

mythPRINT



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

VOL. 59 NO. 1

SPRING 2022

WHOLE NO. 400



Quarterly Bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society

VOL. 59 NO. 1

SPRING 2022

WHOLE NO. 400

TABLE of CONTENTS

NEWS

Mythcon 52 Progress Report 3
 OMS#1 Reports 7
 Meet the New Mythsoc Managers! 2

FEATURES & REVIEWS

Arduini, Canzonieri, and Testi. *Tolkien and the Classics*.
 Reviewed by Megan Abrahamson
 and Daniel Bellum 10

ANNOUNCEMENTS 11

Cover Art: *The Green Knight Answers*. By Daniel Bellum.
 © 2022. 

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.

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Mythopoeic Society membership: \$15/year includes an electronic subscription and \$25/year includes a paper subscription to *Mythprint*; either entitles you to members' rates on publications and other benefits.

POSTAGE AND NON-MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION RATES

First Class U.S.	\$25/year
Canada/Mexico	\$33/year
Rest of the world	\$42/year

Complete & updated price lists can always be found on our website.

The easiest way to join the Mythopoeic Society and subscribe to our publications or join our annual conference is to visit our website. We take personal checks as well as PayPal, which is the easiest way for overseas members. Back issues of *Mythprint* are available for purchase at our website.

Reviews of mythopoeic media, 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*



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



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

ISSN 0146-9347, © 2022 The Mythopoeic Society

Registration and Hotel Booking Now Available!

Registration remains open for Mythcon 52 at mythcon.org, and attendees can now book a room at our new venue.

A Note From Mythcon 52 Organizing Committee

Co-Chairs, Megan Abrahamson
and Leslie Donovan

Global pandemic, social and political unrest, day-jobs, family needs, planning and running the first virtual Mythcon, and unexpected changes in the local Albuquerque conference provider scene have delayed this year's Mythcon Progress Report way too long. We as Co-Chairs are painfully aware of this. But, as a post shared with Leslie by a friend not too long ago said, "instead of writing 'sorry for the delayed response' say 'darkness took me and I strayed out of thought and time,' as it's more exciting and suggests that you recently had a rumble with a Balrog, or Morgoth."

So, we won't apologize! Instead, we will say that planning this year's Mythcon has been as molten and ever flowing as Mount Doom's lava. Despite that, we are striving to plan an event that will be welcoming, warm, and full of the best kinds of fellowship. Although we compromised and retrenched often, we have put together plans that we feel good about and that we hope you will enjoy.

Although you may not agree with us on some of its details—as is true at any Mythcon—we invite you to attend to help us rebuild and reconnect with each other in the best and most healing ways possible.

Join us as we start the process of recovery from all the challenges so many of us have faced these last few years and work toward a new and renewed future for our beloved socie-

MYTHCON 52: THE MYTHIC, THE FANTASTIC, AND THE ALIEN

Albuquerque, NCO

~~July 31 – August 3, 2020 [Cancelled]~~

~~July 30 – August 2, 2021 [Online]~~

FINALLY:

July 29 – August 1, 2022

ty and conference that is as vibrant and beautiful as each person reading this message.

Theme and Call For Papers (Deadline Ex- tended and New Virtual Option)

Mythcon 52's theme provides multiple opportunities to explore the Other in fantasy

and mythopoeic literature. Tolkien spoke in "On Fairy-stories" of "the desire to visit, free as a fish, the deep sea; or the longing for the noiseless, gracious, economical flight of a bird." We invite discussion about the types of fantasy that are more likely to put us into contact with the alien, such as time portal fantasy and space travel fantasy. In addition to Inklings, some writers who deal particularly well with the truly alien who might be discussed include Lovecraft, Gaiman, Le Guin, Tepper, and others. Other topics that might be fruitfully explored are: depictions of the alien Other in film and television (*Contact*, *Arrival*, HBO's *Watchmen*, etc.); developing constructed languages truly different from those of Earth-based humans; fantastical Others in Indigenous myths (such as Coyote and Spider Woman); and American folklore about the alien (flying saucers, alien abduction, Area 51, Roswell).

Papers on our conference theme and the works and interests of our guests of honor are especially welcome, although all subjects will be considered.

Now Two Format Options for Presentations!

