

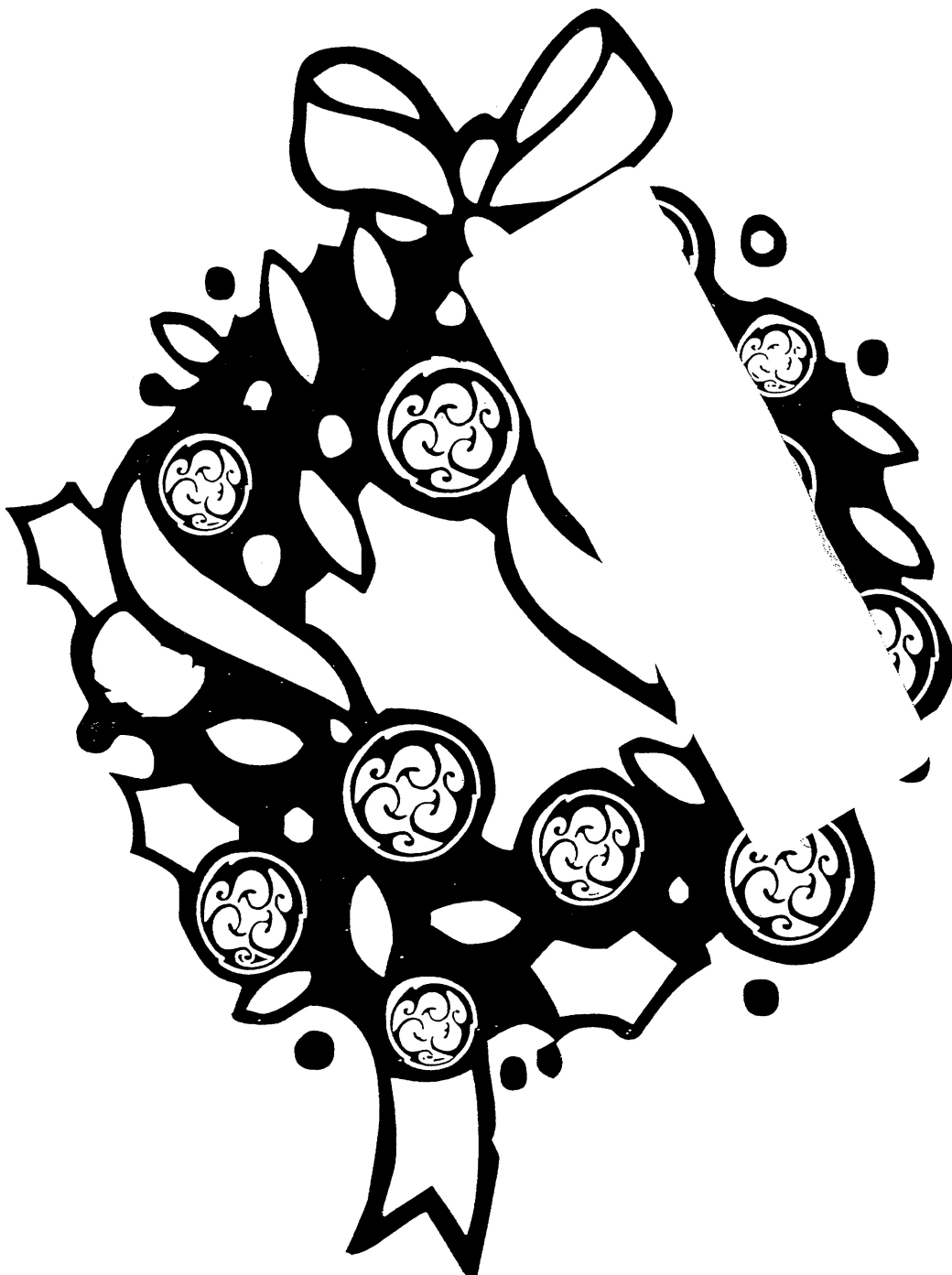
MYTHPRINT

The Monthly Bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society

Vol. 42 No. 12

December 2005

Whole No. 285



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Cover: "MythSoc Holiday Wreath" by Eleanor M. Farrell © 2005

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See inside back cover

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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).

2006 Mythopoeic Awards Announcement

Individual members of the Mythopoeic Society are invited to nominate books for the 2006 Mythopoeic Awards, and/or to volunteer to serve on any of the committees. (You need not join the committee to make nominations.) Deadline for committee volunteers and for nominations (limit of five per person per category, please!) is February 15, 2006; send nominations to the awards administrator (see contact info below) via e-mail (preferred) or U.S. mail. Authors or publishers may not nominate their own books for any of the awards. Books published by the Mythopoeic Press are not eligible for the awards. The Mythopoeic Society does not accept or review unsolicited manuscripts.

The Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature is given to the fantasy novel, multi-volume novel, or single-author story collection for adults published during the previous year that best exemplifies “the spirit of the Inklings”. Books not selected as finalists in the year after publication are eligible for a second year. Books from a series are eligible if they stand on their own; otherwise, the series becomes eligible the year its final volume appears.

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.

The Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies is given to books on J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and/or Charles Williams that make significant contributions to Inklings scholarship. For this award, books first published during the previous three years are eligible, including finalists for previous years.

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.

Winners of the 2006 Mythopoeic Awards will be announced at the 37th Annual Mythopoeic Conference (Mythcon 37), to be held from August 4–7, 2006, at the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman, Oklahoma. Please see page 14 of this newsletter for more information about the 2006 conference.

Please contact Eleanor Farrell, the Awards Administrator, to nominate books, volunteer for committees, or ask questions about the Mythopoeic Awards process.

Eleanor Farrell

Mythopoeic Awards Administrator

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Holiday Hints from Father Christmas

by Eleanor M. Farrell

Yup, it's that time again, as if anyone could help but notice shop windows festooned with twinkly lights, even before Hallowe'en. Here are some suggestions, eclectic but hopefully inspiring, for the fantasy readers on your gift lists this year!

Books

As usual, we again recommend our annual Mythopoeic Awards selections (winners and finalists) as book choices; these are listed on the Society's web site. Our 2005 adult MFA winner, Susanna Clarke's epic *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*, is now available in trade paperback, not quite as hefty but still a formidable weapon while riding the bus. 2005 titles of interest include Neil Gaiman's new novel *Anansi Boys*, and a slew of Narnia-related tomes in time for the imminent appearance of the new film adaptation of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

Calendars

Lewis attempts to elbow JRRT off the center shelves with an official calendar featuring photos from the new movie adaptation of the new Narnia film. The 2006 official *Tolkien: The Hobbit Calendar* features drawings by the author himself, and there are also calendars of several shapes and sizes featuring art and movie stills from the Peter Jackson *LotR* movies. At least two Harry Potter calendars are available for 2006; one of these sports cover artwork with the young wizard in his best James Bond pose (with wand replacing Walther PPK). Art-themed calendars abound, with Japanese woodblocks plentiful this year, perhaps due to publicity surrounding the film version of *Memoirs of a Geisha*. An Arthur Rackham fairy tale calendar is a welcome treat, as is *Angel Spirits*, a collection of art from popular fantasy illustrator Sulamith Wülfing. We've

just seen the Celtic League American Branch's *Celtic Calendar 2006*, celebrating 25 years of publication with a retrospective edition (available from [REDACTED]). Illustrations by MythSoc artists Patrick Wynne and Adam Christensen from past calendars are included in the collection.

Music

The 2005 addition to my Christmas music collection (an annual tradition) is *The Twelve Girls of Christmas* from China's hot sensation, The Twelve Girls Band—Western holiday classics performed using traditional Asian instruments. The upcoming Narnia film has a companion CD, *Music Inspired by the Chronicles of Narnia*; I tend to be leery of these compilation efforts, and most of the artists are unfamiliar, but it could be a winner.

DVD/Video

Be original—let Grandma pick up the “popular” new DVD releases, like *The Polar Express* or *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*! Lovecraft fans really need the H.P. Lovecraft Historical Society's new silent version of *The Call of Cthulhu* (featuring Mythopoeic sound and intertitles in 24 languages!), available from their web site [REDACTED]. Disney has released an anniversary 2-disc edition of one of its fantasy classics, *Cinderella*, and—even more exciting—is continuing its releases of Japanese master animator Hayao Miyazaki's films from Studio Ghibli, with new DVD packages of Miyazaki's epic masterpiece, *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* (1985), and the charming *Porco Rosso* (1992), which include both the original Japanese audio tracks (previously unavailable on most American DVDs) along with the English dubs, plus lots of extras.

“Hard to Get ... Presents For”

I like giving tree ornaments as gifts, because they are festive, small, and can be easily packed away if the recipient is unimpressed, or even appalled. Even Hallmark has jumped on the fantasy sleigh this year, with a very attractive Gandalf ornament, Harry Potter in flight during a quiddich match, a classic *Wizard of Oz* grouping, the Grinch, and, of course, Darth Vader (whom I doubt is wishing anybody a Happy Holiday). A bit less traditional is the new collection from *Veggie Tales*—this year’s ornament is “Peas on Earth” featuring the French Peas with a very timely message. Or you can put Batman, Spiderman, or Superman on your tree in a variety of poses, or maybe stage a superhero summit in the basement of Santa’s workshop.

