

MYTHOPRINT

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

Whole No. 42

Nov. 1983

Vol. 20 No. 11



TABLE OF CONTENTS

MYTHOPOEIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE	2
NEWS NOTES	3
CASTING CALL, PART THREE	5
ACTIVITY CALENDAR	7
WORLD CON REPORT by Lisa Deutsch Harrigan	9
REVIEW: <u>RATHA'S CREATURE</u> BY CLARE BELL	12
Reviewed by David Bratman	

--ARTISTS--

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Mythopoeic Regional Conference

November 25-27, 1983

Radisson Hotel, Wilmington, Delaware

The First Mythopoeic Regional Conference is being held in conjunction with Darkover Grand Council VI. The theme of the conference is "Children's Fantasy", which will be expressed in papers and panels. There will also be many usual Darkovercon activities, including a masquerade (with costume categories of Darkovan, Mythopoeic Fantasy, Medieval, and Science-fiction), dealer's room, art show, filk singing, and a wide selection of movies and video presentations. Special events will include concerts by the folk music group Clam Chowder and a masque based on Tennyson's "The Passing of Arthur".

GUESTS OF HONOR -- Nancy Springer, author of The White Hart, as Darkover GoH; Carol Kendall, author of The Gammage Cup and The Firelings, as Mythopoeic GoH; Marion Zimmer Bradley (of Darkover fame) and Katherine Kurtz (of Deryni fame) as Special Guests. Other distinguished attendees will include Jo Clayton, Donald Wollheim, Hal Clement, Paul Edwin Zimmer, and Diana Paxson.

MEMBERSHIP -- \$12.00 through November 15th, and \$15.00 at the door. All checks should be payable to Armida Council and sent to Armida Council, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

HOTEL -- The Radisson Wilmington Hotel is located at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The telephone is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Rates are \$47 for both singles and doubles; when writing or calling the hotel, be sure to mention that you are with "Darkovercon".

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION -- Write the conference committee at the address under "Membership".

NEWS NOTES

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Tempo Books begins its new "Magicquest" imprint in January by reprinting a series of hard-to-find fantasy books in paperback. The first four titles are: The Perilous Gard by Elizabeth Marie Pope (GOH of MythCon XII), The Throme of the Erril of Sherill by Patricia McKillip, The Seventh Swan by Nicholas Stuart Gray, and The Ash Staff by Paul Fisher. The books will be priced at \$2.25.

Michael Ende's The Neverending Story, a best-selling fantasy from Germany, has been published in English by Doubleday (hardcover, \$15.95). It's a story-within-a-story -- the main character is reading a book called The Neverending Story (which, for all I know, is in turn about somebody reading a book called The Neverending Story). The book is printed in beautiful red and green type (the color indicating which story you're in).

Somewhere or other, William Goldman, who introduced the world to "The Princess Bride by S. Morgenstern" (another book printed in multicolored type) has come up with another Morgenstern classic. The Silent Gondoliers is an adventure fable about the boatmen of Venice, being published by Del Rey (hardcover, \$12.95).

Robert Boyer and Kenneth Zahorski, joint editors of several fine fantasy short-story collections from Avon, have come up with a nonfiction anthology: Fantasists on Fantasy, A Collection of Critical Reflections, will be published by Avon in February.

Brace yourselves. Roger Zelazny has signed a contract with Avon Books for a whole new trilogy set in his five-book Amber universe. 'Tis said not to be a sequel to the previous series. Meanwhile, Robert Silverberg plans to do a retelling of the epic of Gilgamesh, to be published by Arbor House.

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NEWS NOTES - CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

Other new and upcoming books:

Damiano, first book in a fantasy trilogy by R. A. MacAvoy, author of the sleeper hit Tea with the Black Dragon, a Bantam pb original, due in January, at \$2.75); The Mirror of Helen, a Trojan tale by Richard Purtill (Daw pb, \$2.50); On a Pale Horse, first book in a new series by Piers Anthony (Del Rey hc, \$12.95); Thendara House, a Darkover novel by Marion Zimmer Bradley (Daw pb, \$3.50); Prince Ombra, by Roderick MacLeish (Tor pb, \$3.50); Moreta: Dragonlady of Pern, by Anne McCaffrey (Del Rey hc, \$14.95); The Second Book of Swords by Fred Saberhagen, Ariel by Steven R. Boyett (a unicorn story), The Horse Goddess, a story set in Wales by Morgan Llywelyn (author of The Lion of Ireland).

FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS

Ladyhawke is a medieval romance and love story that spans 700 years. It stars Matthew Broderick (of War Games fame), as a young thief who comes to the aid of a beautiful princess (Michelle Pfeiffer), who is under a spell which turns her into a hawk by day. The same spell turns the lady's cavalier (Rutger Hauer) into a wolf by night. He spends his time trying to protect these two from each other as well as others in the land while the adventure proceeds. It is scheduled for a Summer, 1984 release.

CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS

MYTHCON XV is proud to announce that, in honor of the Olympic Games being held down in LA, they will be holding a Mythopoeic Olympics! The first idea was for a Book Relay, in which groups of people, sitting down, would pass books hand to hand down the line. This would be a timed event. Now that you have the idea, they want more ideas! Please send them to Mythprint and we will pass them on to the guilty party who thought this up. Clever ones might be printed here. (I didn't make this up either! - LDH)

Casting Call

We have another person who answered our Casting Call. Anne Burns from Greenwich, CT., could not resist after Kathleen Woodbury's listing in our July issue. I am including her listing as she gave it to me. (Note: she refers to Kathleen's list on several occasions, I will not reprint the references here. Please see the July, 1983 issue if interested.)

Hobbits

Bilbo - Michael Dunn
Frodo - Ringo Starr
Fatty Bolger - Danny de Vito
Sam - Dudley Moore
Merry - John Denver
Pippin - Paul Williams
Gaffer Gamgee - Harry Morgan
Rosie Cotton - Mia Farrow (actually, she reminds me more of Elanor.)

Eldar

Elrond - Leonard Nimoy (I would be very interested to know if anyone besides myself has detected an 'elvish air' about Mr. Spock - and I am not referring to the shape of his ears! - though I do think that the way Elrond was pictured in the animated Hobbit was an inspired coincidence.)

Arwen - Crystal Gayle or Barbara Carrera
Galadriel - Vanessa Redgrave (the way she looks in Mary, Queen of Scots)
Celeborn - Peter O'Toole
Elladan & Elrohir - I agree with Ms. Woodbury.
Glorfindel - Michael York
Legolas - Andy Gibb

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CASTING CALL - CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

Edain

Aragorn - Clint Eastwood (I don't like his movies, but that interview with Barbara Walters changed my ideas about him.)

Boromir - Richard Chamberlain

Faramir - Bill Bixby

Denethor - Liam Sullivan

Theoden - Richard Harris

Eomer - Anthony Andrews

Eowyn - Cheryl Ladd or Hayley Mills

Wormtongue - I agree with Ms. Woodbury - David Hemmings is perfect.

Barliman Butterbur - Ed Asner

Halbarad - Charles Bronson

Wizards, Dwarves, Bad Guys, etc.

Gandalf - Alec Guinness

Radagast - 'Grizzly Adams' (sorry I can't remember his real name!)

Saruman - Vincent Price

On the Dwarves, I like Ms. Woodbury's choices, but, as she left out Gloin, I'll choose:

Gloin - Robert Conrad

Gimli - Chuck Norris

Ms. Woodbury's choices for Tom Bombadil (Danny Kaye) and Goldberry (Mariette Hartley) I find impossible to improve on!

Treebeard - Ted Cassidy (and lots of makeup of course)

The Nazgul - Michael Ansara

Sauron - since he never actually appears this may be a moot point. Perhaps we should just transplant Darth Vader.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

ACTIVITY

Deadline for Activity Calendar is the month of publication, i.e. December instead of November. January information 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.

South Bay: KHAZAD-DUM
Pat Witham, [REDACTED]

*November 6, 1983 (Sunday) 1 PM
The Prydain Books by Lloyd Alexander, at Pat Witham's house.

*December 3, 1983 (Saturday) 7 PM
The Annual Reading, Eating, Meating, Meading, & Meeting Meeting, at Jo Wilcox, [REDACTED]
Please bring a munchie and something to read aloud.

*January 8, 1984 (Sunday) 1 PM
The Thomas Covenant Series (all 6 books) by Stephen R. Donaldson, at Eric & Bonnie Rauscher, [REDACTED]

CALIFORNIA: South

Hollywood-Wilshire: M
Dolores Espinosa, [REDACTED]

*November, 1983.
The Trial by Franz
Contact secretary location

Pomona Valley: DESOLA
Bill Mosher, [REDACTED]

*November 5, 1983 ()
Guy Fawkes Day Ce
aid of Golden
Secretary for deta

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington: KNOSSOS
Wendell Wagner, Jr.
[REDACTED]

HAWAII

Honolulu: SAMMATH NAU
Stephen L. Brown
[REDACTED]

*Nov. 6, 1983 (Sund
Dracula by Stoker

*Dec. 4, 1983 (Sund
The Greater Trumps
All meetings star
located at: Ken E
[REDACTED]

CALENDAR

the first of the month preceeding the
issue information will be due the 1st
will be due the 1st of December.

