

MYTHPRINT

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

Volume 15

MAY 1977

Number 5

LORE QUIZ

The Tenth Annual Southern California Spring Picnic was held on April 17th in Barnsdall Park. It was a special pleasure to meet so many new friends there. Greetings again, in print, to those who came! There was a parade, a mushroom roll contest (where you must push a mushroom to the finish line with your nose), a Lore Contest, and a Ceremony to commemorate the Destruction of the Ring. George prepared the Lore Quiz. The winner was Antoinette Brenion, who was awarded a bronze medal necklace from the Middle-earth Commemorative Medal Series by the maker, Dawn Dow. The following are questions from the Lore Quiz:

1. In LotR, two forms of highly concentrated food substances are described. For a point each, name them. For another point each, identify their makers.
2. For a point each, give the name of the fourth month of the year according to each of the following clendars: the Shire Reckoning; the Bree Reckoning; the Quenya language used in the King's and Steward's Reckonings; the Sindarin terminology used by the Dunedain.
3. Poetry and song are favorite modes of expression for various persons in Middle-earth. For a point apiece, name the characters who are most closely identified with each of the following poems, of which the first line is given in each case: "In Western lands, beneath the Sun..."; "Ai! laurie lantar lassi surinen..."; "Cold be hand and heart and bone..."; "In the willow-meads of Tasarinan I walked in the Spring..."; "Sing now, ye people of the Tower of Anor..."; "O slender as a willow-wand! O clearer than clear water!..."; "Out of doubt, out of dark to the day's rising..."; "Three Rings for the Elven-kings under the sky...".
4. Tolkien displayed his love for the things of nature by creating, among other things, a rather extensive Middle-earth botany. For a point each, display your knowledge of LotR by stating whether each of the following was an herb, a flower, or a tree: elanor; pipe-weed; mallorn; niphredil; alfarin; kingsfoil; evermind.
5. For five points, take the total number of all the Rings of Power; multiply by the number of children that we know came of the marriage between Elrond and Celebrian; subtract the number of farthings in the Shire; divide by the

number of rivers that Treebeard claims once existed in Ossir; and subtract the number of stars and trees in the banner of Elendil and his heirs in Gondor.

6. As it happened, certain sorts of weapons in Middle-earth were associated with particular groups or races. If you met a being with each of the following groups of weapons, what would he most likely be, or to what group would he most probably belong: a scimitar; an axe; a lance, sword, and shield; a heavy hammer and round buckler; a staff; a bow.
7. Everyone in Middle-earth, save for Barliman Butterbur of Bree, seems either just to have left on a trip, or just to have gotten back from one. For a point apiece, answer the following questions about Middle-earth trips and trippers:
 - a. What member of the nobility of Rohan vowed to walk the "Paths of the Dead," attempted to do so, and never returned.
 - b. To what destination did Earendil sail.
 - c. To what hidden place did Beren go after fleeing from Nargothrond.
 - d. To what place was Thrain II unwillingly brought to be relieved of his Ring of Power.
 - e. What hobbit went "There and Back Again."
9. Touring Middle-earth would have been quite a thing to do at the end of the Third Age. For a point each, identify the following places, taken from the pages of a recently-discovered tourists' guide of that period:
 - a. This spot was long used as a supply dump for a major fortress, and its exact location and size were classified material. Now, through the assistance of various dwarf craftsmen, this great cave system recently has been opened. Visitors are warned not to touch the magnificent crystalline structures which give this attraction its name.
 - b. This large black boulder does not seem significant, but off-the-beaten-path travelers should recall its history. It is Numenorean in origin, and has been the scene of solemn



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Mythprint, published monthly, is the Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society.

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Alison S Lewis 2/78(18).



vows, and, it is said, in times past of ghostly councils.

c. This imposing peak is a challenge to all mountaineers. Its sheer, dull-red sides and slippery snow-clad surfaces make it perhaps the greatest climbing achievement in Middle-earth. It has been heavily excavated, however, and visitors are requested to arrange passes with the dwarves now mining the mithril vein underneath it.

d. Archeological excavations (preceded, so it has been said, by exorcisms) are now in progress on these ancient tumuli near the Shire, and early reports confirm that these are treasure-troves of early and middle Third Age armor and other artifacts.

e. Though the vast majority of Minas Anor is open to visitors, this significant spot behind the city, reached by passing through Fen Hollen in the city's sixth level, never has been made available to tourists, and indeed is one of the few places in the City where a guard is constantly maintained even now.

f. This small Eastfarthing village is known locally for the quality of the beer served in its inn, the Golden Perch. Hospitality is openhanded here.

