

# MYTHOPRINT

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

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## MYTHCON XII

### Report

MYTHCON XII: A FESTIVAL IN FAERIE  
A conference report by David Bratman

Three years ago, when Mythcon X was being planned, the committee considered Mills College, a small women's college in Oakland, as a possible site. Logistics forced Mythcon X to San Jose, but we were determined that such a beautiful place, so evocative of Faerie, could not remain unvisited by a Mythcon for long. And so Mythcon XII was born. I've watched it grow from a gleam in the eye of Diana Paxson (the chair of the conference) to the reality of possibly the best Mythcon I've ever attended, a true Festival in this East Bay Faerie.

The setting is what one noticed first. Mills is an enclave of trees, grass, a creek, an occasional covey of quails, and attractive buildings, hidden from the world. The heart of the convention was the Reveinall, a room built as an Anglo-Saxon mead hall in many tones of wood. The major program items were held here. A medium-sized building just down the creek was employed for films, papers, panels, and the art show and dealers' room. The dormitories and dining commons (for members staying on campus) had the misfortune of being located up a steep hillside, but this did not prevent people from trooping up and down, and a few intrepid souls even drove their cars up the walkways.

Over the course of Friday afternoon and evening, August 7th, the people -- the second and most important element of a Mythcon -- began to arrive, receiving their badges and program books from registrar Bonnie Rauscher. It was a small gathering -- about 75 people -- but a warm one. Most of the members were locals or from elsewhere on the West Coast, but there were some from as far away as Alberta and Michigan, plus one guest from an unusual locale -- Tisa Ho, who teaches English at Hong Kong University.

## NEWS NOTES

MYTHCON XIII- Celtic Con will be held August 13-16, 1982 at [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]). Guests include: Marion Zimmer Bradley, Dr. Patrick Ford, Tim Kirk, Katherine Kurtz, Kathryn Lindskog, Ataniel Noel, Paul Edwin Zimmer. Special planned events include a side-show presentation by Walt Disney Studios of the up-coming film: THE BLACK CAULDRON, based on the book by Lloyd Alexander.

They will have panels on: The Celtic Influences on the works of the Inklings, The Celtic Influence on Modern Fantasy, and The Mabinogion: facts and fictions. Plus: A Celtic Music and Drama Festival, an SCA style Feast, and a Celtic Masquerade.

Registration is \$10 until March 1, 1982. Their address is: MYTHCON XII, c/o Lisa Cowan, [REDACTED]

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOK

Del Rey is continuing their Alan Garner paperback reprinting series with his earliest novels, THE WEIRDSTONE OF BRISINGAMEN and its sequel, THE MOON OF GOMRATH. They are also publishing THE ELVES AND THE OTTERSKIN by Elizabeth Boyer (pb), and a trade paperback edition of THE ART OF LEO AND DIANE DILLON, creators of many distinguished fantasy and sf book covers.

MADWAND, by Robert Zelazny, a sequel to CHANGELING, is being published in a limited hardcover edition by Phantasia Press and a mass-market paperback edition by Ace.

Starblaze Books, a trade paperback publisher, is issuing WEB OF DARKNESS by Marion Zimmer Bradley and WE ARE ALL LEGENDS by Darrell Schweitzer.

GUINEVERE, by Sharan Newman, is being published in hardcover by St Martin's Press.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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# ACTIVITY CALENDAR

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

## Discussion Group Meetings

CALIFORNIA: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AVALON  
John McPike, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]: KHAZAD-DUM  
Pat Witham, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]

CALIFORNIA: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MYDGARD  
Dolores Espinosa, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]  
\*Sept. 13, 1981 (Sunday) 2:30 PM  
The Arthurian Poems of Charles  
Williams, with ARTHURIAN TORSO by  
Williams and Lewis. At Gracia  
Fay Ellwood's, [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] NARGOTHROND  
Lisa Cowan, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]  
\*Sept. 26, 1981 (Saturday) 7:30 PM  
DRAGONS in Fantasy literature and  
films  
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]  
\*Sept. 12, 1981 (Saturday) 8:00 PM  
TWELVE FAIR KINGDOMS by Suzette  
Hayden Eigin, At Becky Boyer's,

[REDACTED] LOTHLORIEN  
Anne Wilson, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

[REDACTED]: KNOSSOS  
Mary Morman, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]  
\*Sept. 26, 1981 (Saturday) 7 PM  
THE KING OF ELFLAND'S DAUGHTER  
by Lord Dunsany. At Mary Morman's  
house (Call for directions)  
\*Oct. 31, 1981 (Saturday) 9 PM  
ALL HALLOWS EVE by Charles  
Williams. At Lisa Peoples'. Call  
for directions.

