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Introduction

Richard C. West

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Introduction

ORCRIST

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Single copies of Orcrest available from Richard West (614 Langdon Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703) for one dollar each. All back issues in print. Subscriptions not solicited, but any interested party may leave his address on file with us and will be sent each new issue with a bill whenever one appears. Third and fourth issues also available by subscription through the Tolkien Society of America (Ed Meskys, Belknap College, Center Harbor, New Hampshire 03226) at two dollars per year (four issues of Tolkien Journal). Write the TSA for details on other membership benefits. Letters of comment on Orcrest or prospective contributions (we look for scholarly or critical articles that are thoughtful and well-written, for worthwhile jeux d'esprit, and for good illustrations) should be sent to the editor, Richard West.

DEDICATION

In Memoriam: Francis Christensen
he was gold that did not rust

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INTRODUCTION

If you didn't find our last issue attractive and worthwhile, it certainly wasn't for lack of talent. Our third issue represented a triple effort on the part of the U.W. Tolkien Society (editing), the Mythopoeic Society (illustrations), and the Tolkien Society of America (printing). Also, the notices on the final page of the issue were added somewhere in its odyssey from New Hampshire to California to New York. We regret that this cross-country collaboration, while it produced a very fine issue, delayed the appearance of Orcrest #3 for some six months after it left Madison in late June, 1969 (the printer must take a good deal of the blame for this). We trust that Orcrest #4 is also good, but, since we have laid out the entire issue ourselves and so eliminated all that traveling, and since we have taken our business to another printer, we hope that this will be published with more dispatch.

Most of our artists this issue are locals who should not remain unknown for very long. We thank them for their efforts to suit their illustrations to the mood or matter of the accompanying article, and we hope you will agree they are quite talented. We are pleased to be able to offer another chapter from the M.A. thesis by Alexis Levitin; the proposal for the dissertation by Mrs. Deborah Rogers is a good paper in its own right; the two pieces by Mrs. BonnieJean Christensen are brief but informative; and the article by biochemist Robert Mesibov should both show Tolkien's use of spider imagery and give spiders a better press. For your amusement, we offer our dactylic verses (in which we "make game of earnest") and the poem-cum-scholarly-pastiche by Joe Snow. Mrs. Paulette Carroll's spoof of the Free University course in "Tolkien and Modern Fantasy" which I conducted in spring of 1968 will be enjoyed most by the stalwart souls who attended that class, but we hope that others may appreciate the joke, too. We are experimenting this time with a letter column, meant to deal with scholarly and critical issues more than with an exchange of pleasantries.

We are sorry that we will be unable in the immediate future to offer Anita Schimp's study on the Lilithe myth, for she is now in the process of revising it. But we found that we had too much material to fit in this issue, anyway: lack of space has forced us to postpone some articles, a series of book reviews, and the latest supplement to my Tolkien bibliography. These will go into Orcrest #5, which we plan to issue in January, 1971. This will feature some illustrations but will not be photo-offset, as it will not be combined with Tolkien Journal (the issue you are now holding is our last such collaborative effort for the foreseeable future). We will accept orders for it now.

We hope to publish, sometime next year, a special issue of Orcrest devoted to C. S. Lewis, and are now searching for worthy entries. Let us also mention that Jan Howard Finder (23951 Lake Shore Blvd., Apt. 204-B, Euclid, Ohio 44123) is organizing a second Conference on Middle-earth for April 2-4, 1971, and is looking for people and papers. We refer anyone interested to the C. S. Lewis Society (Henry Noel, 349 W. 85th St., New York, N.Y. 10024); membership is seven dollars a year. You may order from Glen Goodknight (6117 Woodward Ave., Apt. K, Maywood, California 90270) copies of the proceedings of the 1969 Narnia Conference \$1.50 and the 1970 Mythcon (\$2.50).

In the scant space remaining to me, I would like to extend our special thanks to Mrs. Mary Chwaszczewski, the indefatigable typist who has lightened the burden of preparing this issue and earned for herself the Speedy Gonzales Order of Merit.

R.C.W.
October, 1970