For family night during the holidays, you can crack open the *Nightmare Before Christmas* board game—“Kidnap Santa Claus!” the box entices. Or try something from independent game developers, such as the *Beowulf* board game from Fantasy Flight Games. I also love this game description from Steve Jackson Games:

“Kill the monsters. Steal the treasure. Stab your buddy. *Munchkin* is a stand-alone card game that captures the dungeon experience, with none of that roleplaying stuff.”

Most of us have someone in our lives who seems to have everything they want, or whose tastes are unfathomable. Best advice for such cases: get something inexpensive but weird, if only for the reactions when gifts are opened (preferably with lots of people watching...). Accoutrements, which continues to expand its selection of Cultural and Literary Action Figures, has a new Jane Austen figure, who comes complete with quill pen and a copy of *Pride and Prejudice*. (She probably wants to bone up before catching the new Keira Knightley film adaptation.) Or how

about an Aslan action figure, from the new Narnia film? Items are available from a variety of online retailers such as Archie McPhee, or try local gift shops or book/comics stores specializing in pop culture items.

My very favorite gift selection for 2005, however, is *The Avenging Unicorn Play Set*. This has everything you need to use the power of the unicorn to rid your life of irritations. The posable vinyl figure comes with four interchangeable horns, which can be used to impale any of three soft vinyl figures provided—businessman/boss, new age lady and mime. Only \$12.95!

Support the Society

Give a fantasy fan a Mythopoeic Society membership, or a copy of one of the Mythopoeic Press books. (Our newest book, the previously unpublished Dorothy L. Sayers short story *The Travelling Rug*, is now available!) The coolest stocking stuffer is our shiny new Mythopoeic Society lapel pin—see our little blurb on page 10 of this newsletter for “how to order” info. Please, if you do any shopping at Amazon.com, use the links from the MythSoc web site and help us cover our administrative expenses.

Spread Good Cheer

Find time to visit or at least correspond with friends and family during the holiday season; it’s the best excuse to get back in touch! See a play or a movie (or two), explore a local crafts fair or even share a hot drink at the mall. Let the warmth of the season refresh your spirits for the year to come.

Check out the web version of this article, which includes links to the Society’s Amazon.com account as well as other online resources for these and other fabulous gift suggestions.

Obituary: George Sayer

George Sayer, pupil, friend and biographer of C.S. Lewis whose encouragement led J.R.R. Tolkien to resubmit *The Lord of the Rings* for publication, died October 20, 2005, in Malvern, England, where he had lived and taught for many years. He was 91.

Born June 1, 1914, in Bradfield, Berkshire, the son of an irrigation engineer, he first met Lewis and Tolkien during Michaelmas term at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1933. His preface to his 1988 Lewis biography *Jack* described his first encounter with Tolkien, “a neat grey-haired man with a pipe in his mouth and a puckish face” waiting outside Lewis’s rooms in New Buildings. Lewis, he wrote, was “a heavily built man who looked about forty, with a fleshy oval face and a ruddy complexion. His black hair had retreated from his forehead which made him especially imposing.”

After his World War II service as a captain in Army Intelligence, Sayer took up teaching English at Malvern College in 1945, becoming senior English master in 1949. After 33 years at Malvern, where Warren Lewis had matriculated and C.S. Lewis had studied one year, he retired as head of English in 1974 and served as college librarian until 1978. George’s first wife, Moira Casey, who he married in 1940, died of cancer in 1977. He married Margaret Cronin, who survives him, in 1983.

For this writer, the Oct. 30 news of George’s death, although not unexpected, was still a sad shock. In one of those coincidences that is, of course, actual grace, I had just retrieved *Jack* from our best bookcase in order to prepare for a presentation on the Lewis-Tolkien friendship to be delivered at Belmont University in Nashville.

This is the book I packed along to Malvern back in May, 1994, for the author’s autograph and the first of two memorable luncheon afternoons Jo and I shared with the Sayers at

“Hamewith,” their home there. George picked us up at Malvern Link and showed us around. We visited Malvern Priory, with its Green Man amid the saints’ bas-reliefs, Malvern College, and a favorite Inklings pub.

At his home, across the road from the erstwhile estate of the “Pomp and Circumstance” composer Edward Elgar, he poured us amontillado, bade me sit down on the couch, and said, “That is just where Tolkien was sitting when I made those tapes you use in your Tolkien class.”

