

mythprint

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

Whole No. 169

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Personal information has been redacted

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— ARTIST —

COVER: Glen GoodKnight (Founder of the Mythopoeic Society)
and Verlyn Flieger (Scholar Guest of Honor) at Mythcon XXV
Photo by Wayne G. Hammond

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Mythcon XXVI

The 26th Annual Mythopoeic Conference

Fairies in the Garden, Monsters at the Mall: Fantasy in the World Around Us

August 4-7, 1995 — Clark Kerr Campus, Berkeley, California

Guests of Honor: Tim Powers and Michael R. Collings

Please note the changed date!

Due to a scheduling conflict that wasn't caught until after the first announcement was made, Mythcon XXVI has been moved one week later: it will now be August 4-7, not July 28-31. Sorry!

Special Events

Mythcon XXVI is proud to feature a special performance by renowned Celtic harpist and storyteller Patrick Ball. Mr. Ball will perform Saturday evening, August 5, in the Krutch Theatre. This event will be free to Mythcon members; separate tickets to the concert are not available.

Other special events are being considered, but we need to know if *you* are interested before we begin planning:

- * Craft workshops to occupy children and the childlike: masks, banners, and puppet theatre.
- * Beginners' Elvish class: How to say "My marriage is not on the rocks", other useful phrases.
- * Tours of mythic Berkeley and San Francisco: a unique way to see these colorful cities, showing the sites of great contemporary fantasy novels. The S.F. tour will focus on *Our Lady of Darkness* by Fritz Leiber and *The City Not Long After* by Pat Murphy; the Berkeley tour will show sites relating to Beagle, Dick, Le Guin, and Paxson. Both will require some walking.

Papers

Papers on the conference theme of contemporary urban or indigenous fantasy, the works and interests of our Guests of Honor, and on the Inklings and other fantasy authors are welcomed. They should be 20 to 45 minutes long, and will be considered for publication in *Mythlore*. Send abstracts by April 15, 1995 to: Edith Crowe, [REDACTED]

The Jane Yolen Fund for Starving Scholars is open for applications (and donations!) It will subsidize some of the expenses of a paper presenter who would otherwise not be able to attend. Contact the Papers Coordinator for information.

Conference registration

Conference memberships — \$45 until December 31, 1994; \$55 until July 1, 1995; \$60 at the door.

Children's memberships (ages 7-13): \$25

One day memberships (at the door): \$35

Room and board package — includes lodging Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, and meals from Friday dinner through Monday breakfast (including the Sunday banquet).

Residence Hall

\$180 per person, double occupancy

\$225 per person, single occupancy

Suites (two bedrooms, sharing a private bath: a limited number are available, and preference will be given to families)

\$200/person, double occupancy (of bedroom)

\$250/person, single occupancy (of bedroom)

Banquet tickets are included in the room-board package, and are \$25 for non-resident attendees. Please indicate if you wish a vegetarian entree.

Checks payable to *Mythcon XXVI*; mail to: Eric & Bonnie Rauscher, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. E-mail: [REDACTED]
— use "Mythcon" in subject line, please.

Other Activities

Art Show — Artists are invited to display their work in any medium, including limited prints. For complete fees, rules and art show forms, send a SASE with 52 cents postage to the general Mythcon mailing address (above).

Mythcon will feature panels and book discussions; a dealer's room for books, jewelry, and other collectables; costumed events to include the Opening Procession and the Masquerade presentation, the Bardic Circle poetry readings, and various musical performances.

A Letter from Delia Sherman

Winner of the 1994 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature, for *The Porcelain Dove*

When I was about six years old, I found *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* in my church library. I brought it home and disappeared. I remember my mother taking it out of my hands at dinner, and insisting that I put it down when she was talking to me. This went on for six weeks, until I'd run out of Narnia. I took them out of the library again from time to time, but I bought a set for myself when I went away to college. The other novels I took were *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Since then, I have both studied and taught various of the Inklings' scholarly and fictional works: *Till We Have Faces*, *The Monsters and the Critics*, *The Greater Trumps*, *The Allegory of Love*. And I returned often to Middle-earth and Narnia in search of comfort and wonder.

