

MYTHOPRINT

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

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NEWS NOTES

REVIEW

Just a reminder. In case you have not seen it in your stores yet. THE LETTERS OF J.R.R. TOLKIEN edited by Humphrey Carpenter with assistance from Christopher Tolkien is now out. This 464 page hardcover has already received many wonderful reviews. One British reader said, "Now we know why we were not getting more books (from Tolkien), he was too busy writing these marvelous letters!" Price is \$16.95. Both Mythlore and Mythprint will have reviews.

Publisher Frederick Ungar has a series of author studies entitled "Modern Literature." Volumes in this series have included J.R.R. TOLKIEN by Kathryn F. Crabbe (\$10.95 hc, and \$4.95 pb) and C.S. LEWIS by Margaret P. Hannay (\$13.50 and \$6.95). Margaret Hannay is a long time Mythopoeic Society member.

Also in the same series is URSULA K. LEGUIN by Barbara J. Bucknall (\$10.95 and \$5.95). The address is Frederick Ungar Pub. Co. Inc., [REDACTED]

Back in print is TOLKIEN CRITICISM, An Annotated Checklist by Richard C. West. This is a revision of the 1970 edition available from the Kent State University Press, [REDACTED] Price \$25.00 and well worth it for the serious Tolkien student.

From Avon paperbacks is a pleasant surprise: VISIONS OF WONDER edited by Robert H. Boyer and Kenneth J. Zahorski. (\$2.50 pb 240 p.) It is an anthology of Christian Fantasy tales which includes a story by CHARLES WILLIAMS! Other authors include Oscar Wilde; A.E. Coppard, John Buchan, John Aurelia. Review elsewhere in this issue of Mythprint.

HEROS AND HOBGOBLINS by L. Sprague de Camp. A collection of his poetry. Illustrated by Tim Kirk, including six full color plates. This book was originally to be published by Heritage Press, but is now being offered by: Donald M. Grant - specialty publisher - [REDACTED]. Price \$25.00.

THE LETTERS OF J.R.R. TOLKIEN, selected and edited by Humphrey Carpenter with the assistance of Christopher Tolkien. 463 p. Houghton Mifflin hb, \$16.95

Reading other people's letter en masse is always something of a daunting task, and Tolkien's are a monument. Carpenter states in his introduction that the 354 included here were trimmed down from a much larger mass -- I wonder what that would have been like. There's something of everything here: letters from every period of Tolkien's life (except for a gap, like a hole in the Book of Mazarbul, between 1925 and 1937); letters to everybody from family to publishers to fans; letters from Tolkien in every sort of mood from whimsical to cantankerous.

Carpenter has chosen an editing style in between the highly reworked, smoothed out style of W.H. Lewis in his brother's letters, and the include-everything-literalism of Walter Hooper in another volume of Lewis' letters. It would be exhausting and nearly impossible to read this as a whole, in one chunk, but every letter does have its place and purpose. Carpenter has based his selection on letters that exhibit insight into Tolkien's work and thought, and in that connection one notices that most of the letters fall into three categories:

Business letters, mostly to his publishers. These do get a little tedious after a while, but Tolkien found his publishers tedious to do business with. Still, watching him trying to explain himself to these people of the business world is amusing and illuminating, as well as telling much about certain technical matters of his works' productions.

Letters explaining his mythology, mostly to readers. It's sad to see how many of these are unsent first drafts (Tolkien would frequently write a long letter, be unsatisfied with it, and send instead a postcard saying "Sorry; too busy to write"), but they are invariably a

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ACTIVITY CALENDAR

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

Discussion Group Meetings

CALIFORNIA: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]: AVALON
John McPike. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. PH: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] KHAZAD-DUM
Pat Witham, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]
*Dec. 5, 1981 (Saturday) 6:30PM
THE ANNUAL READING, EATING, MEATING,
& MEADING MEETING at Edith and Amy's,
[REDACTED]
PH: [REDACTED]
*Jan. 3, 1982 (Sunday) 1 PM
UNFINISHED TALES, discussion #3, The
Third Age. At Chris Gelson's, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
*Feb. 7, 1982 (Sunday) 1 PM
LETTERS OF JRR TOLKIEN at Sallijan
Snyder's.
*Mar. 7, 1982 (Sunday) 1 PM
LUD OF THE MIST by Hope Mirrless, at
Eric and Bonnie Rausch's.
*April 4, 1982 (Sunday) 1 PM
MABINOIGIAN (First Branch) at Pat
Witham's
*May 2, 1982 (Sunday) 1PM
HAWK OF MAY