At lunch, the conversation with Margaret and him was catholic in the literal sense, beginning with national health funding of artificial inseminating lesbians in the UK armed forces and moving to raising and butchering one’s own vegetables and meat—they were vegetarians, we were not—to, of course, Tolkien and the Lewis brothers.

At the end of that long and lively lunch—Margaret’s table was grand as the Old Took’s—I thanked him for his generosity to a couple of Midwestern Yanks, and he said something unforgettable: “I don’t much like America, but I find that I do like Americans.”

The food and wines were superb, as they were again in 1996, when George provided me with some valuable insights on G.K. Chesterton’s influence on Tolkien. Both times we brought gold-foil coin-shaped chocolates for dessert and the best bottle of French red we could find at the Oddbins on the Broad in Oxford. We enjoyed the former together; they banked the latter in their thousand-bottle cellar.

We left on the train back to Oxford both times feeling that these were indeed days to be marked with a white stone. So they have proved to be. The generosity, the cheer, and the lore and laughter we shared have warmed us with every recollection.

I first met George at Wheaton College in

1978, when I thanked him for those 1952 home tape recordings of Tolkien. I have played these recordings a bit at a time for my Illinois Central College Tolkien class from its 1978 beginning to the present. The beguiling power of the recording of Tolkien's reading of *The Hobbit's* riddle scene and the ride of the Rohirrim is one of George's many gifts to aural literature.

Chris Mitchell and Marjorie Mead of Wheaton College's Wade Center had kept me informed of news of the Sayers since our last meeting at the Tolkien Centenary at Oxford in 1992, though it was I who broke the news of his passing to them All Hallows' Eve morning. We shared both our grief at his death and our joy of having shared in his life.

As recently as Oct. 25 I thought of George, when *Gilbert*, the American Chesterton Society magazine, published a feature I wrote celebrating the 50th anniversary of *The Return of the King*. The essay recounted George's role in the publication of the *The Lord of the Rings*:

"C.S. Lewis, Tolkien's friend, had loaned the typescript tale to George Sayer, a former pupil of both. Sayer and his wife Moira read it with enthusiastic admiration and invited Tolkien over to Malvern to retrieve the manuscript and stay for a few days of hobbitish picnicking, pubbing, and gardening before Michaelmas term....

"Surely you know that's really good,' Sayer told him. Tolkien agreed. With Sayer's encouragement, he resubmitted it to publisher Rayner Unwin, who, in 1937 at age ten, had recommended *The Hobbit* for publication. Unwin believed *The Lord of the Rings* was a work of genius but uncertain of success. He risked it anyway, releasing it as three volumes not inexpensively priced 21 shillings each."

Dr. Mitchell and I eulogized George at the end of a panel discussion on the Tolkien-Lewis friendship at Belmont on Nov. 5. His more fulsome memorial will be published in the forth-

coming issue of *VII*. He, Marjorie Mead, and others who knew George far better than Jo and I did share sadness over his passing.

Marjorie Mead wrote: "Since the earliest days of the Wade Center, George Sayer has been a very special friend to Wheaton College. But more than that, he and his wife Margaret have been dear personal friends, and it is difficult to say just how much I grieve his death.... George was a kind, generous and loving friend. We miss him very much."

Christopher W. Mitchell, the director of the Wade Center, said: "It was my pleasure to be the recipient of George and Margaret Sayer's hospitality on numerous occasions.... Conversation was always enriching, often challenging, wonderfully peppered with humor and good fun, and full of affection.... On one particular sunny summer afternoon, George talked me through the reading syllabus Lewis had him work through during his student days at Oxford. A teacher of English literature himself, he took the liberty to supplement the list with his own suggestions. Those were hours...I will never forget."

We were all privileged to have known George, if only in his writings and the wonderful recordings of Tolkien. When Dr. Mitchell asked the 60-some attendees of the Belmont session who had heard of George Sayer, only a half-dozen hands went up. By the time we had walked back from the library to the Belmont Student Center, the book-vendors had sold out of *Jack*.

