

MYTHOPRINT

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

Whole No. 76

Sept. 1986

Vol. 23 No. 9

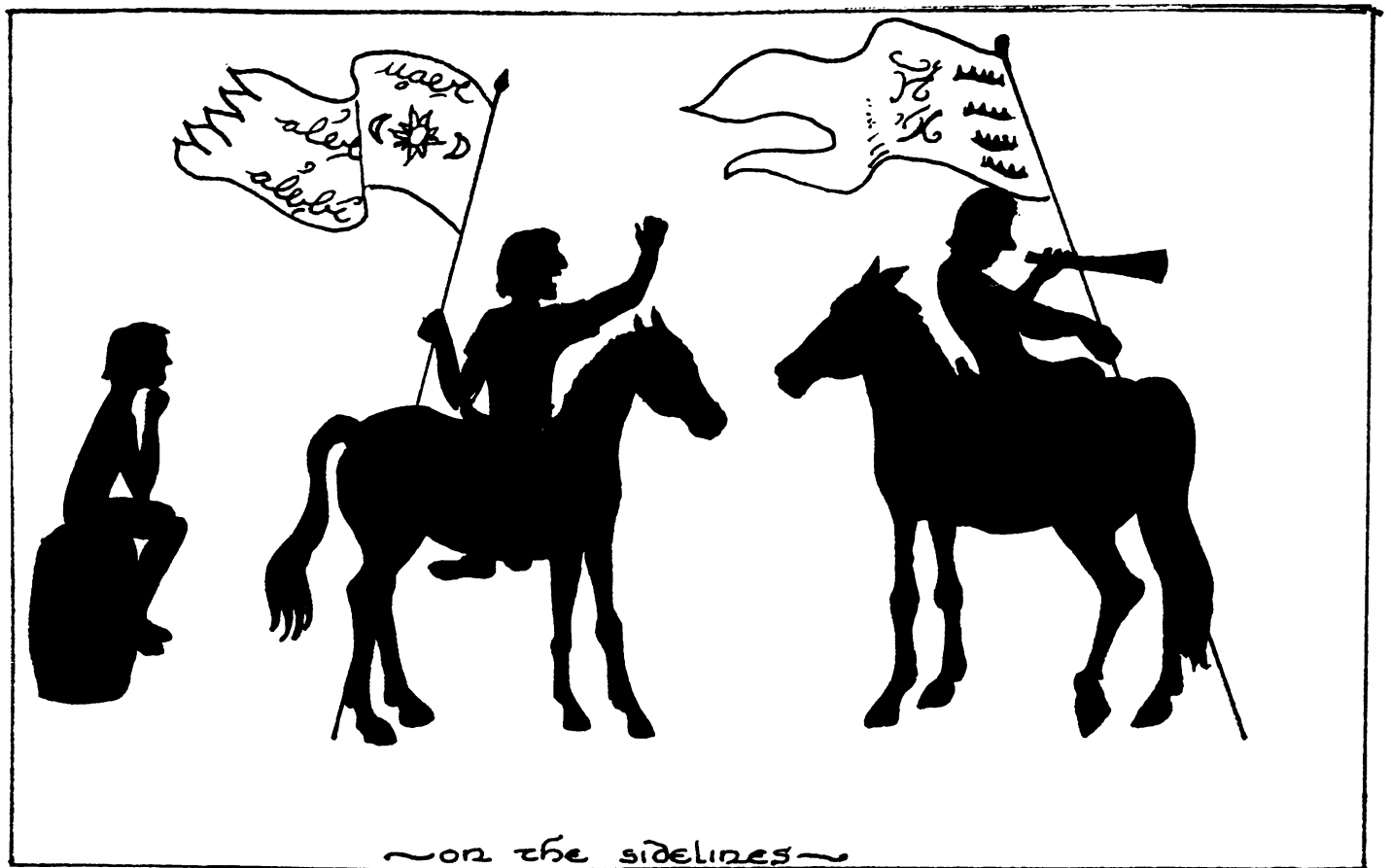


TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	2
by David Bratman	
<u>MASTERS OF GLASS</u> BY M. COLEMAN EASTON	3
Reviewed by Danny Low	
<u>THE SORCERER'S LADY</u> BY PAULA VOLSKY	4
Reviewed by Danny Low	
ACTIVITY CALENDAR	5
<u>THE RIVER OF DANCING GODS</u> BY JACK L. CHALKER	7
Reviewed by Jim DeMarco	
NEWS NOTES	8

-- ARTIST --

CHRISTINE LOWENTROUT: Cover, "On the Sidelines"

