

MYTHOPRINT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

BIRTHDAY PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT	2
THE COUNCIL OF STEWARDS	2
Meeting Report by David Bratman	
MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS	4
The winners contemplated by the editor	
NEWS NOTES	5
ACTIVITY CALENDAR	7
MYTHCON XVIII REPORT	9
By David Bratman	

EDITOR'S NOTE: This was going to be the first issue of Mythprint using our new desktop publisher, but Technical Difficulties (the hardware people said it was a software problem -- if you've worked with computers, you'll understand) foiled us. Next Month: the new layout (we really hope!), plus: more Mythcon XVIII reports, photos, and Part 3 of the Star Wars panel: "Star Wars and Tolkien" by Doris Robin -- dsb.

-- ARTISTS --

GEORGIE SCHNOBRICH: Cover
Reproduced from the Mythcon XVIII Program Book
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LISA COWAN: Pages 7-8

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Birthday Party

The Mythopoeic Society was founded 20 years ago at a picnic in Los Angeles celebrating Bilbo's and Frodo's birthdays. This month the Society will commemorate 20 years of mythopoeia with a very special Birthday Picnic.

On Sunday, September 20th, from 5 P.M. until about 8 P.M., Mythopoeics will gather for a potluck picnic at the Lamanda Park Branch Library, [REDACTED] (near Colorado Blvd.), in Pasadena, California, site of many mythopics in days of yore. Besides food to share, please bring blankets to sit on, and wear your costumes (of course you have costumes, right?). We are hoping to arrange for a music program, and there will be a slide show displaying the course of Mytho History.

For further information, telephone Glen GoodKnight at [REDACTED] or Anne Osborn at [REDACTED]

[illegible]

The Council of Stewards

by David Bratman

The Stewards of the Mythopoeic Society met on May 9, 1987, at the apartment of Lee and Dolores Speth in [REDACTED]. This was one of the most epic Council meetings ever held, producing as it did two new Steward positions and a proposal for a third.

The first order of business was to clear up the loose ends remaining from the bylaws amendment election of last fall (concerning the size of the Council). First, the Council passed an amendment to provide that in any future elections, pro and con statements will be provided for any contested issues. Second, we approved an official statement announcing this, and apologizing for any confusion over the late election (it was published in the July Mythprint)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

COUNCIL OF STEWARDS MEETINGS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

There have been some snags in the past in communications between the Council and Mythcon committees. To deal with such problems, the Council decided to create a new Steward, the Secretary for Mythopoeic Conferences, to serve as a liaison. Paul Nolan Hyde, Mythlore's linguistics editor, has agreed to serve in this position. (That's one.) Later on in the meeting, Lynn Maudlin proposed, and Council approved, that she relinquish her position as Publicity Steward, and take on the title of Membership Secretary as more suited to her current duties of watching over the Society's post office box in Altadena and (as soon as the file gets transferred) Mythlore's mailing list (that's two). The other advantage of this change is that it would free the publicity position for Diana Pavlac (chairman of Mythcon XVI), who is professionally suited for the job; this also was passed. Diana, who lives in Chicago, thus became our second Midwestern Steward. Lee Speth, manager of the Orders Department, and Lynn were asked to review their jobs with an eye towards streamlining the flow of mail, and to report at the next meeting.

Glen GoodKnight made the proposal for a third new Stewardship: a liaison to revive the Society's long-dormant Board of Advisors, a group of distinguished names who would help us set the Society's overall direction. Don King, who lives in North Carolina, was proposed for the position. The Council decided not to act at this time, but to look at the proposal in more detail at the next meeting. (Not to hold you in unnecessary suspense -- it passed in July. Thus we have another new Steward to welcome.)

In other business, the Council approved the adding of the names of Jon Lackey and Mike Urban to the Society Honor Roll (to be announced at Mythcon), and discussed opening correspondence with the British Tolkien Society about how best to celebrate the centennial of Tolkien's birth in 1992. (This was in response to a letter sent us by Graham Underwood, who is chairing a TS committee on the subject.)