I was much moved, therefore, by your choice of *The Porcelain Dove* for the Mythopoeic Award. I was equally moved by the award being presented to me by Madeleine L'Engle, who wrote the first Science Fiction I ever read. It's like being placed, however far down the board, at a royal table.



Poetry Corner

"Gandalf at the Bridge"

submitted by Mary Stolzenbach

It looked extremely rocky for the Moria Nine that day,
The orcs were hot upon their trail, a chasm barred the way —
Though Aragorn had drawn his sword and Frodo pulled out Sting,
Still a pallor wreathed the features of the Bearers of the Ring.

Upon the stricken Company a deathlike silence fell,
The Balrog burst across the fires like something sent from Hell —
A flaming mane tossed backward from his fearsome eyebrow ridge,
But Gandalf, mighty Gandalf, was advancing o'er the bridge.

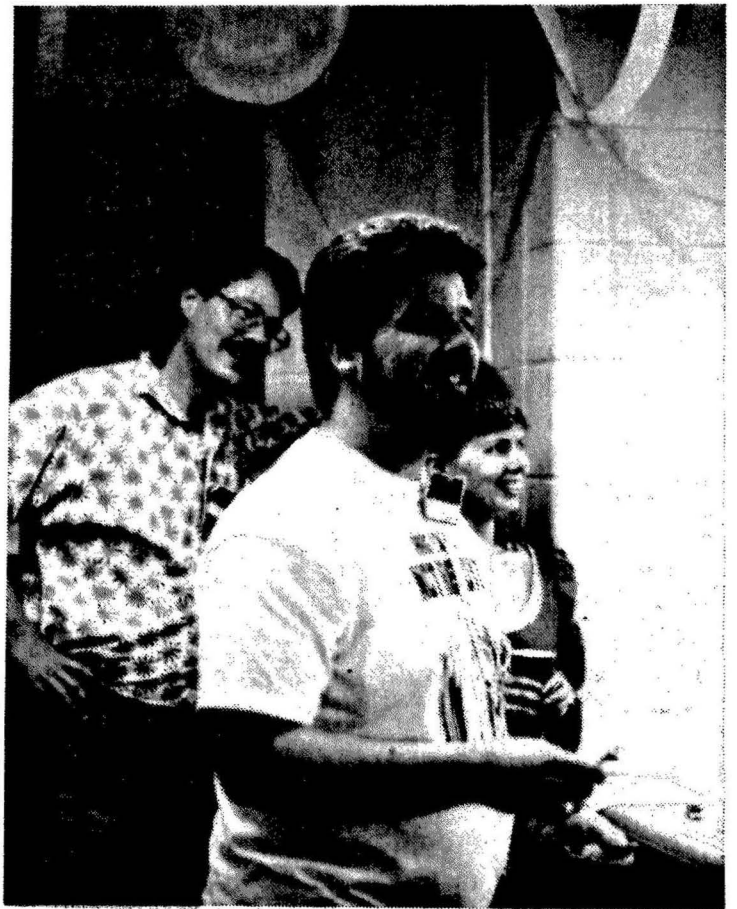
The Men ran back to lend support, the Hobbits raised a cheer,
And Legolas and Gimli felt a lessening of their fear —
To all, the Balrog seemed but just a pesky little midge;
They'd put up even money now, with Gandalf at the bridge!

And now the Wizard lifts his staff, and waves it to and fro,
And now the bridge is shattered by the force of Gandalf's blow!
The Balrog falls adown the deep, with fiery whistling breeze,
But as he fell his curling whip got Gandalf by the knees.

Oh, somewhere else in Middle Earth the Sun is shining bright,
And somewhere Dwarves are singing songs, and somewhere hearts are light,
And somewhere Elves are plinking harps, and Hobbit-children shout —
But there is no joy in Moria — mighty Gandalf has struck out!