HAWAII

[REDACTED] SAMMATH NAUR  
Stephen L. Brown, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]  
\*September 6, 1981 (Sunday)  
THE COMPLETE ENCHANTER by  
de Camp and Pratt, and  
THE DRAGON AND THE GEORGE by  
Dickson  
\*October 4, 1981 (Sunday)  
MAGISTER LUDI by Herman Hesse  
\*November 1, 1981 (Sunday)  
(Encore!) THE LAST UNICORN by  
Beagle and HALLOWEEN PARTY Join  
MOMMY FORTUNA'S MIDNIGHT CARNIVAL  
\*DECEMBER 6, 1981 (Sunday)  
THE CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR by  
Jean M. Auel  
All meetings start at 2 PM and are  
located at: Ken Burtness, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]

MAINE

[REDACTED]: THE KHAZAD  
Gary Hunnewell, [REDACTED]

MINNESOTA

[REDACTED]: RIVENDELL  
David Lenander, [REDACTED]

NEVADA

[REDACTED] CRICKHOLLOW  
Joanne Burnett, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]  
or Tina Fields-Murphy &  
Stephen Gaddis, [REDACTED]  
\*September 20, 1981 (Sunday)  
LION OF IRELAND: THE LEGOND OF  
BRIAN BORU by Morgan Llywellyn  
\*October 25, 1981 (Sunday)  
A HORSE AND HIS BOY by Lewis  
\*November 22, 1981 (Sunday)  
UNFINISHED TALES by some newcomer  
or other  
\*December 27, 1981 (Sunday)  
THE DREAM - QUEST OF UNKNOWN  
KADATH by H.P. Lovecraft

WASHINGTON

[REDACTED] EREBOR  
James Wallace and Ginger Johnson,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]

CONVENTIONS

C.S. LEWIS CONFERENCE, Sept. 18 - 19,  
1981, Camp Capers, Waring, Texas.  
Guests include: Joe R. Christopher;  
Cynthia Donnelly; R. Roy Baines, Jr.;  
and Patrick G. Hogan Jr. \$30 per  
person. Address: c/o Dept. of Camps &  
Conferences, [REDACTED]

AugaCon 1981, Nov. 27 - 29, 1981. At  
the Duntey's Hotel, San Mateo. Guests:  
Kathleen Sky, R. Faraday Nelson, Stephen  
Goldin, Don Simpson, Steve Perrin.  
Heavy on D&D and Rune Quest, some with  
real treasure. \$10 registration. Send  
SASE to: AugaCon, [REDACTED]

During the evening, Paul Edwin Zimmer, red-bearded, kitted, and possessed of a magnificent voice, began presiding over the first Bardic Revel of the conference. The Revels -- we couldn't call them by the usual name of Bardic Circles, because the participants were frequently scattered about the room in more of a tesseract -- were the most continuous and continually varietous of Mythcon XII's programming events. There were Revels in the Revelhall of an evening, on the lawns in the afternoon, and in the dorm lounges deep into the night. The songs and poems presented ranged from light and funny to serious and deeply moving, depending on the participants and their mood. Co-Guest-of-Honor Joe Christopher read from a pamphlet of poetry he's recently published, and presented members with copies.

Saturday morning, after breakfast, the convention held the traditional costumed Procession, from the dining commons to the Revelhall, to hear the opening ceremonies and the first Guest of Honor speech, by Elizabeth Pope. Miss Pope gave a fascinating and well-received talk on myth and fairy tales, the relationship between them, and how one can be turned into the other. There followed during the next two days a variety of papers and panels. I did not attend them all -- there was too much going on for anyone to see everything -- but those I did attend were all well-presented and highly thought-provoking. They included Joe Christopher's Guest of Honor speech, rounding out the conference on Monday morning, on the role and symbolism of fairies in Lewis' early poetry; a panel on the new explosion in fantasy publishing, which produced, as panels will, unexpected but lively discussions, particularly one on the danger to the freedom of reading of the Moral Majority onslaught; Howard Davis' talk on the patterns of world-creation in Tolkien's "Ainulindale"; and a paper by Tisa Ho, which turned into an earnest discussion of how fantasy

stories are embodied in the words they're made of.

