

# MYTHOPORING

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

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July, 1981

Whole No. 14

## MYTHCON XII

### Review

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 and requests for information should be sent to: MythCon XII, c/o Diana L. Paxson, [REDACTED].

#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

MythCon will begin after dinner Friday, Aug. 7th, with registration and a revel in the Mills College Student Union. On Saturday, events will begin the first thing in the morning with the opening procession and convocation, followed by the presentation of papers and panels. On Sunday, they may have religious services, more papers and panels, and in the early evening a feast with music and poetry followed by more entertainments. Games and other activities will happen at various points during both days, and films will be shown all three evenings. Final programming and the closing ceremonies will take place after breakfast on Monday. Bring Banners!

#### PRICES:

Memberships -- \$15.00  
Room and board for the entire weekend -- \$102.00 (Excludes Sunday dinner)  
Feast on Sunday Evening -- \$12.50  
Attendance fee for "Commuters" to the con -- \$5.00/ day  
Meals for commuters -- breakfast, \$4; lunch, \$5; dinner, \$6 (Mills food is very good, or you can drive out for food, or bring it with you).

#### RESERVATIONS:

Conference members will pay MythCon XII and they will pay the College. If they are to reserve the right number of rooms and allow the College to order enough food, they must have fairly accurate estimates of both resident and commuting members (who will be eating at the College) by JULY 17th. Obviously they would prefer you to at least send them your membership and specific information on when and how you are coming and where you will stay, if you

TWO ATLASES OF MIDDLE-EARTH  
reviewed by David Bratman

THE ATLAS OF MIDDLE-EARTH, by Karen Wynn Fonstad. Houghton Mifflin hardback, 208 pages, \$14.95.

JOURNEYS OF FRODO, by Barbara Strachey. Ballantine paperback, {105 pages}, \$7.95.

At long last, the cartographers have discovered Middle-earth. We have had Tolkienian criticism of many different kinds in recent years. These atlases are a return to the sort of study popular in the TOLKIEN JOURNAL and MYTHLORE of the late '60s -- explorations of Middle-earth as if it were a real place.

This is particularly true of Fonstad's work. For everyone who has ever looked through Hammond's or Shepherd's historical atlases and wished that they covered Doriath or Gondor, this is your book. In its scope and coverage it is a masterful work, a fitting monument to the talents and imagination of the cartographer and of the man who invented these lands. Middle-earth has often been called the most fully-realized fantasy world; Fonstad's maps of climate, vegetation, population movements and linguistics show how truly realistic Tolkien's creation actually is.

The atlas also contains standard areal maps, maps of political boundaries, and diagrams of battles (arrows marching across the landscape) and of fortresses and cities, as well as the full annotations one expects of a proper historical atlas. Fonstad is liberal but highly sensible in her extrapolations. She has fully as much evidence to go on as the primary-world cartographers do in drafting some of their maps, and she does just as good a job with it. Her penchant for exactitude and care for detail serve her well, although some of the large-scale diagrams seem unnecessary. The only thing really wrong with the book is its two-color printing (black and brown), which is hardly enough to capture the variety of detail the maps try to express.

## Personal information has been redacted

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

can't pay for everything ahead of time. Be sure to let them know if you need a double room (most are singles). Price per person remains the same.

### TRANSPORTATION:

Mills College is accessible from the Oakland Airport, the Oakland Amtrak Station, and the Greyhound Bus Depot. You can also get there by taking the "N" bus from the East Bay Terminal in San Francisco. From Oakland, take the "57 Mac Arthur" bus. If you will need to be picked up, you must let them know before July 30th so that they can arrange a pick up schedule.

### THE PERFORMING ARTS PROJECT:

Paul Edwin Zimmer: Memories of my earliest MythCons are largely bound up with a vivid impression of an intense creative ferment, associated with a bewildering blur of dramatic readings, dance presentations, opera, ceremonial drama....

All this, as a poet and writer, I found tremendously exciting. But much of this excitement has been lacking at recent MythCons. Not all of it, certainly -- the Music Program is still vital, and the poetry and fiction in the Bardic Circles have even added something...

But can you remember Christine Smith's Dance/Drama presentations at early MythCons? or Avalon's choral-dramatic reading of Tennyson's MORTE D'ARTHUR at MythCon IX? Don Smith's dramatic reading of "Three Figures of Evil" at MythCon VIII?

This year we are making a special effort to revive this aspect of the MythCon experience. So far, we have had three proposals: one, a dance; one, a play; and the third a very remarkable project combining several elements, which should be an interesting surprise. But none of these are yet beyond the planning stages, and all may fail...

Do YOU have, in YOUR branch, people whose talents and interests run to creating and performing, to verse-drama, to dance, to mime, to choreography? Surely, the Mythopoeic Society is still a mine of creative and performing talent!