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

Mythopoeic Awards

The two annual Mythopoeic Awards of 1987 were presented by Christine Lowentrout and Glen GoodKnight at the banquet of Mythcon XVIII, in [REDACTED] on July 26, 1987.

The Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for best fiction book of 1986 was presented to The Folk of the Air by Peter S. Beagle (Del Rey hardcover, 330 pages, \$16.95; reviewed in Mythprint Feb. 1987). This is the novel about Joe Farrell, hero of the short story "Lila the Werewolf", that Beagle had been writing for some 17 years, and if anything is worth such a wait this is. The Folk of the Air is a "contemporary urban fantasy" par excellence, and as such is firmly in the tradition of Charles Williams, laying a magical template over Berkeley much as Williams does over London. The magic even sidles in under cover the way it does in some of Williams' novels. The Folk of the Air is also full of Beagle's distinctive, wry humor, a bit like The Hobbit at times, and sometimes a bit like parts of the Chronicles of Narnia. Most of all, it is a carefully crafted book, cooked on the slow burner with infinite care; in the days of fast-food trilogies, this is perhaps its greatest value.

The Mythopoeic Scholarship Award, for a book on the Inklings published in 1984-1986, was presented to J.R.R. Tolkien: Myth, Morality and Religion by Richard L. Purtill (Harper and Row hardcover, 154 pages, \$12.95; reviewed in Mythprint Feb. 1986). This volume is a collection of essays on various aspects of Tolkien's work; one, on the applicability of "Leaf by Niggle", is based on Purtill's Guest of Honor speech at Mythcon VIII in 1977. Most of the essays concern the philosophical and theological principles inherent in Tolkien's fiction. Purtill is a clear, careful writer in the best traditions of mythopoeic scholarship, and the award to this book returns the compliment of its dedication: "To all those who love the work of J.R.R. Tolkien, but especially to the members of the Mythopoeic Society."



NEWS NOTES

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

The Greyhaven school of Berkeley fantasy novelists have been busy at work: Diana L. Paxson's The Paradise Tree, a new contemporary urban fantasy, is out from Ace (pb, Aug., \$3.50), with The Earthstone, the fourth Westria book (Tor pb, Sept., \$3.50) hot on its heels; Paul Edwin Zimmer's A Gathering of Heroes, set in the same universe as The Dark Border, is a Sept. Ace pb, \$3.50; and The Particolored Unicorn is a light adventure-fantasy by Jon DeCles (Ace pb, Dec., \$2.95). Also from Berkeley, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro has written A Flame in Byzantium (Tor hc, Oct., \$17.95), in which Olivia, a vampire from the "Saint Germain" series, takes refuge in 6th-century Constantinople. Send us reports on your local writers' new books!

Single-author short story collections are a rare thing in fantasy, but here is Chance, and other gestures of the hand of fate by Nancy Springer, a Sept. pb from Baen Books' new imprint, "Sign of the Dragon", for \$3.50.

New from the shared-world anthology brokers: Wizard's Row is the third Liavek anthology, edited by Will Shetterley and Emma Bull (Ace pb, Sept., \$3.50). Andre Norton has now entered the field with Tales of the Witch World, 16 stories by various authors set in her famous magical world (Tor hc, Sept., \$15.95). The contributors include Robert Bloch (with whom Norton is collaborating on a novel), Charles de Lint, Elizabeth Scarborough, and Mercedes Lackey.

First paperbacks of hardcover novels: The Falling Woman, a Mayan fantasy by Pat Murphy (Tor, Sept., \$3.95); The Quest for Saint Camber by Katherine Kurtz (Del Rey, Sept., \$3.95).

