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## Letters

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

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



## Letters

I will attempt to print in each issue letters received since the preceding issue. Subscribers are encouraged to send letters. I am especially interested, however, in letters that question the theses, conclusions, and methodologies of articles in previous issues. My hope is that this Letters section may serve as an open forum subscribers to comment upon the articles and to receive replies from the authors.

Dear Dr. Sherman,

After the Mythcon last year I submitted to you a manuscript on “The Shire: its bounds, food and farming”. Its receipt was not acknowledged and, since that time, I have written again to enquire about it.

More recently, I have received the new issue of *Mythlore* in its drastically altered format. I am not at all comfortable with this, since it seems to me now transformed into a journal only for serious literary scholars, no longer suited to persons like myself whose reading of, and writing about, Tolkien is done for fun. In such a sterile format, my article has no place.

I am writing, therefore, to withdraw it and would be grateful if you would return the manuscript to me as soon as possible. I shall also probably be cancelling my subscription to *Mythlore* when it comes up for renewal.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. William A.S. Sarjeant, Ph.D, D.Sc., FRSC  
Professor of Geological Sciences  
University of Saskatchewan

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Dr. Sherman,

I wanted to tell you how delighted I am with the new appearance and goals of *Mythlore!* I had intended to let my subscription lapse, but I've reconsidered because of the comments in your editorial, this issue [Winter 1999, volume 22, number 3].

Please consider me as a volunteer should you need any assistance on anything I can do from here.

Cordially,

Barbara  
Barbara L. McCauley, Ph.D.  
English Department  
North Florida Community College, Jacksonville, FL

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Dear Ted,

Congratulations on the new Mythlore. My copy arrived a few days ago and I've read some already. Good, solid contents, excellent appearance. I doubt if I'd have had the imagination (Or the guts?) to go against long tradition by dropping the artwork, but it's clearly a move toward achieving your purpose of scholarly respectability. I'd be curious to know what feedback you get on it, though.

Chuck Hurrar  
Department of English  
Hope College, Holland, MI

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Dear Dr. Sherman:

While it is difficult to commence unsolicited (but I hope not unwanted) notes such as this, perhaps the only form is "to jump in." Truth is, the new MYTHLORE came across my desk yesterday, and I found myself savoring it.

Initially I glanced at it in rapid perusal and thought: "Hmm, SEVEN lite. At least the cartoonish aspect of the older version is gone." Then, having considered the subject more, I thought that I had been hasty, too hasty.

This new MYTHLORE is NOT a version or variant of any other journal, but a valuable addition to our literature on Tolkien, Lewis, Williams et al. As a theological librarian I find it interesting, welcoming, accessible, or, to put it in plain words: much can be derived from this and its wonderful essays especially, vis-a-vis the old format, which, truthfully, did stick out like a comic book hidden among tomes (although the art works usually were fascinating, despite the distractions of the old typescript).

So there's two cents cast into your lap without a request. All in all it's pleasant to see something of this nature edited by another who lives in our state.

Yours sincerely,

Terrence Neal Brown  
Director of Library Services  
Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, TN  
Fiction Editor, *Christianity and the Arts*

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Dear Ted,

I received my copy of the New MYTHLORE. It is VERY impressive. The change in format alone makes it seem more scholarly and serious. And the essays in it seem very solid, with an attractive range of diversity. Congratulations on an excellent beginning! I look forward to continuing to work with you and helping sustain that level of quality, and build on it.

With best wishes,

Peter Schakel, Head  
Department of English  
Hope College, Holland, MI