Pull it off the shelf; read it if you haven't already. Perhaps Tolkien was right and no one will ever get to the bottom of Lewis. But of all the biographers, Sayer comes closest. First student, then fellow pilgrim Christian, then friend, George Sayer, J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis shared this simple secret truth: Teaching is all about love.

by Mike Foster

Activity Calendar

Matthew Winslow, Discussion Group Secretary

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Prospective Groups

CALIFORNIA

[REDACTED] *LOTHLORIEN*

Linda Sundstrom, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

CONNECTICUT

[REDACTED] *FANTASTIC WORLDS*

Bill Pierce, E-mail: [REDACTED]
Web: [REDACTED]

FLORIDA

[REDACTED] *HOBBITON*

Paul S. Ritz, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *ERYN GALEN*

B.L. McCauley, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

INDIANA

[REDACTED] *CERIN AMROTH*

Ellen Denham, E-mail: [REDACTED]
Web: [REDACTED]

MICHIGAN

Julie Bailey, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] E-mail [REDACTED]

Chartered Groups

CALIFORNIA

[REDACTED] *MYDGARD*

Lee Speth, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

December: The Appendices to *The Lord of the Rings*
by J.R.R. Tolkien

[REDACTED] *KHAZAD-DŪM*

Amy Wisniewski & Edith Crowe, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. [REDACTED].

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Web: [REDACTED]

December: Annual Reading and Eating Meeting

COLORADO

[REDACTED] *FANUIDHOL ("CLOUDY HEAD")*

Patricia Yarrow, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

Web: [REDACTED]

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

[REDACTED] *KNOSSOS*

Mimi Stevens, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

HAWAII

[REDACTED] *SAMMATH NAUR*

Steve Brown, [REDACTED] E-

mail: [REDACTED]

Web: [REDACTED]

ILLINOIS

[REDACTED] *THE FAR WESTFARTHING SMIAL*

Mike Foster, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

December: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by

C.S. Lewis

January: *The Silmarillion*, Ch. 1 & 2

February: *The Silmarillion*, Ch. 3 & 4

IOWA

[REDACTED] *ALFHEIM*

Doug Rossman, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], E-mail: [REDACTED]

LOUISIANA

[REDACTED] *ROKE*

Sally Budd, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MICHIGAN

[REDACTED] *GALADHREMMIN-ENNORATH*

Dave & Grace Lovelace, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MINNESOTA

[REDACTED] *RIVENDELL*

David Lenander, [REDACTED]

██████████
Web: ██████████

NEVADA

██████████ *CRICKHOLLOW*
Joanne Burnett, ██████████
██████████ E-mail: ██████████
Web: ██████████

December: *The Book of Three* by Lloyd Alexander
January: *Alphabet of Thorn* by Patricia A. McKillip
February: *The Face in the Frost* by John Bellairs
March: *Mortal Love* by Elizabeth Hand

NEW YORK

██████████ *HEREN ISTARION*
(*THE NEW YORK TOLKIEN SOCIETY*)
Anthony Burdge & Jessica Burke, The New York
Tolkien Society, ██████████
██████████ E-mail: ██████████
Web: ██████████

OREGON

██████████
Donovan Mattole, ██████████
██████████
Web: ██████████
January: *The Storm* by Frederick Buechner
February: *Le Morte D'Arthur* by Sir Thomas Malory
March: *Taliesen* by Stephen Lawhead

PENNSYLVANIA

██████████ *C.S. LEWIS AND FRIENDS*
Neil Gussman, ██████████
██████████ E-mail: ██████████

SOUTH CAROLINA

██████████ *THE COLUMBIA C.S. LEWIS SOCIETY*
Nina Fowler, ██████████
E-mail: ██████████

WASHINGTON

██████████ *MITHLOND*
Matthew Winslow, ██████████
██████████
Web: ██████████
December: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by
C.S. Lewis
January: *Anansi Boys* by Neil Gaiman

WISCONSIN

██████████ *THE BURRAHOBBITS*
Jeffrey & Jan Long, ██████████
██████████
December: Christmas Party

Special Interest Group

THE ELVISH LINGUISTIC FELLOWSHIP
Carl Hostetter, ██████████
██████████
Newsletter, *Vinyar Tengwar*. Journal, *Parma*
Eldalamberon: Christopher Gilson, ██████████
██████████
██████████

Correspondence Groups

BUTTERBUR'S WOODSHED (general fantasy)
Diane Joy Baker, ██████████
██████████
Correspondence circular with set topic. Web:
██████████
January 2006: *Elantris* by Brandon Sanderson
March: *Sea of Trolls* by Nancy Farmer
May: 2006 MFA Adult nominees
ONCE UPON A TIME (children's fantasy)
Laura Krentz, ██████████
██████████
Correspondence circular. Web: ██████████
██████████

Online Discussion Groups

MYTHSOC E-LIST
Society activities and general book-related discussion.
Sign up: ██████████ or contact
Joan Marie Verba: ██████████

COINHERENCE
Online discussion of Charles Williams
David Davis: E-mail: ██████████



Obituary: Bernie Zuber

Bernie Zuber, longtime member of the Mythopoeic Society and a prolific community artist, died Friday afternoon, October 14, at Arcadia Methodist Hospital in Pasadena, due to respiratory failure (pneumonia contracted in the course of treatment for surgery). He was 72.

