

MYTHPRINT

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

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April, 1981

Whole No. 11

Mythopoeic Conference

MythCon XII will be at Mills College in Oakland, California on Aug. 7-10, 1981. The theme is "A Festival of Faerie". The Guests of Honour are Joe R. Christopher and Elizabeth M. Pope. Memberships are \$15. The room rates are \$39 per person per day, and include meals. Memberships and requests for information should be sent to: MythCon XII, c/o Diana L. Paxson, [REDACTED]

If you would like to present a paper at MythCon, you should start thinking about it now. They would particularly like to have material which treats some aspect of their theme, as well as papers on the three authors and other fantasy writers. You should either submit an abstract of your paper (if you will be reading it at the Con) or the paper itself (if you would like someone else to read it) to: Eric Rauscher, [REDACTED] before July 1, 1981. There is a forty minute limit per paper.

They are also planning an Arts program of music, dance, drama, and the like. If you are interested in performing, please send a description of what it is you want to do to: Paul Edwin Zimmer at the MythCon address. Please include the type of presentation, who will be involved, how long it will take, and any special requirements.

The Art Show is being run by Edith Crowe, and you can contact her for information and forms at [REDACTED]

All forms of Arts and Crafts are welcome, but if your work requires special display consideration, please let Edith know as soon as possible.

They are also planning a dealers' room, but all the information is not yet set. Contact Clint Bigglestone, c/o Mythcon for further information.

That's all we have for right now. We will continue to publish updates as we receive them. Let's make this year's MythCon a great success!

Renewal Time

Is the number in the upper right hand corner of your label a 12? If so, then it is time for you to renew your subscription to MYTHPRINT. The next issue will be your last one, if we do not receive your renewal soon.

The rates are as follows: \$4 for 12 issues (one year) in the USA and Canada, \$6.50 else-where. Please add \$1.80 for first class delivery, if desired. Checks should be payable to The Mythopoeic Society, and may be paid in US or the equivalent UK or Canadian funds.

Please send your renewal to: Mythprint, [REDACTED] And include a mailing label for quick identification.

We hope to hear from you soon, so that we can continue our enjoyable affiliation.

P.S. If you have a higher number than twelve then your subscription will expire on the whole number that appears there.

NEWS NOTES

NEW FANTASY BOOKS: BRIEFLY NOTED

TOLKIEN AND THE SILMARILS by Randel Helms. Houghton Mifflin. \$10.95. hardcover.

His new book discussing Tolkien's SILMARILLION. Good reading. Not dry. Palatable.

JOURNEYS OF FRODO by Barbara Strachey Ballantine. \$7.95, trade paperback. \$12.95, hardcover.

GUINEVERE by Sharan Newman. St Martin's Press. \$10.95, hardcover.

A novel of Queen Guinevere from her childhood through her meeting with King Arthur, and marriage.

A STORM UPON ULSTER by Kenneth C. Flint Bantam Books. \$2.50, paperback. A Celtic myth based fantasy.

Personal information has been redacted

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award

Review

The five nominees for the 1981 M.F.A. are: LION OF IRELAND: THE LEGEND OF BRIAN BORU by Morgan Llywelyn; THE GREY MANE OF MORNING by Joy Chant; THE WOUNDED LAND by Stephen R. Donaldson; THE BEGINNING PLACE by Ursula K. Leguin; UNFINISHED TALES by J.R.R. Tolkien; plus "No Award". Votes must be postmarked by July 20, 1981. Send your votes to: George Colvin, [REDACTED]

Those members who have not voted by mail, may do so at the Mythopoeic Conference in August. The work receiving the most votes, providing the total number of votes is more than 10% of the current Society membership, shall be announced at the Conference. If there are not a sufficient number of votes, no award will be given.

The Council of Stewards shall choose the recipient of the Mythopoeic Scholarship Award for a work which in their judgement is an important nonfiction scholarly work on Tolkien, Lewis, and/or Williams published within the three years preceding the year of the award. Member suggestions for this award are solicited. Suggestions for the M.S.A. should be sent as soon as possible to the Recording Secretary: George Colvin, [REDACTED]

Society Elections 1981

In accordance with changes in the Provisions of the California Non-Profit Corporation Code which went into effect in 1979, there shall be a Ballot Election for the electable offices of the Council of Stewards every three years. The next such election shall be in 1981, with the terms of office to begin on January 1, 1982.

