

MYTHOPRINT

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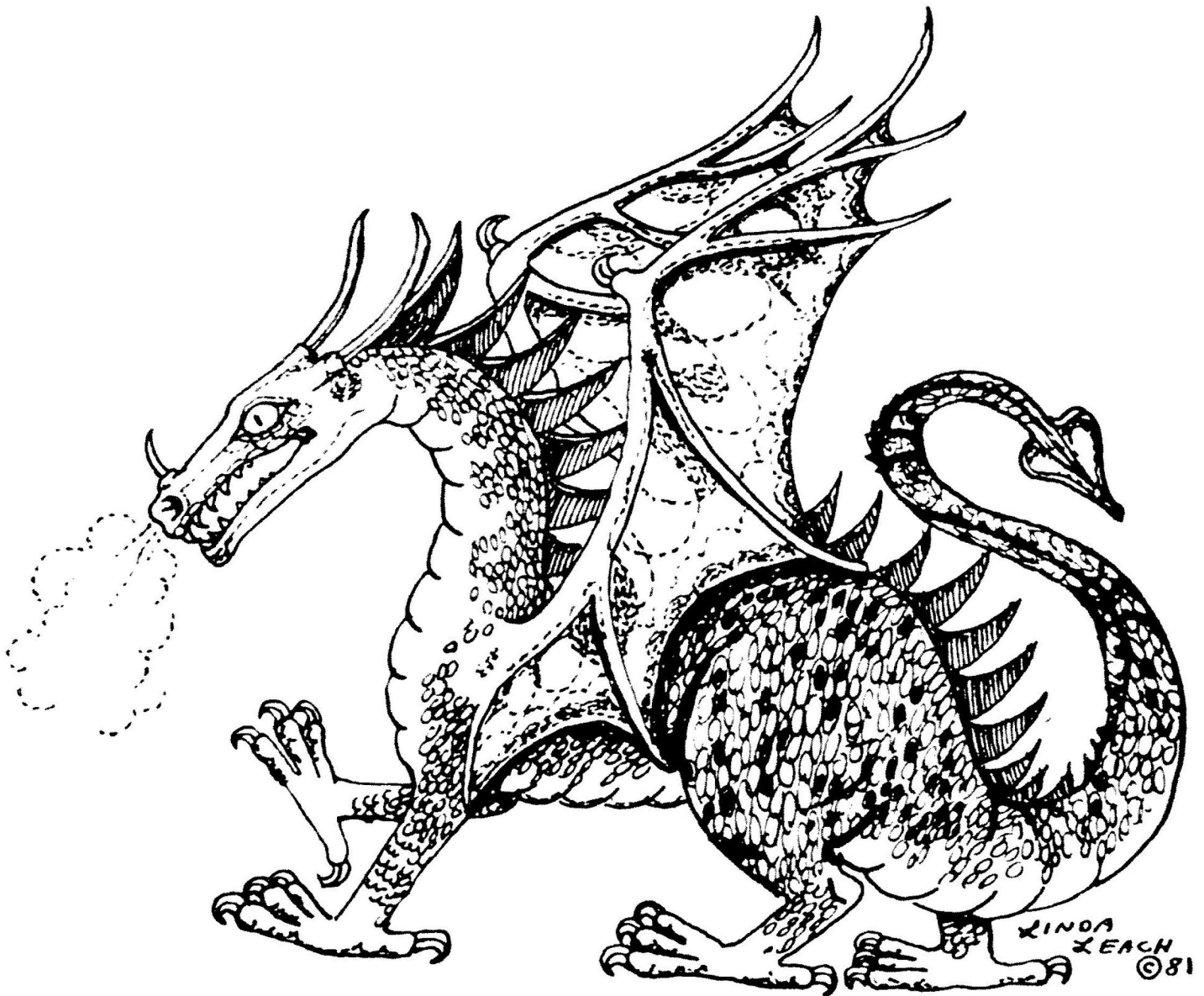


TABLE OF CONTENTS

MYTHCON XV PROGRESS REPORT2

A JANE YOLEN BIBLIOGRAPHY
PART 2: NEW BOOKS COMING OUT4

REVIEW: DAMIANO BY R.A. MAC AVOY .
Review by James A. De Marco6

ACTIVITY CALENDAR7

MYTHOPOEIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE9

REVIEW: THE BLUE STAR BY FLETCHER PRATT
Review by Melanie A. Rawls11

NEWS NOTES

--ARTISTS--

Linda Leach: COVER

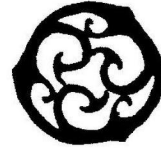
Christine Lowentrout: PAGE 5

--STAFF--

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Mythcon XV



August 10-13, 1984
Mills College, Oakland, California
Guests: Jane Yolen and Paul Ford

