

# MYTHPRINT

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

Vol.19 No.4

April 1982

Whole No. 23

## Time to Renew?

If the top line of your mailing label ends with a 24, it is once again time to renew your subscription in Mythprint. Otherwise, you will expire with the May, 1982 issue! (Shocking, I know.) Dues are now \$6 for 12 issues (one year) in the USA and Canada, \$8.50 elsewhere. Please add \$2.40 for first class delivery, if desired. Checks, in US, Canadian, or UK funds, should be made payable to The Mythopoeic Society, and mailed to Lee Speth, [REDACTED]

Do it soon, so that you won't miss an issue of our monthly newsletter!!

## Discussion Report

MYDGARD

January 17, 1982

THE SWORDS OF LANKHMAR, by Fritz Leiber

Reported by Dolores Espinosa

In my 9 and a half years in Mydgard this is the first Sword and Sorcery we've done. Experts Gary Myers and Margaret Carter picked it for us, as both top-flight and representative.

It made for excellent discussion. We talked a lot about morality. Are Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser moral? Carol Jacobsen said absolutely not. I said they are decent sorts. Some said there's no morality in the book. Others disagreed. Veida Wissler said, "Even if you don't have morality, you have sides." (Words to live by.) We were all much concerned about this particular matter, whether to defend the virtue of Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser or to defend Virtue and insist they didn't have it.

Why did they save Lankhmar? Some said the book gives no reason or insufficient reason. Some said they did it as just another adventure, for the heck of it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## NEWS NOTES

Elizabeth Scarborough has written a book along the lines of the juvenile fantasy books of Diana Wynne Jones. SONG OF SORCERY tells of Maggie Browneyes, a hearthwitch, who tries to rescue her sister from very nasty sorcerer, and his band of mystical gypsies. Mythical beasts including dragons, unicorns, gnomes, and mermaids roam abundantly through the pages. Due out this spring from Bantam Books.

The University of Delaware Fantasy Society has begun publication of a quarterly journal called: "Philosophical Speculations in Science Fiction & Fantasy." The first two issues contain articles on C.S. Lewis, Frank Herbert, and George MacDonald among other noted writers. Subscriptions are \$11.00 a year (4 issues). Burning Bush Publications, [REDACTED].

\*\*\*\*\*

FANTASY WORLDS FESTIVAL - April 16-18, 1982. Travelodge, Oakland CA. GOH: C.J. Cherryh. Attending: Marion Zimmer Bradley and Katherine Kurtz. Also presentation of the Jirel of Joiry Award for the best first novel of 1981 by a woman writer. \$20 by mail / \$25 at the door. Send to: Elisabeth Waters, c/o Friends of Darkover, [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

## Review

THE RED MAGICIAN, by Lisa Goldstein. Pocket Books pb, 156 pages, \$2.25.

Reviewed by David Bratman

Novels using fantasy backgrounds other than the traditional few western European favorites are on the uprise. There have been Japanese and Tibetan fantasies in recent years, and now there's a Jewish fantasy. It's the first novel of a new author, and has the flaws common to the breed, but it shows some promise, too. (It is also, by the way, unusually short in comparison to the blockbusters so frequent these days. Nor was its plot designed with a sequel in mind.)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# ACTIVITY CALENDAR

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

## Discussion Group Meetings

### CALIFORNIA: North

#### Sacramento: AVALON

John McPike, [REDACTED]

#### South Bay: KHAZAD-DUM

Pat Witham, [REDACTED]

- \*April 4, 1982 (Sunday) 1 PM  
MABINOIGIAN (First Branch) at Pat Witham's (see above).
- \*May 2, 1982 (Sunday) 1PM  
HAWK OF MAY

### CALIFORNIA: South

#### Hollywood-Wilshire: MYDGARD

Dolores Espinosa, [REDACTED]

- \*Apr. 18, 1982 (Sunday) 2:30pm  
PARADISO by Dante (any translation)  
at Dale Ziegler's, [REDACTED]

#### Orange County: NARGOTHROD

Lisa Cowan, [REDACTED]

- \*Apr. 18, 1982 (Sunday) NOON.  
THE FIFTH ANNUAL CROWNING OF KING  
ELESSAR PARTY. At Hillcrest Park,  
Fullerton, CA. The re-in-actment  
will begin at 3. Bring a lunch for  
yourself and a hungry hobbit. For  
details call: Liane McNab, [REDACTED]

- \*May 22, 1982 (Saturday) 7:30 PM  
THE INKLINGS by Humphrey Carpenter.  
LOCATION for all meetings:  
Davis 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]

- \*Apr. 17, 1982 (Saturday) 7:30 pm  
CHILDREN OF LLYR by Evangeline  
Walton. At Wendell Warren's, [REDACTED]

- \*May 15, 1982 (Saturday) 7:30 PM  
SILVERLOCK  
At Mary Morman's, [REDACTED]  
Contact Mary for  
directions.

