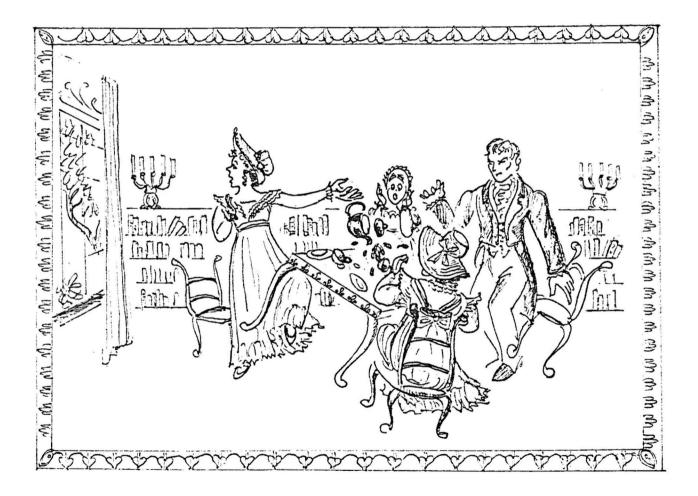
DUGHPRING

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

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Personal information has been redacted.

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Mythprint

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December, 1988

Book Review

Sorcery and Ceceilia by Patricia C. Wrede and Caroline Stevermer. Ace pb, 197 p., \$2.95. Reviewed by Berni Phillips.

If Jane Austen's characters had had a talent for wizardry, this book might well have been the result. Set in Regency England in 1817, *Sorcery and Cecelia* is Wrede's and Stevermer's tribute to Jane Austen and Georgette Heyer, liberally sprinkled with fantasy.

Kate and Cecelia ("Cece") are two cousins, separated by Kate's spending the "social season" in London. While attending a neighbor's investiture in the Royal College of Wizards, Kate stumbles into a plot of magical mayhem which results in Cece's brother, Oliver, being turned into a tree. Back in the country, Cece tries to aid Kate at a distance by amateur sorcery. Tossed into this are two romantic and exasperating gentlemen, two airheaded blonde beauties, and two evil wizards, one male and one female.

The book is written in the form of a letter exchange. Patricia Wrede wrote Cecelia's letters and Caroline Stevermer wrote Kate's. There is an interesting section in the back of the book where they explain how their "letter game" turned into a novel.

I had a wonderful time reading this book. Wrede and Stevermer are obviously Regency fans, but you needn't be to enjoy the novel. Cece and Kate are lively and spirited characters. Lacking the ethereal beauty of Kate's sister, Georgina, Kate and Cece compensate with wit and intelligence. Frequently these qualities are employed to outwit the conventions of their time, and their stodgy Aunt Charlotte. Their male counterparts, James Tarleton and Thomas Schofield, the "odious Marquis", are a solid match for the ladies.

The novel is sprinkled with contemporary references. (Thomas was one of "Wellington's wizards".) Gossip is transmitted about Lady Caroline Lamb and Lord Byron, a "hot" couple of the time. The letters are phrased in nineteenth-century language, replete with requests for matching gloves and references to shawls and reticules, as one would expect to find in real letters.

Sorcery and Cecelia makes no pretence to be literature-with-a-capital-L. It's a wonderful romp and a playful tribute to Jane Austen and her intelligent, warm-hearted ladies.

Mythopoeic Awards

You are invited to join one or both of the committees which choose the Mythopoeic Society's two annual awards, its Fantasy Award and Scholarship Award, which will be presented at Mythcon next summer.

The Mythopoeic Fantasy Award is given to a fantasy novel, multi-volume novel, or single-author story collection published during 1988 that best exemplifies "the spirit of the Inklings". The Mythopoeic Scholarship Award is given to a book on Tolkien, Lewis, and/or Williams that makes a significant contribution to Inklings scholarship. For this award, books published during the last three years (1986-1988) are eligible.

