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Contributors

Gwenyth E. Hood
Marshall University

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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien
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While”[published in *MC* 28]: Lewis at the time of WWI was in love with Norse mythology, but only a few references appear in *Spirits in Bondage*, which collected (among other verse) his relatively few war poems. I wondered what the result would be if Lewis really had used Norse myth in his poems.

(3) The introduction, to quote Pooh-Bah, was “Merely corroborative detail, intended to give artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative.” Or, in other words, it is part of the way the game is played.

--Joe R. Christopher

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, #31 is scheduled to appear in the summer of 2009. Copies of previous issues are available through the Mythopoeic Society Orders Department. The prepaid price for the next annual issue is \$8.00. For preorders and the purchase of past issues, write to: Mythopoeic Society Orders Department, 920 N. Atlantic Blvd. #E, Alhambra, CA 91801, USA. This information and more can be accessed conveniently at the website for the Mythopoeic Society, <www.mythsoc.org>, where it is also possible to join the society, subscribe to publications and order back issues through PayPal.

Submissions and letters of comment should be sent to: Gwenyth 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 stamped, self-addressed envelope.

ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTORS

C. J. Bloomer grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains of South-Western Virginia where he encountered myth and the fantastic every day. Intent on becoming a professional artist and illustrator, C.J. apprenticed under the infamous Charles Vess while attending Berea College in Kentucky. There he gained an education in various methods of traditional art; graduating with a B.A. degree in Studio Art. He now resides in downtown Lexington, Kentucky creating mytho-

fantastical art and illustration from his own working studio *Nydwyn Green Dragon Studio*. You can visit him on his webpage at: <www.nydwyngreendragon.com>

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.

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, Professor emeritus of English at Tarleton State University, has published well over a hundred poems, two plays (including “Retirement: A Masque,” which appeared in *The Mythic Circle*), and eleven short stories (including two in *The Mythic Circle*). Twice he has won a Inklings Scholarship Award (from the Mythopoeic Society) for academic books. He serves on the editorial boards of *The Mythopoeic Press* and of *Windhover: A Journal of Christian Literature*. He is nearing publication of an edited collection of 1946 radio dramas (mysteries but not fantasies) by Anthony Boucher and Denis Green. He has edited two previous books, edited one issue of a journal, published over a hundred essays and short bibliographies, and published approximately two hundred reviews. One of his dramas--*A Foretaste of Blood to Come*--achieved academic production.

Berrien C. Henderson teaches high school literature and composition. When he’s not chasing down student essays and his own children, he enjoys writing poetry and short stories, studying the classics, and pursuing the martial arts.

Sorina Higgins lives in Allentown, PA, and is an English teacher and Drama director at Lehigh Valley Christian High School. She holds an M.A. from Middlebury College’s Bread Loaf School of English and a B.A. in English and Music from Gordon College. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *Radix*, *Sehnsucht*, *Stillpoint*, *Relief*, *Innisfree*, *Studio*, *Perspectives*, *Alive Now*, *Windhover*, *Bible & Spade*, and *idiom*. She is the author of the entry on Charles Williams in the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Christian Literature* and co-writer of a blog on the arts and faith, <<http://iambicadmonit.blogspot.com>>.

Randy Hoyt lives with his wife and son in Dallas, Texas, where he works as a web developer for a large retail company. “Song of Kaikeyi” is his first published work of fiction. He writes about mythology and fantasy, which first captivated him as a child, for the online magazine *Journey to the Sea*. You can find an audio version of this poem there at

<<http://journeytothesea.com/poem>> or learn more about Randy at his personal web site, <<http://www.randyhoyt.com>>.

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 loved the Scandinavian and Cherokee myths and legends for many years and his “The White Path,” published in MC #26, was his first attempt to integrate them in a fictional setting. His new book, *The Northern Path: Norse Myths and Legends Retold . . . And What They Reveal*, has now been published by Seven Paws Press of Chapel Hill, NC. It includes both the stories he has been telling “to live audiences for the past 25 years,” along with a discussion of “the nature of myth generally and the meanings of Norse myth in particular.”

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 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://thedialogueofbecominghuman.blogspot.com/>>.

Donald T. Williams holds a B.A. in English from Taylor University, an M.Div. From Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and a Doctorate in Medieval and Renaissance Literature from the University of Georgia. He has authored six books and written numerous essays and poems which have appeared in such publications as *Christianity and Literature*, *Mythlore*, and *VII*. His most recent books include *Mere Humanity: G. K. Chesterton, C. S. Lewis, and J. R. R. Tolkien on the Human Condition* (Nashville: Broadman, 2006), and *Credo: Meditations on the Nicene Creed* (St. Louis: Chalice, 2007). He serves as Professor of English and Director of the School of Arts and Sciences at Toccoa Falls College in the hills of Northeast Georgia.

SD Williams lives and writes in a small blue house in Durham, North Carolina, and on a sloping piece of land leading to water an hour distant but impossible to find. The writing of “Swimming in the Sea” was inspired by the Henry Badowski song, “Swimming with the Fish in the Sea” from the 1981 album *Life Is a Grand*: “Although it’s nice down here / I miss my telephone / I’d like to tell them all / I’ve found a home from home / Watching the sharks that swim around my head / Down here they all seem so remarkably well fed.” (Partial lyrics reprinted with permission.) Williams’s blog, “Space between Things,” may be found at <http://sdwilliams.blogspot.com/>. “Swimming in the Sea” is one of a series of stories set at the shore of a vaguely remembered sea.