

7 December 2008

With All Due Respect:

Is Chris Forbis's first-and-last chapter palindrome impression projection? Here are specific item after specific item; it's seductive.

Compared to the Forbis manuscript in The Southwestern Writers Collection, I have removed forty-seven of seventy-five mirrors from his "Working Toward a Palindrome Middle," some of which he mentions in its opening paragraph. Still, here are twenty-eight of those "Middle" mirrors.

Are these mirrors the continuation of a seeker's projection? But, here is a symmetry of the lotteries (130-31, 205-206). Here is a spliced hat in the middle of the story, at a turning Wheel of Fortune's highest moment for the gang and the kid.

Is this Forbis metaphor of hats something research in manuscripts can confirm? A look at pages at SWC could show that McCarthy intended some level of palindrome.

But, given this Forbis work, there will always be a sense that McCarthy weaves more threads more deeply into the novel than the bland symmetry of some meteors to open, some to close.

Take Care.

All Best,  
John Sepich.