Even if you cannot put something together in time for this year's MythCon, it's not too early to start thinking about next year, or the year after...

BUT -- if you would dare to champion THIS year's MythCon -- we MUST have concrete information from you AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, so that we may arrange for space and time on the Program. Please send detailed information on length, size of cast, props, equipment, lighting, etc before JULY 25th to: Paul Edwin Zimmer, c/o MythCon XII.

### BARDIC CIRCLE:

There will also be a Bardic Circle for less formal presentations. So bring your musical instruments, songs, and poetry. If you are interested in performing, speak to David Williams when you arrive at the convention.

### PAPERS:

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.

### ART SHOW:

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.

### GOBLIN MARKET:

Room will be available for booksellers, craftsmen, etc. to sell their wares. Table prices are \$15/table for Saturday and Sunday and there will be security. Contact: Clint Bigglestone, [redacted]

### THE MASQUERADE:

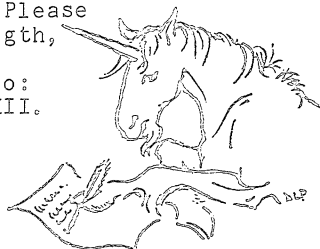
The fantasy costume contest will be managed by Marion Zimmer Bradley. Prizes will be offered for Best Illustration of the Conference Theme, Best Tolkien, Best Fantasy, Best Historical, and a Grand Prize. There will also be a Children's Division.

### THE FEAST:

Adrienne Martine, one of the most renowned cooks in the Society for Creative Anachronism, will present a Feast of Fantasy on Sunday afternoon. A tentative menu lists a first course consisting of pate aux pistaches, cold cherry soup, salmon mayonnaise and spitted game birds, and curried vegetable pie. The second course will include smoked turkey salad, spicy charred lamb, cold spiced beef, lemon zucchini, and wheatberry pecan bread. Dessert will offer chocolate cream cake, lemon mousse, rose cakes, and gateau breton. Tickets will be \$12.50 each. There will also be a limited number of openings for servers at \$4.00 each. If you like to be a server or buy tickets write Adrienne, c/o MythCon XII.

### AUCTIONS:

Artwork will be auctioned at the end of the Art Show. Glen GoodKnight will also conduct an auction of fantasy books and other materials for the benefit of the Mythopoeic Society.



# Mythopoeic Fantasy Award

# ACTIVITY CALENDAR

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.



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

## Discussion Group Meetings

CALIFORNIA: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AVALON

John McPike, [REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] KHAZAD-DUM

Pat Witham, [REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

\*July 11, 1981 (Saturday) 11 am  
PUCK OF POOK'S HILL by Kipling.

Picnic. Meet at the home of Harold and Lisa Harrigan, [REDACTED],

PH: [REDACTED]

Proceed to picnic spot from there.

\*August 2, 1981 (Sunday) 1 PM

UNFINISHED TALES by J.R.R. Tolkien (continuation of earlier discussion).  
At Chris Gilson's. [REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

CALIFORNIA: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MYDGARD

Dolores Esdinosa, [REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

\*July 12, 1981 (Sunday) 2:30 PM

THE PRINCESS AND THE GOBLIN by George Mac Donald. At the home of Rob Thais [REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NARGOTHROD

Lisa Cowan, [REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

\*July 25, 1981 (Saturday) 7:30 PM

Alternate Histories of Middle-Earth (What/If Questions. What if Frodo had Refused to take the Ring to Mordor? Etc.)

\*August 22, 1981 (Saturday) 7:30 PM

Magical Devices in Fantasy Literature (Especially Tolkien's books)

NEW PERMANENT LOCATION for all meetings:  
Morlan Lounge, at [REDACTED]

Call Lisa Cowan for directions.

[REDACTED] DESOLATION OF SMAUG

Meg Garrett, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CAIR PARAVEL.

Scott Norton, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LOTHLORIEN

Anne Wilson, [REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

[REDACTED] KNOSSOS

Mary Norman, [REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

\*July 25, 1981 (Saturday) 1 PM

Contact Secretary for topic  
At the home of Charles Butler  
[REDACTED]

██████████ KNOSSOS CONTINUED

\*August 29, 1981 (Saturday) 7 PM  
Contact Secretary for topic.  
At the home of Lisa Peoples