IN-PERSON PAPER and PANELS: Mythcon 52's schedule will include regular, live, in-person presentations at the conference in Albuquerque with in-person audiences on Friday afternoon, all day Saturday and Sunday, and perhaps 1-2 on Monday morning.

VIRTUAL PAPERS and PANELS: In addition to regular, in-person presentations, Mythcon 52's schedule will include one track of virtual presentations/panels offered through Zoom on Saturday and Sunday. The number of virtual presentations/panels will be limited and preference or those spots will be given to international speakers as well as those unable to travel for other reasons. Audiences may view and ask questions at our virtual offerings either in-person in Albuquerque or remotely.

All presenters must register for either the full conference or the Virtual option; see the Mythcon 52 Registration page for information and rates.

To Submit Proposals

Paper Abstracts for In-Person Presentations (200-500 words) must be emailed by May 15, 2022, to Cami Agan (Papers Coordinator) at [REDACTED]. Include length of presentation (long or short, see below) and any AV requests.

Paper Abstracts for Virtual Presentations (200-500 words) must be emailed by May 15, 2022, to Megan Abrahamson (Co-Chair and Virtual Papers Coordinator) at [REDACTED]. Include length of presentation (long or short, see below). Since virtual presentation spots are limited, please briefly describe reasons or considerations for requesting virtual time slots (such as countries represented, time zones, travel challenges, etc.).

Panel Abstracts (50-150 words) for both in-person and virtual presentations must be emailed by May 15, 2022, to Leslie Donovan (Co-Chair and Panels Coordinator) at [REDACTED]. Include format (in-person or virtual) and any AV requests for in-person only. Since virtual presentation spots are limited, please briefly describe reasons or considerations for requesting virtual time slots (such as countries represented, time zones, travel challenges, etc.).

AV Requests

We will make every effort to accommodate A/V requests for in-person paper and panel presentations, but resources are limited and cannot be guaranteed. Please state clearly if you need access to A/V such as a projector or speakers.

Paper/Panel Time Lengths

Time slots will be scheduled for 60 minutes (long) and 30 minutes (short). Long papers and all panels will be scheduled for 60-minute time slots, in which your paper/panel is expected to last no longer than 40 minutes with at least 10 minutes for questions and discussion, followed by 10 minutes for travel time between sessions. Short papers will be scheduled for 30-minute time slots, in which your paper is expected to last no longer than 10 minutes, with at least 10 minutes for questions and discussion, followed by 10 minutes for travel time between sessions.

Student Presenters

Eligible presenters should see details on our Alexei Kondratiev student paper award at [REDACTED]

New Virtual Option

Those who cannot or do not wish to attend Mythcon in person are invited to participate remotely in our virtual option. Our virtual option will include (likely via Zoom and Discord, as with Online Midwinter Seminar 1 and Mythcon 51) livestreaming the Guest of Honor speeches from David Bratman and Rivera Sun and one track of paper and panel presentations on Saturday and Sunday. The cost of "attending" Mythcon 52's virtual option is \$20.

Hotel

The Mythcon 52 planning committee is delighted to welcome you back to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and back to conferencing in person! During the pandemic, many businesses and business models have changed, so we were forced to change venues at a late date—thus many of the delays! However, you can rest assured that Mythcon 52 is happening, the dates are set, and we have sleeping and conference locations confirmed.

Mythcon 52 sleeping arrangements will be at the [Hampton Inn University/Midtown](#), at a special conference rate of \$88 per night (plus taxes). Their room options of two queens or one king can currently be reserved on [their website by clicking this link](#) (also linked on our website). Connecting rooms are also available.

Amenities include: Free hot breakfast, free parking, free WiFi, outdoor pool, and fitness center. Located in Albuquerque's midtown, it allows easy access to the I-40 freeway and takes a 14-minute drive, taxi, or rideshare from the airport.

Conference attendees are encouraged to room with family or close friends and to plan room sharing according to vaccination status and comfort level. Because the planning committee cannot commit to pairing up people according to their safety preferences, first-time attendees or those who want to share rooms are encouraged to reach out on Discord, Facebook, and our Mailing list on Groups.io to solicit roommates. For those who want to pack a room tight, rollaway beds can also be reserved.

Attendees will want to reserve rooms for the night of Friday, July 29 (half-day programming), Saturday, July 30, and Sunday, July 31, with half-day programming on Monday, August 1. The Hampton Inn will honor the reduced room rate for anyone who arrives earlier or stays later.