Nominations (no more than five books for each award, please) and requests to serve on the selection committees should be sent by *February 20*, *1989* to Christine Lowentrout,

Volunteers must state their willingness to read all the finalists. Christine will be sending out lists of nominees by February 28th, from which you must pick *five books* that you would like to see as finalists. Your choices must be returned to Christine by *May 1*; she will then tabulate the vote and inform the committee of the five finalists. These five are the books you must read (or re-read) by the final voting deadline of *July 15th.*

News Notes

BBC Enterprises (the people who brought us the 14 tape set of *LOTR*) is now selling a boxed fourhour dramatization of *The Hobbit* staring Paul Daneman as Bilbo. The set consists of four hourlong cassettes in a green and gold box. United States and Canadian customers can purchase the set by credit card from: Record Department, Harrods, Knightsbridge, Londor Telephone number is The Hobbit on cassette sells for 15 Pounds Sterling plus postage and packing (that is roughly \$30 US).

Department of Corrections: Contary to last month's news column, the Mythopoeic Society will not be publishing a 1989 Not Tolkien Calendar. (It has been postponed to 1990, due to the sluggishness of the artistic talent.) The editor apologizes to the readership for the incorrect news item; we made the mistake of thinking that just because it was announced as available, it actually existed or something. Foolish us.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Tolkien from Houghton Mifflin, part I: Following hard on the heels of Ballantine's new pocket-sized paperbacks of Tolkien's books, Houghton Mifflin, the hardcover and trade paperback publishers, have also come out with new editions, with lovely (to our taste) grey landscape covers by Alan Lee. The Hobbit and the three volumes of The Lord of the Rings are in trade paperbacks for \$7.95 a volume (or in a box set) with the covers on dust jackets. A hardcover box set of LotR is also available for \$50. The LotR edition contains the corrected text (edited by Douglas A. Anderson) which made its first appearance in last year's reprints of earlier editions. The Hobbit is the 4th edition text.

Tolkien from Houghton Mifflin, part II: HM has also just published the first trade paperbacks of Tolkien's *The Lays of Beleriand* (Houghton Mifflin, \$9.95), and Humphrey Carpenter's *Tolkien: A Biography* (HM, \$8.95). The newest volume in the "History of Middle-earth" series of Tolkien's papers, *The Return of the Shadow*, already released in Britain, will be published in January. Some early copies have reached the stores; we will have a review in next month's issue. The book contains early drafts of *The Fellowship of the Ring* up through the arrival at Balin's tomb in Moria.

Lewis news: The C.S. Lewis Hoax by Kathryn Lindskoog is a small book presenting the argument that "part of the industry surrounding [Lewis'] name is a hoax". This reconsideration of Lewis' posthumous writings is a hardcover from Multnomah Press, \$11.95. Chapter heading illustrations are by Patrick Wynne. We will have a review soon.

Le Guin news: Solomon Leviathan's 931st Trip Around the World is a children's story which Ursula K. Le Guin wrote many years ago, now receiving its first trade publication with illustrations by Alicia Austin (Philomel hc, \$13.95). An interview with Le Guin appears in the November issue of Locus, the science fiction newsmagazine. Also, Le Guin is one of several contributors (Marion Zimmer Bradley, P.C. Hodgell, Eleanor Arnason, etc.) to a new essay collection, Women of Vision: Essays by women writing science fiction (St. Martin hc, \$14.95).

The 1988 World Fantasy Award for Best Novel went to *Replay* by Ken Grimwood (in pb from Berkley, \$3.95), a story of a present-day man who finds himself transported 25 years back in time to live his life over again. So he bets on the Kentucky Derby, and ...

Masterpieces of Fantasy and Enchantment is an anthology of fantasy stories of the 19th and 20th centuries, edited with introductions by David Hartwell (Doubleday hc, \$19.95).

New paperback novels: Red Prophet, sequel to the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award-winning Seventh Son,

NEWS NOTES - Continued From Last Page

by Orson Scott Card (Tor, \$3.95); A Man Rides Through by Stephen R. Donaldson, part 2 of his "Mordant's Need" duology (Del Rey, \$4.95); On Stranger Tides by Tim Powers, a pirate fantasy (Ace, \$3.95); Euryale by Kara Dalkey, a fantasy story of the good ol' Roman days (Ace, \$3.50); The Bride of Lost Desire by Samuel R. Delany, a Neveryon book (St Martins, \$3.95)

Not fiction, but not non-fiction: Roger Zelazny's Visual Guide to Castle Amber, drawings, floor plans, and revelations of what the princes and princesses of Amber keep in their closets (Avon tp, \$8.95); The Warlock's Companion by Christopher Stasheff, a guide to the worlds of his Warlock series (Ace, \$3.50).

