

mythPRINT



**Quarterly Bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society with Book
Reviews, Short Articles, Event Information, and More!**

VOL. 53 NO. 4

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Reviews, discussion group reports, news items, letters, art work, notes or short articles, and other submissions for *Mythprint* are always welcome. In return for printed pieces, contributors who are not already subscribers will receive an electronic copy of the issue in which the item appears. Contributors who are already subscribers will not receive an additional copy. Please contact the editor for details on format, or send materials to:

Megan Abrahamson
Editor, *Mythprint*

[redacted]

The Mythopoeic Society also publishes two other magazines: *Mythlore* (subscription \$25/year for U.S. Society members) and *The Mythic Circle*, an annual magazine publishing fiction, poems, etc. (\$8/issue for U.S. addresses). Subscriptions and back issues of Society publications may be purchased directly through our web site (using PayPal or Discover card), or you may contact:

Mythopoeic Society Orders Department

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Visit The Mythopoeic Society online at www.mythsoc.org.

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Mythprint is the quarterly bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society, a nonprofit educational organization devoted to the study, discussion, and enjoyment of myth and fantasy literature, especially the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams. To promote these interests, the Society publishes three magazines, maintains a World Wide Web site, and sponsors the annual Mythopoeic Conference and awards for fiction and scholarship, as well as local discussion groups.

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MYTHCON 48

The Mythcon 48 committee is working to put together a fun and exciting Mythcon honoring the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Mythopoeic Society, to be held in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois on July 28-31, 2017.

To be sure you're getting the latest announcements, subscribe to our Announcements listserv by emailing [REDACTED] or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

Call for Art:

Juried Exhibition and Sale

The Mythopoeic Society's 50th Anniversary is here. So let us commemorate the occasion with a fabulous show of art at this year's Mythcon. We are interested in the type of art that honors the secondary world fantasy literature of the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries that has generously furnished our imaginations with a rich other-world geography. Fellow travellers in these landscapes are invited to share your gifts and talents at the Mythopoeic Society's annual conference Mythcon 48.

Submissions may include two-dimensional and three-dimensional artworks (no poster-style art, please). The show is juried and entry fees are \$20 per item, or \$50 for three. A silent auction will be held for those who wish to offer their work for sale.

Please send jpegs with descriptions of the artwork, including dimensions, to [REDACTED] by March 15. You will be notified of acceptance by April 15th.

THE INKLINGS INVESTIGATE

By Kael Richards

The 1930s was a "golden age" for the Inklings. They were meeting every Thursday night in C. S. Lewis' rooms at Magdalen College, Oxford, where they heard J. R. R. Tolkien read from the book he was then writing—*The Hobbit*—and Lewis read from his latest books—*Out of the Silent Planet* and then *The Problem of Pain*.

They also met every Tuesday morning at The Eagle and Child (which they called "The Bird and Baby") for a feast of wit and wisdom as they

MYTHCON 48

will be held in
Champaign-Urbana, Illinois
July 28-31, 2017

smoked their pipes and drank their beer.

But the 1930s was also a "golden age" of British crime writing. That's when Agatha Christie had Miss Marple uncovering *Murder at the Vicarage*, and when she gave an ingenious twist to the question "which of these suspects is guilty" in *Murder on the*

Orient Express. It was also the decade in which Dorothy L. Sayers' Lord Peter Wimsey was at his most ingenious (while simultaneously wooing Miss Harriet Vane). And it was the decade in which John Dickson Carr was introducing us to Dr Gideon Fell and the dizzying world of locked room murders and impossible crimes.

Two "golden ages" (the Inklings and the British mystery) both with a 24-carat gleam!

So is it possible to bring these two "golden ages" together?

That is what I am attempting to do with my new series of "Inklings Mysteries"—set in the 1930s (currently being published by Marylebone House, in London).

When the Inklings assembled in C. S. Lewis' large sitting room in Magdalen College, Oxford, in the 1930s they probably represented the most brilliant assembly of brains in Oxford at that time—quiet possibly the most brilliant assembly of brains in Britain! They represented greater brain power than Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple and Lord Peter Wimsey put together.

Which is why I have turned the Inklings into a whole team of amateur sleuths in my series of 1930s mysteries.

