

MYTHPRINT

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Happy Holidays

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DEADLINES for receiving material for each issue of *Mythprint* are the 1st of the preceding month (eg, January 1st for the February issue).

1999 Mythopoeic Awards

Members of the Mythopoeic Society are invited to join the committees which choose the Society's annual Fantasy and Scholarship Awards, and/or to nominate eligible books. Nominations (no more than five books for each award, please) and requests to serve on the selection committees should be sent by **February 28, 1999** to the awards administrator, **David Bratman**, [REDACTED]

The Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature is given to the fantasy novel, multi-volume, or single-author story collection for adults published during 1998 that best exemplifies "the spirit of the Inklings". Reissues (such as paperback editions) are eligible if no earlier edition was a finalist. Books from a series are eligible if they stand on their own; otherwise, the series is eligible the year its final volume appears. Last year's winner was *The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye* by A.S. Byatt.

The Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature honors books for younger readers (from "Young Adults" to picture books for beginning readers), in the tradition of *The Hobbit* or *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Rules for eligibility are otherwise the same as for the Adult Literature award. The question of which award a borderline book is best suited for will be decided by consensus of the committees, so use your own best judgment when nominating. Last year's winner was the **Young Merlin** trilogy by Jane Yolen.

The Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies is given to books on Tolkien, Lewis, and/or Williams that make significant contributions to Inklings scholarship. For this award, books first published during the last three years (1996–1998) are eligible, including finalists for previous years. Last year's winner was *A Question of Time: J.R.R. Tolkien's Road to Faërie* by Verlyn Flieger.

The Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies is given to scholarly books on other specific authors in the Inklings tradition, or to more general works on the genres of myth and fantasy. The period of eligibility is three years, as for the Inklings Studies award. Last year's winner was *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy*, edited by John Clute and John Grant.

Volunteers for the committees must state their willingness to read all the finalists, and also state whether or not they are willing to be included on an address list to be distributed among the committee for purposes of discussion. For each committee, David will be sending out lists of nominees in early March, from which you must pick five books that you would like to see as finalists. Your choices must be returned to David by **May 15**; he will then tabulate the vote and inform the committee of the five finalists. These five are the books you must read (or re-read) by the final voting deadline of **July 15**.

Please volunteer, and come to hear the winners announced at the Mythcon XXX banquet in Milwaukee on August 1st.

The new book from the Mythopoeic Press, *Chad Walsh Reviews C.S. Lewis*, is now available. To order, contact:

Joan Marie Verba
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Price is \$4.95 plus \$1 for postage and handling; make checks payable to **The Mythopoeic Society**.

Mythopoeic Society E-mail Lists

The Mythopoeic Society invites both members and nonmembers to join one or both of our two new e-mail lists. One list is only for Mythopoeic Society announcements; the other is for general discussion of mythopoeic topics or Mythopoeic Society business. One can subscribe to the lists by going to the Mythopoeic Society web page (<http://www.mythsoc.org>) or by following the instructions below. If you have an e-mail address but no web access, contact the list moderator, Joan Marie Verba, at verba001@maroon.tc.umn.edu to be placed on the list (please specify which lists you wish to join).

To join the Mythopoeic Society announcement list, go to:

[REDACTED]
and register. If you have announcements for the list, contact the list administrator (only the list administrator can post announcements).

To join the Mythopoeic Society general discussion list, go to:

[REDACTED]
and register. Once your registration is confirmed, you can send e-mail to [REDACTED]

Any questions or problems can be directed to the list administrator. Please feel free to join us!

Bree Moot 4/Mythcon XXX

Bree and Beyond: Exploring the Fantasy Worlds of J.R.R. Tolkien and His Fellow Travelers

July 30–August 2, 1999, Archbishop Cousins Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Guests of Honor

Douglas A. Anderson, Sylvia & Gary
Hunnewell

Paper Call

Papers relating to the conference theme (including predecessors, contemporaries and successors of Tolkien and all fantasy authors) or the works of the guests of honor will be especially welcomed. Conference papers include traditional literary and scholarly studies, but also some papers with an international focus as well as those which focus on visual as well as written arts. The conference theme suggests looking at travel, the quest, world-building and mythopoeisis, but is not limited to these aspects. Papers should conform to the *MLA Style Manual* and may be considered for submission to the Mythopoeic Society journal, *Mythlore*. Paper

and programming proposals should be sent by April 1, 1999 to:

Dr. Janice M. Bogstad
UWEC-McIntyre Library
Eau Claire, WI 54702-5010

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Registration

Membership: \$45. (Children 12 and under free with adequate supervision.) Make checks payable to **Mythcon XXX**. Information on room and board packages to be announced. Contact:

Bree Moot 4/Mythcon XXX
293 Selby Avenue
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Book Reviews

KARA DALKEY, *Little Sister*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1996. ISBN 0-15-201392-X, \$17. *The Heavenward Path*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1998. ISBN 0-15-201652-X, \$17.