Conference Venue

The Hampton Inn, unlike more expensive hotel options, does not have meeting space that fits our needs, but we have reserved 21st Century Public Academy, a local charter school for our conference panels and presentations.

The school is .25 miles or a 5-minute walk from the hotel on a road with very little traffic. It's a flat, easy walk for the able-bodied, even in the summer (It's a dry heat!), but free transportation will be provided for those attendees who need or want assistance. Still, attendees are encouraged to consider their footwear and remember any needed assistive devices such as canes or braces when packing.

The school, whose mascot is a purple dragon, is a great fit for us, evoking past Mythcons held in university classrooms, but with the added perk of not sleeping in university dorm rooms!

Meals

The Hampton Inn includes free hot breakfast with their reservations. At this point,

Mythcon 52 has not planned any communal meals, apart from the Sunday banquet, in order to allow attendees full choice of dietary needs and comfort level with COVID transmission risks. So, although conference-organized communal meal options are still in the works, we hope to offer some flavor of our usual gatherings—but they will certainly look different this year! Stay tuned for more information.

[Banquet tickets are now available](#) on our website at \$40 each. Our banquet will be held at the Daily Grind, a local favorite only .4 miles away (we will provide free transportation for any who wish it). The [Daily Grind](#) features a tasty and varied menu, lots of outdoor seating, and beer/wine offerings.

The Hampton Inn is conveniently located near many fantastic local food options for lunches and dinners. Across the street (not even .1 miles) is [Green Jeans Farmery](#), a local outdoor eatery, where Mythies are invited to take meals. In addition to having ample outdoor seating for safer, maskless interactions, Green Jeans has a wide variety of food options with counter service, including Burgers, Barbecue, Pizza, Pho, Smoothies, Coffee, Ice Cream, and Craft Beer (and local wine)!

A little further afield, determined walkers or those with cars can access even more options. In addition to the Daily Grind where we will hold our Sunday night banquet, local chains Rudy's Barbecue or Blake's Lotaburger are only .3 miles away (if across a busy street). A strip mall with Einstein Bagels, Chello Grill (Middle Eastern), Thai Vegan, and Juani's Kitchen (Mexican) is .8 miles away. Ample time will be built into the schedule to allow for lunch travel.

Whole Foods (.3 miles) and Walmart Neighborhood Market (.7 miles) are also nearby to stock hotel rooms. For any material needs, a Walmart Supercenter is .6 miles away.



Rivera Sun
Author Guest
of Honor

MYTHCON 52 GUESTS OF HONOR

David Bratman
Scholar Guest
of Honor

Rivera Sun is a change-maker, a cultural creative, a protest novelist, and an advocate for nonviolence and social justice. Her young adult fantasy series, the Ari Ara Series, has been widely acclaimed by teachers, parents, and peace activists for its blending of fantasy and adventure with social justice issues. Going beyond dragon-slayers and sword-swingers, heroes and sheroes in Ari Ara's world stop wars and wage peace. In all her works, Rivera Sun advocates that if we want to build a culture of peace, we have to tell new stories that still appreciate, but go beyond the old myths, epics, and legends that rehash outdated war and violence narratives. *The Way Between*, the first book in the Ari Ara Series, has been read by numerous groups of all ages, while the second book in the series, *The Lost Heir*, won the 2019 Nautilus Award Silver Medal in Middle Grade Fiction.

Rivera Sun's essays have been published in hundreds of journals nationwide. She is a frequent speaker and presenter at schools, colleges and universities, where her novel *The Dandelion Insurrection* has been taught in literature and political science courses. Rivera Sun is also the editor of *Nonviolence News*, an activist, and a trainer in making change with nonviolence. Her essays and writings are syndicated by Peace Voice and have appeared in journals nationwide. She lives in an Earthship house in New Mexico. For more about Rivera Sun, [visit her website](#).

David Bratman has been reading Tolkien for over fifty years, and has been writing Tolkien scholarship for nearly as long. His earliest contribution to the field was the first-ever published *Tale of Years* for the First Age, right after *The Silmarillion* was published. Since then he's published articles with titles like "Top Ten Rejected Plot Twists from *The Lord of the Rings*," "Hobbit Names Aren't from Kentucky," and "Liquid Tolkien" (on Tolkien and music). He's been co-editor of *Tolkien Studies: An Annual Scholarly Review* since 2013, and has written or edited its annual "Year's Work in Tolkien Studies" since 2004. David edited *The Masques of Amen House* by Charles Williams and contributed the bio-bibliographical appendix on the Inklings to Diana Pavlac Glyer's *The Company They Keep*. He has also written on C.S. Lewis, Ursula Le Guin, Mervyn Peake, Neil Gaiman, and others.