The latest entry in the series is called *The Sinister Student*. And the plot unfolds like this:

The Inklings are meeting on a Thursday evening in 1936; as well as the regulars there are two visitors—Lewis' old pupil Tom Morris (the narrator of the novel) and an undergraduate named Aubrey Willesden. The following morning Willesden is found dead in his room. He has been beheaded. And although the room is locked from the inside—both the door and the windows are latched—the head is missing and only his decapitated body is in the room. Who has killed this student? And why? And, more baffling still—how was it done?

This is a puzzle that will tax the brilliant ingenuity of the Inklings to the limit.

And it is a classic "fair play" clue-puzzle plot

giving the reader all the clues available to the sleuths while still aiming to make the solution a genuine surprise (“Why didn’t I spot that?”).

Mind you, although C. S. Lewis’s brother Warren loved murder mysteries (his collection can still be seen on the bookshelves at their old home The Kilns) Lewis himself preferred science fiction.

So, is it possible to blend a classic Agatha Christie style clue-puzzle murder mystery with Lewis’ beloved genre of science fiction?

Well, (spoiler alert) in *The Sinister Student* those two genres come together to combine a time travel sub-plot with a grisly murder. Plus a first edition of Milton’s *Paradise Lost* going missing from Oxford’s Bodleian Library (with the finger of suspicion pointing, most unjustly, at Lewis).

So, how to do all of these things fit together? And does the mixture succeed in bringing Lewis, Tolkien and the other Inklings to life on the page? The answer is found in *The Sinister Student*—and you will have to form your own judgment.

VISIT TO AN INKLINGS CAFÉ

By David Emerson

Breaking our drive across Pennsylvania in Lancaster, Janet Brennan Croft and I stopped in at The Rabbit and the Dragonfly, a charming little coffee-house tucked into an alley off W. Orange Street in a trendy part of downtown. One of the first things we saw upon entering was a large map of Middle-earth on the wall, convincing us we had indeed come to the right place. We found seats at a table in a corner which had been decorated to look like part of The Eagle and the Child pub in Oxford, with photo portraits of Lewis and Tolkien above a mantelpiece.

Looking around, we saw many other homages to the Inklings, including drawings and paintings of *LOTR* and

A Note on Mythcon 49

Do you ever think, “Gee, this would be a great location for a Mythcon?” If so, please email Lynn Maudlin ([REDACTED]) and she will work with you on the process. Yes, it’s a lot of work but it’s also a lot of fun and very gratifying to see it all come together. We can’t have Mythcon without you!

Narnia characters and scenes; take-out coffee cups in sizes “Hobbit”, “Elf”, and “Ent”; an old typewriter (of the vintage Lewis could have used) with pages spilling out of it containing the first chapter of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; a pair of glass-fronted cabinets with books by Tolkien, Lew-

is, and associated writers; a *LOTR* chess set (chessmen and board) set up on a table and ready to play; a couple of stuffed beavers (without sewing machine, alas); the head of Smaug mounted on the wall; a stuffed Aslan looking down over the room from his perch near the ceiling; and best of all, a coat room done up to look like the wardrobe entrance to Narnia, with fur coats on hangers flanking a mural version of the Pauline Baynes illustration of Lucy and Tumnus walking in the snow.

Ordering a pair of hot ciders and a “Hamwise Gamgee” sandwich (grilled ham, bacon & onion) from the cheerful and effervescent barista Rachel, we learned she was also the person in charge of the bookstore portion of the cafe. She pointed us to the Tolkien section in the cabinet and bemoaned the fact there weren’t more books there. “They sell too fast,” she explained. The Lewis cabinet contained items one would expect, but also one rarity—a former library copy of *Boxen* (Jack and Warnie’s childhood fantasy), which we might have snapped up if it hadn’t been \$40.00! The rear of the cafe housed a few bookcases of non-Inklings books for sale, sorted into general fiction & literature, non-fiction, and SF/fantasy, all quite reasonably priced as in your usual used-book store.

Finishing our sandwich (which was delicious btw), we were introduced to Dave, one of the co-owners who was also the artist who had created many of the artworks adorning the walls. He explained that the intention of the cafe is to provide a space for artistic expression of all kinds, and literary discussions such as the Inklings had. The cafe hosts music events, writ-



ers' groups, and art exhibitions. We recommended Diana Glyer's *Bandersnatch* to him, in hopes that it would facilitate their mission of encouraging Inklings-like collaborations and conversations.

Any Mythies within striking distance of south-central Pennsylvania should definitely make a point of visiting The Rabbit and Dragonfly. Check out their web page for hours and events.

