

MYTHPRINT

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

Volume 15

JANUARY 1977

Number 1

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

A total of 449 of the Members' Questionnaire and Ballot were postmarked on or before November 7th 1976, received, and counted. In reviewing the results a distinction should be kept in mind between the membership of the Society and those who responded. It cannot be said that X% of the Society's members feel a certain way, but that X% of the respondents feels a certain way.

Age: 17 or younger — 13.52%; 18-21 — 15.15%;
22-25 — 20.28%; 26-33 — 25.64%; 34-45 — 15.15%;
46-60 — 7.93%; over 60 — 2.33%

Male — 57.81%; Female 42.19%

Level of Education: Less than H.S. graduate —
12.59%; High School graduate — 3.89%; Some College —
23.57%; B.A. or B.S. — 25.54%; M.A. — 22.43%;
Ph.D. — 10.98%

Source of hearing of the Society: answers too
numerous to list, save to say that 1/4 of those answering
said "through friends."

Year joined Society: over 50% have joined since
the beginning of 1973.

Rating features of Mythlore and Mythprint on a
scale of 1 to 10, with 1 meaning like a lot, 10 meaning like
very little. The averages are:

Activity Calendar	5.30
Art	3.14
Articles	2.52
Bookworld	3.31
Editorials	3.73
Inklings' Bibliography	3.47
Letters	3.20
News Announcements	3.00
Reviews	2.85

Which is preferred, the old system (a 16 page
Mythprint monthly), or the present system (a 40 page
Mythlore quarterly /equals 48 old Mythprint pages/ plus
a 4 page Mythprint monthly)?

Old — 19.37%, Present — 80.63%

Approve of seeing humor (such as parody) appear.
Yes — 66.91%, No — 33.09%

Seriously interested in attending a Mythopoeic
Conference if held in Oxford, England.
Yes — 38.01%, No — 61.99%

Interest in such a Conference enhanced if a charter
flight were available from New York.
Yes — 44.47%, No — 55.53%

Objection to the Society holding a 10 day Institute
on C.S. Lewis (which would include the features of a
regular 3 day conference, with attendance available for part
of it as well as for the whole) in 1980 or before.
Would object — 21.26%, Would not object — 78.74%

Reaction to four positions:

A. The Society should be almost solely interested in Tolkien,
Lewis, and Williams, with some attention to the genres they
wrote in, and with some attention given to kindred writers.

B. The Society should basically be interested in Tolkien,
Lewis, and Williams, but should also give equal attention
to myth and fantasy generally and to other authors.

C. The Society should be basically interested in the genre
of myth and fantasy, while giving moderate attention to
Tolkien, Lewis, and Williams.

D. The Society should completely be focused on the genre
of myth and fantasy, with no, or next to no, special interest
in Tolkien, Lewis, and Williams.

Those answering saw the Society as being closest to:
A — 48.35%, B — 45.05%, C — 6.13%, D — .05%.

If we give A a value of 1, B a value of 2, C a value of 3,
and D as value of 4, the total average is 1.59.

Those answering would like to see the Society as repre-
sented by: A — 28.95%, B — 52.56%, C — 16.70%, D — 1.78%,
with a total average of 1.91.

Concerning the future of Mythprint:

29.20% would like to see Mythprint continue as one page
with the Activity Calendar and news on a monthly basis.

