

MYTHOPRINT

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

Whole No. 85

June 1987

Vol.24 No.6

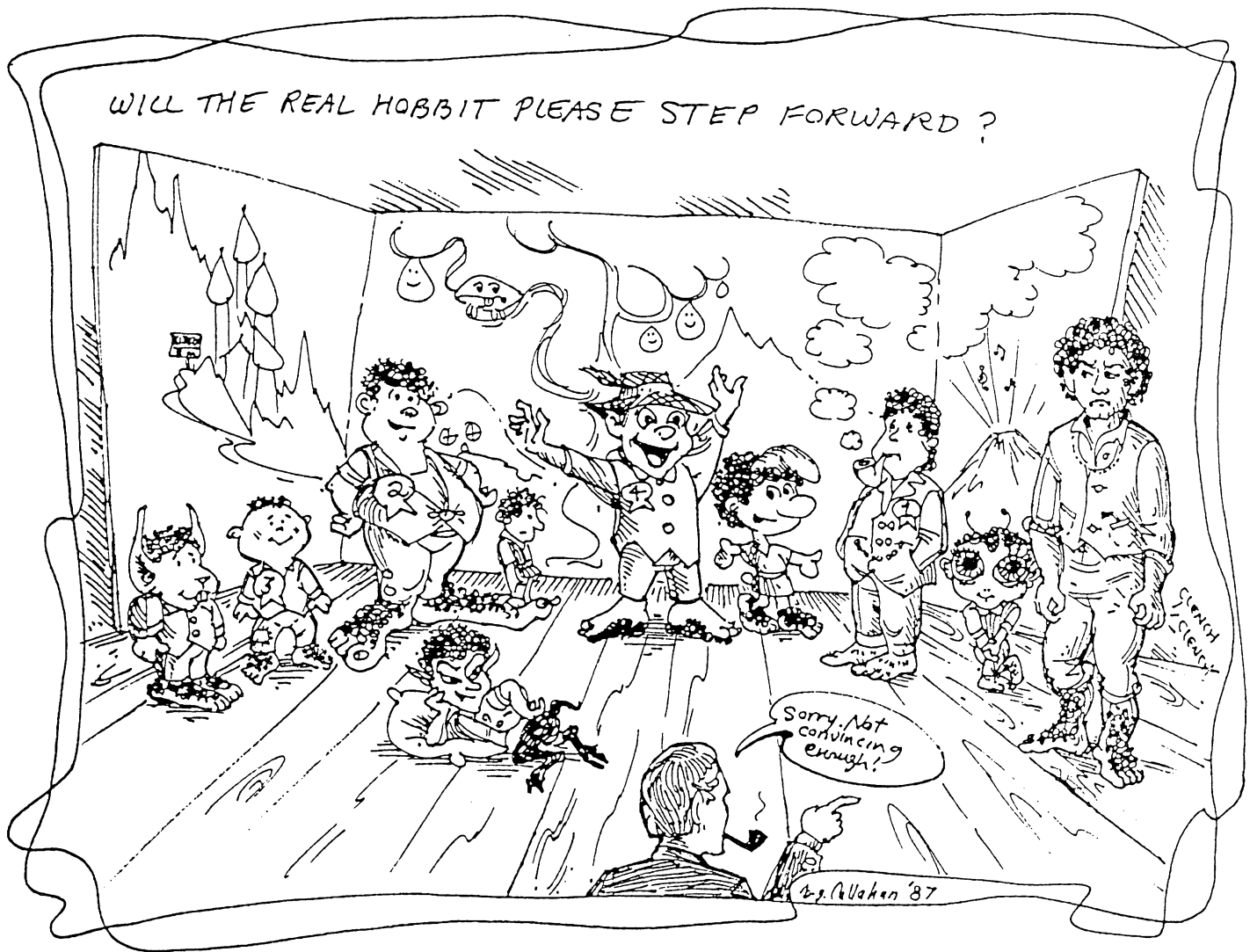


TABLE OF CONTENTS

MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS	2
THREE BOOKS BY CAROL KENDALL	3
Reviewed by Eleanor Farrell	
NEWS NOTES	5
THE COUNCIL OF STEWARDS	6
Meeting Report by Lee Speth	
ACTIVITY CALENDAR	7
EDITORIAL	10
By David Bratman	

-- ARTIST --

BONNIE GOODKNIGHT CALLAHAN:
Cover, "Will the Real Hobbit Please Stand Forward?"

