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Editorial

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Editorial



OUR THEMES IN THIS ISSUE ARE A MIXED BAG: gods and goddesses, both ancient and modern (particularly Aphrodite); heroism, real and ideal; and sources, again, ancient and modern.

We start with the modern mythopoeia of Neil Gaiman's *American Gods* in Rut Blomqvist's "The Road of Our Senses," which examines the intertextuality of culture and myth and the ways in which new myth is formed through an exploration of binaries throughout the novel and the added scenes in the 10th Anniversary edition.

Next Joe R. Christopher identifies Janie Moore as the sometimes goddess, sometimes human Δ or Despoina in C.S. Lewis's early poems, letters, and diaries. The changing nature of her depiction shows the young Lewis developing a surer handling of his chosen mythic references as he matures and reinforces the thesis that they were lovers.

Janet Brennan Croft looks at a recent specimen of popular culture, the movie *The Devil Wears Prada*, and finds in it an echo of the story of Aphrodite and Psyche, speaking to the needs of young women for a female mentor-figure.

The centrality of service to the goddess of love in E.R. Eddison's conceptions of heroism and the properly lived life is the focus of Joe Young's study of the Zimiamvia trilogy. Eddison considered his work an important response to World War II and a call for a more meaningful type of courage and way of living both during and after the war.

We continue this focus on World War II with Steven Brett Carter's essay on Faramir, that mysterious character who walked out of the woods into *The Lord of the Rings*, and how his modern tactics, leadership style, and heroism grew out of Tolkien's war experiences.

Alexander M. Bruce takes us back to classical warfare and the Fall of Troy with his examination of what Tolkien did with the *Aeneid* when he used it as a source for "The Fall of Gondolin." The parallels between the stories of Tuor and Aeneas are striking, but more interesting is how Tolkien put his own thematic and symbolic stamp on the material.

Ruth Berman returns to our pages with a companion to her study of Tolkien's use of the Andrew Lang fairy tale collections (in #99/100) with a piece on how Lewis used them as well, but also tended to look favorably on and use more modern fantasy sources than Tolkien.

A mixed bag is a fitting term for our last entry, in which Michael Livingston leads us on a linguistic journey into the origins of the words *hobbit* and *Baggins* and their surprising relations to one another. (Livingston has scored a rare double trifecta with this issue; this is his third *Mythlore* article [see also #95/96 and #105/106], and Brett Carter joins two of his other students, Noah Koubenec [#113/114] and Melissa Smith [#99/100], as *Mythlore* authors.)

In this issue we have reviews of *The Christian Goddess: Archetype and Theology in the Fantasies of George MacDonald* by Bonnie Gaarden; *Picturing Tolkien: Essays on Peter Jackson's The Lord of the Rings Film Trilogy* edited by Janice M. Bogstad and Philip E. Kaveny; *Good Dragons are Rare: An Inquiry into Literary Dragons East and West*, edited by Fanfan Chen and Thomas Honegger; *Critical Perspectives on Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials: Essays on the Novels, the Film and the Stage Productions*, edited by Steven Barfield and Katharine Cox; *From Elvish to Klingon: Exploring Invented Languages*, edited by Michael Adams; *Mythopoeic Narnia: Memory, Metaphor, and Metamorphosis in The Chronicles of Narnia* by Salwa Khoddam; *Abiding in the Sanctuary: The Waite-Trinick Tarot: A Christian Mystical Tarot (1917–1923)* by Tali Goodwin and Marcus Katz; *Tolkien and Wales: Language, Literature, and Identity* by Carl Phelpstead; and recent issues of *North Wind: A Journal of George MacDonald Studies* (2010), *VII: An Anglo-American Literary Review* (2011), and *Tolkien Studies: An Annual Scholarly Review* (2011). If you would like to be a reviewer or suggest a book to review, please contact the editor.

In addition to the referees on the *Mythlore* Editorial Advisory Board, I would also like to thank Paul Thomas, David Oberhelman, Jason Fisher, Tim Miller, David Bratman, Janice Bogstad, and Gwyneth Hood for their assistance with this issue. I could not continue to edit *Mythlore* without their support and that of the Society's Board of Stewards. Thank you all!

—Janet Brennan Croft