The Rabbit and the Dragonfly. 51 N. Market St, Lancaster PA 17603. 717-579-1043
W e b :

F a c e b o o k :

A LONG-EXPECTED PARTY DRAWS 55 TOLKIEN SCHOLARS TO CHAMPAIGN, IL ON NOV 5, 2015

By Mike Foster

Urbana Theological Seminary's fifth Tolkien annual Tolkien conference was a day-long celebration on all things Inklings.

A highlight was the third and best ever "An Inklings Son Remembers" Dog & Pony Show with Colin Havard interviewed by this writer. The first two presentations took place in Toronto and St. Louis. Likewise, it was the best ever UTS day-long JRRT bunfight, the fifth time being the charmer.

A particularly touching moment shared in the "Inkling's Son" interview was Colin's reading of the sonnet that his father, Dr. Robert E. Havard, wrote to his mother, Grace Mary Middleton Havard, on the fifth anniversary of her death and the silver anniversary of their wedding in December, 1955. Dr. Havard was the Tolkien and Lewis family physician.

Lewis dedicated one of the Narnia chronicles books, *Prince Caspian*, to Colin's sister Mary Clare Havard, now Dr. Mary Clare Sheahan.

Colin's favorite Inkling, he said in Champaign, was C.S. Lewis' older brother, Major Warren H. Lewis. Although I never met him, Warnie is mine as well, as he was the favorite of the late Dr. Clyde S. Kilby, the founder of the Wade Collection at



Wheaton (Illinois) College.

Warnie's seventeenth-century French histories, *The Splendid Century*, *The Scandalous Regent*, and the others, are whimsical and witty scholarly masterpieces that cover everything from the lives of galley slaves to the gay entourages at Versailles.

The Wheaton College Tolkien group added levity to the scholarly proceedings with their game show *Tolkien Family Feud*. Jo and I were on the winning Weathertop team, which defeated the Rohirrim 24-19.

After that long-expected party, my wife Jo & I went to Za's

Pizza Café with Colin and his wife Mary Ellen Havard and UTS organizer Melody Green and the second speaker Deb Collett, both erstwhile students in my Illinois Central college Tolkien class a generation ago.

If Jo said Colin and I did well, well we did. We thought so too. Mary Ellen was convivial company. When she and Jo got carded buying the first round of Stellas and then the Za's publican asked for ID from Colin & me, her reaction was hilarious.

Conference organizer Dr. Melody Green stated: "The speakers were Seth Kerlin; Deb Collett; Duane Otto; Tolkien artists Karen and Will Coats; Laura Schmidt and the Wheaton College Tolkien Society doing "Tolkien Family Feud," which was hilarious; the Urbana Theological Seminary Tolkien class round table: Nicholas Modrzejewski, David Bostwick, Yongwha Meling, and Doug Peterson; and Mike Foster interviewing Colin Havard on "An Inklings Son Remembers."

"The introduction and welcome by Dr. Kenneth Cuffey, president of the seminary, opened the conference. The master of ceremonies was Brian Chaille. The location was Grace Community church in Champaign, Illinois. It was Urbana Theological Seminary's fifth annual conference; it started in 2012. Over the years, keynote speakers have included Laura Schmidt (archivist of the Wade Center), Jef Murray (the late Tolkien artist), Craig Boyd (philosopher, scholar, and author from St. Louis), and Charlie Starr."

"I enjoyed attending the Tolkien Conference with students from the Wheaton College Tolkien Society," wrote Laura Schmidt, archivist at the Mar-

ion E. Wade Center, the Rivendell of the Midwest at Wheaton College in northern Illinois.

“This year, the proceedings seemed to focus around how Tolkien’s works impact his readers; personally, spiritually, and creatively. In many ways, hearing these stories and seeing the creative output inspired by Tolkien’s works can be even more moving and meaningful than academic scholarship.

“They showed how much impact the books have had, and continue to have, and what brings us all together to participate in, well, Tolkien Conferences.

“I also really appreciated hearing from Colin Havard in person. His memories of meeting Tolkien, Lewis, Warnie, and attending Inklings meetings really brought these storied figures to life for the audience. Such accounts from people *who were there* are growing to be rarer and rarer opportunities. We were blessed to hear them first-hand.