Readers who like a change from European-based fantasies are in for a treat with these two tales set in 12th century Heian Japan. Though they are written for young adults, the books will be appreciated by many adult readers, too. The two books are beautifully designed, with gorgeous cover paintings by Victor Lee, and with a repeating leaf pattern background on the title pages and on each chapter heading page. The chapter heading pages also include a short Haiku poem that relates to that chapter. Both books conclude with an author's note giving additional information on Japan of that period and a glossary of Japanese terms used in the stories.

In *Little Sister*, Fujiwara no Mitsuko is the thirteen year old fourth daughter of a powerful noble of the Fujiwara clan. Her carefully proscribed life (wearing layers of kimonos, writing poetry, and hiding behind protective screens) is torn asunder when their home is raided and burned by warrior-monks. As the family flees the city, her oldest sister Amaiko's new husband is killed, and Amaiko falls into a catatonic state. Believing that the only way she can help her beloved sister is to go after Amaiko's lost soul, which is seeking her husband's soul, Mitsuko must journey to the netherworld. She is assisted by a tengu, a shape-shifting demon named Goranu, whom she meets when she and Amaiko take shelter in a little shrine. There, she prays to the kami (spirit) of the shrine for help and promises to repair the shrine and see that it is not forgotten. Goranu appears to be the answer to her prayers as he takes her to the Dragon King, to Lord Emma-O (Judge of the Dead), and even to the Land of the Ancestors in her quest. Goranu is a mischievous, humorously appealing character,

who can be a man or a black-feathered bird-like creature. As he assists Mitsuko, he helps her to find her own courage and abilities and to ultimately reunite her family. The story is told in the first person, in a voice appropriate to Mitsuko's age and background.

Two years later, in *The Heavenward Path*, Mitsuko is fulfilling her dream of studying to become a Buddhist nun, when she is haunted by dreams reminding her of her promise to the kami of the shrine from the previous book. This ghost-king wants nothing less the rebuilding of his shrine, the restoration of his tomb and its contents, and the finding of his descendants so that they can worship him. And when she goes home to enlist the help of her family, she finds that her father scoffs at her mission, and instead plans to marry her to an eleven year old boy in order to increase the family's chances to become part of the Imperial family. Once again, she calls on her friend Goranu for help. He teaches her the Way of the Tengu (a very irreverent way of looking at the world) and says she must outwit the demanding ghost, who has threatened to turn her over to Lord Emma-O (still angry about Mitsuko's last visit to his realm). Suzume, the very practical former rice-cake girl, also becomes an ally, and helps Mitsuko to understand other points of view. Mitsuko must learn to think for herself as she faces more challenges and dangers and meets a dragon, oni, and a bosatsu on this quest. The ending leaves room for a possible sequel, and astute readers who go back to the beginning of the first book will have some idea of what happened to Mitsuko, though they will still want to know how she got there. Upon a second reading, I figured out the identity of Mitsuko's poetic admirer at court at the beginning of *Little Sister*. Young romantics will enjoy watching Mitsuko and Goranu's growing relationship, even as they wonder at its improbability.

Both books are rich with Japanese and Buddhist mythology and traditions. The chapter headings in *The Heavenward Path* correspond to the twelve links in the Buddhist Chain of Causality. Mitsuko is a strong female character who finds her own ways to deal with a restrictive society and upbringing. Even Goranu is a fully-realized character. (As a tengu, he can be injured by touching the holy sutras, yet he longs to learn them.) Dalkey's accessible writing style evokes the world of 12th century Japan, and is leavened with the just right amount of humor in plot and dialogue. The books also encourage some serious thought as they deal with spiritual and philosophical issues from a refreshingly different non-Western perspective.

Reviewed by Laura Krentz



J.R.R. TOLKIEN, *The Silmarillion*. Illustrated by Ted Nasmith. Boston & New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1998. ISBN 0-395-93946-1, \$35.00.