### HAWAII

#### Honolulu: SAMMATH NAUR

Stephen L. Brown, [REDACTED]

- \*April 4, 1982 (Sunday)  
TALES OF THE ARABIAN NIGHTS
- \*May 2, 1982 (Sunday)  
KALKI by Gore Vidal
- \*June 6, 1982 (Sunday)  
DUNE by Frank Herbert
- All meetings start at 2 PM and are  
located at: Ken Burtness, [REDACTED]

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago: MINAS AERON

Renee Arwen Alper  
[REDACTED]

### LOUISIANA

#### Baton Rouge: ROKE

Michelle B. Ellett  
[REDACTED]

### MINNESOTA

#### Minneapolis-St. Paul: RIVENDELL

David Lenander, [REDACTED]

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

### NEVADA

#### Reno: CRICKHOLLOW

Joanne Burnett, [REDACTED]

or Tina Fields-Murphy &  
Stephen Gaddis  
[REDACTED]

### OHIO

#### Dayton-Kettering: THE PRANCING PONY

Eileen Ribbler, [REDACTED]

- 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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

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]

## Classified Ads

Special introductory rate - classified ads  
free through June, 1982

FOR SALE - Ace edition of THE FELLOWSHIP OF  
THE RING in very fine condition. Also THE  
TORTURED PLANET (THAT HIDEOUS STRENGTH) Avon  
T-211 in very good condition. Write: [REDACTED]

WANTED - 2 1976 Tolkien Calendars with  
artwork by the Brothers Hildebrandt. Will  
pay good money. Write: Paul Gudor, [REDACTED]

FOR SALE - NOTES FROM THE SHIRE RECORDS, a  
1979 bibliography of over 80 books and  
pamphlets about Tolkien and his works, is  
still available for \$1.50 from its compiler,  
David Bratman, [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED] Purchasers are  
guaranteed news (when available) of more  
bibliographies in the works...



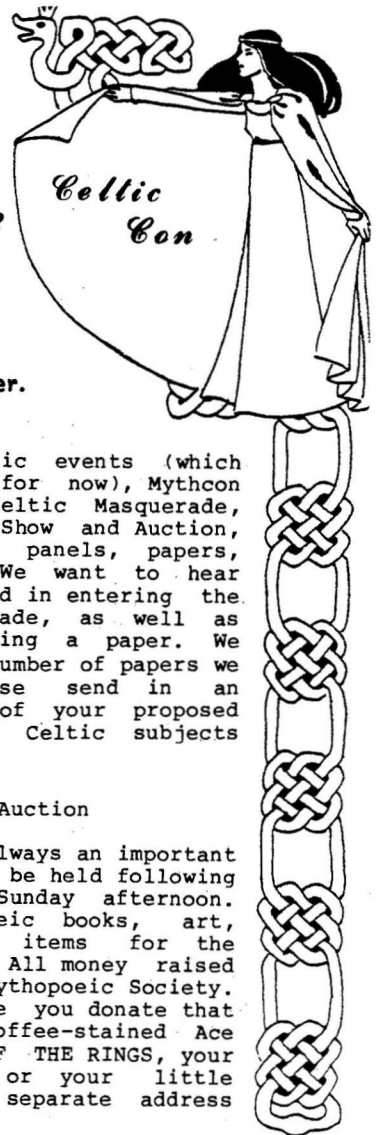
3

MYTHPRINT is the monthly bulletin of the  
Mythopoeic Society, a nonprofit educa-  
tional 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]  
[REDACTED] Subscription  
tion, including membership in the Society is  
\$6 for 12 issues (one year) in the USA and  
Canada, \$8.50 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]  
[REDACTED]

## mythcon XIII

August 13-16, 1982



### REGISTRATION:

\$15 until 7/31/82 \$20 after.