Mythcon XXV Photos

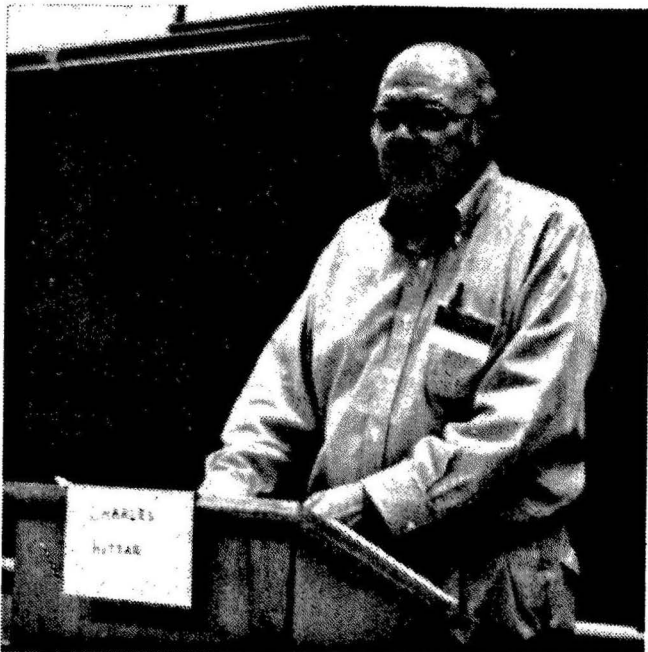
Taken by Wayne G. Hammond



Above left: Glen GoodKnight, Founder of the Mythopoeic Society, speaking from behind the banner of Knossos, the sponsoring Discussion Group.

Above right: Carl Hostetter, Mythcon XXV Papers Coordinator, at his surprise birthday party. His wife Marilyn and special guest Chris Gilson are behind him.

Left: Professor Charles A. Huttar delivering his paper on "The Tolkien Canon and the Problem of Authority."



Activity Calendar

Deadline for the Activity Calendar is the tenth of the month preceeding the month of publication: i.e. November information is due the tenth of October; December information is due the tenth of November. All calendar information should be sent directly to *Mythprint*. Thank you.

Secretary for Discussion Groups

(Please write to him about forming groups, or if you have any questions):

David Lenander
[REDACTED]

Send meeting information directly to *Mythprint*.

Chartered Groups

CORRESPONDENCE GROUPS

BUTTERBUR'S WOODSHED (general fantasy)

Ellie Farrell, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Publishes an amateur press association (correspondence circular), deadlines the first of odd-numbered months. Discusses regular topics:

*November 1994: *Summer of Love* by Lisa Mason

*January 1995: *Towing Jehovah* by James Morrow

ONCE UPON A TIME (children's fantasy)

Berni Phillips, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Publishes an amateur press association (correspondence circular), deadlines the first of even-numbered months.

ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUPS

CATEGORY 32 (GEnie)

David Bratman, *Mythprint*, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Meets on the GEnie online bulletin board service. See the May 1994 Mythprint or contact the topic leader (above) for information on participating.

CALIFORNIA: North

Sacramento: AVALON

Laurine White, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

San Francisco Bay Area: KHAZAD-DÛM

Ellie Farrell, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*November 6, 1994 (Sunday) 1 PM

The Deed of Paksenarrion by Elizabeth Moon. At Betsey Daniels', [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*December 10, 1994 (Saturday) 6 PM

The annual Reading and Eating Meeting. At Edith Crowe and Amy Wisniewski, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CALIFORNIA: South

Hollywood/SanFernando: THE GREEN DRAGON

Sarah Beach, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Los Angeles: NIGGLE'S PARISH

Glen GoodKnight, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Los Angeles/Pasadena: MYDGARD

Dolores Speth, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*October 22, 1994 (Saturday) 7:30 PM

The Stress of Her Regard by Tim Powers. At the Speths'.

*November 20, 1994 (Sunday) 2:30 PM

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare. At Carol Jacobsen's, 205 Malcolm Dr., Pasadena. PH: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

San Diego: LOTHLORIEN

Linda Sundstrom, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington & Suburbs: KNOSSOS

Ellen Caswell, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

FLORIDA

Tampa Bay: HOBBITON

Paul S. Ritz, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

All meetings held at Clearwater East Library, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GEORGIA

Northeast Georgia: SHEEP, INDEED

Beau Farr, Eden, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Meetings are usually held at Eden. Contact Secretary for specific dates and locations.