"The green earth, say you?" exclaims Aragorn when chided by the wary Rider Éothain on the northern marches of Rohan. "That is a mighty matter of legend, though you tread it under the light of day!" No other words more fittingly describe the majesty and mythic achievement of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Silmarillion*, and in this handsome new edition the legends spring to life through the hand and eye of Middle-earth's preeminent illustrator, Ted Nasmith.

The artist captures in these paintings the freshness of Arda newly-made. Little of Nasmith's trademark Middle-earth architecture is to be found here. His concern is with the "architecture" of the Earth itself, with the awesome handiwork of Ilúvatar and of the Valar, and not with the passing labors of mere mortal stonewrights. The powerful presence of the Sea dominates throughout, making an appearance in nine of the twenty illustrations. The painting entitled "The Sea" depicts with roiling,

primordial splendor the fathomless purple-blue depths out of which the first towering mountain peaks of Creation arise. No less impressive is that same Sea, frozen into perilous pillars of ice in "Fingolfin Leads the Host across the Helcaraxë," or fuming with Divine fury as "The Ships of the Faithful" scarcely escape the cataclysmic drowning of proud, doomed Númenor.

Nasmith throws open the cosmic Crayola box for "The First Dawn of the Sun," where the deep blues of twilight give way before the brilliant red-gold of Arda's premiere morning. Equally rich is the sky stretching high above aqua waves as "Eärendil the Mariner" sails in embassy to Valinor. And the scarlet warning in the heavens above the lightning-laced cloud-wings of "The Eagles of Manwë" terrifyingly portends the dire fate of the Land of the Star.

In more conventionally lit illustrations, Nasmith still imbues the landscapes with mystery and beauty, as in the striking "Túrin and His Band are Led to Amon Rúdh." "By Moonlight in Neldoreth Forest" silvers the solitary dance of Lúthien with a glimmering sheen, and under cool starlight the newly-awakened Eldar linger in peace in the Maxfield Parrish-esque "At Lake Cuiviénen."

The front cover, "Maglor Casts a Silmaril into the Sea," is perhaps most representative of these epic and tragic tales. The Silmaril, in its flight from the hand of this anguished son of Fëanor, hangs for a moment—a silver-white star brilliant above the blood-red horizon. In the next moment it will be lost, sinking even as Númenor beneath the dark, turbulent waves. But for that instant, poised above the rim of the world, it shines, catalyst and symbol of all the triumphs and tragedies which have inexorably shaped Middle-earth.

Of the recent illustrated editions of Tolkien's various books, this *Silmarillion* is by far the best of the lot. Nasmith brings to his work great visual immediacy, a sense of long history, and a consuming passion for the material. Oh, how it shows!

Reviewed by Paula DiSante

Mathoms for All!

by Eleanor M. Farrell

The elves have all gotten computer upgrades and are busy with their annual “naughty or nice” sort. Help them out with some holiday shopping of your own....

Books

Mythopoeic Award winners are always a good choice for any reader of fantasy fiction or scholarship, and many of this year’s award winning books (mentioned in our page 3 article) are available in paperback editions (great stocking stuffers!). Check out the complete list of winners (and fiction finalists) on our web site.

You can’t go wrong with a copy of the new edition of *The Silmarillion* from HarperCollins, with 20 new color illustrations by Ted Nasmith. Houghton Mifflin offers a small, stocking-sized edition of *The Father Christmas Letters*, and the Narnia books have been re-released in celebration of the C.S. Lewis centenary. If you’re a Lewis fan, pick up a copy of *Chad Walsh Reviews C.S. Lewis*, the new publication from our own Mythopoeic Press. Some delightful new children’s books include *The Oldest Elf* by James Stevenson, and a beautiful retelling of *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* by Marianna Mayer, illustrated by K.Y. Craft (both from Mulberry Books, William Morris).

Music

It seems that each Fall brings a bushel of new holiday CDs. Choose among the many offerings of Celtic, medieval or Renaissance, or popular Christmas music. Be creative: replace those Perry Como standards with some Hawaiian slack key guitar carols!

Bantam Doubleday Dell has released a new 3-volume audio rendition of Tolkien’s *Silmarillion*, unabridged and narrated by actor Martin Shaw (and reviewed here on page 12). Just right for those long drives to Grandma’s house.... Lewis readers will enjoy Angelee Sailer Anderson’s new tape, *The Sunrise Path*, inspired by *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. And fans of Bay Area band Avalon Rising’s Mythcon

performances will want to pick up singer Margaret Davis’s new solo effort CD, *Princess of Flowers*.