-- 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) 1987 by The Mythopoeic Society

Mythopoeic Awards

The finalists for the 1987 editions of the Mythopoeic Society's two annual awards have been announced. They are:

MYTHOPOEIC FANTASY AWARD for book-length fiction of 1986

"The Fionavar Tapestry" by Guy Gavriel Kay (3 vols.: The Summer Tree, The Wandering Fire, and The Darkest Road, Arbor House hcs, \$15.95, vol. 1 in Berkely pb, \$3.50)
The Folk of the Air by Peter S. Beagle (Del Rey hc, \$16.95)
Merlin's Booke by Jane Yolen (Ace pb, \$2.95)
"Tales from the Flat Earth" by Tanith Lee (5 vols.: Night's Master, Death's Master, Delusion's Master, Delirium's Mistress, and Night's Sorceries, Daw pbs)

MYTHOPOEIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD for nonfiction about the Inklings published 1984-86

J.R.R. Tolkien: Myth, Morality, and Religion by Richard L. Purtill (Harper and Row hc)
Clive Staples Lewis: A Dramatic Life by William Griffin (Harper and Row hc)
C.S. Lewis and the Search for Rational Religion by John Beversluis (Eerdmans pb)

Volunteer committees of Society members, under the coordination of Christine Lowentrout, will be choosing both awards. The winners will be announced next month at:

MYTHCON XVIII, July 24-27, 1987. At [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] GOH: Christopher Tolkien & John Bellairs.
Registration only: \$40 at the door. Total Package (room, meals, registration): \$160 at the door. Write: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Registration begins at 10 A.M. on Friday, July 24, and programming commences at noon.

And next year, there's MYTHCON XIX, July 29-Aug. 1, 1988. At the [REDACTED] GOH: Ursula K. Le Guin & Brian Attebery. Memberships: \$20 until Dec. 31, 1987. Room and board fees are now set: \$130 until Dec. 31, 1987. Write: [REDACTED]

REVIEW

THREE BOOKS BY CAROL KENDALL

The Gammage Cup, Voyager/HBJ trade pb, \$4.95 (1986, first pub. 1959); The Whisper of Glocken, Voyager/HBJ trade pb, \$4.95 (1986, first pub. 1965); The Firelings (Ace pb, \$2.95 (1986, first pub. 1982)). Reviewed by Eleanor Farrell.

When The Gammage Cup was first published in 1959 it was designated a Newbery Medal Honor Book, one of the more prestigious ratings for juvenile literature. During 1986 this book and its sequel, The Whisper of Glocken, were reprinted in large format paperback editions. Kendall's later book, The Firelings, was also published by Ace in its first paperback printing last year, and so all three of these fantasies may now reach a new audience.

Gammage and Whisper both center on the Minnipins, a community of little people who generally prefer to live simply and quietly -- very Hobbit-like, in fact. In the first story, a group of non-conforming villagers threaten the status quo just before all of the villages are to be judged to find the one most deserving to display the Gammage Cup, an ancient treasure. Muggles, Mingy, Curley Green, Gummy, and Walter the Earl are outlawed, but discover that they actually flourish in exile, and the five finally manage to save the Minnipins from attack by an old enemy.

In The Whisper of Glocken, the Land between the Mountains is threatened by flood, and five new heroes emerge to leave their homes and again rescue the Minnipins from disaster.

The Minnipin stories are quite simplistic (perhaps more so now than when they were first written: the fantasy field has expanded far beyond the limitations of children's literature over the last twenty years) with an obvious theme, that being different is not bad and all individuals can contribute something to their society. The characters are very childlike, despite their status as adults, living independently, marrying, running businesses. This approach makes the plot lines very hard to swallow: how are a group of people who have never even heard of swords able to win a

battle with no casualties? Another weakness is that the enemies faced by the Minnipins are too vaguely sketched to take on any real threatening character.