Here, for MYTHPRINT readers' delectation, is the latest info from our gnomic sources inside the Mythcon XV committee:

JOINING UP

Memberships are now \$20; room and board (three nights lodging and all meals except the Feast) is \$120.75; and the Feast itself, a Sunday afternoon catered picnic, is \$12. ALL MONEYS BY MAIL MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST FIRST. Memberships will be available at the door for \$25, but ROOM AND BOARD AND THE FEAST MUST BE RESERVED IN ADVANCE. Please also remember that, if you do not take the room-and-board package, there will be a college-imposed commuting fee of \$7.75/day for Saturday and Sunday, and that single meals will be available. Please let us know if you'll need child care or have any handicap access problems.

The address for all this mail is Mythcon XV, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GETTING THERE

Oakland, that booming metropolis, is served by airport, Amtrak train, BART train, bus, and freeway. If you arrive under your own power, there will be a map of the city in Progress Report #2 to help guide you to Mills College; if by public transit, there will be info on city busses for the same purpose. Or, if you wish to be picked up at the airport, bus, or train station, let us know in advance.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

WHAT TO BRING

This is California, so the days should be healthily warm and the nights cool and a bit brisk. Take that as a hint and dress appropriately. Costumes will naturally be welcome; don't forget that there will be a masquerade, which will be an excellent place to display those costumes which are too delicate or flashy for everyday wear. The college will provide sheets and pillows in the room and board package, but don't forget your soap. (Just in case, there are stores within walking distance that provide basic amenities, including snacks.) Other things to remember include branch banners (for the opening procession), poetry to read, music to sing and instruments to play (for the Bardic Circles), books (to autograph), and money (for the dealer room and art auction).

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU GET THERE (scheduling tentative)

Friday: Registration will open sometime in the middle of the afternoon; in the evening there will be an opening-night party and the first and largest Bardic Circle.

Saturday: Opening procession in the morning; papers and panels during the day; and the evening program will feature the costume presentation. The dealer room and art show will be open throughout the day. In the late evening, more Bardic Circling and possibly some films.

Sunday: More papers and panels, more dealers and artists, and the art auction in the late afternoon. The Feast will be substituting for the evening meal; afterwards there will be a special theatrical presentation. Late evening much as on Saturday.

Monday morning: A few leftover program items, perhaps; the closing ceremonies, and our farewells.

A Jane Yolen Bibliography

compiled by the author

PART TWO

"WHAT'S TO COME FROM THE TYPER OF JANE YOLEN"

Ed. note -- Jane Yolen, Mythcon XV's prolific Guest of Honor, has provided MYTHPRINT with this supplement to her bibliography (which appeared in the May issue). The supplement lists some of her most recent and upcoming works.

SPRING 1984

Children of the Wolf (young adult historical novel, Viking)
Dragon's Blood (Dell pb edition of the 1st novel in the Pit Dragon trilogy)

Heart's Blood (Delacorte hc; 1st publication of the 2nd novel in the Pit Dragon trilogy)

"Dealing with Dragons" (article on fantasy writing in Horn Book magazine)

Three stories in 100 Great Fantasy Short Shorts, edited by Isaac Asimov and Terry Carr (Doubleday hc)

"The Storyteller" (poem in National Storyteller's Journal, January)

SUMMER 1984

"Salvage" (story in Isaac Asimov's SF Magazine, April)

The Magic Three of Solatia (novel, pb edition, Ace MagicQuest series)

Several poems in Bob Frazier's poetry anthology

Poem in Susan Russo's Ice Cream Ocean (Lothrop)

Several poems in Fantasies and Terrors, a small-press magazine edited by Jessica Amanda Salmonson

Article in National Storyteller's Journal, April

"Three Old Wolves" (story in Elsewhere III, Ace)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FALL 1984

Cards of Grief (adult fantasy novel, Ace pb original, Dec.)
The Stone Silenus (young adult realistic novel, Philomel hc)
Commander Toad and the Dis-Asteroid (4th Commander Toad
book, Coward)

Chapbook for World Fantasy Con, containing two new stories:
"In the Whitethorn Wood" (a Merlin story), and "The
Bull and the Crowth" (a folkish tale), plus two or
three poems

"Names" (story in Year's Best Horror Stories XII, Daw)

AND IN 1985

A Circle of Seasons (tentative title, a picture book for
Harcourt, including "Autumn Song of the Goose")

The Lullaby Sampler (tentative title, song book for
Harcourt)

Sister Light, Sister Dark (adult fantasy novel, based on a
short story, for Ace)

Merlin's Booke or Tales of the Arch-Mage (tentative titles,
story collection for Ace)

Another story collection for Ace

Stories still pending in three anthologies (one edited by
Robin McKinley, one by Susan Schwartz, and one by
the Minneapolis fantasy writers' group)



Review

Damiano, by R. A. MacAvoy (Bantam pb, \$2.95).