HAWAII

Honolulu: SAMMATH NAUR

Ken Burtness, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] or Steve Brown, [REDACTED]

* October 8, 1994 (Saturday)

The Return of Lono by Oswald Bushnell. At John & Chris's.

* November 12, 1994 (Saturday)

Homecoming: Harmony by Orson Scott Card. At Ken and Cari's.

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge: ROKE

Douglas A. Rossman, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor-Flint: GALADHREMMIN ENNORATH

Dave & Grace Lovelace, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis-St. Paul: RIVENDELL

David Lenander, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

* October 15, 1994 (Saturday) 1:30 PM

Reflections and Echoes of Tolkien's Middle-earth: illustrations and slides presented by Ruth Berman.

* November 5, 1994 (Saturday) 1:30 PM

The fiction of Italo Calvino, especially *Cosmicomics* and *The Non-existent Knight and the Cloven Viscount*.

Unless otherwise mentioned, meetings are tentatively scheduled at [REDACTED] Coffman Union, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PENNSYLVANIA

Lancaster area: C.S. LEWIS AND FRIENDS

Neil Gussman, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee: THE BURRAHOBBITS

Jeffrey and Jan Long, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

* October 18, 1994 (Tuesday) 7 PM

Salem's Lot by Stephen King.

* November 21, 1994 (Tuesday) 7 PM

The Oxford Book of Fantasy Short Stories, edited by Tom Shippey.

All meetings held the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Contact Secretaries for locations.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

THE ELVISH LINGUISTIC FELLOWSHIP

Carl F. Hostetter, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Publishes newsletter, Vinyar Tengwar, bimonthly.

* Second Sunday of each month, 1 PM

Meeting of Northern California E.L.F. For further info contact Arden Smith, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

* Second Sunday of each month, 2 PM

Meeting of Washington Area E.L.F. Contact Carl Hostetter (above) for further information.



News Notes

Robert Bloch, one of the last survivors of H.P. Lovecraft's circle of fantasy/horror writers of the 1930s, died in Los Angeles on September 23rd. He was born in 1917 and raised in Wisconsin, and wrote a variety of fantasy, horror, and science fiction stories, including the novel *Psycho*, made into a film of some renown. He will also be remembered for the Lefty Feep series of humorous light fantasy stories in an imitation Damon Runyon style, and a large number of Jack the Ripper fantasies.

Correction to the September Mythcon reports (p. 11): Paul Thomas, not Douglas Anderson, edited the new Eddison editions for Dell.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

The Armless Maiden, Terri Windling's collection of fairy tales on child abuse and other serious themes, upcoming from Tor next spring, will include stories and poems by the following authors, among others: Midori Snyder (the title story), Delia Sherman, Jane Yolen, Susan Palwick, Charles de Lint, Tanith Lee, Emma Bull, Peter Straub, Ellen Kushner, Caroline Stevermer, Kristine Kathryn Rusch, Patricia McKillip, Joanna Russ, and Will Shetterly.

Also in the anthology market, on a cheerier subject, *The Horns of Elfland*, edited by Ellen Kushner and Donald G. Keller, will contain stories connecting fantasy to music, in the widest possible senses. The stories are expected to range from the mythic to the contemporary, and to touch on a wide variety of musical genres.

The two Spring 1995 offerings from Jane Yolen Books, Harcourt Brace's notable Young Adult fantasy line, are *Wren's War*, the third book in Sherwood Smith's series of magic adventures of the irrepressible Wren and her companions in the mythical kingdom of Cantirmor; and *Companions of the Night* by Vivian Vande Velde, in which the

heroine finds herself falling in love with one of the creatures of the night (yes, *them*) who are infesting upper New York State.

Robin Hood: a Complete Study of the English Outlaw, by Stephen Knight (appropriate name), is appearing from Blackwell Publishers (Cambridge MA) this month: \$19.95 paperback; \$49.95 hardcover.

Harlan Ellison's award-nominated script for the never-produced film of Isaac Asimov's *I, Robot* will be appearing in book form in November from Warner Aspect, with sixteen color illustrations by Mark Zug, who also created the cover and interior illustrations for Tanith Lee's *Gold Unicorn* (Atheneum, October).

MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC

A Wrinkle in Time is now a children's opera, based on Madeleine L'Engle's classic book, with music by Libby Larsen, an active and well-regarded composer of tonal classical music. Ms. Larsen will discuss her adaptation of the story in a lecture before the performance by the Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, a professional troupe in the Washington area, on Saturday, December 3, 1994, at 4 PM. For information, write the theatre at [REDACTED]

CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS CONS

ORYCON 16, Nov. 11-13, 1994. At the Red Lion Columbia River, Portland, Oregon. Membership: \$25 until Oct. 31, 1994; \$35 at the door. Write: [REDACTED]

LOSCON 21, Nov. 25-27, 1994. At the Burbank Airport Hilton, Burbank, CA Membership: \$30 until October 15, 1994; \$35 at the door. Write: [REDACTED]

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Book Review

Summer of Love by Lisa Mason; drawings by Tom Robinson. Bantam trade paperback, \$12.95, 384 pages, 1994. Reviewed by Berni Phillips.

*If you're going to San Francisco
Be sure to wear some flowers in your hair.
On the streets of San Francisco
Summer time will be a love-in there.*

Thus sang the minstrel, luring countless hordes of disenchanted teens to the Haight-Ashbury district in the summer of 1967. One of these is Starbright, née Susan Stein, midwestern daughter of affluence, come to rejoin her childhood friend, Nance, a.k.a. Penny Lane. Starbright falls in with the manager and groupies connected with the Double Barrel Boogie Band, who quickly introduce her to the hippie existence she yearned for.

Enter Chiron Cat's Eye in Draco from 500 years in the future. He's been sent into the past to locate and protect the Axis, a young woman whose continued existence is vital to the preservation of history as he knows it. All he has to go on is an old photograph and what is believed to be the Axis's real name. The problem is, none of the flower children he encounters will own up to having mundane names.

Chiron manages to ingratiate himself with Ruby A. Maverick, proprietress of the Mystic Eye and leftover adherent of the Beat era. Ruby also appears to be involved with the Axis, so he persuades her to let him stay with her and work in her shop, which is plagued by shoplifters.

Starbright runs away from the Double Barrel Boogie Band house after her lover, Stan the Man, steals from her and takes another young girl to his bed. Ruby winds up sheltering Starbright as well as Chiron.

Starbright's enthusiasm balances Ruby's cynicism and Chiron's lack of involvement. Like all good

time travelers, Chiron is following a strict code of conduct designed to prevent paradoxes or change in the flow of time. As the summer progresses, though, all three of these will find themselves examining their beliefs and adapting to unforeseen and fantastic situations.

Summer of Love is a wonderful window to this specialized bit of Americana. Mason has researched her subject well, interspersing her text with excerpts from the I Ching, *Berkeley Barb*, and other writings of the time. The writing is clever and the characters well-developed. With her three main characters, you see the same scene through three points of view: the naive Starbright, to whom all of this is wondrous; the jaded Ruby, who feels the hippie scene compares poorly with the camaraderie and zest of the earlier Beat era; and the oft-horrified Chiron, who sees the violence and barbarity of the time and contrasts it with the paradisiacal San Francisco he knows will eventually result. Thus we have the present, the past, and the future. None of them have all the answers, and it is only by learning more from each other, opening up to each other and working together, that solutions can be found.

NEWS NOTES – Continued from Page 7

DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING 17, November 25-27, 1994. At the Holiday Inn, Timonium, Maryland. Guests include Marion Zimmer Bradley, Katherine Kurtz, Diana Paxson. Membership: \$25 until November 1, 1994; \$30 at the door. Write: Armida Council, [REDACTED]

CHATTACON 20, January 13-15, 1995. At the Read House, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Guests: Jane Yolen, Kim Stanley Robinson. Membership: \$20 until November 30, 1994; \$25 until January 1, 1995; \$30 at the door. Write: [REDACTED]

Book Review

Tolkien's Peaceful War: A History & Explanation of Tolkien Fandom and War by Philip W. Helms. American Tolkien Society (██████████), \$5 postpaid, 38 pages. Reviewed by David Bratman.

This book — pamphlet, really — is on a very important subject, and one wishes that it were more definitive. Still, if it starts some new discussions, and brings some existing ones out of a rut, it will prove very useful.