██████████ PH: ██████████

HAWAII

██████████ SAMMATH NAUR

Stephen L. Brown. ██████████

██████████ PH: ██████████

All meetings start at 2 PM and are  
located at: Ken Burtness. ██████████

ILLINOIS

██████████ MINAS AERON

Renee Arwen Alger  
██████████

MAINE

██████████ THE KHAZAD

Garv Hunnewell. ██████████

MICHIGAN

██████████ GALADHREMMIN ENNORATH

Please contact their secretary:  
Dave & Grace Lovelace  
██████████

██████████ PH: ██████████

MINNESOTA

██████████ RIVENDELL

David Lenander. ██████████

██████████ PH: ██████████

OREGON

██████████ TOLKIEN SOCIETY OF MARSHALL

Marshall High School,  
██████████

WASHINGTON

██████████ EREBOR

James Wallace and Ginger Johnson.  
██████████

██████████ PH: ██████████

## Review

Journey if you will back to the times when movies were dramatic yet simple, exciting yet not bloodily violent, when characters were bold, yet not brash, and heroes, with a little help from "powers above", could not fail. CLASH OF THE TITANS, from MGM, is such a movie. Filmed in Malta and other Mediterranean locations, the movie (contrary to the title) tells the story of Perseus, rather than the tale of the ten-year war of the Titans and the Gods of Olympus.

Beginning with King Acristus thrusting his daughter Danae and her infant son Perseus out into the churning sea, the plot proceeds (a bit helter-skelter) to follow the adventures of one of Zeus' favorite sons.

The stamp of Ray Harryhausen is very evident in Medusa, Pegasus, and the Sea Monster (called here the Kraken, a term borrowed from the Nordic myths). Indeed, the entire film is reminiscent of his Sinbad series and "Jason and the Argonauts". But these stop-action monsters lack the sophistication viewers have come to expect in today's special effects films.

The human actors and actresses, however, more than make up for the non-special effects. Harry Hamlin does a fine job as the young hero, and Judi Bowker is lovely as Andromeda.

All in all, an adequate portrayal of a Greek myth, with a decent plot-line, but lacking the technical quality expected of a 1981 "special effects" film.

## Letters

In Response to the reviews on EXCALIBUR:

EXCALIBUR is a superior fantasy film and in tone surpasses any previous attempt to relate the Arthurian Legend. However, it should be realized that the film uses the Arthurian Legend only as a point of departure and even seems to create its own legend which has very little to do with the classical stories.

I will relate only a few of the many discrepancies between this film and the historical legends. The role of Excalibur was quite overplayed. In fact one would think that just anybody who possessed it could rule invincibly. Contrary to the film Excalibur was not the Sword-in-the-Stone nor did Uther Pendragon possess it. Arthur obtained it later.

Arthur's liason with Morgause (not Morgan, her sister) took place prior to his marriage with Guinevere. After sending away his baby son, Mordred, to be drowned, Arthur later welcomes him at Camelot as a young man (he had been rescued and raised by his mother Morgause). Through Mordred's scheming and the controversy surrounding Lancelot and Guinevere, Lancelot is finally banished to France. Arthur then leads what is left of his knights to fight Lancelot and leaves Mordred at Camelot as Protector. Mordred revolts, claims Guinevere as his queen and himself as king, giving out that Arthur is dead. Arthur returns to battle Mordred, Lancelot returns and is reconciled to Arthur. Mordred is killed, Arthur is mortally wounded and is carried off by Morgan to the Isle of Avalon. Lancelot becomes a priest, and Guinevere a nun at this time.

All of this is in contrast to the movie where Mordred is conceived after the marriage of Arthur and Guinevere, Lancelot and Guinevere become hermit and nun before the battle with Mordred, and finally Sir Percival (in the film) throws Excalibur into the lake instead of Sir Bedivere who does not even appear in the film.

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## Review

### DRAGONSLAYER

review by Lisa Cowan

Darkness. A flame in the night; a torch, several torches; a band of somber peasants journey through the night to the ancient castle of Cragganmore where the wizard Ulrich lives. Thus begins the film DRAGONSLAYER.

If you were to create an epic myth set in a magical kingdom long, long ago, you could do no better than Hal Barwood and Matthew Robbins did in their original screenplay, DRAGONSLAYER. This movie, a cooperative effort of Paramount Pictures and Walt Disney Films, brings together the best in fantasy, myth and adventure, and keeps them in perfect balance.

The story (as previewed briefly in the June Mythprint) is the quest of Galen Bradwardyn (played by Pater MacNicol), apprentice-sorcerer, to rid the kingdom of Umland of the great dragon Vermithrax Pejorative. Just as Frodo Baggins and Luke Skywalker were thrust into their roles as hero by "fate", or "the Force," so Galen is brought to his by the untimely death of his teacher, Ulrich (played by Sir Ralph Richardson), last of the great wizards.

But Ulrich leaves Galen a magic amulet to aid the boy in his deadly task. This task, at first, seems all too easy when Galen, after journeying with the Umlanders to their land, examines the rocky mountain lair of Vermithrax. A simple magical avalanche to seal the dragon in seems to solve the problem. Or does it?