Inklings son Colin Havard wrote: “It was amazing to me to think how surprised Tolkien and Lewis and all the Inklings would have been if I had had the necessary foresight to be able to tell them sixty years ago that an event like the Tolkien Conference, put on by the Urbana Theological Seminary, would not only take place in 2016 but that it would reflect such enthusiasm, knowledge, and deep understanding of their literary works.

“I remember them as being learned, entertaining, and, at times, even silly, but neither my father nor I realized their true greatness or how long-lived their literary work would be.

“I am thankful that I have lived long enough to experience first-hand their spiritual, literary and creative influence on generation after generation of both scholars and plain ordinary people searching for life’s meaning.

“On a purely personal level, I was impressed and grateful for the interest and kindness shown to me by so many of those who attended the Conference. In particular, I want to thank Dr. Melody Green and Michael Foster for all they did to make it a memorable day.” Indeed. It was a most memorable day.

After awaking at 5:30 on that Guy Fawkes Day and spending three hours on the road to Champaign and back, Jo and I were abed by 9:15 that night. We look forward to the 2017 Mythcon in Champaign with Dr. Green at the helm.

Bingo Baggins’ Lost Papers Rediscovered at J.R.R. Tolkien Conference in Champaign by Urbana Theological Seminary Scholar Doug Peterson

Doug Peterson’s Puckish presentation was a humorous highlight of the Nov. 5 Urbana Theological Seminary’s fifth annual Tolkien conference.

In “The Lost Papers of Bingo Baggins,” Peterson writes:

“Many have wondered why J.R.R. Tolkien’s manuscripts for *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* wound up in the Midwest, at Marquette University in Milwaukee. Was it really because the Marquette archivist William Ready was the first one to offer to purchase Tolkien’s papers in 1956, as is claimed by officials at Marquette?

“And why did so many of Tolkien’s letters come to be found at the Wade Center at Wheaton College in Illinois—another Midwestern locale?

“This paper sets out to finally tell the truth, proving without a doubt that all of this material found its way to the Midwest because the Middle West of the United States is, in fact, Middle-earth.

“This theory came to light after the recent discovery of “The Lost Papers of Bingo Baggins.” Bingo Baggins, as it turns out, was a very short brewery worker at the once-thriving Milwaukee Schlitz Brewing Company. According to oral accounts, Bingo stood roughly four feet tall and was constantly taking breaks to smoke his pipe and guzzle company ale.

“Bingo Baggins may have even inadvertently caused the demise of the Schlitz Brewing Company when hair was found in many shipments of beer, and it was discovered that he used to soak his hair-covered feet in the beer for medicinal reasons.

“According to Bingo Baggins’ papers, the small farming community of Hobbiton was actually located in central Illinois, perhaps in the Amish farming community of Arthur, which shares Tolkien’s disdain for combustible engines and other forms of technology.

“But if Hobbiton was in central Illinois, then where would that put Mordor?

“Tolkien’s world centered the heart of evil to the east of Hobbiton. The farther east you went, the greater the evil, which lines up squarely with American geography. After all, if you go east of the Midwest, you come to New York City, which was most

likely the inspiration for Mordor.

“Baggins makes a strong case for this theory when he points out that if you drop the “Y” from New York, you are left with New Ork.

“As anyone familiar with *Lord of the Rings* history knows, the wizard Saruman attempted to create a new race of orcs—hence, the name New Ork. This new breed of orcs, the Urak-hai, were taller and stronger than regular orcs.

“But what most people do not realize is that the Urak-hai were also better baseball players, which may explain the dominance of the New York Yankees baseball dynasty during much of the twentieth century. During the middle of the century, the Yankees’ deadly lineup became known as “Murderer’s Row,” but this may have been a mispronunciation of their actual nickname—“Morder-er’s Row.”

“Baggins also claims that Sauron’s eye had its origins in New York City, specifically at the national headquarters for CBS, which uses the famous CBS eye as its all-seeing logo. What role the famous CBS broadcaster Walter Cronkite might have played in Mordor is still unknown.

“But if Hobbiton was located in the farm country of Illinois, as Baggins claims, then where was Isengard, the realm controlled by the wizard Saruman? Bingo Baggins is convinced that Tolkien based Isengard on Chicago, which lines up geographically with New York, much the way that Isengard lines up with Mordor.

“That makes sense. The dark tower, Orthanc, was most likely the enormous black structure now known as the Willis Tower, formerly known as the Sears Tower. Some linguists now believe that the Sears Tower (S-E-A-R-S) may have originally been called “The Seers Tower” (S-E-E-R—S), further evidence of its magical origins.

