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Contributors

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Online Summer Seminar 2023

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

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Contributors

applies his talents to the cover and to illustrations from the four corners of the mythological universe. Kathy Edwards explores different artistic approaches to

stories and poems quite different in style and intention. We hope that there is something for every taste in this issue of *The Mythic Circle*.

ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Daniel D. Baird has a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Oregon specializing in East Asian literature. He enjoys reading fantasy from both Asia and Europe, being a fan of the genre since his childhood encounter with Bilbo Baggins. The short story, “The Warlock and the Nis” is based on a dream Daniel had as a youth.

Kenneth Burtress has been a member of Sammath Naur for 33 years. Semi-retired with more time for writing, he has just finished a short book on the Tarot and the I Ching (looking for an illustrator). He is currently working on three fantasy books: *8 Trees*, about prehistoric Hawaii; *Cantaloupe Genes*, a psychosexual look at reincarnation; and *Rox in a Box*, about the mind surviving the demise of the body.

Bonnie Callahan has contributed art to Mythopoeic publications for over 3 decades. She was in on the premieres of *Mythlore*, *Mythprint*, *Mythril*, and *Parma Eldalamberon*. Bonnie has worked as a background stylist in the animation industry for over 20 years, and also designs logos, posters, and cards, as well as painting art on rocks. Her illustrations have often appeared in *The Mythic Circle*, but this year she could not contribute due to other commitments.

Tim Callahan graduated from the Chouinard Art School with a degree in illustration. He has worked in the animation industry as a background designer and layout artist for over 20 years and has regularly contributed art for *The Mythic Circle*. He and Bonnie met while working on the infamous Bakshi production of Lord of the Rings.

Joe R. Christopher, a retired college teacher, minored in Latin for his B.A.--and took, in English, one course on classical mythology and four courses in classical literature in translation, along with the four courses in Latin. (He still remembers without pleasure his second-semester second-year Latin course in Vergil--there was only one other student in the class, so each got to translate for about twenty minutes per class meeting. And the other student was better at it than he was.) But his love of classical literature and mythology survived even that Vergil course. His interest in Darwin comes from other and later influences, partly a master's thesis in the Victorian period, partly a post-doctoral enjoyment of the geology sections of Tennyson's *In Memoriam*. One warning about taking his presentation of classicism too idealistically: “Poseidon and Queen Cassiopeia” may be a response to the male chauvinism of a Greek myth, but one should not

consider that the Phoenicians were therefore psychologically healthier: they sacrificed some of their children to their gods, and had special sections in their graveyards for the burial of those children's bodies. *That* is not in Christopher's treatment of the myth.

Janet Brennan Croft is Head of Access Services at the University of Oklahoma Libraries, edits *Mythlore*, and has written extensively on Tolkien, Pratchett, and Rowling. Her poem "Arachne" marks a return to her study of classical mythology as an undergraduate (in fact she found the first draft tucked away in her college text of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*), and serves as a creative companion piece to her current scholarly work on the female mentoring relationship between Aphrodite and Psyche and their later incarnations from fairy tales to movies.

Kathy Edwards, a member of the Blue Ridge Potters Guild, lives in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and loves to do Fantasy art. Her web page is KEdwardsStudio.com - feel free to send me ideas for fantasy ceramics you would like to see made, since she enjoys unusual suggestions.

Harry Steven Lazerus was born in Brooklyn in the last century. He's lived in New York, Israel, Texas, and a work cubicle in California. Harry has degrees in physics and currently works as a software engineer in the space program but has also taught physics and astronomy at CCNY and picked apples in Kibbutz Tsuba. He has written four novels and several short stories. Two of those stories have been published in *AlienSkin Magazine* and *Anotherrealm*.

Ryder Miller is the editor of *From Narnia to a Space Odyssey*. He has published stories at: <http://lostsoulsmag.tripod.com/>, and articles and reviews at: *The Internet Review of Science Fiction*, *Raintaxi*, and *The Electronic Green Journal*. Miller is a freelance Environmental & Science Reporter, and Eco-critic, who has lived in San Francisco for a long time.

Douglas "Dag" Rossman has been retelling and, more recently, expanding upon the Norse myths and legends for the past thirty years before live audiences across the Midwest. He has two published collections of original short stories (many of which first appeared in *The Mythic Circle*) set in the Nine Worlds of Norse mythology. The most recent one, *The Dragonseeker Saga* (Skandisk, Bloomington, MN, 2009), has also been characterized as a young adult fantasy novel. The story in this current issue of *Mythic Circle* is a direct sequel to certain of the events taking place in that book.

David Sparenberg is a poet-playwright, Shakespearean actor, stage director, storyteller and workshop facilitator. His literary work has appeared in over 100 periodicals, journals and anthologies in nine countries and he is currently completing a final revision on his first novel, *The Dialogue Of Becoming Human*, a work containing aspects of Magic Realism, alchemy and archetypal psychology. David is currently involved with a final revision of his first novel. Anyone interested is invited to read the first two chapters at: <http://thediologueofbecominghuman.blogspot.com>.

Todd W. Swanson has been drawn to the mysteries of mythology since childhood. His essay on comparative religions won the Outstanding Senior Research Paper award at the Kiski School. His anthropology thesis for Carnegie Mellon University, "Deriving the Culture of Pre-Christian

Europe from Art and Artifacts,” focuses on the ‘personality’ of Teutonic mythology. Todd has continued his study of language and culture at Haskoli Islands in Reykjavik, traveling the Ring Road and visiting saga sites and other legendary places, in addition to visiting Tolkien’s Oxford homes, haunts and final resting place in England. An illustrator and professional writer based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Todd continues to draw inspiration from Tolkien and William Morris, while refining his understanding by reading Professor Tolkien’s critics and scholars, such as Humphrey Carpenter and Tom Shippey.

Joan Marie Verba has been a member of the Mythopoeic Society since 1975.

An experienced writer, she is the author of the nonfiction books *Voyager: Exploring the Outer Planets*, *Boldly Writing*, and *Weight Loss Success*, as well as the novels *Countdown to Action*, *Action Alert*, and *Deadly Danger*, plus numerous short stories and articles. She is a member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, and the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators.

Dust

by

October Williams

If I could paint a picture of this room, I’d paint the fire
In twisting shadow figures ’round the table
A gust of wind would blow the dust
About the broom into a woman leaning,
Face turned toward the ground,
Her fingers sable on the handle’s firelit gleaming:
The homely details of the everyday
Of people I have been among in dreaming –
A civilization shaken in the dawn and gone away,
Leaving a shadow people in a solid room
Where firelight burns and flashes;
Till dust returns to unswept dust
About a broom, and ashes unto ashes.