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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

Albuquerque, New Mexico • Postponed to: July 30 – August 2, 2021



Books by Mythic Circlers

Besides the authors in this issue, I am happy to offer congratulations to two former Mythic Circlers who have published books which are now available for sale. Selections from Ania Kashina's "Ivan and Marya" tale appeared in our 2004 issue, now has *The Princess of Dhagabad*, a story based on *The Arabian Nights*, appearing from Dragonwell Press, available in hardcover, paperback and e-book from Amazon.com. The first lines of the back cover blurb do tend to draw interest: "When, on the day of her age-coming, the princess opens a mysterious bronze bottle—a gift from her grandmother—she has no idea that she is about to unleash a power older than the world itself. Worse, she is not prepared for the bearer of this power to be a handsome man whose intense gray eyes pierce her very soul. Hasan, her new slave, is immeasurably

older and stronger than anyone she has ever heard of, and he is now hers to command—if she can handle him, that is."

Then there is Maria Tatham, who worked on MC from 2003-2006, and published some pieces with us. In 2011, her first novel was published (Tate Publishing). *The Queen and the Handyman* is a coming-of-age story, in genre marriage of high fantasy and supernatural thriller. *It* is available as a paperback and e-book at the usual on-line stores. To find out more about Maria's writing visit her website:

<www.christianfantasyforwomen.com>

I join with the other Mythic Circlers in wishing these two writers the best.

ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTORS

L. C. Atencio is a senior at the University of Central Florida who is seeking a bachelor's degree in English with special emphasis on creative writing. Furthermore, he's an honor student who has received collegiate achievements in the literary field, such as having his essays showcased in the hall of fame of advanced literary courses. In 2010, he was also the poetry editor for the 13th issue of Phoenix Magazine; the magazine was published last year. His poems have appeared in *Aries: A Journal of Art and Literature*, *Perspectives*, *Black Lantern Publishing: A Macabre Journal of Literature & Art* and *Wilderness House Literary Review*.

Tim Callahan graduated from the Chouinard Art School with a degree in illustration. He has worked in the animation industry as a background designer and layout artist for over 20 years and has regularly contributed art for *The Mythic Circle*. He and Bonnie met while working on the infamous Bakshi production of Lord of the Rings.

Nancy Enright is an Associate Professor of English and Director of First Year Writing at Seton Hall University. She serves on the Board of Advisors for Catholic Studies and as a Senator on the Faculty Senate. She has published articles on Dante, Augustine, Julian of Norwich, J. R. R. Tolkien, and C. S. Lewis.

Raymond G. Falgui teaches English Literature at the University of the Philippines. His fiction has appeared in *Alternative Alamat*, *Philippine Speculative Fiction*, *Digest of Philippine Genre Stories*, and *Innsmouth Free Press*, as well as other anthologies and magazines.

Robert Franz is eighteen years old and attending Ball State University. He has been previously published in “Moonwashed Kisses” and “The American Youth Literary Magazine.”

Gwenyth Hood has been editor of *The Mythic Circle* since 1998. Since becoming editor and until this issue, she published nothing in *MC* except editorials and related commentary; “Eunoë” is a break with this custom. Gwenyth’s work of historical science fiction, *The Come of the Demons*, was published in 1982 by William Morrow, and during her Sabbatical this coming year, she is working on sequels. A work in another genre—scholarship which is the fruit of two sabbaticals, was published this year, 2012 by ACMRS (Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies). There is more information at < www.acmrs.org/publications/catalog/book-honor-augustus-liber-ad-honorem-augusti-pietro-da-eboli>.