For the Mythopoeic Society he was editor of the monthly bulletin *Mythprint* for fifteen years, and has worked on many Mythopoeic Conferences, including serving twice as chair. He's a retired academic librarian and an active classical music reviewer who lives with his wife, Berni (a soprano and violinist), and two cats in a house they call Minnipin Cottage.



Mythcon 52 COVID Safety Policy

Our Organizing Committee has worked hard to ensure the safest possible environment for our presenters and attendees during this time when COVID variants have led to a global pandemic. Only in the event of an unavoidable circumstance (such as a ban of all gatherings over a certain number) would we consider canceling Mythcon 52. So, you can rest assured we are going forward. However, participating in any kind of gathering poses some degree of risk of infection. With this in mind, and with input from members and the approval of the Council of Stewards, we have developed a COVID Policy for Mythcon 52 participants that requires:

- Proof of Vaccination or Negative COVID Tests;
- Masks that fully cover the mouth and nose worn indoors during all presentations and panels, unless actively eating or drinking.

Beyond these requirements and others outlined in our [full COVID Policy](#), participants are encouraged to follow their own risk/comfort level when choosing among events to attend. The Mythopoeic Society accepts no responsibility for any spread of COVID-19 as part of travel to, from, or participation in Mythcon 52.

Questions

If you have questions or ideas, please email [\[redacted\]](#) and [\[redacted\]](#)

ONLINE MIDWINTER SEMINAR REPORTS

By Ben Dressler

I'd have to call the Mythopoeic Society's first Online Midwinter Seminar a suc-

cess! There was so much work put in and in my opinion it certainly didn't disappoint. I had a lot of fun hosting the Witcher game stream and I got to attend some wonderful papers. I was expecting a feeling of disconnectedness, given that this was all virtual and not in-person, but I was pleasantly surprised to find that it felt nearly as warm and social as my monthly in-person meetings with our local MythSoc discussion group, Writers of the Rohirrim. It was a lovely time and I can't wait to do it again!

By Phillip Fitzsimmons

A week later I am still feeling a glow from the experience of participating in the first annual Online Midwinter Seminar (OMS #1) *The Inklings and Horror: Fantasy's Dark Corners*. I learned a lot during the planning process by working directly with members of our Weatherford, OK, Mythsoc chapter, The Writers of the Rohirrim, especially from Victoria Gaydosik, our leader on this project. I am grateful for the work of Mythopoeic Society leadership and members, and of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) administration and faculty, from across campus and disciplines, in doing hosting of event sessions and being technical administrators and moderators for the Discord and Zoom platforms used during the seminar. This brief report would be very long if I named everyone and the roles they played in making OMS #1 happen. But it was gratifying to see people from so many experiential and geographical backgrounds to come together to make the event happen.

After the success of Online Mythcon 51 during the Summer of 2021 the Stewards saw that it would be a good idea to have an annual one-day Online Midwinter Seminar in order to keep the work of the Mythopoeic Society going between in-person Mythcons, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. This would give participants the opportunity to get out and have a virtual place to be, to see friends and colleagues, without the risks of the pandemic in the physical world. My experience throughout OMS #1 is that it successfully carried out both the academic and social functions of a

Mythcon. The seminar also creates the opportunity for international participation in Mythsoc events. It was wonderful to listen to papers from and interact with scholars from all over the United States and around the world. I particularly enjoyed the presentations “Tolkien as a Folk Horror Author” by Monica Sanz in Spain, “White Shadows. Black Riders and Restless Wights” by Franz Klug in Germany, and “Charles Williams’ P’o-L’u – the Cthulhu Connection” by Eric Rauscher and “Delight in Horror: Charles Williams and Russell Kirk on Hell and the Supernatural” by Camilo Peralta, both presenters from the United States. I also enjoyed the Friday evening opening ceremony, which included live and video welcome messages, and the video game demonstrations of *The Witcher* and *Lord of the Rings Online* demonstrated by Ben Dressler and Scott Long, respectively. I was not able to attend The Bardic Circle, which was a shame, because I heard that it went well. I think people were happy to see each other, and there was plenty of playful and serious discussion and banter on Discord and during Q&A and social sessions throughout the seminar. I found the seminar to be a success both academically and socially, and the glow I mentioned above is from both my experiences as an attendee and a host of the event. I am looking forward to attending OMS #2 in 2022, *Fantasy Goes to Hell*, to be hosted by Janet Brennan Croft, at the University of Northern Iowa.