Reviewed by James A. De Marco.

Damiano is the second novel by R. A. MacAvoy. It pleases me to say that it is much better written than her debut, Tea with the Black Dragon. Tea was often hard to follow because of jarring point-of-view changes, but Damiano is straightforward and clear, following the title character's point of view almost exclusively. The descriptions in Tea were (I found) sometimes vague, but the descriptive writing in Damiano is more precise. The setting in Tea was the boring modern world of northern California, but the setting of Damiano is the Italian Renaissance (an unusual fantasy locale, used also in Chelsea Quinn Yarbro's Ariosto but virtually nowhere else). Yet, for all this improvement in the craft of writing, Damiano is a difficult book to read.

The problem lies in characterization. Most of the peripheral characters are well enough done. The archangel Raphael is clearly operating on angelic terms and not mortal ones. (A good example of this occurs when Damiano is discussing the problem of death, and the angel, being immortal, has trouble understanding.) Also, Macchiata, Damiano's talking dog, is convincingly detailed. Macchiata's attempts at understanding why Damiano "sends her away" for two weeks when she feels "friendly" are what one might expect from a dog if it could talk. Other characters are portrayed in distinct ways as well. It is only Damiano himself who is depicted in a confusing, inconsistent manner.

The early chapters unveil Damiano's basic personality: compassion, mercy, affection for his city, and pure love for the woman Carla. Then, early in the book, he uses his magical powers in a hideous, perverted way that results in the death of fifty men, later found innocent of the crimes Damiano had suspected them of committing. In spite of this, the reader will be surprised to learn, Damiano "had not felt wicked in action", and has no regrets to speak of. He barely feels a twinge of conscience. This seems unlikely for a man of his qualities who has an archangel as a friend.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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

SECRETARY FOR DISCUSSION GROUPS (Please write to him about forming groups, or if you have any questions):

Scott Norton
[REDACTED]

Discussion Group Meetings

CALIFORNIA: North

Oakland-Berkeley: STORISENDE

Daniel Oakes, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Sacramento: AVALON

Laurine White, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

South Bay: KHAZAD-DUM

Pat Witham, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*July 8, 1984 (Sunday) 1 PM

Taliessin Through Logres by Charles Williams. At Harold & Lisa Harrigan's
[REDACTED]

CALIFORNIA: South

Hollywood-Wilshire: M

Dolores Espinosa, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*July 22, 1984 (Sun

Vathek by William

At Dolores Espinosa

San Diego: CAIR PARAV

John Mulvey, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*July 22, 1984 (Sun

That Hideous Stre

At: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington: KNOSSOS

Wendell Wagner, Jr.
[REDACTED]

*July 15, 1984 (Sun

The Greater Trumps

At Wendall Wagner's

*August 19, 1984 (S

Conjure Wife by Fr

At Wendall Wagner's

*Sept. 16, 1984 (Su

Princess of All L

At Bill & Paul
[REDACTED]

*Oct. 21, 1984 (Sun

Titus Groan by Mer

Place to be determ

*Nov. 11, 1984 (Sun

Mists of Avalon

Bradley. Place to

CALENDAR

HAWAII

Honolulu: SAMMATH NAUR

Stephen L. Brown, [REDACTED]

MYDGARD

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Sunday) 2:30 PM

Beckford

sa's (see above).

VEL

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Sunday) 6:30 PM

ngth by C.S. Lewis

*July 1, 1984 (Sunday)

Tea with the Black Dragon by R.A. MacAvoy

*August 5, 1984 (Sunday)

Little Big By John Crowley

*Sept. 9, 1984 (Sunday)

Hawaiian Legends (Topic discussion)

*Oct. 7, 1984 (Sunday)

Red as Blood by Tanith Lee

*Nov. 4, 1984 (Sunday)

Pet Cemetery by Stephen King

*Dec. 2, 1984 (Sunday)

The Day the Sun Stood Still by Anderson, Dickson, & Silverberg

All meetings start at 2 PM and are located at: Ken Burtness, [REDACTED]

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY

New York City Area: Romenna

A Tolkien Discussion Group. Currently discussing Unfinished Tales. Contact: Margaret Purdy, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Sunday) 2:30 PM

s by Charles Williams

's (see secretary).

