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Editorial

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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

Albuquerque, New Mexico • Postponed to: July 30 – August 2, 2021



ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Mythic Circle is a small literary magazine published by *The Mythopoeic Society*, which celebrates the work of C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, and other writers in the mythic tradition. It has become an annual. The next issue, #32, is scheduled to appear in the summer of 2010. Copies can be pre-ordered for \$8.00 through the Mythopoeic Society's website, <www.mythsoc.org>. Back issues are also available. For more information about the Mythopoeic Society, contact:

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Submissions and letters of comment should be sent to: Gwenth Hood, English Department, Marshall University, Huntington WV 25701, or e-mailed to <mythiccircle@mythsoc.org>.

We have, as yet, no hard and fast length limits, but we are a small publication. We have to think very well of a story 5000 words long to publish it, and shorter stories have a better chance. By editorial policy we favor our subscribers. We also favor those who show their desire to improve their work by revising their submissions and submitting them again, even if they do not exactly take our advice. Submissions should be double-spaced and should include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

EDITORIAL AND COMMENTARY

MC #31 has some new authors and some who return. With us for the first time are Mary Johnson and William Wandless, each with a story from an invented mythology. Joel Zartman and Colin Young bring their pithy short poems, also for the first time. Randy Hoyt for the second time offers us a lens into the world of the *Ramayana*, while Ryder Miller comes for the third time, with a look at the hinge between reality and the hidden dimensions.

Some faithful contributors are also returning: Joe Christopher, (by himself and with a new collaborator, Donald Hinkle) Dag Rossman, and David Sparenberg. Once more Tim Callahan generously applies his talents to the cover design and three other illustrations.

Letters are always greatly appreciated in *The Mythic Circle*, especially constructive criticism to help these writers improve their craft and advance their careers.

For this issue, however, our only commentary comes from an odd source. Several issues back, as some readers may remember, we published comments by the diabolic bureaucrat and

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EDITORIAL AND COMMENTARY

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literary critic Squidgeboodle. We haven't heard from Squidgeboodle for a while, but apparently he is up to his old tricks. As before, I'm not certain how the drafted minutes of his committee meeting reached my laptop, but in the spirit of giving the devil his due, I print them here, trusting my wise readers to make all necessary allowances for the diabolic viewpoint expressed there.

###

Moldiwhether's Minutes

To: Moldiwhether, Secretary
From: Squidgeboodle, Director
Center for Art, Literature and Other
Pretentious Diversions
Re: Draft, Minutes of April 1 Steering
Committee Meeting

Cagily yours,
Squidgeboodle

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My dear Moldiwhether,

Having read your document (with much snickering) I now anticipate weeks of tantalizing rumors about the bribes you will demand from whom to suppress what. Do you actually expect to get something from me? I'm tickled. I can reserve a slot for your blackmail spiel this Monday. Get your notes together, rehearse once or twice, and you may go professional one day.

Sending your draft to the whole committee was a shrewd choice. Should it be leaked before proper redaction, everyone will be a suspect. Not that it would produce a millionth of the infernal *frisson* Beelzebub got when he slipped the minutes of the First Diabolic Congress into John Milton's study and it became Book 2 of *Paradise Lost*. But certain fallen cherubs might gnash their teeth more than usual.

I have added clarifying comments in square brackets and am sending the copy only to you. If it leaks in this form, we will know exactly whom to blame. Or will we?

Dear Diabolic colleagues and members of the Steering Committee, here are the drafted minutes from April 1. It is only a draft. What are your thoughts? Any corrections, emendations, or omissions?
---Moldiwhether, Secretary

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DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT²
--Minutes – 1 April 2009

Members Present: Allecto, Astaroth, Belial, Legion, Mammom, Moldiwhether (Secretary), Saturnion, Squidgeboodle (Chair).

Guests: Beelzebub, Mephistopheles, Moloch.

The meeting was called to order at midnight. The Chair announced the agenda: "To coordinate the committee's activities with the tactics of the Supreme Infernal

² Per usual procedure, the meeting was recorded; those wishing to review the audio files must request separate passwords from the Chair, the General Infernal Inspector and the Infernal Regency.