Born in France, Zuber began his art career at the American Embassy, where his parents worked. Zuber lived in Brazil (and Hollywood) before arriving decades ago in Pasadena.

Here he made a name as an eccentric man-about-town as well as an accomplished sci-fi/fantasy artist and theater set designer. Though homeless at times and never holding a driver's license, Zuber, it seemed, attended nearly every art event in the L.A. area.

Zuber was also a member of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) California Board of Directors. He was also an organizer with the Light Bringer Project, which hosts the annual Doo Dah Parade and Absolut Chalk Festival.

In 1968, Bernie welcomed me to my first Mythopoeic Society event, and happily proceeded to introduce me to (in rapid succession), Bjo Trimble, Tim Kirk, and Glen GoodKnight (my future husband), among others I've forgotten. He was always encouraging me in my artistic endeavors (even to this present day!). We worked together on *Mythlore* and *Mythprint*,

Tolkien Journal, art for Westercons, incorporating the Mythopoeic Society, innumerable work-parties rife with puns and related whimsy. He served as best man for Glen and me at our wedding in 1971.

I was a bit in awe of him because he had actually worked for Disney (on *Sleeping Beauty*) and Western Publishing—comic books! (At age 21, I thought this was pretty cool!)

Glen and I did what we could to be of support to him during the first of his numbing depressions in 1970. This ailment recurred during the subsequent years, until he became so destabilized he went missing, roaming the streets homeless for 5 years.

In 1990 I received a call from him. Having given him up for dead, I was astounded. He had been hospitalized for an abdominal obstruction; ironically, this saved his life. He was able to benefit from newer medications, chose to obtain his retirement and Social Security, found a little retirement home on Colorado Blvd. (Prime Rose Parade viewing!) and proceeded to become Culture Vulture Supremo.

Additionally, he volunteered for NAMI, having been in the trenches with what had proven to be bipolar disorder. This man "walked his talk," as the AA lingo goes. He was an incredible inspiration to us all. He was a true phoenix!

by Bonnie Callahan

Mythopoeic Society Lapel Pin



Our new lapel pin features the Society's triskelion logo in a 5/8 inch die struck silver tone metal with green cloisonné (hard enamel) color fill and deluxe clutch. We are delighted with the quality of these pins from Lapelpinz.com (check their web site for a photo of the clutch backing) and feel that they make a perfect stocking stuffer! Cost is \$5 each (plus \$1/pin shipping in the U.S.; \$2/pin shipping outside the U.S.). Order online using Paypal (a color photo image can be viewed here) or send a check or money order to: Mythopoeic Society Orders Dept., [REDACTED].

Book Reviews

WAYNE G. HAMMOND AND CHRISTINA SCULL, *The Lord of the Rings: A Reader's Companion*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005. ISBN 0-618-64267-6, hc, lxxxii, 894 pp., \$30.

I don't want to alarm you, but this may be the ultimate book about *The Lord of the Rings*. It's an annotated edition, but with just the annotations, not the text of the novel. It's long enough as it is, 900 pages of small type on almost every aspect of the book imaginable, not quite as long as the text itself but pretty darn close. There's a lot of *stuff* in this book. Whatever you may want to know about Tolkien's masterwork, it's here. And for the size, the price is quite reasonable.

One may first wonder: if there's no text, what are the annotations keyed to? Each entry comes with boldface keywords, plus citations in two standard paginations of *The Lord of the Rings*, the venerable three-volume hardcover one and the new one-volume one created for the 50th anniversary edition a year ago. For the ease of readers without either of those editions, the opening words of each cited paragraph are given, indented before the first entry taken from that paragraph. A more elegant system might have been found, but I can't think of one. I tried using this book with the Ballantine paperback, which has its own pagination, and found it easy enough to find my way around, though it would have been easier in a *Lord of the Rings* edition with more words per page.