Nominations to the Council of Stewards may be made by a supporting petition of at least 33 of the current members or by action of the Council of Stewards. Nominations shall be closed 120 days before the date of the election.

The qualifying nominees shall be announced in the October 1981 issues of MYTHLORE and MYTHPRINT. The deadline for postmarked ballots shall be December 1, 1981. The deadline for receipt of supporting petitions shall be July 8, 1981, and shall be sent to the Recording Secretary: George Colvin, [REDACTED]

The positions are: Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Manager of the Orders Department, Member-at-Large, Editor of MYTHLORE, Editor of MYTHPRINT, Editor of MYTHELLANY, and Editor of PARMA ELDALAMBERON.

THE STORY OF GRETTIR THE STRONG
Translated by William Morris and Eiríkr Magnússon. Cooper Square Publishers. \$17.50.

Reviewed by Lee Speth

Icelandic saga is one of the prose treasures of Western literature. Appreciation of these remarkable medieval narratives is generally, I think, an acquired taste, but the acquisition is well worth reasonable labor. William Morris pioneered familiarity with the sagas in the English-speaking world and Cooper Square has restored to us uniform facsimile editions of two translations made by Morris with Eiríkr Magnússon: GRETTIR THE STRONG and the better known VOLSUNGA SAGA.

A man lives and dies dramatically. His story is remembered, recited, embroidered; the whole narrative is hardened into a canon and is at last committed to writing. (In the case of GRETTIR THE STRONG, the embroidery includes an episode lifted from the French Tristram romances.) We in aftertimes receive a tale born in a strange environment, almost Christian (but not quite), almost reliable history (but formidably diluted), complex in allusion, austere in style, crowded with names that were once famed in Iceland.

The easiest approach, perhaps, for an American is to notice the curious similarity between saga and the western. A population of settlers begins the division of a virgin land. Disputes flare, the best grazings are encroached upon, violence is followed with outlawry. Men are independent, taciturn, bound to a code of pride; women are hearty and enduring. Some similarities are more amusing than significant. In GRETTIR THE STRONG, chapter XLIII is entitled "The Onset on Atli at the Pass"> A few pages further we read (as we approach the murder of Grettir's brother), "Thorbiorn came there about high noon; alone he was, and rode up to the outer door...." In Chapter L, Grettir, himself a famous outlaw, is nearly lynched by a vigilance committee.

For the Tolkien enthusiast, Icelandic saga can be explored as one of the seedbeds of the professor's imagination. In GRETTIR, one will encounter a barrow-wight at close quarters and meet a troll-woman, who, it is reported, turned to stone when dawn caught her above ground.

Continued Page 3

But there are difficulties in reading these works, GRETTIR in particular. The genealogies are closely packed and were of special interest to the saga-tellers. We have to familiarize ourselves with peculiar legal forms. And in this age of blatant character motivation we need to retune ourselves to appreciate hinted motives and to hear deep emotion conveyed by understatement; "Broad spears are about now," remarks one character, receiving his death wound by surprise. Even the ghosts are peculiar - we are not used to ghosts that can be killed.

Facsimiles unfortunately carry all the flaws of the original. The footnotes in the back, many useful, are not signalled in the text. The word "Story" in the title was used in the Victorian era when the Morris translations were opening new territory; today it might have been called THE SAGA OF GRETTIR THE STRONG. The translation seems too mannered; Morris redid the Icelandic into archaic English, which heightens atmosphere but sometimes falls amiss. "This offer Grettir took, and was with Thorkel that winter in great joyance and fame." The Provencel word "joyance" scarcely belongs in Iceland.

All of which said, I am glad that GRETTIR is in print. Once one has climbed the stony path and squeezed through the gate, the field of saga is great fun to be in, to wander or to bask. A drama of vengeance laced with the supernatural, a blustering, omen-filled tale with "Bearserks" called Thorir Paunch and Ogmund the Evil, a lens through which we can catch the ideal of heroism as it was expounded in a vanished world. All these things await the reader who isn't afraid to expand and to explore.