C.N. Manlove, a British critic, has written C.S. Lewis: His Literary Achievement, being published this month by St. Martin's Press (hc, \$35). The book is a full-length analysis of Lewis' novels, including The Pilgrim's Regress and The Great Divorce. Manlove has written two earlier books on fantasy: Modern Fantasy: Five Studies and The Impulse of Fantasy Literature.

NEWS NOTES - CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

A short but new book on Tolkien, Evocation of Vergil in Tolkien's Art by Robert Morse (subtitled "Geritol for the Classics") was being sold at Mythcon, and is still available from 20th Century Books, [REDACTED] (hardcover, \$19; trade paperback, \$9).

A readers' poll for "All-Time Best Fantasy Novel" has been conducted by Locus magazine as part of its annual readers' survey. The top five winners were, in order: The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit, both by J.R.R. Tolkien, A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. Le Guin (combined with several votes for "The Earthsea Trilogy" as one book), The Shadow of the Torturer by Gene Wolfe, and The Last Unicorn by Peter S. Beagle. C.S. Lewis' "Chronicles of Narnia" came in 26th.

CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS

* Denotes a new or significantly updated listing

*CONTRADICTION 7, Oct. 2-4, 1987. At the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] GOH: Anne McCaffrey. Memberships: \$16
until Sep. 12, 1987; \$20 after. Write: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*13TH WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 1987.
[REDACTED] GOH: Piers Anthony. Artist GOH: Frank Kelly
Freas. Memberships: \$50 attending; \$25 supporting. Write:
[REDACTED]

*SERCON 2, Feb. 12-14, 1988. At the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Memberships: \$25 until Sept. 7, 1987; \$35 until Feb. 1,
1988; more at the door. Write: [REDACTED]

*MYTHCON XIX, July 29-Aug. 1, 1988. At the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] GOH: Ursula K. Le Guin & Brian
Attebery. Memberships: \$25 until Dec. 31, 1987. Room and
board: \$120 until Dec. 31, 1987. Write: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE-EARTH, Sept. 24, 1988. Location to be
announced (probably in New York State somewhere). Write: Jan
Howard Finder, [REDACTED]

ACTIVITY

Deadline for 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. 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

CHARTERED GROUPS

CALIFORNIA: North

STORISENDE

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes,

PH:

AVALON

Laurine White,

PH:

KHAZAD-DUM

Jeffrey Soreff,

PH:

*September 13, 1987 (Sunday) 1 PM
The Structure of Scientific Revolu-
tions by Thomas S. Kuhn. At Jeff
Soreff's (see above).

*October 4, 1987 (Sunday) 1 PM
The Greater Trumps by Charles Williams
At Eric & Bonnie Rauscher's,

PH:

*November 1, 1987 (Sunday) 1 PM
Free Live Free by Gene Wolfe. Place
TBD

CALIFORNIA: South

Dolores Speth,

*September 20, 1987

Out of the Sile.

Lewis. At Caro

Malcolm Dr., Pasa

CAIR PARAV

John Mulvey,

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA/

Tony Oliveri,

*September 26, 1987

Do Androids Dream

by Philip K. Dick

(the movie).

Hussar's,

PH:

*October 16, 1987 (

Dracula by Bram St

*November, 1987 (Ex

The War Hound and

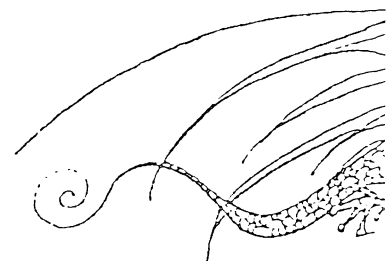
Michael Moorcock.