The first function of the *Companion* is textual. Most, if not quite all, significant textual changes that have ever been made in the published text of *The Lord of the Rings* are discussed here, down to making capitalization consistent; every major typographical error that's ever infected it, such as the mysterious "bride-piece" (for "bride-price") that Luthien's Silmaril was said to be, is noted, with when it entered the text and when it was taken out. Even some textual

changes that were not made are discussed: Bilbo's poem of Earendil was originally supposed to be given in a different version, but nobody's ever changed it for fear of seeming presumptuous. The full text of the other version is given here, though, instead of making the reader reconstruct it from bits and pieces as it's presented in *The History of Middle-earth*. If you wonder, as I have, why certain potential corrections (discovered by Christopher Tolkien in his study of the manuscripts) were made and others were not in the 2004 text, the answers are all here, many of them in the lengthy introduction. This also lays out in admirable detail how and exactly when Tolkien went about writing the book, but says little otherwise on the post-publication history of the text. For that you'll have to go to the notes on individual changes, the textual introduction to *The Lord of the Rings* itself, or Hammond's *J.R.R. Tolkien: A Descriptive Bibliography*.

A second function of the *Companion* is sub-creational. *The Lord of the Rings* can use more explanatory captioning than most books. Whenever Tolkien writes something like "The next morning ...," Hammond and Scull are there to tell you what calendar day it is. For this they rely on Appendix B and some unpublished chronologies. Tolkien was concerned about phases of the moon, so there's much on that. The *Companion* ties together events mentioned in the text at various removes from each other, often though not always with cross-references. Yes, Gimli was right when he guessed that the old man he first saw in Fangorn was Saruman, not Gandalf, and the note cites an unpublished chronology confirming this, as well as Gandalf's later statement to the same effect. There's no note at that later statement, though, which is fine if you're reading the book straight through, not so fine if you check Gandalf's words first. But there is a good index.

On the various sub-creational mysteries that have vexed so many Tolkien readers—e.g., who is Bombadil, why do Gandalf and Celeborn call Treebeard the eldest, and do Balrogs have wings?—Hammond and Scull are briskly dismissive, and blessedly so. Bombadil is an intentional enigma, not Eru or a Vala (this statement comes in the last of four general notes on his origin and nature), Celeborn was being courteous and Gandalf was being rhetorical, and a mere three-sentence note tells us that Balrogs' wings are figurative. That should put an end to discussion, though it probably won't.

We're given brief explanations of unusual words (such as the word that puzzled me most on my first reading, *wold*) and unusual uses of common words, and thorough discussions of the meaning and significance of most names (not all—there had to be some limit). Here there are many references to and quotations from a "Nomenclature" that Tolkien wrote as a guide to translators. Previously published in a small-press critical anthology thirty years ago, the "Nomenclature" is more sensibly reprinted here, in an enlarged and corrected text. But its presence in full does not prevent Hammond and Scull from citing it at length in the *Companion's* entries as well. They also cite, on all sorts of subjects, the Appendices, the History of Middle-earth series, Tolkien's letters published and unpublished, various unpublished authorial drafts and notes including a never-seen annotated index of place names, and Christopher Tolkien's unpublished opinions especially on questions of correcting the text.

There are source notes. These are not so much on general themes and styles as on particular points of wording. Many of the characters' proverbs, for instance, are altered versions of primary-world ones. Various remarkable parallels with history and other fiction are noted, even if it's possible that the resemblance was uninten-

tional; but Hammond and Scull are not here to ride hobby-horses like the Freudians, Ottoman historians, and other peculiar specialists who insist on finding their subjects encoded all over *The Lord of the Rings*. These are sources which Tolkien could have read and been influenced by, and in all probably did and was. The Red Arrow and the name Wormtongue appear in William Morris. "Surely," we're told, Sam's finding Frodo in Cirith Ungol by singing was inspired by a legend of Richard Lionheart similarly being located in captivity by his minstrel, and it seems a reasonable assumption. It's certainly not inappropriate to point out the parallel. Critics are cited who believe that Denethor's disregard of stewards becoming kings is Tolkien's dig at the Carolingians, not the Stewarts of Scotland, and maybe so, maybe so.

Literary interpretations may also be found, offered lightly and selectively. Not every point that critics have found significant is annotated, but Tolkien's published letters are quoted on any particular matter he elucidated. Quite a variety of good literary critics are quoted here and there on specific points, including articles from *Mythlore* and even some MythSoc discussion group reports. The favorite critics seem to be Tom Shippey, Verlyn Flieger, Paul H. Kocher, and Marjorie Burns: good thinkers who've provided wise insights. Occasionally Hammond and Scull advance an interpretive point of their own, observing that Merry is shown as being more responsible than Pippin, and noting that Frodo's abjural of violence in the Scouring does not amount to authorial advocacy of pacifism.

