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Editorial

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Editorial

Editorial

Theodore James Sherman

ALLOW me to apologize for the delay in this issue of *Mythlore* and to explain why it is so late. Beginning in June, my wife had a series of hospitalizations for preterm labor with our fourth child. Prior to her first hospitalization, I had all the articles in this issue edited and was ready to send them back to the authors for any final corrections or changes, but I was unable to send them out during her initial hospitalization. Then, in mid-July, she entered the hospital again, this time for twelve days, during which I began laying out and composing this issue. She then came home for three or four days before being admitted for the final time, during which labor was induced and our son was born (five weeks early). The premature birth of our son meant he had to stay in the natal intensive care unit for two weeks, during which time, again, I was unable to do any work on *Mythlore*. Finally, once he came home in mid-August, I began to get back to work on *Mythlore*. It then took over a month to get the articles sent to the authors, proofed by them, and returned and corrected. Then, in late September, my computer crashed and I had to reinstall all the software (though I had backed up the files for *Mythlore*). I also had a worm hit my new computer at work, which literally erased my harddrive. My wife and fourth child are now doing well, my computers are both working fine, and I plan to get back to a more regular publishing schedule for *Mythlore*.

With this issue, a new member joins the editorial board of *Mythlore*: Donna R. White, assistant professor of English at Arkansas Tech University. Dr. White has authored two monographs—*A Century of Welsh Myth in Children's Literature* (Greenwood, 1998) and *Dancing with Dragons: Ursula K. LeGuin and the Critics* (Camden House, 1999)—and numerous publications (articles and book reviews) on well known children's and fantasy authors.

This issue of *Mythlore* presents a rather eclectic mix of articles. In the first, "C. S. Lewis, Literary Critic: A Reassessment," William Calin examines C. S. Lewis's literary criticism—especially the major works *The Allegory of Love*, *A Preface to Paradise Lost*, and *English Literature in the Sixteenth Century, Excluding Drama*—with an eye to show that "much as he might object to the idea, Lewis is a genuinely modern man who . . . partakes of modernity and modernism."

Donna R. White examines the nature of "Villainy in the Social Fantasies of Carol Kendall," particularly Kendall's fantasies for children: *The Gammage Cup*,

The Whisper of Glocken, and *The Firelings*. White investigates the “balance and interaction of contrary social forces” in Kendall’s books, arguing that Kendall “sets up oppositions between different social forces and demonstrates that they all have certain strengths and weaknesses.”

In the third article, “R. B. McCallum: The Master Inkling,” David Bratman introduces us to a lesser known member of the Inklings. McCallum, Bratman shows, was a loyal member of the Inklings, though he was not a literary man at all. Indeed, he was a rather well known historian and social scientist as well as Master of Pembroke College.

Rebecca A. Umland and Samuel J. Umland, in an article titled “All for Love: The Myth of Romantic Passion in Japanese Cinema,” view Japanese cinema through the lens of Denis de Rougement’s pioneering work *Love in the Western World*. They show that this myth of romantic passion—of forbidden love which “is inextricably linked with fate and death”—“frequently informs Japanese cinema, suggesting that this myth operates on a Jungian, that is, a universal level.”

Next, Edith L. Crowe studies “Making and Unmaking in Middle-earth and Elsewhere.” Focusing on Tolkien’s “vast *oeuvre* describing Arda and Orson Scott Card’s Alvin Maker series,” Crowe demonstrates that “Making/Unmaking is a powerful and archetypal concept, very meaningful to anyone aware of both the scientific and sociological realities of our times.” Her article is especially insightful in light of the “unmaking” of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center on 11 September 2001.

Finally, Daniel Timmons looks at “Hobbit Sex and Sensuality in *The Lord of the Rings*.” Timmons examines the (unintentionally humorous) critical writings on “sex” in *The Lord of the Rings* to show just how wrong the critics have been and to prove one of the points he will make: “The sharp distinction between the situations of Sam and Frodo at the end of *The Lord of the Rings* . . . dramatizes the wondrous pleasure of being ‘whole’ in a loving and sensual union and the poignant melancholy of being mateless on mortal earth.”

I plan to devote the next issue of *Mythlore* solely to the works of J. R. R. Tolkien. I have already begun editing articles for this issue, which may also include a number of reviews of recently published books on Tolkien (Shippey, Clark and Timmons, Flieger and Hostetter, Garbowski, among others). This issue should be out by the release of the first *Lord of the Rings* film from NewLine Cinema on 19 December 2001.