On the plus side, there is a gentle humor in the books. For example, the leading families (the "Periods") all have names such as Ltd.and Etc., taken from a list of strange words brought back from outside by the traveller Fooley, who unfortunately could not remember anything about his trip (including what the words meant) when he recovered from the balloon crash on his return.

The Firelings was published seventeen years after the second Minnipin book. It deals with a different people who live beside a volcano (named Belcher) which is threatening to destroy their community. The Firelings here resemble the Minnipins (and in fact the two peoples may be related, though this is never clarified), but The Firelings is a much more complex book, with well-drawn characters, a tightly-constructed plot, and a more satisfying treatment of relationships and dangers. I would recommend The Firelings to all readers; the earlier Minnipin books might be enjoyed by younger children.



Quote Without Comment

"The longer I live, the more I am convinced of the importance of children's books. The feeling seems to be universal; and I never talk with a man or woman of fifty years of age, without hearing that what they read in their infancy was very inferior to the juvenile publications of later days."

-- Robert Bloomfield, 1817

NEWS NOTES

Marion Zimmer Bradley will participate in the Science Fiction/Fantasy Writers Workshop at the [REDACTED] Nov. 8-9, 1987. The workshop is designed as an opportunity to bring beginning writers (at various levels of experience) together with established writers in an intensive, small-group environment. Registration is \$30. Contact: Doug Rosentrater, Cultural Affairs, H.A.C.C., [REDACTED]

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

A new expanded edition of the Companion to Narnia by Paul Ford, Guest of Honor at Mythcon XV, has been published by Collier, \$10.95 trade pb.

First paperback editions: Archer's Goon by Diana Wynne Jones in June from Berkley Books; The Unlikely Ones by Mary Brown (reviewed in the March issue) in October by Baen Books, under its new imprint, Sign of the Dragon Books.

New trilogies and other series: Southshore by Sheri S. Tepper is Book 2 of The Awakeners (Tor hc, \$15.95; Book 1 is called Northshore, sensibly enough); Madbond by Nancy Springer (Tor pb, \$2.95) is Book 1 in the Sea King trilogy; Guardians of the West by David Eddings (Del Rey hc, \$18.95) is Book 1 of The Mallorean (can you say "Sell the Mallorean" five times real fast?) And Dennis McKiernan has begun a new series, The Silver Call, set in the same world of Mithgar as the Iron Tower Trilogy that made him famous.

The latest fantasy figure to invade New York is King Arthur, done up as mayoral candidate Arthur Penn in Knight Life by Peter David (whom I believe has previously been known best as a comic-book scenarist), Ace pb original, \$2.95.

The Dictionary of Imaginary Places, a potpourri encyclopedia written by Alberto Manguel and Gianni Guadalupi, is appearing in trade pb from Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, \$14.95.

The Council of Stewards

by Lee Speth

The Stewards of the Mythopoeic Society met for their annual budget session on Feb. 22, this year at the Los Angeles apartment of Mythlore editor Glen GoodKnight. All department requests were accepted as submitted, for a total budget of \$11,550. Treasurer Sarah Beach congratulated all her colleagues on their fiduciary restraint. Department allocations were:

<u>Mythlore</u>	\$7,750
<u>Mythprint</u>	1,400
<u>The Mythic Circle</u>	500
Orders Department	940
other departments	600
other costs	300

The Orders Department line includes production of the Society Directory; "other departments" are Correspondence, Publicity, Discussion Groups, and Awards; and "other costs" includes conveyance of archive material for display at Mythcon XVIII.

A new Steward was elected -- the first ever from the Midwest. David Lenander of St. Paul, Minnesota, will complete the term of newly resigned Secretary for Discussion Groups Scott Norton. Congratulations to David, who has been acting in this capacity since last summer, and good luck to Scott in his future enterprises.