Sunday) 2:30 PM

ritz Leiber

ts.

unday) 2:30 PM

ands by Russell Kirk.

VIRGINIA

Washington Suburbs

Veida & Steve Wissler, [REDACTED]

WASHINGTON

Seattle-Tacoma: EREBOR

James Wallace and Ginger Johnson, [REDACTED]

unday) 2:30 PM

rvyn Peake

nined.

unday) 2:30 PM

by Marion Zimmer

to be determined.

Mythopoeic Regional Conference

The Second Mythopoeic Regional Conference is being held in conjunction with the Darkover Grand Council Meeting again this year. The conference will take place over Thanksgiving weekend (Nov. 23 - 25) at the Radisson Wilmington Hotel in Wilmington, Delaware. The theme of this year's conference is "Chastity and Virginity as Themes in Fantasy Literature".

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this year's Mythopoeic Regional Conference and Darkover Grand Council Meeting is \$12 until July 10th and \$15 from then until November 15th. No memberships will be accepted from the cutoff date of Nov. 15th and the opening of the con. All checks should be made payable to ARMIDA COUNCIL and mailed to the P.O. Box listed below. Only a few dealer's tables remain. The price is \$40 which includes one membership.

GUESTS

Guests of Honor have not yet been set. Special guests will be Marion Zimmer Bradley and Katherine Kurtz.

HOTEL

The Radisson Wilmington Hotel is the same hotel that was used last year. Rates will be between \$44 and \$50 (they're not set yet) for single or double rooms. Room reservation cards will be mailed out to all members sometime in July.

PAPERS

Papers and panel discussion leaders for the Mythopoeic Conference theme are currently being sought. Please write to Mary Morman at the Conference P.O. Box.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

OTHER THINGS

The ART SHOW will be run by Rikk Jacobs again this year. There will be no hanging fee, and only a ten per cent commission will be charged on all items sold at auction. Artwork will not be accepted by mail. A MASQUERADE will be held with prizes for the best Darkovan, best Mythopoeic (Fantasy), best Medieval, and best general SF. If there are enough entries in any one category, then a novice and a non-novice division will be established. There will be a special room set aside for FILKSINGING, and another for MOVIES and videos. CLAM CHOWDER will be giving concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings, and on Sunday morning if we can wake them up.

MAILING ADDRESS

The mailing address for all correspondence is:

[REDACTED]

"My endeavors should be directed to persons and characters supernatural, or at least romantic; yet so as to transfer from our inward nature a human interest and a semblance of truth sufficient to procure for these shadows of imagination that willing suspension of disbelief for the moment, which constitutes poetic faith."

-- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Biographia Literaria

"That state of mind has been called 'willing suspension of disbelief'. But this does not seem to me a good description of what happens. What really happens is that the story-maker proves a successful 'sub-creator' ... Suspension of disbelief is a substitute for the genuine thing, a subterfuge we use when condescending to games or make-believe."

-- J.R.R. Tolkien, On Fairy-Stories

Review

The Blue Star, by Fletcher Pratt (Del Rey pb, \$2.50).
Reviewed by Melanie A. Rawls.

Fletcher Pratt is one of the old masters. The Blue Star shows why.

Lalette Asterhax is a witch -- or will be when her powers and her Blue Star, a gem which allows its wearer to read minds, are activated upon loss of her virginity. Rodvard Bergelin is the callow young revolutionary ordered to seduce Lalette so that her witchery and Blue Star will be at his command.

Though the act is not to his taste, Rodvard succeeds in deflowering Lalette, but events overwhelm the pair. They are forced to smuggle themselves out of their city, then are separated in the upheaval of a revolution. Rodvard finds himself in a moil of intrigue in which he cannot trust the persons for whom he performed the act which makes him feel guilty and vaguely unclean. He is torn between his attraction to other women and the need to remain faithful to Lalette. He also begins to feel some responsibility for her, even though he has not really liked her.

Lalette, for her part, is angry and bitter at being used. The men of her world seem intent on exploiting her witchery and her beauty, and she is determined not to allow this.