MYDGARD

Kafka
y for date, time, &

ATION OF SMAUG

(Saturday)
celebration (with the
Perch) Contact
hills.

ay) Halloween Party

ay)
by Williams
t at 2 PM and are
surtness,

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge: ROKE
Deborah Wilson,

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor: GALADHREMMIN ENNORATH
Dave & Grace Lovelace,

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY

New York City Area: Rómenna
A Tolkien Discussion Group. Currently
discussing Unfinished Tales. Contact:
Margaret Purdy,

OHIO

Dayton-Kettering: THE PRANCING PONY
Eileen Ribbler,

ALL MEETINGS are on the third Sunday
of each month at 7 PM. Contact
Secretary for location.

WASHINGTON

Seattle-Tacoma: EREBOR
James Wallace and Ginger Johnson,

WorldCon Report

By Lisa Deutsch Harrigan

As usual, your intrepid managing editor was lucky enough to attend the World Science Fiction Convention, this year in Baltimore, Maryland over the Labor Day weekend. Since there is no way that one can see all of a Worldcon (which this year spread over a convention center and two hotels), I did not even attempt the impossible task. And since a lot of my time was spent talking with old friends who live on the East Coast, I will not waste your time with the personal stuff. But I will give you some of the highlights of the weekend for you to know about. This report may also help you make plans to visit Worldcon next year in L.A., if you are lucky enough either to live on the West Coast or to be able to visit out here (Information on that con is in our con listing).

The Mythopoeic Society party was held on Friday night. Due to a lot of work getting the word out, we had a very successful party with many interesting people, some new and some old. I was pleased to meet some of the East Coast Society people who I rarely get a chance to see, including Wendell Wagner (contact person for the Washington area group, Knossos), Steve & Veida Wissler (she is editor of Mythellany), and Margaret Purdy (contact for the New Jersey area group). I also got to meet Louis Epstein, head of the National Tolkien League. Due to the number of Tolkien fans in the room, our conversations tended to hover around that author, but we did range all over the fantasy worlds during the course of the evening. We even got three new members to join! Thank You!

The next day the Star Wars Fan Club held its open meeting. I am saddened to report that Twice Upon a Time was released only long enough to write it off. There are currently no plans to give it a true general release. However, Lucasfilms is busily working on Indy 2, currently called Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. For those of you who heard about Harrison Ford's bad back, he missed three weeks

WORLD CON REPORT - CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

of filming, but Lucasfilms was successful in scheduling around his injury. Several slides were shown of the film later in the Con and Harrison looks gorgeous as usual. The thirties look is even stronger in this movie than in the last. It will be a prequel, taking place about three years before the last movie. No plot lines were given. It will be released on May 25 (sound familiar?), 1984. Maureen Garrett, the lovely lady in charge of the Fan Club, also stated that she has gotten permission to show the three Star Wars movies together at the L.A. World Con (yet another excuse to go).

Right after Maureen, Gary Kurtz gave a talk on one of his new projects, Return to Oz. Mr. Kurtz began his talk with a history of the making of Baum's stories and books into movies, including some interesting footage by Baum's own hand all done in the silent film days. Kurtz is working with the Disney people on this project because they own the rights to many of Baum's books. In 1957, Disney tried to make an Oz film, but Disney himself did not like the script so the project was killed. Several songs were produced for the Disney TV show and for records (for those of you who thought you remembered something). Although they have not finalized the script for the new movie yet, they will be basing most of the action on the book, Ozma of Oz. Norman Reynolds, who did the design work for the Star Wars series, is doing the same here. It will be a live action movie with puppets for the odd creatures. Kurtz states that he is trying to be faithful to the original feeling of the books, using the original John R. Neill illustrations as one of his major guides (which means it will look very 1900 in appearance, not at all like the MGM production). Shooting is scheduled to start in January of 1984 for release in Summer, 1985.