“As another piece of indisputable evidence that Chicago was Isengard, anyone who has ever taken a drink from the Chicago River will know immediately that orcs have fouled the water.

“What’s more, the Ents who reclaimed Isengard were clearly Chicago Cubs fans. Ents are extremely patient creatures and are probably the only life form that would consider 108 years of waiting for a World Series championship no time at all.

“But if Chicago was Isengard, the next logical question is: Who was Saruman? Could it really be that Saruman was the former, long-time mayor of the Windy City, Richard J. Daley? Saruman was known as the wizard of machinery, and Daley was known for cultivating Chicago’s famed “machine

politics.” You decide for yourself if this is just a coincidence.

“Finally, Baggins’ most convincing argument that Middle-earth is actually the Middle West comes from the elves. Far to the West of Middle-earth was Valinor, the land to which the elves journeyed. Far to the West of the Midwest is California. And if ever there were a land suited for elves, it would be California. Elves live forever, and Californians believe they can live forever through exercise, plastic surgery, and regular colonic cleansings.

“But this raises serious questions for Tolkien scholars, such as: Were regular Botox treatments really the reason for the elves’ distinctive eyebrows? And was Hollywood actress Cate Blanchett perfect for the role of Galadriel because she was, in truth, descended from California wood elves from San Francisco?

“The clues are all there: Just as hippies moved west to California and followed the rock group, the Grateful Dead, elves moved west to Valinor, where they put flowers in their hair and followed a musical group known as the Grateful Dead Marshes.

“If none of these arguments convince you that Middle-earth is, in truth, the Middle West, then consider this fact: Some claim that the first Tolkien conference in the world was held sometime in the 1960s at the University of Illinois in Urbana. And according to “The Lost Papers of Bingo Baggins,” this conference was attended by none other than Bingo himself.

“This is confirmed by accounts from attendees of the first conference, because they complained of one participant of short stature who insisted on going barefoot to all of the talks. This participant’s hairy feet kept shedding all over the carpet, and he insisted on blowing smoke rings during the Q and A. The participant was also overheard muttering, “I wish I was at home in my nice hole by the fire, with the kettle just beginning to sing!”

REVIEWS

R.J. Anderson. *Knife*. Gilead Publishing, 2015 reprint. 268 pp. \$13.99. Reviewed by Bethany Abrahamson.

Knife is the first book in a young reader series by R. J. Anderson, recounting the life of a faery named Bryony as she grapples with her peoples’ mysterious past and searches for the truth. Her world is full of

dangers—crows are mortal enemies and humans are feared above all—but also full of unexpected allies and friends. Through convincing characterization and a wonderfully complex world, Anderson provides in *Knife* a compelling introduction to the series.

Anderson's tale is populated with personalities that are familiar to the fairy tale genre, with a few surprises. While not exactly a character-driven story, the author's subtle use of showing rather than telling personality traits makes for truly meaningful characters that are in the end defined by the choices they make rather than any biased perspective. It is in the protagonist, Bryony, where the story truly shines: Bryony is a young woman who is admirable both for her physical bravery and mental skill, with her own believable and non-gendered faults. She is an active player in her fate and the fates of others, something not often found in fairy tales where the main character is so often acted upon rather than contributing to the plot. Furthermore, *Knife* is an adventure story where the vast majority of characters are female. While romance plays a part in the story, it refreshingly does not define her characters. Anderson's characters achieve positive growth throughout the story while leaving room for improvement in future chapters.

There are both internal and external conflicts that drive the story, illuminate Anderson's unique fairy world, and keep the reader invested in the story's outcomes. Bryony and her community face a dwindling population and encroaching disease, while Bryony herself often finds conflict within herself between her love of her home and a growing love for exploration beyond her home's boundaries. The many secrets of the community's history and the many enemies that the faeries face from the outside world give the story a post-apocalyptic feel. Furthermore, different characters respond to these and other catastrophes in different ways, creating even more complications. These difficult themes may make the story inappropriate for some very young readers. However, the author handles such themes with great care. Depression, for instance, is discussed with realism and empathy, respecting the seriousness of the condition. Anderson clearly respects both her characters and the frightening and often tragic world they find themselves in.