In conclusion, I want to give another shout out to the TechMods who used their expertise and digital magic to make our experiences with the Discord and Zoom platforms seamless and pleasant and to record the scholars’ presentations. As I write this, I am working with SWOSU library media technician Doug Reichmann to crop and render the videos in preparation to be uploaded to the repository. The Zoom videos are being archived on the OMS #1 page of the Mythsoc digital repository and can be viewed here [REDACTED]. I expect them to be uploaded and available to the public during the week third week in February, 2022. Finally, I want to thank everyone who contributed to and participated in OMS #1 and made it a successful and memorable event.

By Victoria Gaydosik, co-sponsor

At the risk of tooting my own horn, I’d like to report that the first-ever Online Midwinter Seminar on the topic “The Inklings and Horror: Fantasy’s Dark Corners,” occurred as planned on February 4-5, 2022, and we think it was a success! We would have been happy to find 40 attendees, but in the end over 80 people registered for OMS #1, boding well for the annual continuance of this new MythSoc venture. We built on the excellent work of the sponsors of MythCon 51 (the “Halfling” con, and our first online effort), Megan Abrahamson and Leslie Donovan. With my co-sponsor, Phillip Fitzsimmons, we shepherded our presenters, session hosts, tech mods, and other volunteers through an evening and a day of scholarship and fannish events intended to give us all a little dose of fantasy midway between annual conventions. Many thanks are due to the people who showed up and made it all happen!

We hosted welcoming activities on the evening of February 4, including recorded welcome messages (available now at [REDACTED]) and announcements of forthcoming MythSoc events such as MythCon #52 and OMS #2. Escorted tours of two online games followed: one of the Witcher games, in honor of a panel by Sarah Brown and Kristine Larson that used examples and themes found in the Tolkien and the Witcher books/games/TV phenomenon. And for those less interested in gaming, a Bardic Circle with Optional Thread-craft Share was available at the same time, hosted by people who had never attended a Bardic Circle, but who managed to keep things going. We learned that Zoom really doesn’t work for group singing!

On Saturday, February 5, fourteen Zoom presentations were available in two strands, with corresponding discussion options on Discord. Presenters came to us from Spain, Hawai’i, Germany, Canada, England, and all over the remainder of the US. All of the selected panelists were able to Zoom in, and all panels but one were recorded. (Oversight deprived us of Sara Brown and Kristine Larson’s excellent observations.) Anyone who was unable to at-

tend, or who had to choose between two equally tempting options on the day of the event, can now view the recordings by going to [REDACTED], scrolling down to find the desired panel (except as noted above), and clicking on the panel name. In the new window, click PLAY.

As an extra benefit of the success of OMS #1, MythSoc now has a designated volunteer staff person to serve as Online Events Manager, Tim Lenz. Online components are likely to become regular features of MythSoc events as the pandemic drags its slow length along, and Tim will provide continuity and expertise to keep things running smoothly.

Next year, OMS #2 will feature the topic “Fantasy Goes to Hell,” sponsored by Janet Brennan Croft. Look for the CFP later this year!



and pedal her bicycle down the mountain to bring those mailings to the post office. Grace is thrilled to be part of getting Mythopoeic Society publications to the membership now...albeit a little relieved that she doesn't have to bike a mountain to do so these days! (Upper picture.)