Calendars

Deck the walls.... The 1999 *J.R.R. Tolkien Calendar* features illustrations from *The Hobbit* by Alan Lee. There’s also a desk calendar version, again featuring Lee’s work. Enough options are available among art- and media-related calendar offerings to decorate every room in your house... you can put Buffy in the bathroom, Star Wars Weapons and Technology in the workshop, Fairies (Good or Bad) in the family room, and wake up to some lovely PreRaphaelite illustrations....

Videos

Fans of Arthurian legend might enjoy either of two new video offerings: the animated *Quest for Camelot* or *Merlin*, the 1998 NBC mini-series. The science fiction-noir blend *Dark City* is an evocative visual treat. You can’t miss (that is, if you choose carefully!) with a video version of Charles Dickens’ classic *A Christmas Carol*. I personally like the recent Muppets’ adaptation, with Michael Caine obviously enjoying his performance as Scrooge.

Events

Celebrate the holiday atmosphere and take someone out to a movie. Literature fans can enjoy new films based on the works of Toni Morrison (*Beloved*) or Alice Hoffman (*Practical Magic*). As a real holiday treat, the 1939 classic, *The Wizard of Oz*, gets a theatrical re-release in a restored version, now playing.

Going to a live performance—a play, a concert, or a ballet—is a rare treat, with the holidays a good excuse. Even many small communities host holiday productions of *The Nutcracker* ballet or *A Christmas Carol*, and check local papers for play versions of *The Hobbit* or *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, other popular offerings.

Activity Calendar

Contact the Discussion Group Secretary:

David Lenander

The Bird & Baby Web Page: [REDACTED] an.

Prospective Groups

THE PHILIPPINES

Lizanne Cua, [REDACTED]

CALIFORNIA

Sacramento: AVALON

Laurine White, [REDACTED]

San Diego (North County)

Diane Conner, [REDACTED]

San Diego: LOTHLORIEN

Linda Sundstrom, [REDACTED]

CONNECTICUT

Southington: FANTASTIC WORLDS

Bill Pierce, E-mail: [REDACTED]

FLORIDA

Tampa Bay: HOBBITON

Paul S. Ritz, [REDACTED]

North Central Florida: ERYN GALEN

B.L. McCauley, NFCC English Dept., Madison, FL. [REDACTED]

GEORGIA

Atlanta area: CENTRAL ATLANTIS

Irv Koch, [REDACTED]

Hoschton: SHEEP, INDEED

Beau Farr, Eden, [REDACTED]

ILLINOIS

Peoria: THE FAR WESTFARTHING SMLAL

Mike Foster, [REDACTED]

Continuing topic: *Unfinished Tales* by J.R.R. Tolkien

MICHIGAN

Julie Bailey, [REDACTED]

MISSOURI

St. Louis: THE KHAZAD

Gary & Sylvia Hunnewell, [REDACTED]

NORTH CAROLINA

Asheville: THE WEST N. CAROLINA C.S. LEWIS SOCIETY

Don King, e-mail: [REDACTED]

Charlotte: THE N. CAROLINA TOLKIEN SOCIETY

Matt & Renita Peeler, [REDACTED]

OHIO

Akron

David Staley, [REDACTED]

Dayton-Kettering: THE PRANCING PONY

Eileen Ribner, [REDACTED]

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh area

Will Vaus, Murrysville Comm. Church [REDACTED]

Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area (NE PA)

Glenn Sadler, Dept English, Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA 17815. [REDACTED]

TENNESSEE

Nashville: SPARE OOM

Mary & Conrad Stolzenbach, [REDACTED]

TEXAS

Dallas: SOUTH FARTHING

Richard Ruane, [REDACTED]

Chartered Groups

CALIFORNIA

Greater Los Angeles: NIGGLE'S PARISH

Glen GoodKnight, [REDACTED]

Los Angeles/Pasadena: MYDGARD

Lee Speth, [REDACTED]

San Francisco Bay Area: *KHAZAD-DUM*

Edith Crowe & Amy Wisniewski, [REDACTED]

December 5: Annual Reading and Eating Meeting

COLORADO

Denver area: *FANUIDHOL* ("CLOUDY HEAD")