The Rev. **John R. Mabry**, PhD, is the pastor of Grace North Church, a Congregational parish that worships in an Anglican fashion. He is the director of the interfaith spiritual direction certificate program at the Chaplaincy Institute for Arts and Interfaith Ministry in Berkeley, where he also teaches theology and world religions. He is the author of numerous books on theology and spirituality. His novel *The Kingdom* reads like an unholy marriage of Buffy the Vampire slayer and Charles Williams. He and his wife live in Oakland where they enjoy walking their dog and are losing a never-ending battle against weeds. graduated with a BA in English Writing and attended the MLA Writer's Workshop in Iowa. He has published some journalism in the *South Peace News* and has earned an award at <www.writerstoolbox.com> for my inspirational fiction “Decrease.” He has Science Fiction/Horror stories published in various webzines.

Mark Mellon is a novelist who supports his family by working as an attorney. His work has recently appeared in *Danse Macabre* and *Midwest Literary Magazine*. A Western, *The Pirooters*, is published by Treble Heart Books. (www.trebleheartbooks.com/SDMellon.htm). A steampunk/alternate history novel, *Napoleon Concerto*, is also published by Treble Heart Books (. . . WDMellon2.html). A fantasy novella, *Escape From Byzantium*, won the 2010 Independent Publisher Silver Medal for fantasy/science fiction (www.independentpublisher.com). Most recently, *Roman Hell*, a horror novel, has been published by Amber Quill Press (www.amberquill.com) A website featuring his writing is at www.mellonwritesagain.com.

Ryder Miller is the editor of *From Narnia to a Space Odyssey*. He has published stories at <http://lostsoulsmag.tripod.com/>, and articles and reviews at: *The Internet Review of Science*.

Philip Reuss is an art student at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, expecting to graduate with a BFA in Traditional Illustration in May 2013. Philip enjoys diversifying his portfolio between various areas of illustration, from t-shirt design, to book cover art, to children's book illustration, especially of fantasy and science fiction subject matter. His artwork can be viewed at <philipreuss.com>.

Douglas “Dag” Rossman has been retelling and, more recently, expanding upon the Norse myths and legends for the past thirty years before live audiences across the Midwest. He has two published collections of original short stories (many of which first appeared in *The Mythic Circle*) set in the Nine Worlds of Norse mythology. The most recent one, *The Dragonseeker Saga* (Skandisk, Bloomington, MN, 2009), has also been characterized as a young adult fantasy novel. The story in this current issue of *Mythic Circle* is a direct sequel to “Walker in the Shadows,” which was published in *MC* #32.

David Sparenberg is a poet-playwright, Shakespearean actor, stage director, storyteller and workshop facilitator. His literary work has appeared in over 100 periodicals, journals and anthologies in nine countries and he currently completing a final revision on his first novel, *The Dialogue Of Becoming Human*, a work containing

aspects of Magic Realism, alchemy and archetypal psychology. David is currently involved with a final revision of his first novel. Anyone interested is invited to read the first two chapters at: <<http://thedialogueofbecominghuman.blogspot.com>>.

C. R. Wiley is a Presbyterian minister living in Connecticut. His young adult fiction has been published in the United States and Turkey under his pen name, Mortimus Clay. His nonfiction has appeared in *Touchstone Magazine*, *Modern Reformation*, *Relevant On-line*, and *The Boston Herald*.

Joel Zartman is a reader and admirer of Tolkien, Lewis, Williams and Barfield. He has put in a stint living in Bogotá, Colombia, but has returned to the anglophone world mostly because getting English books outside of it is still harder than you'd think it would be, especially stuff by Williams and Barfield.

Ring of Toadstools

by

Lee Clark Zumpe

*...you demi-puppets that
By moonshine do the green sour ringlets make,
Shakespeare, The Tempest, (V.i.36-37)*

Tucked away in the folds of twilight's satiny gown,
Plucked from legend
And teased by the camera eye:
Perhaps at midnight your court I might spy
Beneath the satellite-clustered skies,
Dancing, dancing in the meadow
Beyond the clutch of radar nets
Outside the range of fighter jets,
Dancing, I would find you there,
And glimpse you in the sparkle of a star,
Only to lose you in a moment's passing;
And there, where you gathered on the field,
A ring of toadstools springing from the ground...
Transplanted from some fairy realm,
Enchanted by the glowing moon.