PH:

HAWAII

SAMMATH NAU

Stephen L. Brown



CALENDAR

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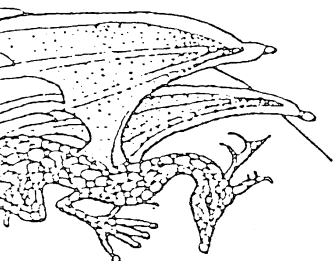
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l Jacobsen's, [REDACTED]
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EL
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

MARYLAND

[REDACTED] KNOSSOS
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(Saturday) 5:30 PM
of Electric Sheep?
' and Blade Runner
At Bill and Paul
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Friday) 8 PM
oker. Place TBD.
act Date TBD)
the World's Pain by
At John Epperson's,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

R
[REDACTED]
PH: [REDACTED]



LOUISIANA

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

MICHIGAN

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

MINNESOTA

[REDACTED] RIVENDELL
David Lenander, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]
*September, 1987
Daughter of the Bear King by Eleanor
Arnason.

All meetings are tentatively scheduled at
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY

[REDACTED] Rómenna
Per Hollander, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]
Still discussing The Lord of the Rings.

WISCONSIN

[REDACTED] THE BURRAHOBBITS
John Rateliff, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PH: [REDACTED]



MythCon XVIII Report

by David Bratman

How can I possibly describe Mythcon XVIII? (This is not just a rhetorical question; I lost my notebook Sunday morning. Feh.) It was the largest and most elaborate Mythcon ever: 300 attendees -- beating last year's by at least 50 -- and over 75 papers -- doubling the previous record. The awesome size of the program can be credited to the intrepid souls on the Papers and Panels Committee (Jared Lobdell, Richard West, and John Rateliff), who scoured the countryside for Tolkien scholars, so as to be able to put together something worthy of the occasion of The Hobbit's fiftieth anniversary.

When I first learned of the number of papers, I wondered how they were all going to fit, but the scheduling was brilliantly handled (due credit to the mastermind responsible, Janice Bogstad) by finding common themes among the papers and organizing them into sessions, lasting up to two hours, of 2-4 papers each. Each session had a chair, to field audience comments and make sure the presenters didn't run on too long. The session I chaired, for instance, was titled "The Hobbit in Relation to Other Writings", and contained a nice variety of perspectives. Kristen Thompson fit The Hobbit into the fictionalized history that Tolkien drew up around it; Bonniejean Christensen looked at it in the light of Tolkien's Beowulf scholarship, drawing striking parallels between the two works; and Christina Scull, one of half a dozen British attendees, compared The Hobbit with other children's fantasies of 1937, in particular J.B.S. Haldane's My Friend Mr. Leakey and Geoffrey Mure's Josephine, two other books by Oxford dons "at play".

What struck me most about the program was how the committee managed to tap into fantasy fandom in the academic community, bringing in many professors who had perhaps never heard of Mythcon before, but who were eager at this chance to share their enthusiasms in a wholly sympathetic environment. Two professors of classics, of all things, showed this point. Douglass Parker, of the University of Texas, had written a major article on The Lord of the Rings when the book was new, and then went quietly back to teaching Homer

MYTHCON XVIII REPORT - CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

and Plato. Then about ten years ago he persuaded his department to let him teach a course called "Parageography", which covered not just classical world-creation, but offered him a chance to teach medieval and modern fantasy authors as well. His presentation was a review of the syllabus of this course, and his aim in presenting it was to elicit comments and suggestions from his audience. Later that day, Kenneth J. Reckford of the University of North Carolina prefaced his paper comparing Odysseus and Bilbo Baggins by shyly confessing that he'd loved The Hobbit since first reading it at the age of eight, and concluded by hoping to make contact with other scholars interested in the neglected field of classical influences on Tolkien.

