

MYTHOPORING

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

Vol. 19 No. 3

March 1982

Whole No. 22

Editor's Mailbox

For Linguists

by David Bratman

NIEKAS 28 is seventy pages of elite type and artwork. It has its title on the back cover. It's also dated November 1981, and is available for \$2.25 from Niekas Publications, [REDACTED].

NIEKAS is one of the highest-quality fanzines around. Throughout its long history it has served as a crossroads between fantasy readers in the general world of science-fiction fandom and those in specialized groups like the Mythopoeic Society. NIEKAS has a distinguished record. It published the first version of Robert Foster's GUIDE TO MIDDLE-EARTH. It won a Hugo Award for best amateur publication in 1967.

For several years in the early '70s there was no NIEKAS. Now it is appearing regularly, four times a year, and November's has a lot of interesting writings to offer. Co-editor Ed Meskys tells of his vacation in the west, visiting friends and fantasy writers, attending conventions, and doing other things that fantasy fans like to do. Columnist Diana Paxson muses on Mythcon XII from the Chair's point of view. Columnist Marsha Jones browses through British bookstores and across the radio dial (a nice vicarious experience). Columnist Anne Braude makes a tour through the highlights of five years of Tolkien criticism. Later on in the issue she presents a major article on the history of "the romance", from Chaucer down to the Harlequin variety. There are also reviews, readers' letters, columns and articles expressing opinions on literary and other matters ... All together a good-sized chunk of solid reading.

NIEKAS 29 is out by now, though I haven't seen it yet. It's \$2.50, from the address above. A year's subscription is \$6.50.



ISSN 0146-9347

QUETTAR

The Bulletin of the Linguistic Fellowship of the Tolkien Society

An introduction by the editor, Steve Pilinger

QUETTAR is for everyone who is fascinated by the languages and writing systems of Tolkien's Middle-earth. Its name means "Words" in Quenya. Members of the Fellowship usually call themselves Quendili (Elf-friends), but devotees of any of the languages of Middle-earth (even of the Black Speech!) are just as welcome. We share our ideas both by direct communication with one another through a regularly-updated address list, and through the pages of QUETTAR.

The Bulletin is currently divided into a number of sections corresponding to the various interests of our members (but we're always happy to consider new interests). We have a Tengwar Section (discussing different modes for the writing of English and other languages in the Feanorian script), an Elvish Section (featuring poetry in the Elvish languages, discussions of grammar, spelling, and so on), a Calligraphy Section, a Beginners' Section, a Dwarvish Section, and a Letters Section. We have also published a Teach Yourself Quenya series, a Teach Yourself Phonemic Tengwar series, an outline for a cursive tengwar mode (designed for use as normal handwriting), and news of a project to 're-create' Khuzdul, the Dwarvish language.

But by far our most spectacular 'scoop' to date has been the first ever publication, in QUETTAR 13, our first issue of 1982, of Tolkien's original tengwar numerals (referred to in Tolkien's LETTERS, No. 344). These are presented by Christopher Tolkien in his own calligraphy, with brief explanations of JRRRT's numbering systems.

QUETTAR appears approximately six times per year, and each issue consists of between 12 and 20 pages. Subscription

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ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Deadline for Activity Calendar is the first of the month preceding the month of publication, i.e. April issue information will be due the 1st of March. May issue information will be due the 1st of April. Thank You.

Discussion Group Meetings

CALIFORNIA: North

Sacramento: AVALON

John McPike, [REDACTED]

South Bay: KHAZAD-DUM

Pat Witham, [REDACTED]

*Mar. 7, 1982 (Sunday) 1 PM
LUD OF THE MIST by Hope Mirrless, at Eric and Bonnie Rausch's, [REDACTED]

*April 4, 1982 (Sunday) 1 PM
MABINOGIAN (First Branch) at Pat Witham's (see above).

*May 2, 1982 (Sunday) 1PM
HAWK OF MAY

CALIFORNIA: South

Hollywood-Wilshire: MYDGARD

Dolores Espinosa, [REDACTED]

*Mar. 21, 1982 (Sunday) 2:30PM
PURGATORIO by Dante (any translation) at Carol Jacobson's, [REDACTED]

Orange County: NARGOTHROND

Lisa Cowan, [REDACTED]

LOCATION for all meetings:
Morlan Lounge, at Chapman College,
Center St., Orange, Ca.
Call Lisa Cowan for directions.

Pomona Valley: DESOLATION OF SMAUG

Meg Garrett, [REDACTED]

San Diego: CAIR PARAVEL

Pam May, [REDACTED]

San Gabriel Valley: LOTHLORIEN

Anne Wilson, [REDACTED]

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington: KNOSSOS

Mary Morman, [REDACTED]

MEETINGS HELD AT: [REDACTED]
Contact Mary for directions.

