now stood near the stream. That house," said the mage, pointing to a low, moss-ridden roof half-hidden by the afternoon shadows of the trees. "Stay tonight. You will?".Medra stayed three years with Highdrake, and when the old mage died, the Lord of Pendor asked.with brick walls and bricked-up windows. The door had no bars and no visible lock. But when he.he knew all too well how Roke was guarded. He knew neither he nor the weatherworker could do.the West Reach, Selidor. There, on the outer beach, both exhausted, they faced each other and.ISBN: 0-380-58578-2."Is there an inn?".Gift was in the dairy, having finished the evening milking. She was straining the milk and setting."I can't. I'm terribly afraid."..the use of a gift of power, he thought, if not to get out of a trap?.....".really bad and stupid," she said in a low voice. "They get into the School because they're rich..men seeking work found only beggary, and rats ran in the courts of Maharion. They did an honest.Its owner was one of four men who called themselves Master of Iria. The other three called him Master of Old Iria. He spent his youth and what remained of his inheritance in law courts and the anterooms of the Lords of Way in Shelieth, trying to prove his right to the whole domain as it had been a hundred years ago. He came back unsuccessful and embittered and spent his age drinking the hard red wine from his last vineyard and walking his boundaries with a troop of ill-treated, underfed dogs to keep interlopers off his land.."I cannot read them." Otter's voice was toneless. "I

cannot go there. No one can enter there in. She could see his mind dance ahead of hers, taking up and playing with ideas, transforming them as he had transformed brick into butterfly. She could not dance with him, she could not play with him, but she watched him in wonder. "I have a neighbor," said the black-braided woman, "who might have some paper, if you're after. clamour and racket of barking that woke everybody for a half-mile round except the Master, sodden. At last she moved, and kissed his cheek, and whispered, "I missed you, I missed you, I missed you..pointed me out to others. I went in. A man in a black undershirt that was actually somewhat. "If it's a real gift, an unusual capacity, that's even more true. A witch with her love potions. He tried to remember how to make light. Anieb said to him, plaintively, "Can't you make the." "Of course," Golden said, pleased with his son's caution. He had thought Diamond might leap at the. Archipelago, perhaps to aid in retaining the Old Speech. The dragons have no writing..they gagged him and bound his arms behind him. "Now you won't weave charms nor speak spells.. whip to warn the stranger off, but Ivory came round the wagon and said, "Let the lad ride, my good.- the statues?.the streams at Iria, and she had hated the sea, heaving grey and cold, but this quick water. substance but of dizzying motion. Rushing upward, enormous fountains of a liquid denser than. rooted to the spot, but the other person, a stout individual in orange, fell down, and something. "Only in some very, very old tales. Before the gods were. Before men were. Before men were men, they were dragons."..into the Reaches. The most ancient maps of Earthsea, now in the archives of the palace in Havnor, have very dark brown skin. Most Archipelagan men have little or no facial hair..He knew what he smelled like, and thanked her..It was then that village sorcery, and above all women's witchery, came into the ill repute that. was low and the air smelt fresh but sour and cattle were bawling outside. He had to lie still and. spot, because the momentum made me stumble. I caught my balance but was spun around, so that. pursuing the young man. The Doorkeeper waved his hand at it, and it avoided him. Irian swerved and. When she laughed, her thin face got bright, her thin mouth got wide, and her eyes disappeared..This speech, innate to dragons, can be learned by human beings. Some few people are born with an untaught knowledge of at least some words of the Language of the Making. The teaching of it is the heart of the teaching of magic..They were only voices and shadows to each other..She followed the Doorkeeper down a stone passageway. Only at the end of it did she think to turn back to see the light shine through the thousand leaves of the tree carved in the high door in its bone-white frame..shook. It got dark for a fraction of a second, something beneath us gave a deep sigh, like a metal. and spat. "Avert," he said.. "On Havnor," he said, " far from Roke, in a village on Mount Onn, among people who know nothing of. few years their struggles had destroyed all central governance. The Archipelago became a. Medra would have betrayed Roke to Havnor, as the wizard they never named had betrayed it to. "It's up to me too if he stays or goes, and he goes. You haven't got all the sayso. All the people. And it is no small honor to be invited by a wizard to be his student or apprentice. Hemlock, who. black shining hair. When she stared at him in sudden incomprehensible challenge he had thought her. mystery, but I don't know. I only know that since I set foot on that hill I've been as I was when. deal between the beginning and the end..between them moved long, silent bodies, and people emerged from these through rows of. "Edran," said the Namer promptly, and laughed. "Drake. Dragon..." "After a long pause he went on. "You know that a dragon brought back our Lord Sparrowhawk, with the young king, from the shores of death. Then the dragon carried Sparrowhawk away to his home, for his power was gone, he was not a mage. So presently the Masters of Roke met to choose a new Archmage, here, in the Grove, as always. But not as always..was the pale-haired man with narrow eyes..Return From The Stars. talked to some men off her. They said there was nothing but fog and reefs all round where Roke was. to him, "Did you ever hear of Roke Island?" "No doubt that's what Alder gave you," she said. "The flint!" "I don't know. They gave me all kinds of shots. Is it so important?"..blazing yellow in the grass. Children on Havnor knew that flower. They called it sparks from the. The breeze was moving again slightly; she could hear a bare whispering among the oaks. "A little, ". "I'll ask them their name," Medra said. He smiled. "If they'll tell me, they can come in. And when they think they've learned everything, they can go out again. If they can tell me my name."..With age Hound had come to look his name, wrinkled, with a long nose and sad eyes. He sniffed and seemed about to say he did not know, but he knew better than to try to lie to Early. He sighed. "Otter," he said. "Him that killed old Whiteface."..And the Masters . . . Some hold aloof, following arcane knowledge, seeking ever more patterns..What she had on was all in large eyes, peacock eyes, and the eyes blinked. It was no illusion --. "Gully," he named himself after a pause, and she thought it was a name he had made up to call himself. It did not fit him. Nothing about him fit together, made a whole. Yet she felt no distrust of him. She was easy with him. He meant no harm to her. She thought there was kindness in him, the way he spoke of the animals. He would have a way with them, she thought. He was like an animal himself, a silent, damaged creature that needed protection but couldn't ask for it..By now the place that the girl had pointed out to me was deserted. After this incident I. with a row of high pointed windows. A group of men stood there, and every one of them turned to. mines at Samory, round the mountain. There you'd be out of his way. Work for him you must, if you. "You take care," the witch said, grim. "Everything's perilous, right enough, and meddling with. neither very promising, mere cattle tracks among the reeds, and looked for some sign of the way he. The nights were long and terrible, for the spells pressed on him, weighed on him, waked him over. from the Earth branch of Adapt would be waiting and all I had to do was to find him at a. never practiced it, but he could see that the young fellow had the gift. He would do well to learn. "Well, well, well," he said to his wife, frequently, "all rosy again, eh? Got the apple of your

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