The Art Show (a "Garden of Bright Images") and the Dealers' Room (the "Goblin Market") opened late Saturday morning. The dealers, under the coordination of Clint Biggiestone, featured books, games, magazines (there was a vast run of past Society publications), and miniature sculptures. The Art Show, organized by Edith Crowe, had a variety of paintings, drawings, stained glass, and other works. At the auction on Sunday afternoon, presided over by Glen GoodKnight, the most sales seemed to go to airbrush-wielder Bonnie GoodKnight and calligrapher Patty Gould. The book auction which followed was less lively than usual, perhaps because the tradition of bidding at ten-cent increments on minor items was at a minimum this year.

Mythcon this year featured several major events that brought most of the membership together. The opening and closing ceremonies were in this category, as was, to a lesser extent, the auction. There were several others as well, highlighted events:

The Masquerade was held in the Revelhall on Saturday evening. Marion Zimmer Bradley, dubbing it a Mythquerade, introduced the fifteen contestants, which would be an unusually large percentage of the membership anywhere but a Mythcon. Among the prize winners were Adrienne Martine-Barnes as a masked dancing witch from Japanese mythology, Dolores Espinosa as the Wicked Witch of the West with a broken clockwork umbrella, Steve Gaddis as an officer in the Cirith Ungol shock troops (he received the Second Annual Red Eye Award for best orc of show), and Kelson, who closed the competition as Prospero with grey robe, staff, and a few well-chosen lines from Shakespeare: "These our revels now are ended."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

3

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--

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MASCOT: "The Widget"

Sunday afternoon at 5 was the convention Feast, at tables on the lawn near Reveihall. The originally-planned meal could not be prepared, owing to the illness this summer of the Feast Coordinator, Adrienne Martine-Barnes, so a caterer was hired. While the food was not the most mythopoeic possible, it was appetizing, imaginative, and plentiful, and the Feast, like the Mills dorm meals, was basically a success.

That evening occurred what I consider to be the true highlight of the convention: a masque, titled "The Feast of the Fisher King," concerning Sir Perceval and his search for the Holy Grail. It was written by Diana Paxson in fine rolling verse, and well-acted by a cast featuring Jon DeCies, Keison, and Tracy Blackstone. They were accompanied by some eerily appropriate music, and imaginative lighting by Lynx Crowe. The Procession of the Grail which formed the climax of the show, was one of the most moving events I've ever seen on stage.

There were many more things than all this which remain in my memory of this most excellent Mythcon:

The film program, run each evening by Pat Witham, featuring DARBY O'GILL AND THE LITTLE PEOPLE, the 1935 production of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, and a videotape of a very odd British film, a spooky modern-dress retelling of the ballad "Tam Lin".

The "Finrod Felagund Marching Band" (David Williams on pipes and tinwhistle and Eric Rauscher on bodhran-drum), which made its appearance during the Procession, at the Feast, and periodically elsewhere.

The Pun Tourney, with games coordinator Tina Fields-Murphy striving valiantly to mark credit (or was it demerit?) for each pun as five more were tossed into the air at every turn.

...And much more that I did not see. One aspect of which I saw only a little was the fine and thoughtful work by the committee which went into making this Mythcon smoothly-run and full of rich mythopoeic atmosphere: the composing of the beautifully embellished, 28 page program book; the rides to get people to and from the airport in time; the help of security and gofers (such as 12-year-old gofer Ian Studebaker's ability to open the film room door when it was locked to all other hands); and much else.

The conference was not entirely perfect, of course. There were glitches, inevitably, and some of us who did not get enough sleep had bouts of unexpected inarticularity. But overall, I had a joyous and magical weekend, and I think everyone else did too, even the committee, exhausted as they were by the end. And for that we have to thank each other: for the company and the conversation, intelligent and merry. I'm eagerly awaiting next year's already.

NEWS NOTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A collection of Poul Anderson's fantasy stories, titled simply FANTASY, is being issued by a new publisher, Tor Books, as part of a series of his works.

THE SWORD IS FORGED, a new novel by Evangeline Walton, will be issued by Pocket Books. - David Bratman

FANTASY, THE LITERATURE OF SUBVERSION by Rosemary Jackson. Methuen Press, NY. Paperback, oversize, 212 pp. \$6.95. Hardcover, \$14.95 A scholarly look at Fantasy Literature from the past to the present. Part One discusses Fantasy as a mode and delves into psychoanalytical perspectives. Part Two goes into the different text: Gothic, Victorian Fantasy, and Fantastic Realism. Tolkien and Lewis are mentioned throughout the book. It is the type of book an unpopular college professor would force upon his students, rather dry and heavy going. Recommended for only the most devoted scholars of Fantasy studies. - Lisa Cowan



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