Patricia Yarrow, [REDACTED]

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington & Suburbs: *KNOSSOS*

Mimi Stevens, [REDACTED]

HAWAII

Oahu: *SAMMATH NAUR*

Steve Brown, [REDACTED]

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge: *ROKE*

Sally Budd, [REDACTED]

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor-Flint: *GALADHREMMIN-ENNORATH*

Dave & Grace Lovelace, [REDACTED]

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis-St. Paul: *RIVENDELL*

David Lenander (See address above)

December 5: Readings from Rivendell

January: *Winter's Tale* by Mark Helprin

NEVADA

Reno: *CRICKHOLLOW*

Joanne Burnett-Bowen, [REDACTED]

Dec. 18: Christmas Party, *Roverandom* by J.R.R. Tolkien

PENNSYLVANIA

Lancaster Area: *C.S. LEWIS AND FRIENDS*

Neil Gussman [REDACTED]

SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia: *THE COLUMBIA C.S. LEWIS SOCIETY*

Louise Grooms, [REDACTED]

WASHINGTON

Seattle: *MITHLOND*

Lenore Jackson, [REDACTED]

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee: *THE BURRAHOBBITS*

Jeffrey & Jan Long, [REDACTED]

December: Annual Christmas Party

Special Interest Group

THE ELVISH LINGUISTIC FELLOWSHIP

Carl Hostetter, [REDACTED]

Publishes newsletter, *Vinyar Tengwar* ("News Letters")

The ELF also publishes *Parma Eldalamberon* ("The Book of Elven-tongues"). Christopher Gilson, [REDACTED]

Correspondence Groups

BUTTERBUR'S WOODSHED (general fantasy)

Eleanor Farrell, [REDACTED]

Correspondence circular with set topic. Info: [REDACTED]

January: *To Say Nothing of the Dog* by Connie Willis

March: *The Notorious Abbess* by Vera Chapman

ONCE UPON A TIME (children's fantasy)

Laura Krentz, [REDACTED]

Correspondence circular. Info: [REDACTED]

Online Discussion Group

COINHERENCE

Online discussion of Charles Williams

Contact David Davis: E-mail [REDACTED]

Currently discussing *All Hallow's Eve*



Short Reviews

MICHAEL CADNUM, *In a Dark Wood*. New York: Orchard Books, 1998. ISBN 0-531-33071-0, hc, \$17.95 (also available in tp).

The Robin Hood legend, in recent retellings, seems to have shifted focus from the outlaw to the point of the view of his traditional antagonist, the Sheriff of Nottingham. Indeed, a 1993 novel by Richard Kluger is even titled *The Sheriff of Nottingham*, and Parke Godwin's recent pair of novels, *Sherwood* and *Robin and the King*, paint a sympathetic portrayal of the Sheriff and his relationship to Robin and his band. Michael Cadnum continues the trend in this odd new novel. Geoffrey, Nottingham's sheriff, is an restless man, unhappy in his marriage and discontent with his position and his life in general. When circumstances force him to take heed of the actions of the outlaw band in a forest already full of dangers, Geoffrey finds that Robin's life is more free than his own. *In a Dark Wood* (the title is taken from the first canto of Dante's *Inferno*) paints a stark and realistic picture of life in medieval England; it is more an exploration of personalities than a tale of adventure. The book is apparently aimed at a young adult audience, but it's hard to imagine that teenage readers would enjoy this approach to the tale of the classic folk hero.

Reviewed by Eleanor M. Farrell



KAREN JOY FOWLER, *Black Glass*. New York: Holt, 1998. ISBN 0-8050-5557-6, hc, 242 p., \$23.

The blurb compares Fowler to Angela Carter, and that's about right. These are fifteen oblique, elusive stories in undecorated prose, that often ring changes on myths or popular culture figures. One story depicts Sleeping Beauty from her viewpoint. Another is the correspondence of Gulliver's abandoned wife. (Letters play an

important role in several stories.) A third conflates several famous Elizabeths. A fourth is the musings of the retired Tonto. My favorite is unlike these, though: "The View from Venus" is a simple, primary-world love story as viewed by aliens in a Comparative Romance class. The result is wry and amusing. Some of the same characters appear in a somber home-front Vietnam War story, "Letters from Home."