Deadline for Activity Calendar is the first of the month preceding the month of publication, i.e. May issue information will be due the 1st of April. June issue information will be due the 1st of May. Thank You.

Discussion Group Meetings

CALIFORNIA: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]: AVALON

Kim Lucien, [REDACTED], PH: [REDACTED]

*April 18, 1981 (Saturday), 7PM
THE BEGINNING PLACE by Ursula K. Leguin. At the home of: Dann and Pam Lunsford; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], PH: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]: KHAZAD-DUM

Pat Witham, [REDACTED], PH: [REDACTED]

*April 5 (Sunday) 1 PM
"Cats in Fantasy & Science Fiction" at: Sallijan Snyder's, [REDACTED]

CALIFORNIA: [REDACTED]

THE CROWNING OF KING ELLESSAR PARTY being given by the Nargothrond group April 25, 1981 (Saturday) at 1 PM with the actual crowning to begin at 3. The festivities will take place at Hillcrest Park in Fullerton, CA. Do come in costume as this promises to be a gala party. Call Lisa Cowan at [REDACTED] for further information.

[REDACTED]: MYDGARD

Dolores Espinosa, [REDACTED], PH: [REDACTED]

*April 11 (Saturday); 7PM
THE BOOK OF THE DUN COW by Walter Wangerin, Jr. at Dolores Espinosa's home.

MYTHPRINT is the monthly 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.

The address for all mail concerning MYTHPRINT is [REDACTED]. Subscription, including membership in the Society is \$4 for 12 issues (one year) in the USA and Canada, \$6.50 elsewhere. Please add \$1.80 for first class delivery, if desired. Checks should be payable to The Mythopoeic Society, and may be paid in US or the equivalent UK or Canadian funds. Submissions of news, reviews, discussion group reports, letters, and art work are always wanted. Classified ads will be accepted at a later date.

The Mythopoeic Society also publishes MYTHLORE, a quarterly journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, General Fantasy and Mythic Studies. Subscription is \$10 per year from Lee Speth, [REDACTED]. Checks payable to The Mythopoeic Society.

--STAFF--

EDITOR: David Bratman
MANAGING EDITOR: Lisa Deutsch
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Sallijan Snyder
COMPUTER WIZARD: Harold Harrigan
TEXT EDITOR: UCSD Pascal 2.0
MASCOT: "The Widget"

NARGOTHROND

Lisa Cowan, [redacted]
PH: [redacted]
*Apr. 25, 1981 (Saturday) Afternoon
The Crowning of King Ellessar Party!
See information above.

DESOLATION OF SMAUG

Meg Garrett, [redacted]

LOTHLORIEN

Anne Wilson, [redacted]
[redacted]

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

:KNOSSOS

Charles Butler, [redacted]
[redacted] PH: [redacted]

HAWAII

SAMMATH NAUR

Stephen L. Brown, [redacted]
[redacted] PH: [redacted]

*Apr. 5, 1981 (Sunday)
ADVENTURES IN TIME & SPACE by
Campbell

*May 3, 1981 (Sunday)
THE LORD OF THE RINGS by
J.R.R. Tolkien

*June 7, 1981 (Sunday)
HAUNTED WOMAN by David Lindsay
All meetings start at 2 PM and are
located at: Ken Burtness, [redacted]
[redacted] PH: [redacted]

ILLINOIS

MINAS AERON

Renee Arwen Alper
[redacted]
[redacted]

MICHIGAN

GALADHREMMIN ENNORATH

Please contact their secretary:
Dave & Grace Lovelace
[redacted]

PH: [redacted]

MINNESOTA

RIVENDELL

David Lenander, [redacted]

PH: [redacted]
*April 11, 1981 (Saturday) 1:30PM
SORCERER'S SON by Phyllis
Eisenstein, Goffman Union

*May topic - Tolkien
*June topic - TENTATIVE - Mick Levy
on Fairies, based on his research
for his dissertation.

NEVADA

CRICKHOLLOW

Joanne Burnett, [redacted]
[redacted]

OREGON

TOLKIEN SOCIETY OF MARSHALL

Marshall High School,
[redacted]

WASHINGTON

EREBOR

James Wallace and Ginger Johnson,
9401- 23rd Ave. [redacted]
[redacted]



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Alison S. Lewis
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