Jim Henson gave a talk on Sunday which I unfortunately had to miss. He had a question/answer period a little later which I did make it to. For those of you who get Home Box Office and love the Fraggles, Henson & Associates are contracted for 72 of them. We have many more of them to

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enjoy (yeah!). He is currently working on a new muppet movie called Muppets Take Manhattan, scheduled to be released next year. He is also working on a new creature movie. Although not related directly to The Dark Crystal, it is being designed by Brian Froud. He hopes to begin principal photography in early 1985 for release in 1986. Gary Kurtz will not be involved in the new movie, but I hope Jim Henson gets someone who knows the technical aspects of special effects. At one point, he was talking about the special effects and could not remember if his character was standing in front of a blue screen or black screen. Kurtz, who was in the audience taking pictures, had to tell him it was a blue screen (the standard color for special effects screens). The question/answer session took place in the middle of a Muppets exhibit. Next to Mr. Henson was a full sized Augrha, Keeper of Secrets, from Dark Crystal. Not too far away was a Miss Piggy and a Kermit. There were also the muppets used in Saturday Night Live, and a grouping of the muppets used in Sam and Friends, including the original Kermit. When Mr. Henson left, a TV monitor showed the making of a sequence from the original Muppet Show. I did not succeed in dragging my daughter away for some time.

Also at the Con were readings and talks given by numerous authors; many excellent panels on science fiction, fantasy, and science fact; a slow moving, yet with excellent costumes, masquerade; an excellent art show; and a dealer's room to leave your money in. Let's not forget the filking, gaming, and film program that rarely stopped. All in all, a very busy World Con. I think I'll stop here.



REVIEW

RATHA'S CREATURE by Clare Bell

This book is not exactly a fantasy novel, but I hope that fact won't stop anyone from reading it. Ratha's Creature is a dramatic adolescent character novel in the mode of Andre Norton. The adolescent character is Ratha, a female herder-in-training in a tribe of cat-like creatures, living some place or time outside of the advent of men. Like most such characters in most such novels, Ratha has brains and courage far beyond the norm, and thinks and discovers things that make the rest of the tribe uncomfortable.

Ratha's most notable accomplishment is the taming of her "creature", fire. She learns to control and tend fire, almost by accident, and, more importantly, learns the consequences of her actions. She is banished from her tribe, hunts with the "Unnamed", the tribeless cats, lives on her own, and eventually returns to her tribe, with the fire, to lead her people to a brighter, but grimmer, world. Along the way there are hunting tips, adventures, friendships, love, and a humorous sex scene as a baffled Ratha experiences her first heat.

Clare Bell does not beat the reader over the head with her sense of morality, but she does make it very clear that life is not easy. Compared with the relative pastoral innocence of the early chapters, the later part of the book becomes very grim indeed, and I would not recommend it to pre-adolescents. In addition to her purely physical travails, Ratha goes through much mental agony as well, some of which is a bit hard to follow. (Bell has fallen into the common trap of considering description an adequate substitute for explanation.) Overall, the book seems geared mostly for the thoughtful adolescent human, who will find it a searing and memorable experience.

As a sub-creation, these cats are fairly interesting. The author has produced an effect similar to that of Richard Adams' Watership Down: the creatures are definitely cats, with all the limitations that implies, but they can think and speak in terms sufficiently complex for a human reader

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REVIEW: RATHA'S CREATURE - CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

part, there is no conflict, and the intelligent cats do not howl at the angst of the limitations of their cat-like existence. Yet every once in a while, whenever Ratha makes one of those intuitive leaps of judgment that make her a genius among cats, it looks too easy. This is, of course, because for a human it would be easy, but then humans are not cats and we're already used to things like tamed fire. I am not certain that there is a satisfactory answer to this problem. How can we show someone discovering something we already know about without being condescending?

Bell's writing style and sense of structure are velvet-smooth compared to many first novelists. This is not a finely polished book by any means, but it has been well edited as well as ingeniously conceived. By no means does it need a sequel, yet for once I would like to see one.

-- David Bratman

~~~~~  
CASTING CALL - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Gollum - He's the hardest one in a way, as he could be a Muppet, but this is hard to see if all the others are played by people, especially the hobbits. I thought about this one alot and came up with several possibilities:

Truman Capote

Tiny Tim

Frank Gorshin (anyone remember him in 'Batman'?)

Mickey Rooney

Note from the Managing Editor: I think it should be mentioned that Ringo Starr once voiced an interest in playing Sam Gamgee. It should also be noted that the 'shortest Beatle' is 5 feet, 8 inches tall, and thus not short by normal standards. Also Alec Guinness has already played Gandalf. The character's name was Ben Kenobi, and appeared in another famous trilogy. (Alec said that he was not too sure of portraying the 'desert rat' mystic until talking to George Lucas and finding out that the character was to be 'Gandalf-like'.)

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 and Canada, \$9.00 elsewhere. Please add \$2.40 for first class delivery, if desired. 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]

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