NOTE: The March 1977 issue of Mythprint was printed in Mythlore 15. Some people have written asking about it.

LETTER

Jessica Kemball-Cook

I was much intrigued by Christopher Gilson's letter in answer to my speculation on Beleriand and Moria. I am a mere amateur in the field of Tolkienian linguistics, and am therefore delighted to have the professional viewpoint on my humble suggestions, to have my connection between the Celtic Belerion and the Elven Beleriand confirmed, and to read such an elaborate discussion of the points I raised, by an expert in the field.

Incidentally, there is much material on the birth of mythology of the First Ages, in the new biography on Tolkien by Humphrey Carpenter, published over here by Allen and Unwin, and in the States by Houghton Mifflin.

REVIEW

Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Farthest Shore*.

- Atheneum Publishers, New York, 1972. Hardcover, jacket and interior illustrations by Gail Garraty. 223 pp. Junior Literary Guild edition, 1972.
- Bantam Books, New York, 1975. Illustrated by Gail Garraty, wraparound cover illustration (not credited). Paperback, 197 pp., \$1.75.
- British edition, slightly revised: Victor Gollancz, 1973, hardcover, no illustrations; and Penguin Books, Puffin paperback, 1974, cover illustration by David Smee.

This is the third, and last, of the sequence of "Earthsea" novels, which began with *A Wizard of Earthsea* (Parnassus, Berkeley, California, 1968, illustrated by Ruth Robbins), and continued with the Newberry Honor Book *The Tombs of Atuan* (Atheneum, illustrated by Gail Garraty, 1971: shorter version in *Worlds of Fantasy* magazine, Winter 1970-1971). All three are now available in a uniform paperback edition published by Bantam Books (individually and as a boxed set). Except for the Ace Science Fiction Special paperback edition of *Wizard* (not credited in the Bantam listing of the book's printing history), the three novels have been marketed as juveniles. This is not untrue, but may be misleading, since the books are both stylistically and philosophically as sophisticated as the author's other works (e.g., *The Left Hand of Dark-*

ness, *The Word for World is Forest*, *The Dispossessed*). *The Farthest Shore* won the National Book Award for Children's Literature for 1972: I consider it to be at least the equal of the "adult" fiction for that year (or most years)..

The three volumes together tell of the childhood, youth, maturity, and age of the wizard and archmage known as Sparrowhawk, whose true name was Ged. In the first volume he is both the primary and point-of-view character; in the others we see him through the eyes of younger characters. This may be considered a concession to the "juvenile" form, but in fact it is hard to see how even Le Guin could have persuaded us that we were seeing the world as known to a dragonlord and loremaster without clear superior, and few equals, in the long history of the world of Earthsea.

Le Guin has created a whole system and philosophy of magic to go along with her world of archipelagoes and unbounded seas, drawing (one suspects) on Tao and shamanism, among other sources; but the result is unique. The Wizards' School on the island of Roke is as complex and fascinating as are the Dragons of Earthsea, immemorially old, wise, and cunning. The School teaches among its most important lessons the Names of things in that true and ancient language which is the native speech of the Dragons, who alone can lie while speaking it.

A Wizard of Earthsea is the story of the training and education of a Magician, and reveals also something of the nature of Dragons; *The Tombs of Atuan* shows the strange powers of the earth itself, and reveals more of the nature of the vanished Kingship in Earthsea; *The Farthest Shore* concludes with the restoration of the Kingship, but it is more concerned with the nature of human mortality, and the responses to it.