Veida Wissler, editor of Mythellany since 1981, is also relinquishing her place in Council. She leaves with the affection and good wishes of her colleagues. While Mythellany is now officially discontinued, the long-delayed 1986 issue will be produced, though it is not expected to appear until Mythcon. Meanwhile Society members and other interested parties who'd like to see their creative efforts in print should approach the new quarterly, The Mythic Circle.

Copies of the full minutes of the meeting (as approved at the following meeting, held May 9 in Alhambra) are available to interested Society members by writing to the Recording Secretary, Anne Osborn, [REDACTED]

Deadline for the Activity Calendar is the first of the month preceeding the month of publication, i.e. July issue information will be due the 1st of June. August information will be due the 1st of July. All Calendar information should be sent directly to Mythprint. Thank you.

SECRETARY FOR DISCUSSION GROUPS

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

David Lenander
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST GROUP!!

WISCONSIN

THE BURRAHOBBITS

John Rateliff, [REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

*June 1987

Fire and Hemlock by Diana Wynne Jones

*July 1987

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien (just in time for Mythcon)

PROSPECTIVE GROUPS

Here are listed people who are interested in forming groups. If you live in their areas and would like to join a group, contact the hopeful undersubscribed.

OHIO:

K.M. Harrison, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Interested in forming a group with a special interest in Tolkien.

CHARTERED

CALIFORNIA: North

[REDACTED] STC

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes,
[REDACTED]

*June 21, 1987 (Sat)
Letters from the
Site TBD.

*July 19, 1987 (Sat)
Summer Reading and
Site TBD.

AVALON

Laurine White,
[REDACTED]

*June 20, 1987 (Sat)
At Phil and Sh
Rudger, Sacramento
Topic TBD.

KHAZAD-DUM

Pat Witham, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*June 7, 1987 (Sund)
Black Easter & The
by James Blish. A

PH: [REDACTED]

*July 12, 1987 (Sun)
Sir Gawain and th
At Ellie Farrell
[REDACTED]

CALIFORNIA: South

[REDACTED] F
Dolores Speth, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CALENDAR

D GROUPS

ORISENDE

PH: [redacted]
aturday) 2 PM
Earth by Mark Twain.

aturday) 2 PM
d Eating Picnic.

PH: [redacted]
aturday) 7 PM
awn Asher's,
PH: [redacted]

M
3
PH: [redacted]
day) 1 PM
e Day After Judgement
t Frankie Jemison's,

nday) 1 PM
e Green Knight.
's,
. PH: [redacted]

MYDGARD

1. PH: [redacted]

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA/MARYLAND

[redacted] KNOSSOS
Bill Hussar,
PH: [redacted]

HAWAII

[redacted] SAMMATH NAUR
Stephen L. Brown,
PH: [redacted]
*June 6, 1987 (Saturday)
Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
Contact Secretary for time and location.

LOUISIANA

[redacted] ROKE
Douglas A. Rossman,
PH: [redacted]

MICHIGAN

[redacted] GALADHREMMIN ENNORATH
Dave & Grace Lovelace,
PH: [redacted]

MINNESOTA

[redacted] RIVENDELL
David Lenander,
PH: [redacted]
*June, 1987
"Fifty Years of J.R.R. Tolkien's
Hobbit." Exact Date and Place TBD.
*July, 1987
"The Fantasy of John Bellairs, esp.
The Face in the Frost."
All meetings are tentatively scheduled at
[redacted]

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ACTIVITY CALENDAR - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY

[REDACTED] Romenna

Margaret Purdy, [REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

Still discussing The Lord of the Rings!

OTHER GROUPS

Other Groups are listed for the interest of Mythopoeic Society members only. If you know of an interesting group that meets regularly, send us the information.

[REDACTED] THE GOLDEN PERCH

Robert Hamm, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DESOLATION OF SMAUG

Bill Mosher, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CAIR PARAVEL

John Mulvey, [REDACTED]

*June, 1987

The Worm Ouroboros by E.R. Eddison.

*July, 1987

Paradise Lost by John Milton.

Contact Secretary for date and place.