A "Centenary Edition" of George MacDonald's earliest works has been announced by Sunrise Books Publishers. The books will be leather-bound facsimiles of an 1865 edition; first in the series is a Scottish novel, *Alec Forbes of Howglen*. Subscriptions (\$22.50 per volume) and further info from Sunrise Books,

The reference book industry is at it again, churning out overpriced volumes that duplicate standard sources, for sale to gullible libraries. Nevertheless, since the publishers sent us flyers, we'll mention *The Facts on File Encyclopedia of World Mythol*ogy and Legend by Anthony Mercatante (Facts on File, \$95). Slightly more original is *Place-Names in Classical Mythology: Greece* by Robert E. Bell (ABC-Clio, \$48.50), which aims to connect historical and mythological events with modern geography.

FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS

Upcoming fantasy movies seem to fall into two categories: the sequels (Back to the Future II; Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade; Ghostbusters II; The Return of the Musketeers), and remakes (Batman, with Michael Keaton as the Batman and Jack Nicholson as the Joker).

CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS

BOSKONE 26, Jan. 27-29, 1989. At the Mariott Hotel, Springfield, MA. GOH: Tim Powers. Memberships: \$25. Write: NESFA,

LIFE THE UNIVERSE & EVERYTHING 7, Feb. 1-4, 1989. At Brigham Young Univ., Provo UT. "A convention devoted to the serious side of writing, reading & viewing sf & fantasy." GOH: David Brin. Membership: \$10 to Dec. 31, 1988. Write: SF Symposium 1989,

ECLECTICON 3, Feb. 11-13, 1989. At the Beverly Garland Hotel, Sacramento, CA. GOH: Stephen R. Donaldson. Memberships: \$20 to Jan. 15, 1989; \$25 at the door. Write:

SERCON 3, Feb. 17-20, 1989. At the Hyatt Regency, Louisville KY. "Devoted to the conversation, appreciation, & professional discussion of speculative fiction." GOH: James Gunn, David Hartwell. Write:

10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FANTASTIC IN THE ARTS, Mar. 15-19, 1989. At the Airport Hilton, Fort Lauderdale FL. GOH: Doris Lessing, C.N. Manlove. Memberships: \$60. Write: IAFA, c/o Donald Palumbo, English Dept., Shippensburg Univ., Shippensburg PA 17257.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S LITERA-TURE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, May 12-14, 1989. At Mankato, MN. Theme: "Where Rivers Meet: Confluence and Concurrents". Write: Louisa Smith, Dept. of English, Mankato State Univ., Mankato MN 56001. Send paper proposals (papers should be ca. 20 minutes reading time) by Jan. 20, 1989, to: Kathy Piehl,

Continued on Page 9

December, 1988

Activity Calendar

Deadline for the Activity Calendar is the tenth of the month preceeding the month of publication: i.e. January issue information is due the tenth of December; February information is due the tenth of January. 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



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. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

THE ELVISH LINGUISTIC FELLOWSHIP

Jorge Quiñonez,

Chartered Groups

CALIFORNIA: North

Sacramento: AVALON

Laurine White,

*Dec. 3, 1988 (Saturday) 7 PM

Christmas party, at Laurine's. Bring desserts or snacks for potluck munching and a wrapped gift for the anonymous gift exchange.