A major statement on this theme appears in the eighth chapter, "The Children of the Open Sea." It is one of three passages which the author revised at the suggestion of her British editor, who said "Ged is talking too much." The heart of this section is on page 122 of the Bantam paperback, and on pp. 135-6 of the Puffin edition. I will quote a portion of the revised text here, partly for those curious about textual matters, but more because it is such a good, succinct commentary on the whole series:

"...I know that they will die....That I will die. That you will die....And I prize that knowledge. It is a great gift. It is the gift of selfhood. For only that is ours which we are willing to lose. That selfhood, our torment and glory, our humanity, does not endure. It changes and it goes, a wave on the sea. Would you have the sea grow still and the tides cease to save one wave, to save yourself? Would you give up the craft of your hands, and the passion of your heart, and the hunger of your mind, to buy safety?"

There is room for an extended essay (or more than one) on this idea, and the similarities and differences with the "gift of the One to Men" which Arwen found "bitter to receive," built as they are on very different views of our primary world. But the most important thing one can do about the "Earthsea" books is encourage others to read them.

-- by Ian Miles Slater

(Note: Important material about the "Earthsea" books, most of which originally appeared in the magazine "ALGOL," is included in the pamphlet *Dreams Must Explain Themselves*, by Ursula K. Le Guin, Algor Press, 1975, with illustrations by Tim Kirk. The pamphlet also contains the early short story "The Rule Of Names," set in what later proved to be the Earthsea Universe. Another short story, foreshadowing *The Farthest Shore*, is "The Word of Unbinding." Both have been reprinted together, with authorial commentary, in *The Wind's Twelve Quarters*, Harper and Row, 1975, Bantam Books, 1976.)

Tolkien Conference VI

Mythopoeic Conference VIII



Theme: The "Lesser" Works of J.R.R. Tolkien

Guest of Honor

RICHARD PURTILL

Author of The Lord of Elves and Edils



August 26-29, 1977 at The University of California, San Diego in
La Jolla, California

Theme

Tolkien's works other than The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings will be the focus of interest for this conference. A partial list would include: The Adventures of Tom Bombadil; Beowulf — The Monsters and the Critics; Farmer Giles of Ham; The Father Christmas Letters; "Imram"; "Lay of Aotrou and Itroun"; "Leaf by Niggle"; "On Fairy-stories"; The Road Goes Ever On; Songs for the Philologists; and Smith of Wootton Major. A knowledge and understanding of Tolkien's full scope of writing will enhance and deepen the appreciation of his "major" works. This year's Conference seeks to consider these lesser known, but yet superb, examples of Tolkien's art.

Membership

Attending Membership in the Conference is \$6.50 until July 10th, \$7.50 thereafter. Supporting Membership (will receive the Program Book) is \$1, and may be converted to Attending Membership at the Conference. Attending Membership for children under 12 is \$2.

Rates

\$49.50 per person (single occupancy) and \$46.50 per person (double occupancy) are the prices for the room and meal package. This includes three nights lodging (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) and nine meals (from Friday dinner to Monday lunch). For your fullest personal enjoyment of the convention you are urged to take the room and meal plan so you can stay on campus.

Papers

You may present your paper personally or have it read for you if you are unable to attend. Papers related to the Theme are preferred, but papers on other mythopoeic subjects are by no means discouraged. It is important you write to the Papers Coordinator, Gracia Fay Ellwood, [redacted], informing her of your subject with a brief description. Papers may be prepared of various lengths, but should be ordered to permit not more than 22 pages of manuscript actually to be read, to better conform with time schedules. Two copies of each paper should be sent

Masquerade

While the Masquerade will be open for all entries, we hope the theme of the Conference will be reflected in many of the entries.

Location

La Jolla is an excellent place for a conference held in August. It is on the ocean, and the sea breezes keep the temperature pleasant. La Jolla is world famous as an art colony, and has a Riviera style ambience to it. It is a few miles north of San Diego, which has many attractions for visitors. Those planning to fly would land at the San Diego airport. The Conference Committee will see to it that all planes and busses will be met, providing sufficient advance notice is given.

Auction

You can help the Society and yourself by donating items for the auction. Books, artwork, publications, memorabilia, or just about any other item you can think would be of interest. The donor will receive 60% of the price the item is auctioned for, with 40% going to the Society. If you wish, you may donate the full amount to the Society. For further information on the Auction, contact Glen GoodKnight, [redacted]

Art Show

All artists are encouraged to enter their work, whether they have done so before or not. Art of any media may be entered. There is a \$2.00 entry fee, plus 25¢ for each item entered. Those unable to attend may send their entries by mail (address below). Deadline for receipt for all mailed art is August 19. Finances will be handled separately by Art Show personnel, with checks to be issued by the Society at the end of the conference.