Galen soon finds that dealing with the greedy King Casidorus, his evil henchmen, and a very old and very powerful dragon is no easy task at all. He finds help from Valerian, a gallant peasant maid (Caitlin Clarke), who has spent all of her young life disguised as a boy to escape the King's lottery which twice each year selects a hapless virgin to feed to Vermithrax. Their path together takes many a perilous turn, pitting their courage and magic against the King's evil champion, Tyrian, and against the dreadful might of the dragon.

This is definitely not a "cute medieval-castle-in-the-sky" film. As producer Barwood and director Robbins said: "For DRAGONSLAYER, we rejected traditional medieval conceptions--our film has no knights in shining armor, no pennants streaming in the breeze, no delicate ladies with diaphanous veils waving from turretted castles, no courtly love, no holy grail." What they did create was a mythical land - patterned after 6th century Britain - when magic was real - as real as the dragon. And Vermithrax is real, all 40 feet of scaly golden-brown body, and 90 feet of naked wings. This fantastic monster was designed by the folks of Industrial Light and Magic, (noted for Star Wars effects) and built by Disney Studios. Brian Johnson (Alien) brought the creature to life, and live this dragon does, and breathe fire, and fly. Oh does it fly!

DRAGONSLAYER is a film of special interest for all lovers of myth and legend - for every Mythopoeic Society member. Go forth! See it! Enjoy!

The book version of DRAGONSLAYER, written by Wayland Drew, will soon be published by Del Rey Books.

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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]

[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"

Special thanks to Lisa Cowan  
for her help this issue.  
Unicorn by Diana L. Paxson.  
Cartoon last issue by Jenny Nelson.

The same criticism can be made of Barbara Strachey's JOURNEYS OF FRODO, although Ballantine's black and red is a bit easier to read. This is a less ambitious work, attempting to cover in greater detail what Fonstad passes through in a few pages: the exact route of Frodo's journey in THE LORD OF THE RINGS. Instead of a historical atlas, this is a visual travelog. Where Fonstad uses Christopher Tolkien's maps as her chief source of information (even estimating areas from their size on the maps), Strachey is very conservative, sticking to the text and using the maps only as supplement, even altering them slightly when she feels it necessary. She provides detailed rationale for all of her decisions.

The blurb on the cover says that Strachey "is not a cartographer or a professional artist", as if that were a qualification instead of a lack of one. However, she proves herself competent in both fields. Her cartography is well thought out and her reliance on the text as chief source is secure, while her artistry is pleasing in a crisp Pauline Baynes sort of way.

Both of these books are true labors of love, and the authors deserve our heartiest thanks for filling in a neglected area of Tolkien studies. The casual reader will probably prefer Strachey's simpler style, while the dyed-in-the-wool Tolkienist will find Fonstad's utterly professional effort absolutely indispensable.

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Concerning the Grail quest. The written legends show three knights achieving the Quest: Sir Bors, Sir Percival, and Sir Galahad. Sir Bors and Sir Galahad do not even appear in the film. The omission of Sir Galahad (Sir Lancelot's son) is a major departure from the legends.

It is too bad that Hollywood demands certain requisites in its productions such as all wizards must be patterned after Gandalf, all space movies must

have R2-D2 equivalents, and God, Aslan, etc must speak in an echo chamber. So much variety is lost.

In conclusion, let me remark again that EXCALIBUR is an excellent film as long as it is not confused as a re-telling of the Arthurian legends. Read them. You will have new worlds open to you.

Branton Lachman

## NEWS NOTES

### CORRECTION

The Houghton Mifflin Silver Anniversary edition of Lord of the Rings is a boxed three volume set, hardcover, with silver leather and red printing and design. The dark blue leather with silver printing is the English Allen & Unwin Edition. We hope to have a short review in the August issue of MP.

### BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOK

TOLKIEN: New Critical Perspectives. Edited by: Neil D. Isaacs & Rose A. Zimbaro. University Press of Kentucky. \$10.50, hardcover. 175 pages. A book of critical essays on Tolkien by the authors of TOLKIEN AND THE CRITICS. Thirteen essays by such writers as Paul Kocher, Lionel Basney, Daniel Hughes, Robert Adams, and others. Highly recommended, very readable. Look for a complete review in a future Mythlore.

NOTES TO A SCIENCE FICTION WRITER: The Secrets of Writing Science Fiction That Sells by Ben Bova. Houghton Mifflin. \$5.95, trade paperback. Well written "how to" book that pertains to FANTASY as well as SF, by the editor of OMNI.

GIFTWISH by Graham Dunstan Martin. Houghton Mifflin. \$8.95, hardcover. Juvenile Fiction. Nice Juvenile fantasy tale by a Scottish writer. To be reviewed soon in MP.



MYTHPRINT



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