South Bay: KHAZAD-DÛM

Ellie Farrell,

*Dec. 3, 1988 (Saturday) 6 PM

Our annual Reading and Eating Meeting. Bring along food to share and your favorite short selections to read by the fire. At Edith Crowe's and Amy Wisniewski's,

*January 8, 1989 (Sunday) 1 PM Teot's War by Heather Gladney. At Ellie's. *February 5, 1989 (Sunday) 1 PM Mordant's Need by Stephen R. Donaldson. At the Harrigans',

CALIFORNIA: South

Hollywood-San Fernando: THE GREEN DRAGON Sarah Beach,

Los Angeles-Pasadena: MYDGARD

Dolores Speth,

*Dec. 18, 1988 (Sunday) 2:30 PM

"On Fairy-Stories" by J.R.R. Tolkien. At the Speths'.

San Diego: CAIR PARAVEL

John Mulvey,

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA/MARYLAND

Washington & Maryland Suburbs: KNOSSOS

Tony Oliveri,

*Dec. 16, 1988 (Friday) 8 PM

"The Charming Little Girl" and "The Swamp Machine" by Antonio Olivieri, our secretary! At his place.

HAWAII

Honolulu: SAMMATH NAUR

Stephen L. Brown,

*Dec. 3, 1988

Ariel by Jack M. Bickham and Ariel by Steven R. Boyett (two books, one title).

ILLINOIS

Chicago-DuPage: THE PLACE OF THE LION Darrell Martin,

or Pat Hargis at

*Dec. 11, 1988 (Sunday) 7 PM

The Father Christmas Letters by J.R.R. Tolkien.

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge: ROKE Douglas A. Rossman

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor: GALADHREMMIN ENNORATH Dave & Grace Lovelace,

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis-St. Paul: RIVENDELL David Lenander,

*Dec. 10, 1988 (Saturday) 1:30 PM "Readings from Rivendell", our annual reading of original stories & poems.

*Jan. 1989 (date not set)

A Woman on the Edge of Time by Marge Piercy.

*Feb. 1989 (date not set)

Four Moons of Darkover by Marion Zimmer Bradley and the Friends of Darkover.

(Unless otherwise mentioned, meetings are tentatively scheduled at Rm. 327, Coffman Union, East Bank Campus, Univ. of Minnesota at Minneapolis.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY

New York City Area: RÓMENNA Per Hollander,

(Also a branch of the American Hobbit Association)

VIRGINIA

Washington Suburbs: SPARE OOM Mary & Conrad Stolzenbach, WISCONSIN Milwaukee: THE BURRAHOBBITS Jeffrey M. Long,

Contact Secretary for times and locations.

Other Groups

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

CALIFORNIA: South

San Gabriel Valley: LOTHLORIEN

*Nov. 19, 1988 (Saturday) 8 PM

1988 Summer Movies. At Doris Robin's,

WISCONSIN

Madison: U. OF WISCONSIN TOLKIEN SOCIETY Richard West,

*Dec. 11, 1988 (Sunday) 8 PM First fantasy: the first novels of relatively new authors.

All meetings at Union South,

,Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison.



Letters to the Editor

Nancy Martsch,

I enjoyed the October *Mythprint*. Thank you for the Mythcon pictures! (But where are the captions for pp. 9-10?) It looks like everyone had a good time. Those are fine costumes. I think that having a Masquerade party (as you did) is better than a show -- some people are excellent costumers but lack the dramatic presence to show them off on stage.

It looks as though you and I have diametrically opposed tastes in art! I bought the Roger Garland 1989 J.R.R. Tolkien Calendar and rather liked it, particularly the picture of "Old Man Willow". I think these are meant to be symbolic representations, not literal renderings; visions, not "Old Man Willow" shows photographs. the nightmare of the Willow episode, with the malevolent Old Willow and the neighboring willows thrashing in their wind. (Incidentally, I saaw ancient olive-trees in Italy with holes right through their trunks; one wondered how they stood up. But they weren't sentient.) "Moria" is symbolic of Orthanc calling down snow on Caradhras, not a geographic representation.

Of course not everyone shares the same vision as Garland. Still, it's interesting that the representations of the Brothers Hildebrandt, which were about as literal as one can get, were also severely creiticized. Just can't win, can they?