DEADLINE

While this year there is no formal deadline, it is urged that all room and meal package fees be paid by August 5th.

POSSIBLE CHILDCARE

If sufficient interest is expressed in advance, there is the possibility that childcare might be arranged as was done for last year's conference. If you are interested, write now.

PROGRAM INVOLVEMENT

Besides the papers, masquerade, auction, and art show, there will be topic discussions, costumed pageantry, films, a music program, and possibly some drama. If you have any suggestions for the program schedule, or would like to participate in these various activities, your comments are sought. Write the Conference Co-ordinator, Bruce McMenomy, in care of the address below.

Send Conference memberships and room and meal reservations, as well as correspondence not related to papers or the auction, to: Sandi Howard, [redacted]. Phone [redacted]. Checks should be made payable to The Mythopoeic Society.

Activity Calendar

Discussion Group Meetings

SUTTON HOO

Info: Delores Espinosa

May 1, Sunday, 2:30 pm. Alice in Wonderland at Dale Ziegler's,

KHAZAD-DUM

Info: David Bratman

May 1, Sunday, 12 noon. Picnic meeting & May Day Celeb. at Vafona Park, Los Gatos. Bring food, etc.

DESOLATION OF SMAUG

Info: Meg Garrett

May 14, Saturday, 8 pm. "Taliessin in the Rose Garden" by Charles Williams, at the home of Andy and Sandi Howard,

CRICKHOLLOW

Info: Joanne Burnett

May 15, Sunday, 2 pm. The Second half of The Fellowship of the Ring

June 19, Sunday, 2 pm Prince Caspian by C.S Lewis. Contact Joanne for locations.

LOTHLORIEN

Info: Anne Wilson

May 21, Saturday, 8 pm. The Works of Edward Eager, at the home of Doris Robin,

AVALON

Info: Kim Bulot

May 28, Saturday, 7 pm. Topic: Fantasy Movies, at the home of Laurine White and Terry Adams,

CHAPTER OF THE ELFIN MARSHES

Info: Antoinette Brenion

May 28th, Saturday, 8pm. Andre Norton's Crystal Gryphon, Year of the Unicorn, and The Jargoan Pard, at the Brenion's (see above).

FORNOST

Info: Marci Helms

May 29, Sunday, 7:30 PM

June 26, " "

July 24, " "

All meetings at Baker Street Books, Berkley, Michigan.

RHOSGOBEL

Info: Charles Butler

May ?, "On creating pantheons, customs of worship in fantasy literature."

June ?, "The masks of God; the Great Goddess in Lewis and Tolkien."

July?, Midsummer Feast & Discussion of Poul Anderson's Midsummer's Tempest.

THE PRANCING PONY

Info: Eileen Ribbler

May ?, Lilith and Phantastes by George Mac Donald. Contact Eileen for location.

VALINOR

Info: Paula Salo

May ?, The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien. Contact Paula.

New Groups Forming

Info: Ellie Farrell

NELDORETH

Info: Greg Everitt

TOLKIEN SLIDES

A special showing of the large collection of slides related to J.R.R. Tolkien will be shown at 7:30 pm, June 4th at the home of Fred and Judy Williams. This collection includes both slides of a large amount of artwork inspired by Tolkien and also some work done by himself, as well as slides of the places Tolkien lived, went to school, taught, and the place he is buried. The slides also include pictures of three of Tolkien's children, John, Priscilla, and Christopher, taken in 1975. All are welcome.

Help Needed

Ed Meskys, previous Thain of The Tolkien Society of America, is blind. He cannot read Society publications, and would very much appreciate someone recording them on cassette and sending them to him. Would some Society member step forward and accept this needed service? Ed's address is

Terry and Nacy Duniho of

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We are also interested in buying books, pamphlets, art work, etc., etc. pertaining to the above named authors, or, if you prefer, arrangements can be made for trading with us.

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