

A Personal Note

Having been a music publisher as well as a songwriter for nearly twenty years, I vaguely imagined in 1992 that being a book publisher as well as a novelist would be a piece of cake.

That was a mistake.

But I don't regret it, not least because I've been able to publish some very good books (most not by me) which might otherwise have languished, and to keep books in print which otherwise would have been remaindered or pulped.

Thus, staying-power is one of the qualities we offer to (and ask of) our authors. One of our authors with exemplary stamina is Carol Gould, whose epic novel [Spitfire Girls](#), which Black Ace published in hardback in 1998, is now being reissued as a 2009 mass-market paperback by Arrow Books, with additional promotion to follow in 2010 to tie in with the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. 'These things take time,' as the estate agents sometimes say.

Of my own books, the first of which was published in 1981, all but one are still available from Black Ace Books. (See [Hardbacks](#) & [Paperbacks](#).) The exception is my second-published (but fourth-written) novel *The Wishdoctor's Song*, and of this a revised and definitive edition is currently approaching completion. (Many 1980s dots corrected to 21st-century dashes, &c ...) Meanwhile we have commissioned an added-value Foreword by Ronald Binns:

Read *Wishdoctor's Song* [Foreword](#).

The new books I publish appear from time to time at the top of our [Latest Titles](#), and meanwhile my own writing-in-progress is a cycle of philosophical books of which the first is provisionally entitled *Beyond Our Control*. Read [draft chapters](#).

My next novel awaits (but may not be entitled) *Eternal Life*.

HS, Tayside, Easter 2009.