Besides special Celtic events (which  
shall remain secret for now), Mythcon  
XIII will have a Celtic Masquerade,  
Bardic Circles, Art Show and Auction,  
Dealer tables, films, panels, papers,  
music, and revelry! We want to hear  
from members interested in entering the  
Art Show, or Masquerade, as well as  
those interested in giving a paper. We  
have only a limited number of papers we  
can accept, so please send in an  
abstract or outline of your proposed  
paper soon. Those on Celtic subjects  
will be given priority.

### The Mythcon Auction

The Mythcon Auction, always an important  
event at Mythcon, will be held following  
the Art Auction on Sunday afternoon.  
Donations of mythopoeic books, art,  
fanzines, and Celtic items for the  
auction are welcome. All money raised  
goes to benefit The Mythopoeic Society.  
Please write us before you donate that  
plastic unicorn, the coffee-stained Ace  
edition of THE LORD OF THE RINGS, your  
neighbor's Bag-pipes, or your little  
brother, as we have a separate address  
for bulk items.

Write to Mythcon XIII, [REDACTED]  
[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].  
[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: Lisa Cowan & Ataniel Noel

Others said they did it because Lankhmar is the only city on the planet with tinsel and glitter, cosmopolitan sophistication, the only place in the world one can get the particular things a city has to offer. Lee Speth said, "People are loyal to their own kind." I said, "Lankhmar is home."

We talked about the book's eroticism, its quality and limits. As to limits, we noted the "love" scenes are decently veiled with elaborate artistry and X-rated details barely glimpsed through purple passages and jostling crowds of stimulating detail. You're given a point by point account; but you're never sure what they are doing. Why? I thought perhaps Leiber was writing for minors; or he didn't want a reputation as a porno-writer. Gary said Leiber wrote it years ago when things were tamer. Several said that Leiber knows porn is boring.

I think a lot of it was joking on the author's part, to lead the reader on almost, almost; and then slam the door before anything's accomplished.

There's a lot of bestiality, suggested and off-stage, besides the major theme of people mixing with rats. You like cows? Crocodiles? Scorpions? You'll get a taste of each.

Then there are the ghoulfriend, the teasing 12 year old, the shaved and naked slaves becoiled and bechained. Gary said they're for variety so that readers of differing penchants shall all be served.

Characterization: Carol said the characters are "cardboard". Most people said that the characters are not fully rounded and do not develop during the story; but that the characters are drawn as well as they need to be for this kind of story, and that information about the characters is gradually revealed in an interesting way.

We didn't get to talking about the sorcery, nor more than a little about the wizards. Except for Carol, we all liked it, found it well-written and jolly fun.

#### THE RED MAGICIAN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In some ways this is very much a genre fantasy novel, especially in the first part of the book. Two formidable magicians, of mysterious background, who speak "shop talk" with each other when they think nobody is listening, are battling for the hearts and minds of a small Jewish village in eastern Europe, and perhaps even for something beyond that. The style of the magic is not really very authentic (Jewish magicians actually operated in great secrecy in the face of a Biblical prohibition of magic), but the author has more than passing knowledge of the contents of Jewish magic and of the relevant history, and uses her knowledge to good advantage.

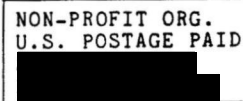
The book has some unusual features, however. Very early one realizes that the time is during World War II and the town can be pinpointed somewhere in the eastern end of what is now Czechoslovakia -- unusually exact for a fantasy story. And in the second half of the book some of the flaws emerge. The viewpoint character, a young girl, gets carried away in the Holocaust. Unfortunately Goldstein's writing is not good enough to convey any sense of the horror of the experience, and it comes across like sleepwalking. Then again, she may have meant it that way.

THE RED MAGICIAN is not a good book, but it's not a horrible example either. I enjoyed reading it, and didn't get confused anywhere, which is what one expects of a decent story. The basic idea is both sound and imaginative, and I'll look forward to more books of this kind.



MYTHPRINT

TIME VALUE



This issue of Mythprint is brought to you for free and open access by

the [Mythopoeic Society](#) at the [SWOSU Digital Commons](#).

For more issues of Mythprint go to [https://dc.swosu.edu/mythprint/all\\_issues.html](https://dc.swosu.edu/mythprint/all_issues.html)

To join the Mythopoeic Society, go to: <http://www.mythsoc.org/join.htm>

Authors and artists of items in this issue may request to have their materials removed from the digital repository. To do so, contact the platform administrator at [archives@mythsoc.org](mailto:archives@mythsoc.org) or the Mythprint editor at [mythprint@mythsoc.org](mailto:mythprint@mythsoc.org).

SWOSU