HAWAII

Honolulu: SAMMATH NAUR

Stephen L. Brown, [REDACTED]

*March 7, 1982 (Sunday)
FIVE FATES by Laumer, Anderson, Herbert, Dickson, & Ellison

*April 4, 1982 (Sunday)
TALES OF THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

*May 2, 1982 (Sunday)
KALKI by Gore Vidal

Honolulu: CONTINUED

*June 6, 1982 (Sunday)
DUNE by Frank Herbert

All meetings start at 2 PM and are located at: Ken Burtness, [REDACTED]

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis-St. Paul: RIVENDELL

David Lenander, [REDACTED]

*March - Tentative Topic:
THE LANGUAGE OF THE NIGHT by Ursula K. Le Guin.

*April - Tentative Topic:
TITAN and WIZARD by John Varley.

NEVADA

Reno: CRICKHOLLOW

Joanne Burnett, [REDACTED]

or Tina Fields-Murphy & Stephen Gaddis

OHIO

Dayton-Kettering: THE PRANCING PONY

Eileen Ribbler, [REDACTED]

MARCH - BEST OF CORDWAINER SMITH ed. by J.J. Pierce

APRIL - DRACULA by Bram Stoker, also NOSFERATU (1922, German) directed by F.W. Murnau

MAY - MYTHOPOEIC CREATURES, featuring reports by members on Unicorns, dragons, gnomes, fairies, elves, etc. ALL MEETINGS are on the third Sunday of each month at 7 PM. Contact Secretary for location.

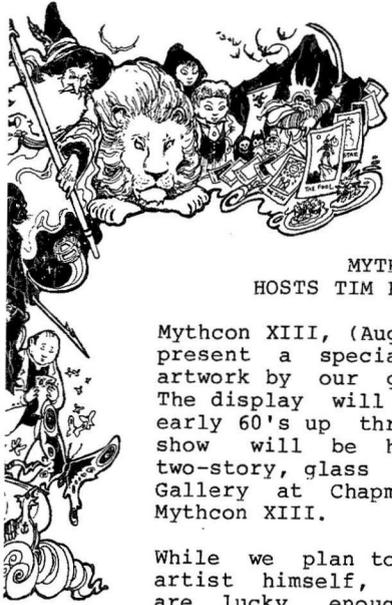
WASHINGTON

Seattle-Tacoma: EREBOR

James Wallace and Ginger Johnson, [REDACTED]

SECRETARY FOR DISCUSSION GROUPS (Please write to her about forming groups, or if you have any questions):

Margaret Carter [REDACTED]



MYTHCON XIII
HOSTS TIM KIRK ART DISPLAY

Mythcon XIII, (August 13-16, 1982) will present a special display of original artwork by our guest artist Tim Kirk. The display will show his work from the early 60's up through the present. The show will be held at the beautiful two-story, glass fronted Guggenheim Art Gallery at Chapman College, site of Mythcon XIII.

While we plan to get pieces from the artist himself, we invite members who are lucky enough to own Tim Kirk originals to bring them to Mythcon to add to this display. We would like to make this the largest display of Tim Kirk artwork ever seen in one place. The security for the Art Gallery is excellent, so your priceless paintings will be quite safe, even if you bring them on Friday the 13th! If you are interested in bringing Tim Kirk art to Mythcon, please write to: MYTHCON XIII, [redacted] Thank you!



April 10, 1982, The Mythopoeic Society will host a panel discussion on the contributions of the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien to Fantasy and Science Fiction fans. The panel, called "Elves, Orcs, and Fans," will be held at Science Fiction Weekend at the Regency Hotel in Irvine, California. Panelists will include: Lisa Cowan, corresp. secretary for The Mythopoeic Society, Mr. Bernie Zuber, founder of The Tolkien Fellowships, and editor of "The Westmarch Chronicle," Mr. Ian Slater, editor of "Fantasiae," and Nick Smith, co-editor of "Fantasy Magazine."

For information on attending the convention, and panel, write: Science Fiction Weekend, c/o Fantasy Pub. Co., [redacted]

QUETTAR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

runs according to the calendar year. Subscription to QUETTAR confers membership in the Linguistic Fellowship. One does not have to be a member of the Tolkien Society for this.