The Tolkien calendars are not designed by Ballantine. The artists are selected by Unwin Hyman; Ballantine reprints the calendars, varying the layout. I don't know how the artists are selected, but I imagine that contracts and known reliability have something to do with it. If readers have comments on the Tolkien calendar art, they can write to Unwin Hyman Ltd. at 15-17 Broadwick St., London W1V 1FP, England. It might help to include samples of the type of art you like. A while ago (March 1988 -- ed.)) you reviewed The Year's Best Fantasy Stories #13, edited by Arthur Saha (published by Daw and the Science Fiction Book Club). Nobody mentioned this, but the story "Beauty and the Beast" by Tanith Lee is the story of the assassination of Marat by Charlotte Corday. The evil city is revolutionary Paris as its royalist enemies saw it; the visionary city is the revolutionary ideal. The historical parallel gives added dimension to the tale.

(I thought the costume party at Mythcon XIX was a great success, especially for a party without any food offered (we wanted to avoid opportunities for folk to soil their costumes). The costume photos are all by Lisa Deutsch Harrigan; the people are not identified partly because it's hard to caption a montage, partly because we only remembered who some of the folks were and didn't want to offend those we didn't. // The review of Garland's Tolkien calendar is by Darrell Martin, not your humble editor. I think it speaks for itself on the value of "symbolic representations". (And over-literalism wasn't exactly the Hildebrandts' problem, was it?) -ed.)

Elvish Linguistic Followship News

By Jorge Quiñonez

One of the members of ELF discovered what mighte be a hitherto unknown dialect of Orcish. On page 95 of the H-M hardcover edition of *The Hobbit* you find some fragments of this newly found Orcrish, "Ya hey! ...Ya Hoy!" The find seem trivial until one finds fimilar utterances in *The Lord* of the Rings (see TT pages 344-5). Tom Loback details his findings in the next issue of Vinyar Tengwar, due out in January 1989. Issues can be obtained by writting to Jorge,

Subscriptions are \$3 or 4-25¢ stamps for four issues.

Book Review

Catwings, written by Ursula K. Le Guin, illustrated by S.D. Schindler. Orchard hc, 40 p., \$10.95. Reviewed by David Bratman.

Four kittens are born with wings. Soft furry wings. Even their mother doesn't know why. To escape the dangerous life of wild city cats, they fly away to the countryside, where they find dangers of a different kind. (Image how birds would react to the discovery of cats that could fly.) Eventually they meet two children with kind hands, who take care of them. (I'm trying not to say, "take them under their wings.")

This little story has "cute" written all over it. It's evidently designed to do for felines what unicorns have done for horses. The charm of the story, not to mention that of the immensely appealing illustrations (cat lovers, prepare to coo!), is nicely offset by the author's keen understanding of human, and animal, psychology. The birds, for instance, are a nice touch. So is the way the children's gradual caution turning to trust of the cats is matched by that of the cats for the children. This is not a casually tossed-off novelty item, for all that it appears designed to grab at the basic baby-boomer instincts, but a thoughtfully prepared book.

A sequel, Catwings Return, is in the works. Oh no, Mr. Cat!

Council of Stewards' Meeting Report on the meeting of July 29, 1988

The Council accepted Diana Pavlac's bid, for a committee with Darrell Martin as chairman, for Mythcon XXI at Wheaton College in 1990. (See the Mythprint news column for further Mythcon info.) Lynn Maudlin reported on a meeting she attended in London of the committee for the J.R.R. Tolkien Centenary Conference to be held at Oxford on Aug. 18-23, 1992, which is tentatively planned to incorporate Mythcon and the Tolkien Society's Oxonmoot for that year. The committee estimated a price of £137 to £180, and discussed their concern for restoring Tolkien's reputation as a scholar, which means the conference will have to have a degree of scholarly decorum. Membership will be limited to 300, with sales to begin in September 1989. The MythSoc representatives in Britain, Pat and Trevor Reynolds, hope soon to have a formal proposal for Society participation in the conference.

Diana Pavlac proposed new membership options which would include subscriptions to all three Society publications plus a small donation to the Society. Details of conversion and price were discussed, and the matter was tabled. Glen Good-Knight presented a proposed Society membership survey, to be sent to members later this year after suggested changes have been made to its questions.



