



The 7 Question Interview with L. E. Modesitt, Jr.

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L. E. Modesitt, Jr., is an author of science fiction and fantasy novels, and is best known for the fantasy series *The Saga of Recluce*. In addition to his novels, Mr. Modesitt has published technical studies and articles, columns, poetry, and a number of science fiction short stories. Some of his novels are:

Series:

- *The Corean Chronicles*
- *Ghost Novels*
- *The Saga of Recluce*
- *Spellsong Cycle*
- *The Ecolitan Institute*
- *The Forever Hero*
- *Parafaith Universe*
- *Timegod's World*
- *Archform*

Non-Series Science Fiction:

- *The Hammer of Darkness*
- *Adiamante*
- *Gravity Dreams*
- *The Octagonal Raven*
- *The Eternity Artifact*
- *The Elysium Commission*

Collaborations:

- *The Green Progression* (with Bruce Scott Levinson)

Since Mr. Modesitt has published over 51 novels, we strongly suggest you visit his website for a complete listing of his novels: You can visit his website by clicking here: <http://www.lemodesittjr.com>

The WritingRaw.com 7 Question Interview

Please let us know who you are and how we might know you:

I'm L. E. Modesitt, Jr., and at this point, I've published 51 novels and one short story collection, all of them now from Tor Books and all in the areas of fantasy and science fiction. While I'm usually "typed" as a fantasy author, I've actually written almost as much science fiction as fantasy. My latest book, just released, is *Imager* and is the first book in a new series, *The Imager Portfolio*. I also have a website [<http://www.lemodesittjr.com>] and a forum on the Internet Database of Books [<http://www.ibdof.com/viewforum.php?f=52>].



Any news you would like to share concerning upcoming projects:

In addition to *Imager*, I have a stand-alone SF novel [*Haze*] coming out from Tor in June, and the second book in The Imager Portfolio [*Imager's Challenge*] being published in October. The next Recluce book is *Arms-Commander*, a January 2010 release from Tor. I'll also have stories forthcoming in the Prime Books anthology *Federations* and the Subterranean Books anthology *Speculative Horizons*, as well as a short article in *BlackGate*, explaining the development of the magic system behind the Recluce Saga.

Thoughts concerning the current state of the literary world:

Despite all the turmoil in the publishing world, it seems to me that the F&SF world is still relatively healthy so far as novels are concerned. In the mainstreams and pretty much all genres, however, I see short professional fiction facing a crisis. Many print magazines that once published short fiction no longer do, and many magazines simply are no more. In F&SF *Realms of Fantasy* has just folded. The *Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* has moved to a bimonthly publication schedule, and subscriptions to all F&SF print magazines are down. While a great many more webzines have been created, with the notable exception of Jim Baen's *Universe*, most don't pay authors anywhere near the rates paid by the print magazines, and in real dollar terms, this is also true of magazines publishing fiction in other genres.

Who is your favorite author and why?

Overall, I'd have to say that my favorite author is the poet William Butler Yeats. Part of that is probably because you never quite outgrow your first loves, and poetry was my first literary love. In fact, I published poetry in small magazines years before I wrote science fiction. And I've always been fascinated by the way in which Yeats can marry politics, rhyme, meter, and verse.

Have you written a book you love that you have not been able to publish?

So far, I haven't had that problem with a novel, but it's happened a few times with stories.

Do you have anything specific that you want to say to your readers?

When all the research, all the writing group support, all the cheerleading, and all the angst fade away, and they should, the bottom line is simple: As a writer, you first must entertain your readers. To keep them beyond a quick and final read, you have to do



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more than that, whether it's to educate them, make them feel, anger them by challenging their preconceptions -- or all of that and more. But if you don't entertain first, none of what else you do matters, because they won't stay around.

How do you feel about what WritingRaw.com and other literary sharing sites are attempting to do for new writers?

Writing tends to be, even with writing groups, a solitary experience, in the sense that, after everything, the writer has to sit down with a blank screen, a blank sheet of paper, or the equivalent, and create something where there was nothing before. The more information he or she has about the field, and who is writing what and for what reasons and how, the more likely it is that he or she will not take as many false steps. Sites like WritingRaw.com play a part in creating that background information, particularly for a writing generation raised with the web and play an important role.

WritingRaw.com would like to thank Mr. Modesitt for taking the time out of his busy schedule for this interview.