Reviewed by David Bratman



ALEXEI KONDRATIEV, *The Apple Branch: A Path to Celtic Ritual*. Cork, Ireland: Collins Press, 1998 (US distributor: Dufour Editions, Chester Springs PA 19425). ISBN 1-898256-42-X, tp, 263 pp., \$19.95.

An active member of The Mythopoeic Society, Alexei Kondratiev is known among us for his insightful book reviews, his command of many languages, and his mastery of the lore of all things Celtic. This book displays much of his learning, and is thus worthy of note though it is not for the casual reader. In essence it is a guidebook for creating do-it-yourself Celtic mystical rituals, based on the author's own experience. The tone is New Age, both in the belief in the ability of ritual to tap into inherent powers of the land, and in a highly eclectic approach to liturgical sources, picking aspects (including synthetic ones) from any religion that seems to work, including Christianity. The author believes that Christianity is an essential part of the Celtic tradition, and defends it from prejudice. He also believes that learning Celtic languages is a prerequisite for reaching the spiritual state he describes. In the course of this book, the reader will learn a tremendous amount about the history of the Celts, their calendar and holidays, and the folk customs both ancient and modern of the six Celtic lands.

Reviewed by David Bratman

RICHARD MATHEWS, *Fantasy: The Liberation of the Imagination* (Studies in Literary Themes and Genres, No. 16). New York: Twayne Pub., 1997. ISBN 0805709584, hc, \$33.00.

Here are just a few thoughts on this new book; a critical review would entail re-reading William Morris, used as a constant basis for comparison. The first chapter is a quick outline history of fantasy, as Mathews sees it: "Fantasy is fiction that employs myth." Morris and Tolkien are treated first separately, then together. The other three authors covered in the book are T.H. White, Ursula K. Le Guin, and Robert E. Howard. (Had you thought of comparing Frodo to Conan?) Well and good. Mathews is entitled to his critical stance **but** on page 70 he says that the fellowship of the ring included ENTS, as one of the Free Peoples of Middle-earth. And on page 63 he says that the Alliance of Free Peoples (elves, dwarves, ents, men and hobbits) conquered Sauron when Isildur took the Ring. Furthermore, he says that Frodo "relinquishes the Ring", a misleading statement. Mathews' earlier book, *Lightning from a Clear Sky* (San Bernardino: Borgo, 1978) contains other misleading and mistaken statements, e.g. that the hobbits are "irredeemable thieves." I find the book, both books, very puzzling. If Mathews wishes to be taken seriously for his literary criticism of Tolkien and other fantasists, why does he not check the actual content of the fantasies before he publishes? Fully one-third of the book is reference material. Noted in the Chronology: the 1967 founding of the Mythopoeic Society is a landmark in the chronology of fantasy, right in there with Spenser and the Brothers Grimm.

Reviewed by Grace E. Funk



ROBERT NATHAN, *Portrait of Jennie*. San Francisco: Tachyon Publications, 1998 (originally published 1939). ISBN 1-892391-03-1, tp, \$14.00. Introductions by Peter S. Beagle and Sean Stewart.

Peter Beagle dedicated his 1974 fantasy, *The Last Unicorn*, to Robert Nathan, author of thirty-five largely unknown novels and one which is largely remembered because of the 1948 movie based on it. *Portrait of Jennie* is a compact and haunting story of love and art and time travel. The protagonist, Eben Adams, is a struggling New York artist who meets a young girl in Central Park one day after unsuccessfully trying to sell some drawings. Though Eben is charmed by straightforward and friendly Jennie Appleton, he eventually realizes, as Jennie grows older by years each time they meet, that she does not quite fit into his time. The novel details the development of their relationship during the brief periods that Jennie is able to join Eben as he paints her portrait. Quite as interesting as reading (or rereading) *Portrait of Jennie* are the two accompanying introductory essays by Peter Beagle and Sean Stewart, which enhance the reader's appreciation of Nathan's economic style—which he uses to create distinct characters or to compose a setting without detailed description—as well as his constant theme centered on questions of time and loss.

Reviewed by Eleanor M. Farrell



J.R.R. TOLKIEN, *The Silmarillion*. Illustrated by Ted Nasmith. Boston & New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1998. ISBN 0-395-93946-1, hc, \$35.