-- STAFF --

EDITOR: David Bratman
MANAGING EDITOR and PRINTER: Lisa Deutsch Harrigan
PROOFREADER: Karen Colleen Savitzky
STAFF WRITER: Lisa Cowan
COMPUTER WIZARD and MAINTENANCE: Harold Harrigan
TEXT EDITOR: Wordstar 3.0
MASCOT: "Amber"

ISSN 0146-9347

(c) 1986 by The Mythopoeic Society

Editorial

by David Bratman

I am the bearer of cheerful tidings: Mythcon XVII happened! And quite an event it was, too. A full report (and, I hope, photos) will be in next month's issue; right now, we're all still recuperating from the con itself (and the trip back -- three Mythies and their luggage in one small Volkswagen). A few quick highlights: registration counted a total of 214 members, making this one of the largest Mythcons ever. Programming was full of interesting papers and panels -- the Tolkien linguistics and Charles Williams panels were especially interesting to me -- and featured a concert of music by Guest of Honor Charles de Lint, and no fewer than four dramatic presentations.

At the banquet, Glen Goodknight announced the winners of the Mythopoeic Awards (as reported in last month's issue): Barry Hughart for Bridge of Birds and Glen Cavaliero for Charles Williams, Poet of Theology. Greg Rihn, chair of next year's Mythcon XVIII, announced his con's Guests of Honor (also as reported in last month's issue): Christopher Tolkien and John Bellairs. And David Bratman got to announce 1988's Mythcon XIX, which he (that's me) will be chairing (this was not reported in last month's issue). Further information on these upcoming Mythopoeic Conferences may be found in the handy little paragraphs below.

MYTHCON XVIII, July 24-27, 1987, will be held at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. GOHs: Christopher Tolkien and John Bellairs. Membership: Total Package (room, meals, and registration) is \$130 until Dec. 31, 1986; \$145 until June 1, 1987; \$160 at the door. Registration only is \$30 until June 1, 1987. Write to: Mythcon XVIII, Box 537, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0537.

MYTHCON XIX, July 29-Aug. 1, 1988, will be held at the Clark Kerr Conference Center, University of California, Berkeley, California. GOH: Ursula K. Le Guin. Membership: Registration only is currently \$20; room and meal costs will be available later. Write to: Mythcon XIX, 90 El Camino Real, Berkeley CA 94705.

REVIEWS

Masters of Glass, by M. Coleman Easton. Questar/Popular Library pb, \$2.95. Reviewed by Danny Low.

Easton has created a world where glass is magical but the magic is limited. A glass eye that matches the eye of a living being gives its user control over that being. The closer the glass eye matches the real eye, the stronger the control. Of all the properties of the glass eye, the color is the most important. The magical glass can be made by anyone with the knowledge, but a certain talent for discerning subtle shades of color is needed to be a true Master of Glass. Once made, the magical glass eyes can be used by anyone. Other than the magical glass, the setting of the story is a generic non-technical agrarian culture. In Easton's universe, magic is not flashy or all-powerful. Rather, it is just another law of the universe, similar to gravity. This is a very realistic treatment of magic that makes it very unmagical. The power of glass qualifies as magic only because it does not have that property in the reader's universe.

The people of Easton's world share their world with the Lamé Ones, semi-intelligent carnivores of great strength, speed and size. Without the advantage of the magical eyes, humans would be at the mercy of the Lamé Ones. Thanks to the power of the eyes, the Lamé Ones are very rare but not yet extinct. Three Lamé Ones have returned to the village of Darst, but the local Viagen (i.e. Master of Glass), Watnojat, has no more of the astablak that is needed to make the glass eye of a Lamé One. Nothing else can match the exact shade of the Lamé Ones' eyes. As a result, Watnojat's apprentice Torged is killed by the Lamé Ones. Old and nearing his death, Watnojat takes on a girl, Kyala, as his new apprentice, against all tradition, and sets off on a perilous trek to find some astablak.

The story has the moralistic tone typical of a juvenile novel, but Kyala is not the main character despite her prominence in the story. The story is really about Watnojat and duty. As the local Viagen, it is his job to insure that the local people would always have enough eyes to protect themselves from the Lamé Ones. Watnojat did not fulfill

MASTERS OF GLASS REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

this obligation because of his timidity, and he must now try to rectify his omission. Because of the control that the eyes give one, the Viagens have another obligation: not to misuse the eyes to become tyrants. To this task Watnojat has been true, and Easton shows this by pitting him against another Viagen who misused his power. Easton has successfully written a story about honor and duty, two very traditional heroic themes, without a young heroic warrior.