December, 1988

Book Review

The Sun, the Moon, and the Stars by Steven Brust.A ce pb, 210 p., \$3.50.Reviewed by David Bratman.

This book deserves the label of minor masterpiece for its unusual format alone. In its original hardcover edition, it was the first novel in the Armadillo Press/Ace Books "Fairy Tales" retellings series. But instead of retelling his folktale (a Hungarian story of how the sun, the moon, and the stars got up in the sky) as a novel, a la Robin McKinley's *Beauty*, Brust incorporates the tale into the musings of a young Hungarian-American painter, Greg Kovacs, using the fairy tale's heroism to counterpoint the artist's creativity.

It's an audacious way to tell a story, and it's hard to summon up much enthusiasm for a self-styled fantasy novel that's part modern realism, part lectures on creativity, and part unrefined folk tale. But somehow it works. In chapter 12, Greg tells a fellow artist, one of four friends with whom he shares a studio, how his critical cynicism gets short-circuited when he encounters an artist he really admires. That pretty well describes how I feel about this book. The funny thing is that I previously hadn't admired Brust at all, not having cared for a couple other books of his I'd dipped into. But *The Sun, the Moon, and the Stars* is captivating and intellectually stimulating.

Appreciation of this book perhaps depends on several things, and an intellectual interest in the process of artistic creativity is one of them. (Greg and his friends are painters, but the principles discussed apply to all creative arts.) Another is the wishful ability to draw the tenuous connections between Greg's triumphs and discouragements in his painting and Csucskári's in his search for the sun, the moon, and the stars. (The back cover blurb on the paperback is a good place to start, actually.) And also one needs a taste for peculiar novelistic formats, because this one is highly peculiar.

Each (save one) of the seventeen chapters is

divided into six sections, and in each chapter the sections serve the same function. Two carry forward the contemporary story: no. 3 the lives and work of Greg and his friends in their studio; no. 4 treating specifically Greg's work on his huge classical painting, "The Death of Uranus". Two look to the past: in no. 1 Greg recounts a significant anecdote from his own past; in no. 5 a chapter of the folk tale is told. And the other two, nos. 2 and 6, are mini-lectures (not story at all) on creativity.

The Sun, the Moon, and the Stars is a miniature masterpiece, and deserves this accolade for both the imaginativeness of the concept and for the aplomb for which it was executed.

NEWS NOTES - Continued from Page 4

MYTHCON XX, July 28-31, 1989. At the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. The annual conference of the Mythopoeic Society. GOH: Guy Gavriel Kay (tentative) and Raymond Thompson. Membership: \$25. Room and board (single occupancy) \$115 to Dec. 31, 1988; \$125 after -- does not include membership or banquet. All prices in U.S. dollars. Write:

WESTERCON 43, July 5-July 8, 1990. At the Red Lion-Jantzen Beach, Portland, OR. GOHs: Ursula K. Le Guin, Vonda N. McIntyre, Kate Wilhelm. Memberships: \$20 to Dec. 31, 1988; \$25 to July 4, 1989. Write:

MYTHCON XXI, July 27-30, 1990 (dates tentative). At Wheaton College, Wheaton IL. The annual conference of the Mythopoeic Society. GOH: Diana L. Paxson. Write:

CHICON V, Aug. 29-Sept. 2, 1991. The World SF Convention. At the Hyatt Regency, Chicago IL. GOH: Hal Clement. Memberships: \$50 to Dec. 31, 1988. Write:

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* and other Society publications is: c/o Lee Speth,

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 U.S.A. Please add \$3 if you desire first class delivery or if you live in Canada. The rate is \$10 for overseas surface subsciptions; airmail is \$14. Checks should be made out to the Mythopoeic Society, and may be paid in US or equivalent funds.

The Mythopoeic Society also publishes two quarterly magazines: Mythlore, a journal of Tolkien, Lewis, Williams, fantasy and mythic studies (subsciption is \$13 per year) and The Mythic Circle, publishing fiction, poems, etc. (\$11 per year). Send subscriptions to the Society at the address above.

Submissions

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

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

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 only, should be sent to: Mythprint,

December, 1988



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