As Guest of Honor at the 1996 Mythcon in Boulder, Ted Nasmith showed his work in progress, a set of paintings illustrating *The Silmarillion*. Now 20 of them (18 plates, plus front and back covers) are published with the text in this new edition. Tolkien's own Elder Days art is symbolic and stylized: Ted's is determinedly realistic, but just as vibrantly colored. "The First Dawn of the Sun"

convinces you that it's the first dawn by the sheer brightness of the mountains. The lamp of the Valar looms awesomely over a charming green and brown landscape. The ship Vingilot is a gem of white between blue sky and turquoise sea. These scenes have some of the larger-than-life quality of Arnold Friberg's Biblical art, a resemblance even more notable in two red-hued depictions of the fall of Númenor.

But Ted can also tone down his palette: Lúthien dancing is almost invisible in a forest of blue-gray, and her escape is on a somber gray field. In neither do you see her face. Nor do you see Morgoth's as he cruelly condemns Húrin, but his armored back and naked arm dominate a striking scene. Figures seen head-on are more a matter of taste: Ulmo and Finrod are not entirely to mine, but Eöl and Glaurung are better, and "Maedhros's Rescue from Thangorodrim" has all the vivid terror I remember from seeing this illustration in Boulder. Overall, fine work by a discerning and talented artist.

Reviewed by David Bratman



J.R.R. TOLKIEN, *The Silmarillion* (Spoken word, performance by Martin Shaw). New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Audio Publishing, 1998. Boxed set of 3 volumes, \$64.95 CD (0-553-45606-7), \$59.95 cassette (0-553-52540-9). Also available as separate volumes.

Here's a new offering certain to delight those who enjoy audio books: Tolkien's *The Silmarillion*, read with vigor and majesty in its entirety. No annoying abridged version here. The complete splendor of the Blessed Realm and of Middle-earth comes alive in this ambitious production. In these recordings one can truly appreciate the music of Tolkien's words, rolled out in the veddy, veddy British accent of actor Martin Shaw.

Purists beware, however. There are enough mispronunciations to rankle any self-respecting E.L.F. lord, as Shaw's pronunciation of names and places often varies. But if you can grin and bear those linguistic indignities, this set of CDs is for you. Cover art (uncredited) by Ted Nasmith, taken from the just-released illustrated edition of *The Silmarillion*.

Reviewed by Paula DiSante



More Clerihews

Tolkien Suite

J.R.R. Tolkien
Started to go out walking,
But stopped at the Eagle & Child —
He was easily beguiled.

J.R.R. Tolkien
Started to go out walking,
But ran into Charles and Jack,
Who persuaded him to turn back.

J.R.R. Tolkien
Finally did go out walking.
He found that the landscape could inspire,
And quickly created The Shire.

by Mary M. Stolzenbach



'Caught By a Rumour'

News and Notes

1998 World Fantasy Awards

Presented at a brunch during the 1998 World Fantasy Conference in Monterey, California on November 1st, these include:

Novel: *The Physiognomy* by Jeffrey Ford

Novella: "Streetcar Dreams" by Richard Bowes

Short Fiction: "Dust Motes" by P.D. Cacek

Anthology: *Bending the Landscape: Fantasy*, edited by Nicola Griffith and Stephen Pagel

Collection: *The Throne of Bones* by Brian McNaughton

Artist: Alan Lee

Special Awards: *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy*, edited by John Clute and John Grant; Fedogan & Bremer, book publishers

Life Achievement: Edward L. Ferman, Andre Norton

Conventions

The **1999 World Horror Convention** will be held **March 4-7, 1999**, at the Marriott North Central Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. Guests of honor: Michael Bishop, John Shirley & Lisa Snellings; Toastmaster: Neil Gaiman. Info: WHC '99, [REDACTED]

Web: [REDACTED]

Northern Tolkien Festival, Stockholm, **May 13-16, 1999**. Contact the Forodrim, Agnetgatan 45, S-112 29, Stockholm, Sweden.

Paper Calls

"Teaching Medieval Music in the History Curriculum: Approaches, Methods, and Experiments": **34th International Congress on Medieval Studies**, **May 6-9, 1999**. Papers (for 20 minute presentations) on how faculty approach teaching medieval music in history curricula and related topics are sought. Submit abstracts ASAP to: Dr. Brad Eden, Moderator/Presider, [REDACTED]

A one-day symposium on "**Medieval Horror**" will take place on **July 10, 1999** at Pembroke College, Cambridge, UK. Proposals for papers (20 minutes) are sought from all disciplines in medieval and early modern studies which address the theme of "horror" in any number of ways. Send proposals with a half-page abstract to: Bettina Bildhauer or Robert Mills, Pembroke College, Cambridge, CB2 1RF, UK or e-mail [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. **Deadline December 20, 1998**. Web site: [REDACTED].