The Sorcerer's Lady by Paula Volsky. Ace pb, \$2.95, 264 p.
Reviewed by Danny Low.

Lady Verran is forced to marry Lord Terr Fal Grizhni for dynastic reasons. Grizhni is the foremost sorcerer in the city-state of Lanthi Ume. Though aloof, he is a kind man, and in time Verran comes to love him. The love story between these two, while very important, is actually a subplot in the book. The main plot has to do with the political intrigues of various factions in Lanthi Ume. The Sorcerer's Lady reads like the first act and a half of a Shakespearean tragedy: the characters are introduced; they make a series of decisions; the course of events is forced towards an inevitable tragic climax. This book does not have an ending, just a climactic resolution that sets the stage for the next act.

Volsky writes good dialogue, presents distinctive archetypal characters, and weaves a suitably byzantine plot. Much of the impetus for events comes about from the personality flaws of the characters. There is a definite Gothic influence in the love story of Verran and Grizhni, mixed with elements from romance novels. The setting is clearly derived from Renaissance Italy. There is a richness in this story that makes it a superior fantasy, and despite the lack of a proper ending, this book is definitely worthwhile.

ACTIVITY

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

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

David Lenander
293 Selby Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102

Discussion Group Meetings

CALIFORNIA: North

Oakland-Berkeley: STORISENDE

Daniel Oakes, 22 Berkshire Road,
Alameda, CA 94501. PH: (415) 522-6877.

Sacramento: AVALON

Laurine White, 5422 Colusa Way,
Sacramento, CA 95841 PH: (916) 332-7461

*Sept. 20, 1986 (Saturday) 7 PM

The Copper Crown by Patricia Kenneally.

At the Home of Phil & Shawn Asher, 1150
Rudger, Sacramento, CA. PH: 924-7075.

South Bay: KHAZAD-DUM

Pat Witham, 208 Ocean View Ave,
Santa Cruz, CA 95062 PH: (408)423-4036

*September 7, 1986 (Sunday) 1 PM

Moonheart by Charles de Lint

At Frankie Jemison's, 18644 Paseo
Pueblo, Saratoga, CA. PH: 408-379-2190.

*October 5, 1986 (Sunday) 1 PM

Fire & Hemlock by Diana Wynne Jones &
Perilous Gard by Elizabeth Pope. At Jo
Wilcox (call secretary for address)

CALIFORNIA: South

Hollywood-Pasadena: M

Dolores Speth, 9
Alhambra, CA 91801

San Diego: CAIR PARAV

John Mulvey, 4052
San Diego, CA 92103

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA/

Washington & Maryland

Bill Hussar, 442
University Park, MD
PH: (301) 277-2740.

*Sept., 1986

Labyrinths by Jorge
Date & Place TBD

HAWAII

Honolulu: SAMMATH NAU

Stephen L. Brown
Honolulu, HI 96822

*Sept 6, 1986 (Satu:
Well at the World
Morris.

*Oct. 4, 1986 (Satu:
Hitchhiker's Guide
Adams.

*Nov. 1, 1986 (Satu:
Rhinoceros by Eugene

*Dec. 6, 1986 (Satu:
Ancient Evenings by

*Jan. 3, 1987 (Satu:
Counter Clock World
All meetings start
located at: Ken B
Ke Iki Road, Haleiw

CALENDAR

EDGARD
20 N. Atlantic #E
PH: (818) 284-0848
EL
1/2 Front Street,
PH: (619) 692-4427.

MARYLAND

Suburbs: KNOSSOS
5 Underwood St.,
20782.

Luis Borges.

P.O. Box 22332,
PH: (808) 836-4940

day)
's End by William

day)
Series by Douglas

day)
Ionesco.

day)
Norman Mailer.

day)
by Philip K. Dick.
at 2 PM and are
rtness, 59-557B
a, HI PH: 638-7497

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge: ROKE
Deborah Wilson, 1548-A S. Acadian Thwy,
Baton Rouge, LA 70808 PH: (504) 383-1365

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor: GALADHREMMIN ENNORATH
Dave & Grace Lovelace, 1110 Miner,
Ann Arbor, MI 48103 PH: (313) 769-2896

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis-St. Paul: RIVENDELL
David Lenander, 293 Selby Ave.,
St. Paul, MN 55102 PH: (612) 292-8887.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY

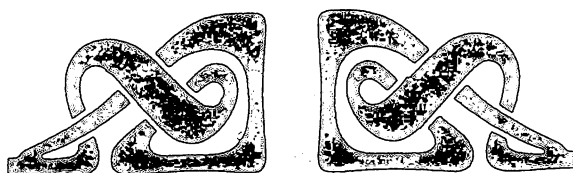
New York City Area: Rómenna
Margaret Purdy, 307 Kensington Dr.,
Ridgewood, NJ 07450 PH: (201) 447-2723
Currently discussing The Lord of the
Rings.