[REDACTED] LOTHLORIEN

Anne Wilson, [REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

WISCONSIN

[REDACTED] U. OF WISCONSIN TOLKIEN SOCIETY

Richard West, [REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

*July, 1987

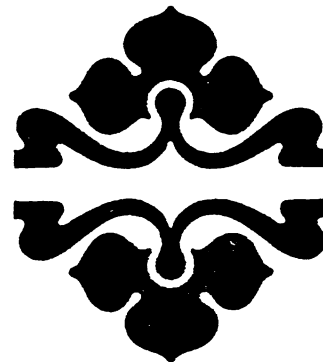
Brightness Falls From the Air by James Tiptree, Jr.

*August, 1987

Extra(Ordinary) People & How To Suppress Women's Writing by Joanna Russ.

*September, 1987

20th Anniversary Celebration.



Editorial

by David Bratman

In last month's Mythprint, there was an article giving tabular results from the readers' survey that had been run in the January issue. This month I'd like to discuss the results of this survey -- particularly the "other comments and suggestions" that over half the respondents put on their replies. These seems like a good way to talk about some of the things I'm trying to accomplish as editor, and to respond to readers' comments at the same time.

To me, Mythprint serves two purposes. One is to inform Society members of Society activities: discussion group meetings, Mythcons, awards, Council actions, and so on. The other is to be a source of news, and forum for the sharing of opinions (in reviews, letters, discussion reports, etc.) on fantasy in general and Tolkien, Lewis, and Williams in particular. The first purpose is the more important insofar as it's what Mythprint exists to do, but the second purpose generates a lot more material.

As a Society organ, Mythprint's function is to tie the membership together. This is why we publish an Activity Calendar, to let you know that there are Discussion Groups out there even if you live too far away to join one (and in that case to hint that you might want to start one up). Similarly for Mythcons, which as special events are easier for folks from far away to attend. We also try to list other conventions with a specific interest in fantasy.

Not all the readers find this information useful, but for those who don't I trust that distance and other mundane deterrents are the reason. We hope that people who are interested enough in mythopoeic fantasy to subscribe to a magazine on the subject would like to find opportunities to hobnob with their fellow wizards.

At one time, Society membership automatically included subscription to both Mythprint and Mythlore. We are not planning to return to that situation, as we recognize that the two magazines' audiences do not entirely overlap, but we also realize that fragmentation of the membership places a special burden on attempts to hold the Society together.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

EDITORIAL - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

As a news service on fantasy literature, Mythprint's distinction is its focus on "the mythopoeic tradition": the three authors and their followers (the limits of this last being vaguely defined, as members of the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award committees well know). We don't try to be comprehensive in covering the dozens and hundreds of fantasy books which appear each year. To do so would require a larger magazine and staff than Mythprint can muster. Of course there are lots of magazines that do list more, and review more, new and upcoming fantasy books (mixed in with the science fiction books and the horror books), but none of them have the mythopoeic focus that makes Mythprint unique.

We do try very hard to keep the book news timely (whenever possible listing books a month or two before publication), and the reviewing staff is our pride and joy, so I'm especially pleased that these two areas got the highest ratings -- they were the only ones that nobody disliked. News and reviews will continue to be among Mythprint's most important features, but those of you who asked for more reviews should now understand why at times I feel I have to struggle to keep them from taking over the magazine.

One reader asked for "Addresses of publishers of books reviewed, for easy purchase". Most large publishers do not encourage direct sales any more (they used to), but prefer that readers order through bookstores. Small press books are harder to find in stores, and for those we do provide addresses. There was also a suggestion that we publish "a complete bibliography of books & articles by Lewis, Tolkien, and Williams." A complete list wouldn't even fit in one issue. (C.S. Lewis could hardly believe that he'd written everything on the bibliography that his secretary, Walter Hooper, once presented him with.) What we can do is occasionally publish a short list of their major works, as Mythlore does, and we'll start doing that soon. There are also brief guides to mytho lit available from the Society's Corresponding Secretary, Christine Lowentrout [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (They're somewhat outdated, as I know because I compiled them, several years ago, but I hope to update them soon.)