U.S. and Canadian subscriptions for 1982 are 2.82 pounds with surface mail postage, 4.20 pounds with airmail postage. (Back issues are also available.) Payments may be by cash in British pounds sterling, or check or money order (payable to The Tolkien Society). For all payments not in British pounds sterling, please add 1 pound to the amount to cover handling charges. Payments should be sent to the Editor: Steve Pilinger, [redacted]

When writing to subscribe, it would be helpful to know a little about your linguistic interests and activities, and whether you have a Middle-earth name. Looking forward to hearing from you!

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.

The address for subscriptions and back issues of MYTHPRINT is c/o Lee Speth, [redacted]. Subscription, including membership in the Society is \$4 for 12 issues (one year) in the USA and Canada, \$6.50 elsewhere. Please add \$2.40 for first class delivery, if desired. Checks should be payable to The Mythopoeic Society, and may be paid in US or the equivalent UK or Canadian funds. Submissions of news, reviews, discussion group reports, letters, and art work are always wanted and should be sent to [redacted].

The Mythopoeic Society also publishes MYTHLORE, a quarterly journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, General Fantasy and Mythic Studies. Subscription is \$10 per year from Lee Speth, [redacted]. Checks payable to The Mythopoeic Society.

--STAFF--

- EDITOR: David Bratman
- MANAGING EDITOR: Lisa Deutsch
- ASSISTANT EDITOR: Tezra Reitan
- ASSISTANT EDITOR: Sallijan Snyder
- COMPUTER WIZARD: Harold Harrigan
- TEXT EDITOR: UCSD Pascal 2.0
- MASCOT: "The Widget"

Art Work: Tim Kirk & Lisa Cowan

REVIEW

DOROTHY L. SAYERS: A BIOGRAPHY, by James Brabazon. Scribners', 1981, \$14.95.

Reviewed by David Bratman

There has been a seeming flood of Sayers biographies in the last few years, all of them telling pretty much the same story. At first I did not pay any attention to this new one in its sober, unexciting binding. But eventually I did read it, and found myself in for an exiting intellectual treat.

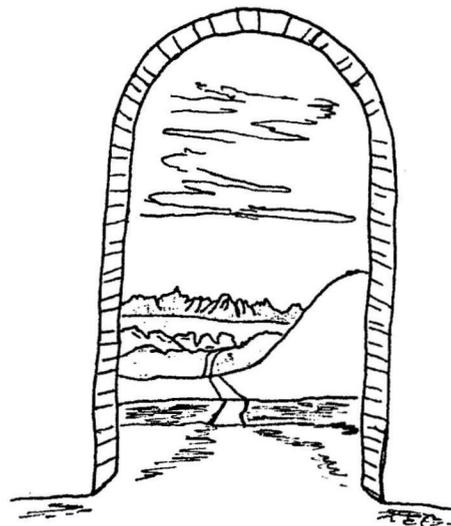
Paradoxically, the proliferation of books on Sayers is what caused Brabazon to write this volume. This is an "authorized" biography, written with the aid of private papers, with the intention of correcting the errors of previous biographies. Once upon a time, such books were usually puff jobs in gushy prose. Not any more. Brabazon is witty, invigorating, insightful, and, most especially, fair. He does a studious job of accurately summarizing both sides of various intellectual controversies Sayers was involved in. Keeping perspective in such a task is a highly admirable thing. Even attempting it is an act of intellectual courage. The author also has the courage to chide his subject when she gets too uppity (with amusing results), to use her unpublished roman-a-clef as a guide to the development of her personality, and to insert his personal perspective.

The most obvious problem that a biographer of Dorothy Sayers must solve is to explain how the Wimsey novels, the religious plays, and the Dante translations could have come out of the same writer. Brabazon's solution is to emphasize Sayers as a person -- a very interesting one -- rather than as a writer. That way the different writings can be seen to flow out of the intellectual passions of one mind. We see Sayers writing quality mystery stories

as a way of earning money without prostituting her art; turning to religious subjects as expressions of ideas she has held life-long; discovering Dante and applying him in much the same way.

The particular interest of Sayers to the Society is her relationship to Williams and Lewis. Brabazon puts this aspect into excellent perspective. He describes these three and T.S. Eliot as a quartet of lay writers who had a strong influence on the Anglican Church. He mentions the Inklings (p. 235) in the context of the special relationship between Williams and Lewis, but does not fall into the trap of considering Sayers one of them. He knows exactly how much of Williams' philosophy to give without getting unnecessarily complex. We see Williams in this book primarily as Sayers' guide through Dante (a latter-day Virgil, perhaps), and Lewis as a correspondent off whom Sayers bounced ideas.

All of these things fall together and make sense in this book. The moral, I think, is that Dorothy Sayers is not such a strange lady at all. Not if you get to know her.



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