It is common nowadays to laugh at the fondness for *The Lord of the Rings* among the college students and counter-culture types of the mid 1960s. What could those silly hippies have been thinking, people say, imagining that there could be anything in common between their (now) quaint and self-indulgent lifestyle and the austere and severe morality of a conservative and Catholic Oxford professor?

Two of the essays in Helms's book, "The War and the Rings" and "Tolkien and the Peace Movement", contain the seeds of a response to this historically blinkered view. Tolkien deplored the rampant industrialization and raping of the environment, a view not very popular in his time and place. The hippies shared this view, also against considerable opposition. The strategic lesson of the War of the Ring is that, while fighting may be necessary, sheer application of strength brings neither rightness nor victory to a cause. The hippies applied this lesson to the fruitless struggle in Vietnam.

Helms makes these points, briefly. He also (in a further essay, "The Gentle Scouring of the Shire") compares the Hobbits' defense against Saruman to the *satyagraha* philosophy of Gandhi, another figure widely admired among hippies. And even more importantly, he observes that the hippies were not a monolithic movement nor a clearly-defined one (he himself was called a hippie, but

never called himself one), and that neither they nor Tolkien are responsible for differences between them in other areas (like sex, drugs, and rock'n'roll).

But Helms's main purpose, it seems, is elsewhere. "The War and the Rings" was written for an audience that was interested in the 60s while being too young to remember them, so in the interests of education he writes at length on the major passions of those times, devoting more attention to context than to Tolkien. In so doing, he enters territory better left to professional historians. The sweeping picture he paints is formed of words and thoughts that would go over very well at a late-night bull-session but which look rather weak on the printed page. Helms is writing out of his own experience and passion, and I think his essays would have been stronger had he focused more tightly on his experiences and his personal views, rather than trying to make a definitive statement on the whole movement.

The same is true of the fourth, unrelated essay, "The Evolution of Tolkien Fandom". This contains some minor errors of fact and emphasis in matters outside of the author's own experience. A more personal account of that experience, supplemented with a little general background, would have defused questions of balance, and been perhaps more interesting.



Mythprint is the monthly bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society, a nonprofit educational organization devoted to the study, discussion, and enjoyment of myth and fantasy literature, especially the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams. To promote these interests, the Society publishes three magazines, and sponsors local discussion groups and the annual Mythopoeic Conferences.

Membership and Subscriptions

The address for subscriptions and back issues of *Mythprint* and other Society publications is:

Mythopoeic Society Orders Dept., [REDACTED]

Membership in the Mythopoeic Society is \$5 for one year or \$10 for two years, entitling you to members' rates on publications.

Members' rates (not including \$5/year membership)

	One year	Two years
Third class U.S.	\$ 7.50	\$15.00
First class U.S.	\$11.00	\$22.00
Canada; or, Overseas surface	\$12.00	\$24.00
Overseas air	\$15.00	\$30.00

Institutional and non-members rates

	One year	Two years
Third class U.S.	\$12.50	\$25.00
First class U.S.	\$16.00	\$32.00
Canada; or, Overseas surface	\$17.00	\$34.00
Overseas air	\$20.00	\$40.00

The number in the upper right corner of your mailing label is the "Whole No." of the last issue on your subscription. Checks should be made out to the Mythopoeic Society. Foreign orderers should use U.S. funds if possible; otherwise add 15% to the current exchange rate.

The Mythopoeic Society also publishes two other magazines: *Mythlore*, a quarterly journal of Tolkien, Lewis, Williams, fantasy and mythic studies (subscription is \$15 per year for Society members; \$4 for a sample issue) and *The Mythic Circle*, publishing fiction, poems, etc., three times per year (\$13 per year for Society members; \$6.50 for a sample issue). Send subscriptions to the Society at the address above.

Submissions

Reviews, discussion reports, news items, letters, and other submissions for *Mythprint* are always welcome, in any readable format. Artwork is also always wanted, especially cover art! The maximum cover size is 6 inches high by 6 1/2 inches wide, but we can reduce or enlarge to fit.

Submissions of material for publication only should be sent to:

[REDACTED]

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The Mythopoeic Society