70.80% would like to see the money spent on a monthly

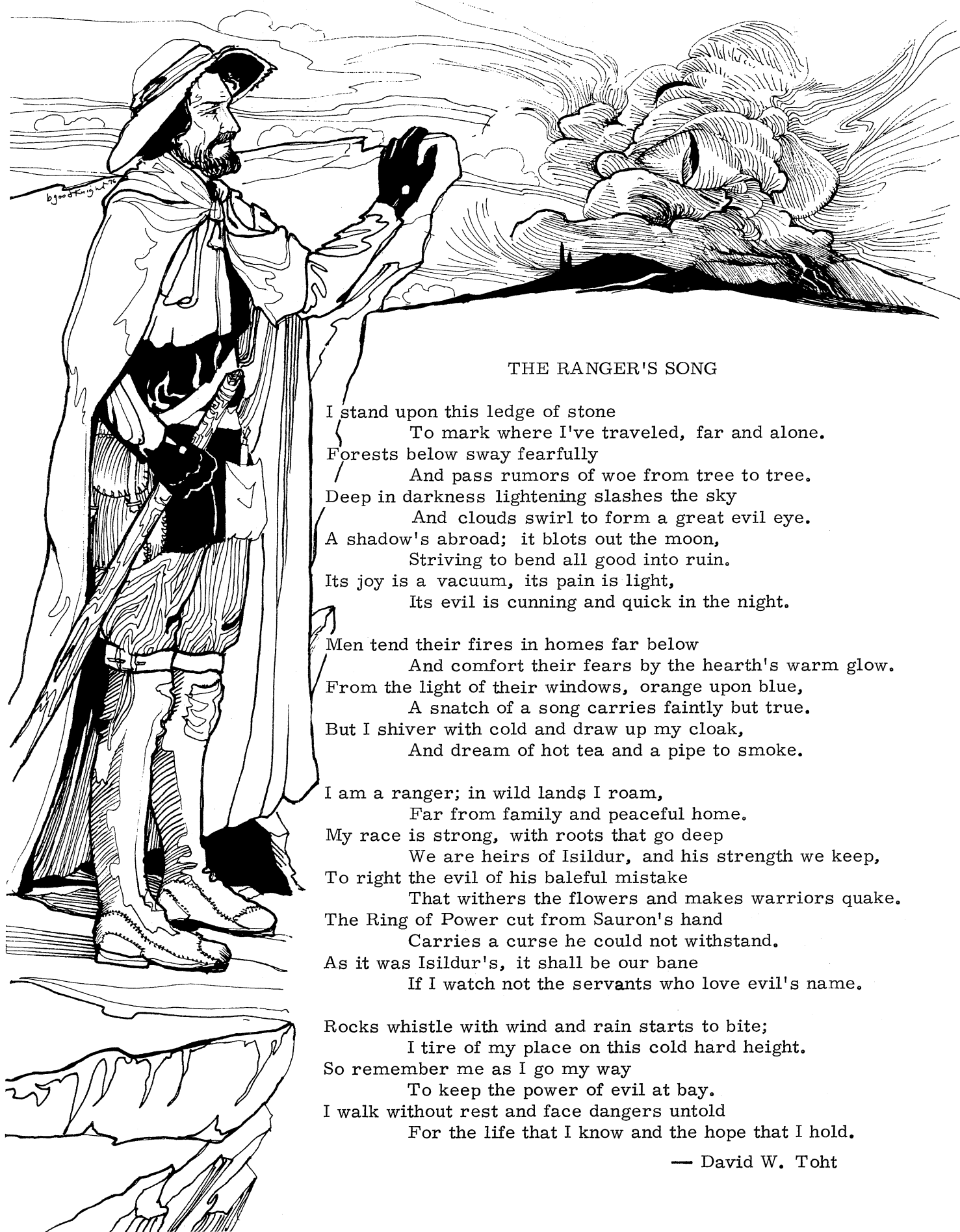
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THE RANGER'S SONG

I stand upon this ledge of stone
 To mark where I've traveled, far and alone.
Forests below sway fearfully
 And pass rumors of woe from tree to tree.
Deep in darkness lightening slashes the sky
 And clouds swirl to form a great evil eye.
A shadow's abroad; it blots out the moon,
 Striving to bend all good into ruin.
Its joy is a vacuum, its pain is light,
 Its evil is cunning and quick in the night.