CALIFORNIA: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]: MYDGARD
Dolores Espinosa, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]
*Dec. 13, 1981 (Sunday) 2:30 PM
THE FATHER CHRISTMAS LETTERS by JRR
Tolkien at Delores Espinosa's.
[REDACTED] NARGOTHROD
Lisa Cowan, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]
*November 7, 1981 (Saturday) 7:30 PM
UNFINISHED TALES J.R.R. Tolkien
*December 5, 1981 (Saturday) 7:30 PM
Tolkien's poetry and songs.
Reading and eating meeting.
Early Yule-Moot all combined.
LOCATION for all meetings:
Morlan Lounge, at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Call Lisa Cowan for directions.
[REDACTED] DESOLATION OF SMAUG
Meg Garrett, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CAIR PARAVEL
Scott Norton, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] LOINLORIENT
Anne Wilson, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]

HAWAII

[REDACTED] SAMMATH NAUR
Stephen L. Brown, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]
*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]

ILLINOIS

[REDACTED] MINAS AERON
Renee Arwen Alper
[REDACTED]

MINNESOTA

[REDACTED] RIVENDELL
David Lenander, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]
*November 21, 1981 (Saturday) 1:30 PM
INFERNO by Larry Niven and THE GREAT
DIVORCE by C.S. Lewis. Dante's
INFERNO is recommended reading. At
[REDACTED]
*December 5, 1981 (Saturday)
Annual Reading Meeting of original
fantasy by local members and writers.
Contact Dave Lenander for
information.
*January 4-16, 1982
Friends of Darkover Council of ST.
Vallentine- of- the- Snows display in
case #2 on the main floor of Coffman
Union.
*January 16, 1982 (Saturday) 1:30 PM
SHARRA'S EXILE by Marion Zimmer
Bradley. At CMU
*February - Tentative Topic:
THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW by C.S. Lewis
and Michael Hague's new Narnian
Calendar.
*March - Tentative Topic:
THE LANGUAGE OF THE NIGHT by Ursula
K. Le Guin.
*April - Tentative Topic:
TITAN and WIZARD by John Varley.

NEVADA

[REDACTED] CRICKHOLLOW
Joanne Burnett, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]
or Tina Fields-Murphy &
Stephen Gaddis
[REDACTED]
PH: [REDACTED]
*November 22, 1981 (Sunday)
UNFINISHED TALES by JRR Tolkien
*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]
*Dec. 12, 1981 (Saturday) 7 PM
A Reading and Eating Meeting at
Jim and Ginger's.

Society Elections 1981

In accordance with changes in the Provision 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 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 Society's Recording Secretary: George Colvin, 3500 Lou Ella Lane, Riverside, CA 92507.

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

In light of the above information, no supporting petitions were received. The Council of Stewards has made nominations for the term 1982-1984. Brief statements from the nominees are as follows:

Candidate's Statements

George Colvin, Recording Secretary
As Recording Secretary, I count ballots, tally polls, record minutes, and serve as a Steward for the Society -- whenever I am not toiling on my dissertation (in government, at Claremont Graduate School), abstracting for a bibliographic journal, working with educationally handicapped students in junior high, or enjoying married life. I will continue performing my duties as Recording Secretary as I have done since 1973.

Lisa Cowan, Corresponding Secretary
A secretary at Chapman College, I enjoy writing and answering letters. In the past three years, I have greatly expanded the position of Correspondence Secretary. Besides routine correspondence, I keep in contact with other Fantasy organizations, and many of our members, friends, and contributors. I currently maintain the Society mailing list on my computer. I've done this job for three years and I'd like to do it for three more.

Gail Macioce, Treasurer
I have been Treasurer for the Society since March 1981, and in this time have performed the necessary duties in a timely manner. Because of my background with office work and bookkeeping, I feel qualified to continue in this service. In addition to being Treasurer, I also do quite a bit of typing for MYTHLORE, which is a great joy. My other joys are being a friend and mother to my son, reading, and nature.

Lee Speth, Manager of the Orders Department
A data control supervisor for Los Angeles county, I have revised and streamlined the subscription and orders department in the two years I have held this office. I try to keep thorough subscription records and to fill back orders quickly, and complaints seem to have decreased substantially during my tenure. I greatly enjoy working with the rest of the stewards of the Mythopoeic Society, and look forward to being re-elected.

Christine Lowentroutrout, Member-at-Large
I have been in the Society since 1967, and have server on the Council of Stewards almost continuously since 1973. I have served in several positions on the Council over these years and am currently acting as general liaison. I've a Master's in European History, work in the film industry until I can start making money with my writing, and things Mythopoeic have been a major part of my life since childhood.

