



Catherine Lucille (CL) Moore

*Indianapolis,
Indiana*

(Jan 24, 1911 - Apr 4, 1987)

*by Jessi Cortesi, IHB Public
History intern*



Photo Courtesy: Wikipedia

Born in Indianapolis in 1911, Catherine Lucille Moore became an influential science fiction and fantasy author. She attended Indiana University where three of her short fiction stories were featured in a student publication, but she dropped out due to financial constraints during the Great Depression. She took a job at the Fletcher Trust Company in Indianapolis in 1932, where she worked for eight years as a stenographer and later a private secretary.

It was in the course of her work at the bank that Moore began writing professionally. In 1933, Moore's first story submission, "Shambleau," was accepted by a major genre magazine titled *Weird Tales*. Published under the byline C.L. Moore, the story made Moore an instant star in science fiction. The literary quality of "Shambleau" catalyzed a revolution in science fiction that emphasized sophisticated cerebral explorations and emotional depth.

In 1940, Moore moved to New York to marry Henry Kuttner, also a writer. Later, the couple relocated to California. After their union, the majority of Moore's publications were written as collaborations with Kuttner and the two published together under numerous pen names, flooding the pages of genre magazines during the 1940s and 1950s. Her influence is evident in the following generation of science fiction authors who studied Moore and Kuttner's works.

Especially groundbreaking were Moore's stories about Jirel of Joiry, the first sword and sorcery fantasy to feature a woman as the swashbuckling hero. Fellow authors from the same period characterized Moore's legacy as raising science fiction to a respectable, credible literary field. In 1981, Moore was honored with the World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement. In 1998, she was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame. Today, Moore is recognized as a founding "mother" of Golden Age science fiction.
