

# MYTHPRINT

The monthly bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

interested in the study and discussion of the fictional and mythic works of  
J.R.R. TOLKIEN, C.S. LEWIS, & CHARLES WILLIAMS

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no. 2

Lilith by George MacDonald is the first book to be officially discussed in the Society written by another author besides Tolkien, Lewis and Williams. If anyone should belong to the "mythopoeic" genre of literature beyond our three, it would be MacDonald. He was of a previous generation, dying in 1905. Lilith is considered his best work. It was nearly the last book he wrote. For the experienced reader, one will recognise similarities not only to the Inklings, but to Poe and H.P. Lovecraft in his sense of forboding, and a surrealistic dream quality like that of Kafka. Lilith has recently been published as part of the adult fantasy series, edited by Lin Carter and published by Ball-

antine (95¢). It is also available in a volume entitled Phantastes and Lilith published by Wm. B. Eerdmans (\$2.95), which also contains his other adult fantasy book, Phantastes, and a highly valuable introduction to MacDonald by Lewis.

Lewis was a great admirer of MacDonald; he even had him appear as a Vergil type figure in Lewis' own The Great Divorce.

Lilith, chapter 40, "The House of Death," (specially pp. 232-239 in Ballantine) is a very powerful and dramatic passage. I can visualize the electric tension and struggle vividly. It would be striking to see it dramatised or perhaps a dramatic reading.



## LILITH by George MacDonald

### Mythcon I

The Mythopoeic Society in co-operation with The Tolkien Society of America will sponsor a convention known as: Tolkien Conference III/Mythcon I. It will be held on the Labor Day Week End, September 4-7, 1970. It will start informally with a get-together party on Friday evening, start formally on Saturday morning, and end on Monday afternoon. Negotiations are still not finalized, but we can safely say it be held at either Pomona College or Harvey Mudd College, both of the Claremont group of Colleges. A nearby hotel will be used for overnight accomadations.

We who have been working on the Convention up to date are very excited about the possibilities. We want to go far beyond previous Conferences. A convention is planned that will combine both scholarship and just good fun. The activities planned are: Papers presented, a guest speaker, panel discussions, a Tolkien Costume Masquerade, a Fantasy Art Show and Exhibit, a Program of Tolkien Music, Special Displays, Slides, and Drama.

Those of you who will want to write a paper for the convention as urged now to contact Glen GoodKnight with your tentative subject. Papers on Tolkien, Lewis, Williams, and other fantasy writers and topics are acceptable.

All of you are urged to join the Convention now, which will assure that you will receive all news of developments in the progress reports. Advance memberships are \$3.00. Memberships at the Convention will be \$4.50. Send memberships to the Treasurer of the Convention: David Ring, [redacted].

### WESTERCON 23

The 23rd Annual West Coast Science Fantasy Conference, more commonly called Westercon XXIII, will be held on the 4th of July week-end, July 3-5, 1970 at the Francisco Torres in Santa Barbara. If you have never been to a Science Fiction Convention before, ask someone who has. You'll find that they're not what you would pre-suppose. They are a lot of fun. This years convention will probably be attended by between 500 to 600 people. The Mythopoeic Society will take part by holding a meeting there, and possibly sponsoring a display.

The Second Progress Report is just about to come out. We urge you to join Westercon now so you will get all the progress reports. Advance memberships are \$3.00. Make checks payable to David G. Hulan, and send to Westercon XXIII, [redacted].

### officer list

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Moderator: David Ring, Pomona College, [redacted]  
Secretary and Treasurer: not yet established.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH officers not yet established.  
LONG BEACH AREA BRANCH officers not yet established.

#### PRESIDENT

Glen GoodKnight, [redacted]



## the new elective system

Dear Members and Friends,

I want to share with you a new and major development in the workings of the Society that will affect you in some interesting ways.

Due to the growth of the number of branches, and varying ages of the several branches, it is impractical to continue the policy of each branch discussing the same book each month.

I have worked out a new policy or formula (subject to Council approval) that will allow for much more freedom, autonomy, and individuality of each local branch, while at the same time will strengthen the Society by making it more responsive to the interests of the individual members.

Each branch will vote among itself as to which order it wants to discuss the books from the regular book list.