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BALLOT

George Colvin for Recording Secretary	Yes	No
Lisa Cowan for Correspondence Secretary	Yes	No
Gail Macioce for Treasurer	Yes	No
Lee Speth for Manager of the Orders Dept.	Yes	No
Christine Lowentroutrout for Member-at-Large	Yes	No
Glen GoodKnight for Editor of MYTHLORE	Yes	No
Veida Wissler for Editor of MYTHELLANY	Yes	No
David Bratman for Editor of MYTHPRINT	Yes	No

Glen Goodknight, Editor of MYTHLORE

Since re-assuming the editorship of MYTHLORE in 1980, I have tried to create the best possible with the resources available. I truly enjoy the editing and layout, along with all the other steps from start to mailing. I want to see MYTHLORE continue to improve and be of greater service. Besides being a member of the teaching profession, I enjoy Mythopoeic collecting, and love the cultivation of green growing things.

David Bratman, Editor of MYTHPRINT

I'm a library school student who's been periodically visiting fantasy world since early childhood. MYTHPRINT has been my pride and joy (and also my favorite staff's) since it returned as a monthly publication 1 1/2 years ago. I trust its activity listings, news, reviews, and other material has been useful, and I wish only to be able to go on providing it for you.

Veida Wissler, Editor of MYTHELLANY

I have worked professionally as an editor for trade and textbook companies. I assisted in the production of the inaugural MYTHELLANY and look forward to editing subsequent issues. I would like to try to encourage stories and poems which have an original mythology involving the supernatural, and exhibit a moral structure acting on the characters to bring them to a greater mental and spiritual awareness.

Member Poll

The Council of Stewards would like to know your opinion regarding the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award (MFA). This award was given by the Society for several years in the early 70's, but was discontinued because of an apparent lack of members' support and interest. It was revived this year due to the strong interest in doing so by members of the Mythcon XII committee.

Approximately seven people sent in nominations for works earlier this year. Eighteen people sent in ballots, voting on the top five nominations. For the first time, voting was also possible at Mythcon, where the award has been traditionally announced. Through several announcements at the conference, members were urged to vote. As a result, an additional 26 votes were cast, making this year see the highest participation in the history of the award. Briefly, there are at least three viewpoints on the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award.

1. The MFA, while seeming to be a good idea, often is given to a work for a given year that is either beyond or on the margin of the kind of writing that is the real interest of the Society. Rather than see the award mandatorily given each year, despite the book's "mythopoeic" nature, it would be better to discontinue the award.

2. The MFA is a good thing for the Society to give, but due to the very small participation in the process by the members, despite many efforts to encourage involvement, the award is not really representative of the will or interest of the members, and would best be discontinued.

3. The MFA is a good thing for the Society to give. Many other organizations give awards, and there is no other award for the kind of writing the Society is interested in. Additionally, the award would help expand the good influence of the Society, and is a good form of Societal promotion. The fact of low participation is not a real issue, since many other awards are given by a very small percentage of those eligible to vote for them. Therefore the MFA should continue.

Should the Society continue the MFA?

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POLL

Should the Society continue the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award?

Yes____ No____

Ballots must be postmarked Dec. 1 1981 or earlier to be valid. If you wish to keep your vote private, place it inside an envelope marked "ballot" and place this inside another envelope with your name and address. Name and address are necessary on the outside of the envelope in all cases to verify there is no duplication of votes and that only Society members are voting. Send your ballots to:
Mythopoeic Society Recording Secretary, George Colvin,
[REDACTED]

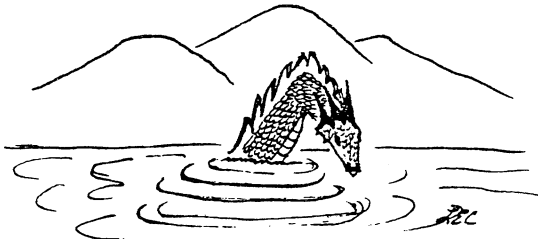


delight to read, and highly illuminating. An 18-page letter to Milton Waldman, sent in 1951, forms the centerpiece of the book; it reveals Tolkien's own ideas of the meanings of his mythology more clearly than anything he wrote for public consumption -- in particular, he emphasizes here the idea of evil arising from misguided attempts to do good, a concept expressed only faintly in THE LORD OF THE RINGS. On the lighter side, there are such gems as a 7-page commentary on hobbit marriage and inheritance customs.

Third, personal letters, mostly to family. The long sequence of letters to Christopher Tolkien, dated 1944, are included mostly for the information they give on the dates of the composition of THE LORD OF THE RINGS, but apart from that and some brief accounts of Inkling meetings, they are mostly explications of Tolkien's political philosophy. This is a side of Tolkien which Carpenter touches upon only briefly in his biography, and one which is, frankly, rather unpleasant to modern taste.