"Imagining the Past: The Southwest Wisconsin Medieval and Renaissance Conference" at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, **September 21-23, 1999**. We welcome abstracts or papers on topics related to any aspect of the Middle Ages or the Renaissance that would appeal to a general audience of university professors, graduate and undergraduate students, high school teachers and students, and interested community members. Papers should be no more than 20 minutes reading length. **Deadline: February 1, 1999**. Submissions: Peter Hadorn, Dept. of Humanities, 1 University Plaza, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI 53818-3099. Telephone: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED]; E-mail: [REDACTED]. Web: [REDACTED]

Book News

Tolkien, Man and Myth: A Literary Life by Joseph Pearce (HarperCollins hc, ISBN 0-00-274018-4, 242 pp., £17) was released in October in the UK only. It's not strictly a biography, but a discussion of the Catholic element in Tolkien's life and works, by a biographer of Chesterton.

Society member Margaret L. Carter reports that her first novel, a werewolf story called *Shadow of the Beast*, has just been published by Design Press (trade paperback, \$15.95).

In Martin Gardner's new novel, *Visitors from Oz* (St. Martin's Press hc), Dorothy and her pals come to Manhattan to publicize a new musical film about Oz. However, things go awry....

An Ace December release, *The Lady in the Loch* by Elizabeth Ann Scarborough, features young Sir Walter Scott, newly appointed sheriff, hunting down a murderer whose purpose may have not so much to do with death as it does with resurrection.

Rosemary Sutcliff has published a new young adult historical, *Sword Song*, about a Viking swordsman traveling in the British Isles (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, hc).

Brian Froud reveals secrets learned from the fay in *Good Faeries, Bad Faeries*, an oversized flip-book art offering from Simon & Schuster (\$30); there is also a wall calendar featuring illustrations from the book.

Miscellaneous

On July 21, 1998, the **Royal Mail** (UK) issued a "**Magical Worlds**" series of 5 stamps. The stamps are: *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien (20p), *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* by C S Lewis (26p), *The Phoenix and the Carpet* by E Nesbit (37p), *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton (43p), and *Through the Looking-Glass* by Lewis Carroll (63p). It may be possible to order these through the Royal Mail. Website: [REDACTED] / [REDACTED], E-mail: [REDACTED] [REDACTED], or telephone (UK) [REDACTED]. UK stamps can also be ordered from the USPS, Stamp Fulfillment Services, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Payment can be made by credit card or check payable to USPS.

King Caspian the Wer-Wolf

Tune: Perhaps "In Peascod Time" or "Flying Fame" (both used for "Chevy Chase"); any standard ballad tune will fit.

... Peter had a glimpse of a horrible, gray, gaunt creature, half man and half wolf, in the very act of leaping upon a boy about his own age....

"You're bleeding," said Peter.

"Yes, I'm bitten," said Caspian. "It was that—that wolf thing."

—*Prince Caspian*, Ch. 12

When the Narnian moon is full at night,
In monthly sequence full,
When clouds are blown across the sky,
The woodlands echo a howl.

"It's Fenris," says one; "Maugrim," another—
"The wolves are come again."

A talking deer is found next day,
Its corpse half e't in the rain.

King Caspian comes upon his horse,
Although he's pale as the moon;
"We'll hunt this maverick wolf," swears he,
"We'll hunt from noon to noon."

The bloodhounds snuff but cannot mark—
The rain has washed the trail;
The forester's eye finds clues for a while,
But soon the clues do fail.

"Raise Gwyntystorm, the noble stag—
We'll him to funeral bear;
Oh why must evil inward dwell,
Within this kingdom fair?

"Why must, why must, it never end,
This adult tale of woe?
As if some curse were inward borne,
Our hopes to overthrow."

When the Narnian moon is full at night,
In monthly sequence full,
When clouds are blown across the sky,
The woodlands echo a howl.

by Joe R. Christopher

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, maintains a World Wide Web site, and sponsors the annual Mythopoeic Conference and awards for fiction and scholarship, as well as local and written discussion groups.

Mythopoeic Society Web Site: <http://www.mythsoc.org>

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Mythprint
Eleanor M. Farrell, Editor
[REDACTED]

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