Men tend their fires in homes far below
 And comfort their fears by the hearth's warm glow.
From the light of their windows, orange upon blue,
 A snatch of a song carries faintly but true.
But I shiver with cold and draw up my cloak,
 And dream of hot tea and a pipe to smoke.

I am a ranger; in wild lands I roam,
 Far from family and peaceful home.
My race is strong, with roots that go deep
 We are heirs of Isildur, and his strength we keep,
To right the evil of his baleful mistake
 That withers the flowers and makes warriors quake.
The Ring of Power cut from Sauron's hand
 Carries a curse he could not withstand.
As it was Isildur's, it shall be our bane
 If I watch not the servants who love evil's name.

Rocks whistle with wind and rain starts to bite;
 I tire of my place on this cold hard height.
So remember me as I go my way
 To keep the power of evil at bay.
I walk without rest and face dangers untold
 For the life that I know and the hope that I hold.

— David W. Toht

Activity Calendar

Discussion Group Meetings

AVALON

Info: Kim Bulot

*Jan. 15, Sat., 7 P.M.

Inferno by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle at the home of Daniel Lunsford,

*Feb. 19, Sat., 7 P.M. Lecture by Prof. Platsner of Cal. State Univ. at Sacramento at the Home of Ken Nahigian,

KHAZAD-DUM

Info: Daniel J. Oakes

*Jan. 9, Sun, Time unknown

Camber of Culti, by Katherine Kurtz, at the home of Beverly Clark,

*Feb. 6, Sun., Time unknown.

The Complete Enchanter by L. Sprague De Camp and Fletcher Pratt, at the home of Lisa Deutsch,

DESOLATION OF SMAUG OF

Info: Meg Garrett

*Jan. 22, Sat., 8 P.M.

Ursula K. LeGuin's Earthsea Trilogy at the home of Sandi Marshall,

SUTTON HOO

Info: Dolores Espinosa

*Jan. 9, Sun., 2:30 P.M.

Pilgrim's Progress, by John Bunyan, place undecided.

LOTHLORIEN

Info: Anne Wilson

*Jan. 22, Sat., 8 P.M.

Future Histories at the home of Doris Robin, Wellinghall,

VALINOR

Info: Paula Salo

*Jan. 23, Sun., 8 P.M.

Ursula K. LeGuin's The Left Hand of Darkness, at Paula's (see above).

CHAPTER OF THE ELFIN MARCHES

Info: Antoinette Brenion

*Jan. 22, Sat., 8 P.M. Michael Moorcock's Dances at the End of Time at the home of Larry Schoen,

GALADHREMMIN ENNORATH

Info: Grace or Dave Lovelace

*Jan. 15, Sat, 7:30 P.M.

Plans for future meetings; at the home of the Lovelaces, (see above).

FORNOST

Info: Marci Helms

*Jan. 7 --.

Contact Marci for topic, date and location.

RIVENDELL

Info: David Lenander

*Jan. 15, Sat., 1 P.M.

Lewis Carroll's Alice through the Looking Glass.

*Feb. 12, Sat., 1 P.M.

Charles Williams' Many Dimensions.

---Both meetings at Coffman Union,

Welcome to our Newest Groups

THE PRANCING PONY

Info: Eileen Ribbler ()

*Jan. 7, --.

The Greater Trumps by Charles Williams.

*Feb. 7, --.

The Return of the King, by J.R.R. Tolkien.

---Call Eileen for locations and dates.

PITTSBURGH, PENN.

Info: Mrs. Willi Spice

, ext.

Community College of Allegheny County,

*Jan. 21, Fri, 7:30 P.M.

At the South Campus. Contact Willi Spice for topic.

New Groups Forming

Info: Joanne Burnett

Info: David Christy

Info: Charles R. Butler III

, 5-7 weekdays

Membership, which is open to individuals, includes full participational rights, voting rights, and a subscription to both *Mythlore* and *Mythprint*. Dues are \$8 for a 12-month period, and are payable to the Society Treasurer, preferably in annual units (though they may be paid in installments of \$4 at a time): \$6 of this amount is for a subscription to *Mythlore* and *Mythprint* for 12 months.