One thing I felt would have enhanced the story



even further is illustration. Art, artists, and creativity in general play a strong role in the book—therefore, I recommend that readers consider consulting any sort of art as they read, from fashion plates to nature photography to music. Such consultation would certainly enhance the message of beauty and imagination already put forth by the author. The dark aspects of Bryony's world contrast with the beauty she also finds in it—a motif often explored in tales of magic and the fairy realm.

Overall *Knife* represents an accessible, new fairy tale with solid foundations, that will keep readers interested and leave them hungry, as I am, for the next book.

Jeff McInnis. *In and Out of the Moon: The Sword of Aucsanzhium Vol. I*. CreateSpace, 2015. 306 pp. \$18.95. Reviewed by Alicia Fox-Lenz

In and Out of the Moon feels comforting and familiar to a lover of the Inklings. There were many times when I was reading and would note the visible influence of especially C.S. Lewis. Overall, this story is a pleasant mix of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and the *Voyage of the Dawn Treader* with a sprinkling of Frodo and Sam's trek into Mordor from *The Lord of the Rings*.

The story begins in Wampus, a small, quiet town where the MacCaw family lives. Kabe MacCaw is a young boy who has been blind since birth, and we get to learn the struggles of his family through this unique perspective. His brother, Troy, and sister, Meg, and he have all struggled since their mother's untimely death with an increasingly withdrawn, grieving father. Meg has few memories of her mother and Troy has thrown himself into video games and withdrawn from his siblings much like their father. Kabe has latched onto his Papaw, which whom he has always had a close relationship. The magic begins when their Papaw falls ill and is admitted to the hospital. Papaw is a magician, and when Kabe presents to him a curious stick their dog found in the yard—which he thought might be a magic wand—it sparks an adventure to another

realm that needs the help of the three siblings. They are ushered through a portal on the moon into the world of Aucsanthium, an autumnal land in its twilight. Here they learn that they were prophesied, the curious stick is the sword of the lost king and is needed to beat back the encroaching darkness.

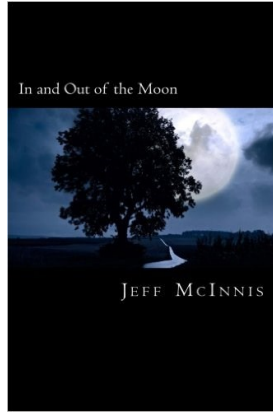
I really enjoyed the choice of using a protagonist who is blind. It was an interesting choice for a viewpoint character, especially once he gains his vision upon entering Aucsanthium. You go on a journey with Kabe as he moved from a world experienced through touch and sound only to one where he also enjoys light. It was also nice that his disability on Earth has been transformed into a strength in Aucsanthium, his more-acute hearing actively helps him achieve his destiny of being the scabbard-bearer of the king.

This book has a bit of a tone shift like the last part of *The Hobbit*, and it gets pretty grim. Up until that tone shift it very much reads as a book for smaller children, but after the battle with darkness is engaged the book does not flinch from depicting some of the horrors of war. It's very much in Tolkien's vein of children not needing to be shielded in their literature.

There are also a number of things that are touched upon and seem as though they would be fairly major plot points which then never seem to deliver, such as Meg's green eyes being such a sacred color or the focus on music which seems to fizzle out midway through the book. This is meant to be volume one of a three part series, so I suspect as the series continues some of these plot threads will be picked up and woven in. I look forward to seeing how the series progresses.

Naomi Novik. *Uprooted*. Del Rey, 2016. 464 pp. \$9.84. Reviewed by Ryder W. Miller.

Uprooted from Naomi Novik is a fast paced and well plotted fantasy adventure that will keep most reading to the con-

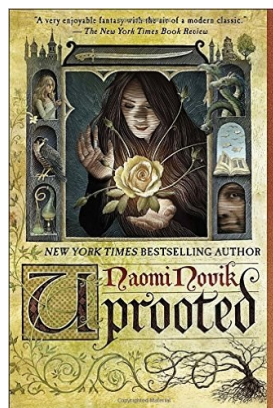


clusion. There is not a lot of world building in this, but there is a lot of action and a bunch of characters, and one needs to read it carefully or they might get lost in the forest because of the trees. It also awards a rereading. It's descriptions of the sylvan are magical, but it is often dark magic and one might not get caught up in it's lyricism. *Uprooted* is a multiple award winner (including the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature) despite the "green baiting," but we have seen this in genre fiction before.