The reason for choosing Marquette (a university best known for its basketball teams) as a venue was, of course, the presence of the manuscripts of The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings in the archives. When I arrived on campus on Wednesday, there were already half a dozen Tolkien enthusiasts from far away (several from across the Water) eagerly poring over the microfilm reels in the university library's basement. Mythcon's program, naturally enough, included a number of papers discussing Tolkien's writing process, drawing on discoveries made in the manuscripts, and I made a point of attending as many of those as I could get to: Michael Foster on the general process and style of Tolkien's manuscript revisions; John Rateliff on references to The Silmarillion in The Hobbit, some of which were deleted before publication; Douglas Anderson on the various published editions of The Hobbit and the changes made in them; Verlyn Flieger on the significance of the passage of time in Lorien, to which the manuscripts provide some significant clues. Overall, the papers were a feast. I'm only sorry that I missed so many papers on Lewis, Lindsay, Williams, Peake, MacDonald, and Eddison, to name just the authors to whom entire sessions were devoted. And I shouldn't forget to mention the panels, especially the one on "Tol-Clones", wherein four panelists and a very lively audience debated the merits of The Sword of Shannara for an hour.

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MYTHCON XVIII REPORT - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The most interesting and illuminating talks on Tolkien's manuscripts, however, were not on the papers program at all. Christopher Tolkien, the scholar Guest of Honor, gave three talks at the conference. All were on aspects of his father's manuscripts, and all were fascinating. On Friday he spoke of his father's Hobbit artwork at a reception at the art museum where much of that work was on display. On Saturday afternoon, in the main programming room, he discussed and read from a never-published revision of the early chapters of The Hobbit, dating from about 1960, that was designed to clear up some questions of geography. And his Guest of Honor speech, at the banquet Sunday evening, dealt with the very earliest drafts of "Three is Company", the third chapter of The Fellowship of the Ring, and touched on his own role as a child influencing his father's composition. Christopher had only recently uncovered these and other early drafts among his father's papers, and, having used them to prepare The Return of the Shadow, the sixth "History of Middle-earth" book (which will be out next year), he brought them with him to donate to the Marquette archives so that they may be collated with the Lord of the Rings manuscripts that are already there.

Getting to meet the Guests of Honor was a particular treat at this Mythcon, as it was a rare public appearance for each. Christopher Tolkien and John Bellairs are both distinguished, silver-haired gentlemen of impeccable mien, and fascinating speakers, but they are otherwise totally unlike. Mr. Tolkien is in his early 60s, thin, and slow and precise of speech. At the start of his talk on Saturday he seemed nervous, but he relaxed over the weekend -- meeting so many admirers of his father's work was obviously as much a delight to him as meeting him was for us -- and at the closing ceremonies, when we sang "What Shall We Do With a Drunken Hobbit?", he was laughing just as much as everyone else. Proof of his care and consideration came at the autograph session on Sunday morning, where he sat writing full, clear and delicate inscriptions on each book handed him for some three hours.

MYTHCON XVIII REPORT - CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

John Bellairs is a dozen years younger, large, jovial, and a great raconteur. His Guest of Honor speech consisted of anecdotes from his life in England at the time he was writing The Face in the Frost. I talked with him several times and found him always captivating. Peter Beagle, the Mythcon "Special Guest", told me that one of the reasons he'd come was to meet John Bellairs, and the two immediately became fast friends.

Mythcon XVIII was a conference of grand ceremony. The procession on Saturday morning led from Mashuda Hall, our (air-conditioned, blessed be!) dormitory where most of the programming was held, across the street (this was probably the first Mythcon procession to halt for a traffic light) to a magnificent stone courtyard in the center of the Marquette campus for the opening ceremonies. Gregory Rihn, the chairman, emceed this and other events with a panache that should probably be part of Mythcon chairmen's job description. He was "interrupted" at the end by a mysterious masked emissary from "the Other Side". This personage (later unofficially identified as Lee Schneider, the con's technical services director) threatened our lives unless we could answer a certain riddle by nightfall. When he showed up again at the masquerade that evening, he and Greg engaged in a fiery riddle contest ending in victory for the good.