Besides this, new branches just starting will have two electives the first year. Electives may be any book or topic from a very wide span of related interests, including any other fantasy writer, or other works by the three authors not on the regular list. Branches older than one year will have three electives, and branches two years and older will have four electives.

I urge you as an individual to think over both the books by the three authors, and books you would like to see discussed as electives in the months ahead, and be at the branch nearest you to give your vote.

Yours for a better Society,  
Glen GoodKnight

## Reading List

THE OFFICIAL REGULAR LIST OF BOOKS DISCUSSED BY  
THE MYTHOPOEIC SOCIETY

J.R.R. TOLKIEN:

The Hobbit, The Lord of The Rings, "Leaf by Niggle" (the second part of Tree and Leaf), Farmer Giles of Ham, The Adventures of Tom Bombadil, and Smith of Wootton Major.

C.S. LEWIS:

The seven Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, Prince Caspian, The Voyage of The Dawn Treader, The Silver Chair, The Horse and His Boy, The Magician's Nephew, and The Last Battle (which should not be read until after the other six).

The "Deep Space" or "Ransom" Trilogy: Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, and That Hideous Strength.

CHARLES WILLIAMS:

Many Dimensions, The Place of the Lion, War in Heaven, The Greater Trumps, Shadows of Ecstasy, Descent into Hell, All Hallow's Eve.

## film to be made

Galen Peoples, Moderator of The West Los Angeles Branch, would like to make a short movie on some scenes from The Lord of the Rings. He would like help in all areas: acting, make-up, costumes, and technical film advise. If you would like to be involved, contact him.

There has had to be a rearranging of some of the times the various branches meet; this comes from the problems involved with our Bulk Mailing Permit. Bulk mail is unpredictable as to when it will arrive. For the first month of mailing, January, some members got their bulletin within three days, other waited over two weeks. After February, no branch will meet on the first Saturday of the month, since there is little likelihood of the bulletin getting out in time. There for, the San Fernando Valley Branch is being moved from the first Saturday of the month to the third Saturday. We have tried to follow the policy that no two contiguous branches should be meeting on the same night.

## Mythprint

Glen GoodKnight  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Address Correction Requested

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Each Branch meets on a Saturday at

8 PM

For needed directions to meetings, do not hesitate to call the officers of that branch for more details.

February 7:

The Santa Barbara Branch: at the home of Tom McDaniel,  
[REDACTED]

February 14:

The Upland-Pomona Valley Branch: at the home of Richard Rogers, [REDACTED]

The Long Beach Area Branch: at the home of Debi Groven,  
[REDACTED]

February 21:

The San Gabriel Valley Branch: at the home of Pat Lammerts  
[REDACTED]

The San Fernando Valley Branch: at the home of Marj Hoyt,  
[REDACTED]

February 28:

The Orange County Branch: at the home of Rochelle Martinez, [REDACTED]

The West Los Angeles Branch: at the home of Cathy Case.  
[REDACTED]

On 10 January 1970, Lloyd Alexander spoke to the Southern California Council on Literature for Children and Young People at the new Pasadena Art Museum for their ninth annual awards program and reception.

The winner of the Newberry Medal for 1969 for his children's fantasy book, The High King, is a friendly, self-effacing and very humorous man. He has written to Mythlore in its second issue. Several members of the Society, on very short notice, went to hear him speak. While I was speaking to him before the meeting, he was approached by several women to sign some of his books. To facilitate, I took his notebook, holding it as a make-shift desk for him to use. Then being approached by some other arriving members of the Society, I later went off to speak with them, only to find I was being rapidly followed by Alexander to retrieve his notebook which contained his speech for the evening!

His speech "Here and Now, Nowhere and Never," I found very relevant to the current human condition. He feels an artist is primarily a human being, who comes to grips with his times (here I thought of Tolkien and Lewis - especially That Hideous Strength). He feels children have data but not sufficient experience to process it. The experience of fantasy affirms and confirms reality, and that fantasy and reality both grapple with the feelings of humanity, despair and hope. Alexander concluded with a looking forward to the emerging "new humanism," which will hopefully give modern man a way out of his technological lack of self-identity. - GG.



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