Tim Lenz,

Online Events Manager

Tim Lenz has been a member of the Mythopoeic Society since 2018, when he served as the ‘Hospitality Manager’ for MythCon 49 in Atlanta, which was chaired by his wife. Since then he has not missed a conference (in-person or virtual), finding himself enamoured with their unique blend of Inklings academic studies, fan content, and off-beat social activities. Tim assisted with 2021’s virtual ‘Halfling’ Mythcon and the recent inaugural Online Midwinter Seminar as a technical moderator and ‘alternative programming’ host. While his PhD in Biochemistry from Georgia Tech is virtually useless when it comes to Inklings studies, during undergrad he dabbled in media studies, culminating in a thesis on Cold War-era science fiction. He is the co-host of a weekly podcast called ‘Dance Robot Dance’ which provides a decidedly ‘NSFW’-take on comic book, sci-fi, fantasy, and other geeky media, and is coming up on its 300th episode. Along with aforementioned wife, he co-hosts an annual ‘Middle Earth Movie Marathon’, which has been mentioned on ‘Jeopardy!’. Tim is excited to extend the reach of the Society to annual virtual gatherings in his new role as Online Events Administrator, allowing Mythies current and yet-to-be to attend from over hill and under hill. (Lower picture.)

MEET THE NEW MYTHSOC MANAGERS

Grace Moone,

Subscriptions Manager

Grace Moone was born and raised in Upstate New York and relocated to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she earned her M.Ed. from Marquette University. She is an avid reader, writer, gardener, and fiber artist. Grace is excited to honor two of her interests dating back to childhood in the role of Subscriptions Manager- as a child she could either be found reading fantasy novels or volunteering with the Delaware and Hudson Canal Museum, where she would regularly prepare membership mailings



REVIEWS

ROBERTO ARDUINI, Giampaolo Canzonieri & Claudio A. Testi (editors). *Tolkien and the Classics*. Walking Tree Publishers, 2019. 245 pp. \$24.30. Reviewed by Megan B. Abrahamson and Daniel A. Bellum.

As Tolkien fans, it's both gratifying and heartening to see the extent to which his works are revered and carefully studied in languages other than his original English. The existence of this book no doubt speaks to a very robust Tolkien fandom in Italy, and the bibliography alludes to a broad variety of Italian scholarly works on the topic that many Anglophones are missing out on. The selection of what constitutes "classics," therefore, like any attempt at canon formation, reflect the authorship and emphasize Italian and other Continental European authors and voices, so this book provides a great entry point for broadening the horizons of Anglophone readers and scholars.

Tolkien and the Classics is an enjoyable read with twenty-one short, engaging chapters. The essays in this book grew out of study group meetings of the Associazione Italiana Studi Tolkieniani, and its goal is primarily to compare Tolkien to other authors (xviii) in a way that can be especially useful to students and teachers (xvii, xix). At this, it certainly succeeded. Although we cannot say that every piece contained the usual caliber of scholarly intervention we expect from these editors and this publisher, in most cases, merely pointing out the often unlikely similarities between Tolkien and other authors furnishes thought-provoking premises for further inquiry. The bulk of the chapters therefore tended to be structural in nature—probably not the most desirable approach for most avenues of literary criticism, but a great starting point for comparative mythology, mythopoesis, or studies focusing on narratology. Since there are twenty-one chap-

ters, what follows instead of an exhaustive summary are brief overviews of what we thought were the stand-out chapters:

Both of Gloria Larini's chapters are solid, but her chapter on Euripides displays an especially strong analysis of how Euripides and Tolkien present women sacrificing themselves, respectively, and employs a sensitive folkloric approach.

Leonardo Mantovani's chapter draws a parallel between Frodo and Jason in the *Argonautica*, which is thought-provoking, albeit a bit less convincing as a comparison (the piece tends to exaggerate the qualities Jason has in common with Frodo at the expense of some of his other traits). However, the chapter also provides an excellent summary of Tolkien's background in the Greco-Roman Classics.

Lavinia Scolari's chapter is the most ambitious in scope of the ancient chapters, framing the *Aeneid* as (proto-?) mythopoesis in the vein of Tolkien's fiction; both works paradoxically create a founding myth for a people. The chapter is necessarily brief (owing to the book's format, no doubt), and so makes a dizzying array of sweeping comparisons. The chapter does a wonderful job of setting a stage for more intensive study along the lines of inquiry it establishes. One wonders if Tolkien viewed the *Aeneid*, by far the most self-consciously constructed of the ancient epics, in this light.