Two members resident at the same address may apply for joint membership, which will give all membership rights to each of the joint members, except that they shall receive one copy of each issue of *Mythlore* and *Mythprint* between them. Joint member's dues are \$10 for a 12-month period. The dues of additional members resident at the same address, under the same arrangement as joint membership, are \$2 for a 12-month period.

Subscription to *Mythlore* and *Mythprint* without Society membership is available to institutions, organizations, and individuals at \$8 for a 12-month period.

Those living outside the U.S.A. may send an International Money Order or a check or money order in their own national currency equivalent to American amounts. The dues may be paid, for example, with 9 Canadian dollars, 4.5 British pounds, or 35 Swedish krona. Those not living in the countries listed may inquire of the Society as to the exchange rate for their country. Due to fluctuations of International Exchange, rates are subject to periodic adjustment.

Persons may receive a free sample copy of *Mythprint*, after which the receiver must become a member or subscriber to continue receiving copies. Sample copies of *Mythlore* are \$2.25. Readers are invited to submit names of persons whom they think would be interested in the Society and its publications, to receive a free sample of *Mythprint* and additional information about the Society.

Those wishing to receive their copies of *Mythlore* and *Mythprint* by First Class Mail within the U.S.A. may pay an additional \$7 for a 12-month period for this service. For those who would only wish *Mythlore* sent this way, the service is \$4. For those who would only want *Mythprint* sent this way, the service is \$3.

Advertisements may be placed in both *Mythlore* and *Mythprint*. Details are available by writing directly to the Editor.

The Mythopoeic Society is incorporated as an educational and literary nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, and contributions are tax-deductible.

Send all dues and orders to the Society,

LETTER

Mike Chapman

Birmingham, Mich.

In response to Joseph R. Fireno's question about the feeding of Sauron's vast armies: As such, Sauron did not import food. There were many acres of farmland in the region around Lake Nurnen which were tilled by armies of slaves. (Sam Gamgee was not aware of this either.) Substantiation comes from p. 200 of The Return of the King (Allen and Unwin's collector's edition):

Neither he (Sam) nor Frodo knew anything of the great slave-worked fields away south in this wide realm, beyond the fumes of the Mountain by the dark sad waters of Lake Nurnen; nor of the great roads that ran away east and south to tributary lands, from which the soldiers of the Tower brought long waggon-trains of goods and booty and fresh slaves. Here in the northward regions were mines and forges, and the musterings of long-planned war.

As may be read from this quotation, food was brought in from outside lands, but I wouldn't really call it importing. However, I would tend to wonder how Saruman fed his armies. At the time of the WR, Isengard was a pit, filled with wheels and forges. No mention is made of farmland — and Saruman held no tributary lands that I know of. It is however, possible that his Orcs ate man flesh (they mention it in The Two Towers, chapter III: The Uruk-hai). I'm not quite sure where they got their other foodstuffs, including the fiery liquor. Any other answers?

Letters should be sent to Glen GoodKnight, [REDACTED]. If your letter is printed, your membership will be extended for 3 months. Letters should be typed or written double spaced.

Information Deadline for the February 1977 issue is January 7. Some discussion groups are now including meeting information for 3 or more months in advance, and it is recommended that the other groups do the same. Contact Meg Garrett, [REDACTED].

Please keep us informed of news items related to the Society's interests. Don't assume that we know already.

Special Discussion Meeting

Saturday, January 29th, at 8pm is the time of the next Southern California Regional Discussion Meeting. George Musacchio will speak on the topic: The development of the character of Elwin Ransom through the Ransom Trilogy of C.S. Lewis, to be followed by discussion. Slides related to C.S. Lewis (with much new material from several sources, including the Wade Collection at Wheaton) will be shown following the discussion. The meeting will be at the home of the GoodKnights, [REDACTED]. Phone [REDACTED].