OHIO

Dayton-Kettering: THE PRANCING PONY
Eileen Ribbler, 1912 Hazel Ave.,
Kettering, OH 45420 PH: (513) 256-1830.

VIRGINIA

Washington Suburbs: SPARE OOM
Veida & Steve Wissler, 236 Roanoke Dr.,
Leesburg, VA 22075. PH: (703) 777-6405



Review

The River of Dancing Gods, by Jack L. Chalker. Del Rey pb, 263 p, \$2.95. Reviewed by Jim DeMarco.

The River of Dancing Gods begins the story (it's the first book of a trilogy) of Joe and Marge, two down-on-their-luck Americans who are transported to another dimension by the wizard Ruddygore. There they are suitably trained for the mission Ruddygore has assigned them: to stop the Dark Baron from conquering the world and then attacking Earth.

If the plot sounds so terribly familiar, don't fret. There have been comic fantasy novels before, but Chalker is writing what may well be the first comic fantasy trilogy. After the first few chapters, this book becomes almost non-stop parody of standard fantasy cliches. For instance, the barbarian hero Joe inherits the last unnamed magic sword in history, and promptly names it -- Irving. That sort of thing. It gets worse; take my word for it. Dragons the world over have probably put Chalker at the top of their hit list.

Still, in spite of the humor, I personally have a problem dealing with this book (and Chalker's novels in general), a problem which may be shared by other Mythprint readers. Simply put, it is that Chalker extends his satire to Christianity and Christian themes. Example: Most novels portraying fantasy worlds link them to Earth in some way. In this book, the wizard Ruddygore explains that when the Creator (God) was creating Earth, there was a backflow of power and excess material, which created a new world that the Creator neither intended nor really cared about. This is a direct jab at the Biblical concept of an all-knowing, all-loving God. There is much more along these lines.

I don't know Chalker's personal stance on Christianity, and I am making no conclusions about it. He has every right to write what he wants, and I don't challenge his freedom as an author to disagree with Christianity, if indeed he does. But his portrayal of Christianity does go against the example of Tolkien, Lewis, and Williams. Readers who set the Mythopoeic founders as the standard of comparison, and those who are sensitive to the Christian faith, should be as cautious around this book as a hobbit among orcs.

NEWS NOTES

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Upcoming paperbacks of books previously available only in hardcover: The Summer Tree, by Guy Gavriel Kay (Berkley, \$3.50, September); The Moon and the Face, by Patricia A. McKillip (Berkley, \$2.95, October).

Peter Dickinson's The Changes trilogy has been reissued in a new hardcover edition (Delacorte, \$14.95 each). These books, The Devil's Children, Heartsease, and The Weather-monger, tell of a future England reverted to a medieval society.

Old books returning to the shelves in paperback include Magic by the Lake and Seven-Day Magic by Edward Eager (HBJ, \$4.95 each), and The Man Who Was Thursday by G.K. Chesterton (Carroll & Graf, \$3.50).

The Goblins of Labyrinth is a new movie spinoff book. Written by Labyrinth's scriptwriter Terry Jones (of Monty Python fame) and illustrated by designer Brian Froud, it tells lots of amusing things about the goblins that you'd never have learned from the movie alone. Holt hc, \$16.95.

The Art of G.K. Chesterton is a lavish new book on a little-known side of that creative genius. It contains a set of full color chalk drawings never before published, and a variety of Chesterton's other artwork, from cartoons to doodles on the back of a page proof. The illustrations are accompanied by a lengthy text, mostly biographical, by Alzina Stone Dale. The book is a hardcover from Loyola University Press, 136 p., \$24.95.

CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS

* Denotes a new or significantly updated listing

EARTHCON VI, Sept 19 - 21, 1986. At the Holiday Inn - Independence, Cleveland, OH. GOH: Gordon R. Dickson. Special GOH: C.J. Cherryh. Write: P.O. Box 5641, Cleveland, OH 44101.

Continued on Page 9

NEWS NOTES - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

*CONTACT IV, Sept. 26-28, 1986. At the Hilton Hotel, Pasadena, CA. A "world-building" symposium of Science Fiction and Anthropology. Memberships: \$50 for 3 days. \$18/day. Write: P.O. Box 36789, Los Angeles, CA 90036-0789.