The Malory and Dante chapters stand out as advancing clear arguments that in each case enrich understanding of both authors. Elisa Sicuri compares Tolkien and Malory on the basis of their mutual "search for an ancient and idealised image of one's own homeland in contrast with the horrors of war" (75). The way Sicuri argues how "both authors resort to 'sub-creation' and to myths in order to deal with adversity and loss" is compelling in its beautiful simplicity (76). It goes further than mere similarity because it speaks to the role of comfort in re-interpreting old myths for Malory and Tolkien's respective audiences. Such a reading enriches how we understand the literary productions of both authors as aiming to



“[unify] the nation in the face of the nihilism spread by...war” (78).

As with Shakespeare most famously, Tolkien’s stated dislike for “petty” Dante (84) proves fertile ground for discussing Tolkien’s interest in, if not enjoyment of, the author’s works. Bertoglio compares Tolkien and Dante through their fantasy world creations and in particular the divine aspiration of music strikes a chord that goes beyond mere comparison of similarities. The “creative game of music,” Chiara Bertoglio argues, has “theological and metaphysical value” since it affirms for both authors “the importance of *poiesis*, of narrativity and of language/communication in their enabling the human beings to understand and impart meaning to reality” (92). In mutually emphasizing the divinity of music in both authors, the role of play and poesis in that music yields a new reading of divine music for both texts.

Moving on to the modern classics, Amelia Rutledge’s chapter on chivalry and fanaticism in Tolkien’s works and Sir Walter Scott’s *Ivanhoe* is among the most compelling in the book—the two authors prize the heroism of “mediocre, average” protagonists above those driven by glory or a desire to rule, and Rutledge places Tolkien’s work in the “medievalizing” tradition following Scott. It seems plausible, if not likely, that Tolkien was conversant with Scott’s work. Finally, Rutledge draws heavily from Tolkien’s *Ofermod*, a less popular but nonetheless revelatory work of his.

This text would be ideal for students of ours, especially for students interested in comparisons of Tolkien with other Modernists (the chapters on Great War poets and Morris stand out in this regard). For this reason it would be fantastic as assigned reading either in whole or in part by instructors of Tolkien (or of the compared authors) as these chapters shine best as starting points for inquiry, whether the authors are known or unknown. It would also be an excellent collection for Mythopoeic Society reading and discussion groups,

since the collection was borne out of such a group. Mythsoc discussion groups who already have a familiarity with Tolkien’s works could, for example, read a chapter and some short works by the new author, and build fruitful discussion on the comparisons.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mythopoeic Society Stewards Meetings

In accordance with our Bylaws, to ensure all Mythopoeic Society members are aware in good time the schedule of meetings, so that any member of the Society can propose a topic to be placed on the agenda of the next Council meeting, the following is the tentative schedule of Council of Stewards Quarterly Meetings for 2022:

- May 7th (Zoom),
- July 29 (in person),
- November 5 (Zoom).

Mythprint Paper Subscriptions

Due to the fortuitous volunteering of Grace Moone to hold the position of Subscription Manager, *Mythprint* paper subscriptions will continue for the foreseeable future!

If, however, as laid out in *Mythprint* #399, you wish to change your membership to paperless to ~~save the Ents~~ extend your membership length, you can contact [REDACTED] to request an extended e-*Mythprint* subscription.

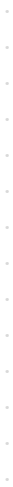
Requests must be made by July 1, 2022. For

U.S. members, that’s electing to extend your Mythopoeic Society membership by 6 months (2 free e-*Mythprint* issues) by going paperless. The rest of the world may elect to extend membership by 1 year (4 free issues of e-*Mythprint*).

Submit to Mythprint!

We are always accepting reviews of any mythopoeic media, but we also publish letters to the editor or society, short articles and notes on Inklings topics, art, meeting discussion reports, and more! We are especially interested in reviews of mythopoeic works by creators of color and other historically underrepresented perspectives. Submit to: [REDACTED]

The Mythopoeic Society



This issue of Mythprint is brought to you for free and open access by the [Mythopoeic Society](#) at the [SWOSU Digital Commons](#).

For more issues of Mythprint go to https://dc.swosu.edu/mythprint/all_issues.html

To join the Mythopoeic Society, go to: <http://www.mythsoc.org/join.htm>

Authors and artists of items in this issue may request to have their materials removed from the digital repository. To do so, contact the platform administrator at archives@mythsoc.org or the *Mythprint* editor at mythprint@mythsoc.org.



**MYTHCON 51:
THE MYTHIC, THE FANTASTIC, AND
THE ALIEN**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

July 29- August 1, 2022

Register, book rooms and banquet tickets
now at Mythcon.org!