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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



EDITORIAL

Readers will notice that MC #30 has some new authors and some who are returning. With us for the first time are Sørina Higgins, Randy Hoyt, SD Williams. The first two explore traditional tales from different corners of the globe, while the latter experiments with a postmodern approach. Ryder Miller is with us for the second time, with a different perspective. In MC#29, he experimented with (anti)heroic fantasy; now tries his hand at Utopian Science Fiction.

Some faithful contributors are also returning. Joe Christopher offers another a witty and erudite sequence based Greek mythology. Also—a departure for him—he also gives us a tale with a New World setting, “Shpuch and Shtaj.” Was he perhaps inspired by Bonnie Callahan’s cover design in #29? Dag Rossman is also back, with a rich and vivid story from the ancient North. Lala Heine-Koene, David Sparenberg and Don Williams also present their short lyrics, each eloquent in different ways. Tim Callahan offers us a masterpiece in his narrative poem, “The Hunter and the Queen of Heaven,” which clearly evokes the Babylonian Ishtar and Tammuz as well as the Graeco-Roman Venus and Adonis.

C. J. Bloomer appears with us the first time, with his arresting depictions of dragons, trolls, mermaids and chivalrous love. As an illustrator also, Bonnie Callahan brings us wonderfully spooky depictions of the setting and characters for Joe Christopher’s Amerindian tale. Letters are always greatly appreciated in *The Mythic Circle*, especially constructive criticism to help these writers improve their craft and advance their careers.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Gwenyth:

Sharon and I were delighted with the way “The Tree-Woman” and its illustration turned out, and we were also surprised and pleased to see an illustration for “Mist by Moonlight” gracing the back cover.

Hope your summer is going well. . . . [T]omorrow begins Nordic Fest here in Decorah, which will focus our attention on happier things. Sharon is giving two children’s presentations on the Saami people of Norway, Sweden, and Finland, and I will be resuming my role as resident Viking storyteller for the 19th time. . . .

Dag [Rossman]

Dear Ms Hood,

Got the latest issue a couple weeks ago. Let me say, I loved the illustrations Mr. Callahan has done for the story -- he really got the feeling of it! A nice issue all in all; some

lovely poetry. . . . It was David Sparenberg’s “Glimmer Man” that I especially liked; he has managed to capture the essence of beauty combined with a little creepiness. It was amazing. “Tattooed” was another gorgeous one. Sincerely,
JA Howe

Dear Editor:

. . . .(1) Nat While is not C. S. Lewis’s pseudonym for his early poetry--*Spirits in Bondage and Dymmer*--because he used Clive Hamilton for those. Lewis used Nat While (Anglo-Saxon for “not whom”—in other words, [I know] not whom) for his later poems, mainly for those in *Punch*, and of course he used N. W. Clerk for the first edition of *A Grief Observed*.

(2) Therefore, a reader should be able to realize that a pseudo-serious game is being played in my “World War I Poems of Nathaniel