*OCTOCON V, Oct. 11-12, 1986. At the El Rancho Tropicana Hotel, Santa Rosa, CA. GOH: Frederik Pohl. Membership: \$20 by mail; \$25 at the door. Write: P.O. Box 1824, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

*FANTASY FAIRE, Oct. 31-Nov 2, 1986. At the Hilton Hotel, Pasadena, CA. GOH: Kathleen Sky. Other guests include: Jon De Cles, Octavia Butler. Memberships: \$20 until Oct. 15; \$25 thereafter. Write: Fantasy Publishing Company, 1855 West Main Street, Alhambra, CA 91801.

*ORYCON '86, Nov. 7-9, 1986. At the Red Lion Inn, Lloyd Center, Portland, OR. GOHs: Edward Bryant, & Jessica Amanda Salmonson. Other guests include Ursula K. Le Guin. Memberships: \$17 until Oct. 31; \$20 at the door. Write: P.O. Box 5703, Portland, OR 97228.

*TROPICON V, Dec. 5-7, 1986. At the Howard Johnson's Ocean Resort Hotel, Deerfield Beach, FL. GOH: Gardner Dozois. Memberships: \$10 until Oct. 31; \$15 thereafter. Write: South Florida Science Fiction Society, P.O. Box 70143, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307.

*KING KON 7, March 13-15, 1987. At the Embassy Suites, 7290 Commerce Center Dr., Colorado Springs, CO. GOH: Robert Vardeman, Somtow Sucharitkul. Memberships: \$15 until Jan 31, 1987; \$17 until Feb. 28, 1987; \$20 at the door. Write: P.O. Box 16597, Colorado Springs, CO 80935.

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY OTHER CONS THAT WOULD INTEREST OUR READERS, PLEASE TELL MYTHPRINT! ALSO, WHEN WRITING TO CONS, PLEASE TELL THEM THAT YOU READ ABOUT IT IN 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 & back issues of Mythprint is:
c/o Lee Speth, 1008 N. Monterey, Alhambra, CA 91801

Subscription, including membership in the Society, is \$7 for 12 issues (one year) in the USA. Please add \$2.64 if you desire first class delivery or if you live in Canada. The rate is \$9.00 for overseas surface subscriptions; airmail is \$12. 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 Tolkien, Lewis, Williams, General Fantasy and Mythic Studies (subscription is \$12 per year and should also be sent to Lee Speth); and Mythellany, an annual of fiction, poetry, & whatnot (write Lee Speth for availability & price)

SUBMISSIONS

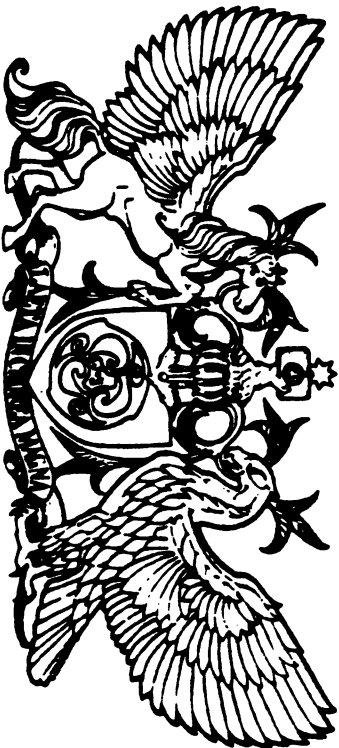
Reviews, discussion reports, news items, letters, and other submissions are always welcome. We're glad to retype material into our computer, so any readable form is accepted.

Artwork is also always wanted, especially cover art! The maximum cover art size is 6 inches high by 6 1/2 wide, but we can reduce or enlarge.

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 material for publication should be sent to:
P.O. Box 28427, San Jose, CA 95159-8427.



MYTHPRINT

Box 28427

San Jose, Ca. 95159

TIME VALUE

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 4139

94542LEW0292

Alison S. Lewis

84

This issue of Mythprint is brought to you for free and open access by
the [Mythopoeic Society](#) at the [SWOSU Digital Commons](#).

For more issues of Mythprint go to https://dc.swosu.edu/mythprint/all_issues.html

To join the Mythopoeic Society, go to: <http://www.mythsoc.org/join.htm>

Authors and artists of items in this issue may request to have their materials removed from the digital repository. To do so, contact the platform administrator at archives@mythsoc.org or the *Mythprint* editor at mythprint@mythsoc.org.