The other masquerade entertainment was good too. The intermission featured a small troupe of amusing filksingers, and a ceremony wherein John Houghton, known to all as the Duke of Numenor, created Gary Hunnewell a Baron in the wonderfully ornate peerage that he maintains. Patrick Wynne, as the herald, read the proclamation -- the first time he'd undertaken this task. Of the dozen and a half costumes, the best was undoubtably Lester Simons (one of the British attendees) as Feanor, and the silliest Paul Nolan Hyde as "A Clerk of Oxenford", reading the definition of "blunderbuss" from Farmer Giles of Ham; but I'm partial to the little half-minute dramatic production of John Bellairs' The Pedant and the Shuffly organized by Ellie Farrell and Debbie Jones, which they asked me to narrate. Debbie was the Pedant and Ellie the Shuffly, and Christine Lowentrout and Eric Rauscher were Flimsies, and if you wonder what this is all about you'll have to read the book (but good luck finding a copy!)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MYTHCON XVIII REPORT - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The banquet was the most truly awesome a Mythcon has ever had. It was held a few blocks down the street at the Wisconsin Club, a century-old mansion turned into an ornate private club. (I'm sure it helped in arranging this that Taum Santoski, the conference treasurer, works as the beverage manager there.) All 300 or so of us, after a pleasant reception on the front lawn, gathered in a huge hall on the second floor to feast on prime rib (and very good it was too, said Ross Pavlac, prime rib connoisseur) and, for dessert, Mock Dragon's Tail (another Farmer Giles reference, with icing courtesy of Georgie Schnobrich). The Society Awards were presented (see elsewhere in this issue for more on that), Mythcon XIX was announced (ditto), new names for the Society Honor Roll were read, Christopher Tolkien gave his speech, Jared Lobdell read a proclamation from the governor of Wisconsin declaring Tolkien month, and other great things were said and done.

There were lots of first-time attendees at this Mythcon, and more unfamiliar faces and nametags than I'd ever seen before (back at my first Mythcon, eleven years ago when they were running to maybe 75 people, I already knew most of the names). I regret not having been able to meet more new people, but there were a few notable encounters. Lynn Wytenbroek, for instance, an energetic young prof from the University of British Columbia, who, together with two other UBC professors in attendance, was already plotting a future Vancouver Mythcon bid by the end of the con. And then there was the time I was in the art show (to which kudos; it was ably run by Giovanna Fregni), standing with John Houghton admiring the huge and meticulous oil LotR paintings by Ted Naismith (the reproductions in this year's Tolkien calendar do not do them justice), when we found the artist standing behind us, with his wife, Donna, and their child who was obviously attending her first Mythcon, so we struck up a long and complex discussion on what Galadriel should really look like ...

Ah well. The memories of all those I met for the first time, and of all the old friends I saw again, are a real joy. Now wait for next year (when I shall have much less time to sit back and enjoy the con!) -- till then.

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.

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c/o Lee Speth, [REDACTED]

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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.

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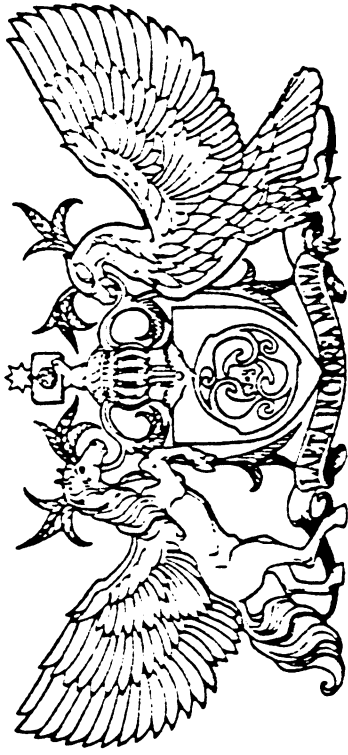
Reviews, discussion reports, news items, letters, and other submissions are always welcome. We can retype material into our computer, so any readable form is accepted.

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.

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