BALLOT

I favor the proposed change as described in the January 1977 Mythprint regarding Mythlore and Mythprint, and thus the removal of the word "monthly" from Article VIII, Section 2, sentence 1 of the Bylaws. ☐ YES ☐ NO

If you do not wish to cut this ballot out of this issue, you may send a facsimile (written, typed, or xeroxed) in its place. In any case your name must be on the outside of the envelope you mail your ballot in, in order to verify that each ballot received is from a valid member. Send your ballot to the Society's Recording Secretary, George Colvin, [REDACTED]. To be counted, ballot envelopes must be postmarked January 31, 1977 or earlier. DO NOT DELAY PLEASE VOTE

QUESTIONNAIRE (continued from page 1)

Mythprint used to increase the size of Mythlore, with the Activity Calendar and news printed therein.

All Bylaw amendments passed and all Nominees were elected by large majorities.

EDITORIAL: ABOUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire was very important since it was the first time the membership was queried since the new publications system of integrating subscriptions to Mythlore and Mythprint went into effect in the earlier part of 1976. I wish to thank all those who took the time to send theirs back; through your responses and comments we now have a clearer picture of how to proceed. Generally you seem to want a slightly less formal tone to Mythlore, while keeping its standards high. There are a number of ways this will be sought in the future. I think the photographs in issue 14 help as an instance of this. It seems that humor is approved, but with serious reservations as to its nature and quality, which is the editorial intent. The feature 'Bookworld' is popular with many members, and will be continued provided help is forthcoming to keep it going. It should reappear next month. Even though only 38.01% of those responding said they would be serious in attending a Mythopoeic Conference in Oxford, England (and some of those who did so really meant "Wouldn't it be nice...") this by no means rules out such a conference. Up until now the number of people who attend a Mythopoeic Conference has been less than 15% of the readership of the Society.

There were a number of comments on the questionnaires on what members would like to see added, deleted, increased, or diminished. Many would like to see more art, reviews and letters, and the inclusion of such material as poetry and group discussion reports. Please keep in mind that we can not publish that which we do not receive, and that the Society does publish a very high percentage of what it does receive. If you want to see group discussion reports in print, ask a group to write one and send it in. If you want to see more art, reviews, and/or letters, then submit such material! We will do our best to publish it, consistent with its quality and suitability.

On the Questionnaire approximately 1/3 of those responding want Mythprint kept monthly, while about 2/3 want the money that is spent on Mythprint used instead to make Mythlore larger. One of the members suggested a compromise that may, in a measure, please everyone. He suggested that instead of Mythprint appearing 12 times a year in addition to the quarterly Mythlore, that Mythprint appear 4 times a year inbetween issues of Mythlore. This would call for Mythlore to print the now separate features of Mythprint (Activity Calendar, news announcements, and Bookworld) in its issues (as a separate section, perhaps). The savings from eliminating 8 issues of Mythprint a year (which would be considerable in printing, postage and supplies) could be used to increase the size of both Mythlore (4 to 12 more pages, finances permitting) and Mythprint (from its present 4 pages to 6 or 8, finances permitting). The larger Mythprint could print material discussed above, and could carry on an on-going letter column with Mythlore (which would increase the letter column from 4 to 8 times a year, and would see a faster response to previous material printed). The foreseeable drawback would be that the Activity Calendar would appear 8 times a year instead of the current 12, thus asking the Discussion Groups to submit meeting information covering a longer period of time.

The Council of Stewards feels that the decision for such a change should be made by the membership. The present Bylaws specify that Mythprint shall be monthly (Article VIII, Section 2, sentence 1), and therefore if the proposed compromise arrangement may be put into effect, a Bylaw amendment would be required. If you are not in favor of the proposed arrangement, vote No on the Ballot. If you are in favor of the change, vote Yes.

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