The letters are arranged in chronological order, so the reader can see what matters occupied Tolkien most at any time. The notes are copious, particularly for textual references, but not always as complete as one would like. (I would like more identification of the recipients, for one thing.)

Overall, it's a scholarly treasure-trove, and, in its way, a full portrait of a complex genius. - David Bratman



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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 subscriptions and back issues of MYTHPRINT is c/o Lee Speth, [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 and should be sent to [redacted]. Classified ads will be accepted at a later date.

Editorial

Hello, this is your friendly managing editor. As you may have noticed, life has been kind of hectic for me. This has resulted in various delays in Mythprint. Sorry.

I have gotten some new help from the direction of Lee Speth. He has agreed to take over all new and renewal subscriptions and also all back orders. His address is [redacted]. I will only be handling simple address changes at the P.O. Box any more.

Lisa Cowan has also been a big help. She has begun to send me camera ready copy for including in Mythprint. This is really quite simple to do. The column is 41 characters wide in 10 pitch. We prefer not to use 12 pitch print as Mythprint is reduced. I can cut and paste from there. This is particularly useful for reviews and discussion reports (hint, hint). Please make sure your typer or word processor has clean letters. Even if you can't send camera ready copy, we always need more information, so please write!!!

We can also use more artwork. Any size, shape and style can and will be used. Must be black and white (Preferably black ink on white paper). Remember if it won't xerox, it can't be reproduced by the offset cameras at the printer's.

Please send things!!

Thank you,

Your harried managing editor.

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: Tezra Reitan
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Sallijan Snyder
COMPUTER WIZARD: Harold Harrigan
TEXT EDITOR: UCSD Pascal 2.0
MASCOT: "The Widget"

Art work: Lisa Cowan

Reviews

MASQUERADE by Kit Williams, Schocken Books, \$9.95

A strange "children's" fantasy book with an alluring puzzle attached. Beautifully illustrated by the author, who spent three years putting this together. The story tells of the Moon who falls in love with the Sun, and makes a golden jewel in the shape of a hare to give to him. Jack Hare is to deliver the jewel, and must pass through many adventures and solve many riddles to do so. Along the way, however, he loses the jewel. The reader is given many clues to the jewel's location in the prose and the illustrations. For the jewel really does exist - buried in a ceramic container somewhere in Britain. He who solves the riddle of the hidden jewel, gets a free trip to England to meet Mr. Williams and dig up the treasure! Literally thousands of readers are trying to solve this cryptical, quizzical, puzzle, but as of this writing, no one has solved it yet! Stay tuned. -- Lisa Cowan.

NEWS NOTES

An ineteresting book out this summer from Southern Illinois University press is THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE edited by Charles G. Waugh and Martin H. Greenberg. An unusual collection of Sf, horror, and "wierd" stories by the famed author of Sherlock Holmes books. Write to: So. Illinois Univ. Press, [REDACTED] for price and details.

A new mildly humorous fantasy novel from Del Rey (Ballantine) is THE ELVES AND THE OTTERSKINS by Elizabeth Boyer. \$2.50 pb. It tells the tale of Ivarr, a reluctant hero who has to seek out a magic sword in the land of the fire giants. He has to cope with a group of outcast, incompetent elves, and an inept wizard. "... Ivarr knew nothing about being a hero, and the more he heard the less he liked the idea."

VISIONS OF WONDER, edited by Robert H. Boyer and Kenneth J. Zahorski. 240 p. Avon pb, \$2.50

Anthologies of short stories never receive good distribution, and this book has been a well-kept secret of the last few months. It is the latest collection of fantasy from the editors of THE FANTASTIC IMAGINATION and THE PHOENIX TREE, and their ability to find forgotten classics of the genre has not faded.

The topic is Christian fantasy, a subject of some interest to this Society. The collection was inspired, the editors tell us, by their perusal of Charles Williams' only short story, which they have included. (Unfortunately, it's not his best work. I don't know why they did not include any Lewis or Tolkien; "Leaf by Niggle" would have been perfect for the theme.) The authors' interpretation of their theme is broad enough to include any fantasy that partakes of what modern West recognizes as religion. This permits them to include one surprisingly sharp Jewish story, I.B. Singer's "Jashid and Jechidah". As usual, their finest discoveries are from the dim reaches of the early 20th and late 19th centuries: George MacDonald's uncharacteristically sparse "The Castle", Richard Garnett's silly "The Bell of St. Eusemon", and Oscar Wilde's "The Fisherman and His Soul", a myth with traditional elements but very untraditional plot twists, are perhaps the best stories included.

Other names familiar to the readers of Boyer and Zahorski who will be found herein include Selma Lagerlof, John Buchan, Kenneth Morris, and Vera Chapman. In short, a worthy collection. - David Bratman.



MYTHPRINT

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