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## Editorial

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August 5-6, 2023: Fantasy Goes to Hell: Depictions of Hell in Modern Fantasy Texts

<https://mythsoc.org/oms/oms-2023.htm>



## Editorial

## EDITORIAL

Here we are again, or rather, here I am, once more the sole editor at Mythic Circle. No doubt MC #29 would have been out sooner had Maria Tatham been able to help me again. Under the circumstances I won't apologize for being late. In fact, now that my sabbatical is over and my workload is not likely to decrease, I suspect that an annual issue coming out in July might be the most reasonable thing to aim for.

We are happy to bring you another fine selection of stories, poems and illustrations. With us for the first time are John Kuhn, Pat Esden, Ryder Miller, Geoffrey Reiter, and Kate Reilly, whose stories and poems explore mythopoeic meanings and insights in fresh and moving ways.

Also, some old friends are returning: S. Dornan with a new take on a creation myth; Joe Christopher and Berrien Henderson with further exploration of Graeco-Roman mythology and its Renaissance interpretations. Dag Rossman gives us another glimpse into Scandinavian mythology, in a story to which Sharon Rossman has contributed an illustration. Likewise returning are JA Howe and M. Tatham, achieving new heights and depths in their stories this time around.

Bonnie Callahan, with the cover illustration, and her vibrant depictions from "Keji" and "Rhapsody," adds a dimension to the issue, as does Tim Callahan with his dynamic evocation of bardic warfare in "He Who Sang the Song," and Jef Murray with his haunting portrayal of Jo Gjendes's grave. We hope that you enjoy MC #29, and we invite your comments, most of all constructive criticism designed to help these writers improve their craft and advance their careers.

ABOUT OUR FRONT COVER, Bonnie Callahan writes, "This cover depicts a rather different mythic tradition than the Mythopoeic society usually features-- a traditional ritual ball game performed in the ancient Mesoamerican cultures. The players are characters from the text *Popol Vuh*. Known as "The Hero Twins" Hunahpu and Xbalanque, they are depicted serving a rubber ball back and forth with elbows and knees." *The Mythic Circle* invites writers to invent stories on this theme.

ABOUT OUR BACK COVER: in MC 28, the last issue, we published a story by Dag Rossman, set, as he explained, "in the Gudbrandsdal district of central Norway, a mostly rural region that values its traditions--both in architecture and in stories. The large and beautiful Lake Gjende forms a gateway between Gudbrandsdal and the fabled Jötunheim Mountains. It was near the outlet of that lake that an historical figure, Jo Kleppe (1794-1884), built his hunting cabin and in time became known as the legendary mountain man Jo Gjende, whose exploits helped inspire the character of Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*." For this issue, Jef Murray gives us a magnificent view.