Environmentalists are sometimes blamed for the global troubles we are having, but instead, maybe it is the fault of those who did not listen and are now instead blaming the messengers. Global warming is going to cost jobs and ruin the lives of those settled near the coast. More carbon dioxide is going to be in the air because we cut down forests which absorbs it. Usually in this one we fear The Woods rather than want to protect them. When one finds fault with the greens, like with the "wilderness" in this one, there is a whole plethora of problems that are marginalized. We will be regretting this.

In this fantasy it is an evil forest which attacks nearby human settlements and needs to be combated. It is not like Mirkwood which was once Greenwood the Great before "evil" creatures were introduced and over ran the woods. The Forest in this one is more like Fangorn, with it's own rationale and anger, but for most of this telling it is the enemy and also contains evil creatures. It can also overtake people and force it's will on them. This forest is angry also for being used as firewood, but it can be ghastly and horrific and anthropomorphized when it starts fighting back with dark magic and dangerous creatures. Human settlers have burnt down parts of the forest to protect themselves. Maybe it wasn't always bad, but it is corrupted by the start of this tale.

One sadly might not want to go for a walk in the real forest for sometime after reading this one. The wild, one should remember, can be impersonal, and invokes deep emotions. It also usually cannot defend itself and is not usually responsible for it's residents. It is though wonderful to take a walk in the real woods to explore and learn from it's



residents. Sadly we walk on all sorts of plants and things if we stray off the path.

Uprooted follows the first person narration of Agnieszka who has a temper and usually follows her own rules. As such it is a great girl power novel with an interesting first person, in this case a witch rather than the beauty, and best friend, who is overlooked for her. Agnieszka and a dark figure, a wizard called The Dragon, who gets to choose a new female assistant every ten years, take on The Woods which goes on the attack from early on. The problem is bigger than the haughty Dragon can handle on his own in this one. To the rescue comes Agnieszka who is a quick learner, has her own smarts, and helps save the day. She has empathy, will power, and pluck, to the consternation of The Dragon who probably wished he could do it all on his own. Empowering tale here for those who don't like being repressed.

Naomi Novik will have new fans because of this one which can be a stand alone, and has a beginning, middle and end, which we don't always find in fantasy novels. One might also want to buy a Nook after reading this.

Jamie Williamson. *The Evolution of Modern Fantasy*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2015. 245 pp. \$69.00. Reviewed by GERRY BLAIR.

The book covers the emergence and influential material for just about every author now related to the fantasy literature genre. Williamson points out that during the times they were writing these authors did not consider themselves to be operating within a set group or genre. Their works could only be placed into the existing genre of the time such as Romance, Oriental Tale, science fiction or other existing genres. Much is made of Lin Carter's work among others to define this new emerging literary style, and its connection to fairy tale, sword and sorcery, magic, invented worlds complete with their own mythological dimensions. Carter's own work and with the Ballantine book publishers clearly had much to do with defining the literary style we now call the fantasy genre. This is especially so in the books published as The Ballantine Adult Fantasy Series (from here on referred to

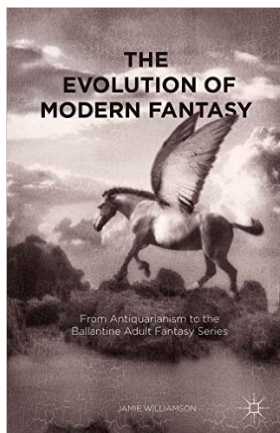
as the BAFS). He says the importance of the BAFS cannot be over estimated, and sheer quantity also lent the BAFS an indelible impact: sixty six titles in sixty eight volumes published between 1969 and 1974.

Jamie Williamson's biographical information shows how his credentials qualify him to tackle the question of the origins of the fantasy fiction genre. Having had the pleasure of seeing him deliver essays at the annual Tolkien Conference at the University of Vermont, and being impressed with his paper topics and content, I was most interested in reading the book. The copy I have is a Hardback but it is also available in Kindle. The book won the 2016 Mythopoeic Society Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies. The price of the book may be considered a bit high, yet I do feel it is well worth the investment.

The book holds true to its title throughout. Jamie acknowledges the importance of ancient literature and myth. Pointing out how the writers who were the beginnings of what would become the fantasy genre, as well as those writing now and recently, in which I would include Tolkien and the authors of the Ballantine Adult Fantasy Series, and more, were aware of the broad history of stories, from Greek legend to Norse Mythology, Celtic Tales, and Arthurian legend, and well beyond.