The world of the Blue Star is not your regulation medieval fantasy world. This is the urbane society of Machiavelli and the Borgias. Pratt evokes dress, style, custom, philosophy, countryside, event and danger, rich as court dress. He is especially good at Naming.

Lalette and Rodvard are fully drawn characters and develop naturally. Neither is cardboard perfection. Lalette is understandably cynical, and she is prone to sudden actions like an angry, frightened child, all the more destructive because she is a witch. Rodvard, an idealist not certain of

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

THE BLUE STAR REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

his ideals, is easily swayed by clever argument and behaves like a weak, muddleheaded adolescent where his desires are concerned. Together they must decide how they are going to live in their world of deception and shifting values.

Pay little attention to the prologue and read The Blue Star. It is one of the best of fantasy novels.



DAMIANO REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Shortly after this event, when the reader might be expecting a crisis of conscience, there is instead a crisis of love, with Damiano practically grovelling at Carla's feet. About a week later, he has dealings with another woman and acts with cool tact and wise patience. When did he learn to deal with women?

This is not to say that Damiano is a terrible book. There are some good things in it. The Italian background is a pleasant treat, and many allusions to Italian authors and philosophers give a sense of verisimilitude. The humor with animals is hilarious and the theological view of the devil is thought-provoking. Overall, Damiano is a well-researched, well-written fantasy with a serious flaw in the presentation of the main character. It can still be enjoyed, especially by Italians, but I hope that MacAvoy will have this problem worked out in the sequel, Damiano's Lute.

NEWS NOTES

The Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films gave their 11th annual Saturn Awards on March 28, 1984, at the Writers Guild in Beverly Hills. RETURN OF THE JEDI won five out of the thirteen categories: Make-up, Costume Design, Special Effects, Actor (Mark Hamill, who had also won for THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK), and Science Fiction Film of the Year. Other major winners were: Louise Fletcher for Best Actress, in BRAINSTORM; John Badham for Best Direction, in WARGAMES; and Ray Bradbury for Best Writing, in SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES. Best Fantasy Film also went to SOMETHING WICKED. Mr. Bradbury accepted both awards, and commented that without sf and fantasy films, there would be no film industry. -- Lisa Cowan

Oxford University's Brasenose College is offering a one-week study vacation July 22-28th, on J.R.R. Tolkien and adult fantasy literature. It will feature walking tours of Oxford and the surrounding countryside. Write University Vacations, [REDACTED] for information.

CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS

WESTERCON 37, June 29-July 3, 1984. At the Marriott Hotel, Portland, OR. GOH: Harlan Ellison. THE West Coast Science Fiction Convention. Membership: \$30.00 until 6/10/84, higher at the door. Write: Westercon 37, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

TIMECON '84, August 3-5, 1984. Sainte Claire Hilton, San Jose, CA. GOH: Jon Pertwee. A Dr. Who Convention. Membership: \$20 until July 4, 1984, \$25 at the door. Write: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

LA CON II, Aug. 30-Sep. 3, 1984. Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA. WORLD CON! GOH: Gordon R. Dickson. Membership: \$50 until July 15, 1984; \$75 thereafter and at the door; One day, \$35 at the door. Write: LA-Con II, [REDACTED]

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY OTHER CONS THAT WOULD INTEREST OUR MEMBERS, PLEASE TELL MYTHPRINT!

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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The address for subscriptions and back issues of Mythprint is c/o Lee Speth, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Subscription, including membership in the Society is \$6 for 12 issues (one year) in the USA. Please add \$2.40 if you desire first class delivery or if you live in Canada. The rate is \$9.00 for overseas subscriptions. Checks should be payable to The Mythopoeic Society, and may be paid in US or the equivalent funds.

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 and should also be sent to Lee Speth.

SUBMISSIONS

If you wish to submit something to Mythprint in camera ready copy, the columns should be 60 characters of 10 to the inch ie 6 inches wide. The usual conditions apply: make sure your typer is clean, has a good ribbon, and don't end a page in the middle of a paragraph. I can retype something into the computer, too!!

Artwork is always wanted. We always need more cover art! The maximum cover art size is 6 inches high by 6 1/2 wide. And it can be smaller!

ADVERTISEMENTS

The Display Ad rate is \$10 for a full page (8 by 6 1/4). \$5 for a half page (Either 4 by 6 1/4, or 8 by 3). Let yourself be known to your fellow readers!

Submissions of news, reviews, discussion group reports, letters, art work, and display ads should be sent to: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

TIME VALUE



MYTHPRINT



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