EDITORIAL - CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

Several readers asked for more articles. This is an area which I've been trying to focus on recently, with such things as the overviews of the work of Guests of Honor at upcoming Mythcons that we've been doing for three years now. Earlier incarnations of Mythprint ran a lot of short introductory articles on the standard mytho classics. There seems to be less need for such pieces these days, and less desire by writers to produce them (keeping up with the new fantasy today is a full-time job), but we could publish such pieces (or reprint old ones) if there's interest.

The interest in articles is eclipsed by the interest in letter columns and discussion reports. Here I'm afraid I can't be of much help. Dear readers, if you want letters in Mythprint -- whether disagreeing with reviews, posing queries about forgotten books, or just asking why the Eagles didn't simply fly Frodo and Sam to Mount Doom and save them all that trouble -- you'll have to write them yourself. There's nothing I'd like better than to run a regular letter column, but first I have to have the letters.

As for discussion reports, I'm as guilty as all you other group members for not writing more. I think everyone just got out of the habit of writing them back when Mythprint was not appearing regularly, and it's hard to get back in. We have occasionally run reprinted reports from the newsletters written by Margaret Purdy of Romenna and David Lenander of Rivendell, but I'd like to see more from other groups too!

Two people specifically criticized our large type face. "The pica type makes it seem as if the issues are skimpy", said one. Up until now, we haven't had much choice; this is what our printer has. Not only does it look grotty, but it's been a bit of a pain in layout, as it limits flexibility. But relief is on the way. Starting this summer, Mythprint will have the use of a new IBM Ventura desktop publisher and laser printer, which will allow us to use smaller, and variable, type sizes and styles. The page size will probably remain the same (we like this format), but the appearance of the magazine will be changing dramatically. Look for the first of the next generation Mythprints to appear in August or September.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

EDITORIAL - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The January cover (Pat Wynne's "Secret Vice", remember?) got a mostly favorable but quite varied response, ranging from "Jan. 1987 cover art is great! Would like to see more innovation like that in future issues" and "This month's cartoon cover was great" to "The cover was a bit of a shock -- not sure I'm in the right place!" Um, what were you expecting "the right place" to be like? The Mythopoeic Society is home to both high seriousness and rampant silliness, and either is likely to show up on the cover -- or the insides -- of Mythprint.

A couple readers betrayed a strong nostalgia for the format and style of the "classic" Mythprint of the mid-70s. Well, I miss it too, but I can't re-create it. The "classic" Mythprint was forged out of the extra time and energy that only unemployed college students seem to have in abundance, and as I pointed out last month, we're mostly a lot older now. (There aren't as many of us in any one place, either.) But consider this: the "classic" Mythprint only lasted four and a half years, and consumed several editors in the process. By keeping issues down to more manageable bites, the current staff has lasted over seven years, and we have quite a bit of life left in us, too.

Thanks to all of you who sent in kudos, gripes, and other suggestions; we appreciate all your comments, and hope that this survey will bring increased communication between Mythprint and its readers.

SPECIAL NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL OF STEWARDS (supplemental to the article on page 6)

At the May 9 meeting, two new Stewards were elected: Paul Nolan Hyde to the new position of Mythcon Liaison; and Diana L. Pavlac to the position of Publicity Manager. Former Publicity Manager Lynn Maudlin has become Membership Secretary. The Stewards now stand at ten. Paul and Diana, welcome aboard!

More news from this Council meeting in next month's issue.

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 and other Society publications is:

c/o Lee Speth, [REDACTED]

The number in the upper right corner of your mailing label is the "Whole No." of the last issue on your subscription. 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 two quarterly magazines: Mythlore, a journal of Tolkien, Lewis, Williams, Fantasy and Mythic Studies (subscription is \$12/year) and The Mythic Circle, publishing fiction, etc. (\$9/year). Send subscriptions to the Society at the address above.

SUBMISSIONS

Reviews, discussion reports, news items, letters, and other submissions are always welcome. We can 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:
[REDACTED]



MYTHPRINT



TIME VALUE

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

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.