His concern is not I think to portray ancient literature as Fantasy. He rightfully spends the majority of the book dealing with the influences of authors and stories that had the requirements to belong to the birth of the fantasy genre we have today. The required ingredients according to Lin Carter in his "Tolkien: A Look Behind *The Lord of the Rings*" in which he gives a definition of what makes a work "fantasy": "a fantasy is a book or story in which magic really works", and in its purest form is "laid in settings completely made up by the author" Carter further stipulates that fantasy circles around the themes of "quest, adventure or war" Williamson says "some four decades later a wildly prolific body of work unambiguously reflects the terms of this template, then newly formulated under the aegis of the BAFS."

It can be noted that the word syncretism, which is not one that seems to be used regularly by many, is often repeated in *The Evolution of Modern Fantasy*. The



word is a good choice to describe how pulp fiction, science fiction, horror, action adventure, sword and sorcery, and more, coalesced to become the genre known as fantasy. Syncretism can be defined as the amalgamation or attempted amalgamation of different cultures or schools of thought. It is indeed due to this amalgamation, coalescing, common themes, shared literary styles, and the long history of story from the ancient tales and mythologies, through the rise of romanticism, folk lore and fairy tale and more that we now have the fantasy genre.

I do not feel there can be any doubt that to anyone wishing to better understand the creation of the fantasy genre this will be a valuable resource, and will continue to be considered so for years to come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Well of Wonder by Clyde Kilby

Paraclete Press is thrilled to announce the release of *A Well of Wonder: Essays on C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien and the Inklings* by Clyde S. Kilby. This fascinating collection includes both published and previously unpublished works by a man who inspired a whole generation with his enthusiasm for this group of literary companions. Clyde S. Kilby is also the founder of the Marion E. Wade Center, today a major research center for materials by Inklings authors. Kilby was among the first to see the Inklings as a coherent writers group, and seeing their work through his eyes will be a vibrant journey for readers.

Call For Papers: Mythmoot IV

Mythgard Institute from Signum University is turning Mythmoot IV into an experience of a secondary world for academics, friends, and fans. Mythmoot will be held from June 1st to 4th, 2017, at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, VA. This year's theme is Invoking Wonder.

Accepting Paper, Panel, Workshop, and Creative Presentation (storytelling, music, visual arts, etc.) Proposals related to: Imaginative Literature (Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Speculative Fiction from Mary Shelley and H.P Lovecraft to Ursula Le Guin and Neil Gaiman), Tolkien and Inklings Studies (Research on the works and lives of the Inklings as they interact with each other, their modern context, and classic and imaginative literature), Germanic Philology (Explore relationships between language and literature in the past, present, and future), Any-

thing Else (Academic research or creative presentations that traverse literature in its wondrous variety).

- Paper proposals should be approximately 100 words. Presentations will be under 20 minutes.
- Panel proposals must be submitted in one inclusive email, with approximately 100 words describing each paper. Panels will be presented in 1-hour sessions.
- Workshop proposals should be approximately 200 words. Workshops will be allotted 1 hour.
- Creative Presentation proposals should provide a short description (fewer than 200 words) of the presentation. Creative Presentations should be no longer than 30 minutes.

Proposal Submission:

Proposals will be accepted through 28 February 2017. Send proposals to [REDACTED] with a subject line of "Paper Proposal," "Panel Proposal," "Workshop Proposal," or "Creative Presentation Proposal." Include a brief bio and A/V requirements. Visit [REDACTED] for more details!

What is Mythmoot? Mythmoot combines academic conference, literary creative meet-up, and fan convention all into one. It develops studies in fields not considered primary in literary scholarship such as science fiction, fantasy, horror, gothic, folklore, children's literature, etc., in a way that academics and enthusiasts will appreciate.

Visit Tolkien Locations in Birmingham this May with University of New Mexico Honors Class

Professor Leslie A. Donovan and graduate assistant Megan Abrahamson are taking their Honors Tolkien course to Birmingham, U.K.—and you're invited! See important influences on J.R.R. Tolkien's early life and fiction in the town where Tolkien grew up. For pricing and more information, contact Leslie Donovan at [REDACTED].

Submit to Mythprint!

We are always looking for reviews, but we also publish letters to the editor, short articles and notes on Inklings topics, art, discussion reports, and more! [REDACTED]

The Mythopoeic Society



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MYTHCON 48

will be held in

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

July 28 - 31, 2017

Registration is now open!