In the literary references in particular we see that, for all their length, these notes rarely digress. There is little attempt to stop the action to deliver long discursive essays on tangentially related points. Every note is tied to the particular point under discussion. Only the introduction of characters or concepts is used as a spot to

write at length about their general nature, but even then the subject tends to be what their name means and how Tolkien developed them, not their literary function in the plot. Still, because so much introduction occurs during the opening chapters, the result is that the annotations dwell on a lot more general detail there than later on. The annotations for Chapter One are 23 pages long, but some later chapters are disposed of in 2-4 pages. Possibly the longest single note is one of nearly five pages outlining the development of Galadriel's background and significance. All by itself it would do for a major article on the matter.

If there's any subject that gets treated awkwardly, it's Tolkien's humor. Sam in particular is given to rather dopey wordplay, but the *Companion* is a serious-minded book, and these jokes are literally and rather doggedly annotated. Tolkien's best intentional joke and worst unintentional one are mercifully spared annotation altogether.

I could go on. There's lots and lots of really interesting stuff in here, and if you're in any way a dedicated Tolkien reader you'll gobble it all up. I don't even need to mention the book's factual accuracy: it's Hammond and Scull, of course it's accurate.

Reviewed by David Bratman



DIANE DUANE, *Wizards at War*. San Diego: Harcourt, 2005. ISBN 0152047727, hc, 552 pp., \$17.00.

This is probably the grand finale of the main series that began with *So You Want to Be a Wizard*. I say probably because it has that feeling to it, resolving several plot elements that had been introduced over the years and with results that would definitely affect the cast list for any sequels. You even get to find out more about

Ponch, and how he could do his "walk between worlds" shtick that has been so puzzling in the earlier books. On the other hand, it has at least two plot hooks introduced that could lead to separate novels about secondary characters ... and I realize that I can't tell you which ones without giving some things away, because there is a dark and ominous feeling to much of this book, and you get the idea early on that this is in many ways the most dangerous and most serious book in the series. As you read, you get the feeling that not everyone is going to walk away from this one, arm in arm and singing the final theme song.

Something, probably the Lone Power, is tweaking the laws of physics in such a way that a lot of things are getting messed up, including magic itself. Unfortunately, the older you are, the more your magic is affected ... which means that the senior wizards, the ones you normally turn to for advice, will be totally useless very quickly. So, it's up to Nita, Kit and the friends they've accumulated over the first seven books to save literally everything from varying levels of destruction.

This book is thick enough to be up there with the Harry Potter books, too, over 500 pages of action taking place on several worlds. I'm not sure I like it as much as a couple of the books in the middle of the series, but it is worth reading if you liked the others at all, and the fate of at least one of the characters will surprise you. At least, it startled the heck out of me

Reviewed by Nick Smith



Mythcon 37 Announcement

Dates: August 4–7, 2006

Site: University of Oklahoma campus, Norman, Oklahoma

Theme: The Map and the Territory: Maps and Landscapes in Fantasy
(with a track on Native American Fantasy/Native Americans in Fantasy)

Author Guest of Honor: Lois McMaster Bujold

Scholar Guest of Honor: Amy H. Sturgis

The Site

The Thurman J. White Forum Building on the OU campus.

Housing

The Sooner Hotel & Suites (standard hotel rooms and two-bedroom cottage suites). Breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the Commons Restaurant on-site.

Events

- Book signing and reception at the University of Oklahoma main campus bookstore.
- Annual Banquet in the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

Campus Amenities

- Special exhibit on Native American authors at the Western History Collections
- Special exhibit on maps in the History of Science Collection in Bizzell Library

Maps and brochures are available for self-guiding walking tours of the campus, with a focus on our wonderful sculptures, architecture, and gardens.

Transportation

Fly into Will Rogers International Airport in Oklahoma City (about 45 minutes) or the nearby hub airports at Dallas/Fort Worth (a three-hour drive by rental car).

Registration

\$130 Mythopoeic Society members (until 12/31/05; \$150 from 1/1/06)

\$175 non-Society members

\$110 students

Single day rate: \$45 per day

(Children under 12 are free)

Meals and Accommodations

\$53 full meal package (not including banquet)

\$50 Sunday banquet

Accommodation reservations will be made directly with the hotel. Standard room rate is \$53/night (up to 4 persons); suite is \$88/night (up to 6 persons).

Checks or money orders for registration and meals should be made payable to "Burning Hill Farm." You may register through the Society's web site, using our Paypal shopping cart feature. Check the Mythopoeic Society web site for details, updates, and links.

To receive a flyer and registration form, ask questions, or obtain more information about the conference, contact:

Burning Hill Farm, Inc.
c/o Janet Brennan Croft

e-mail [REDACTED]

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:

www.mythsoc.org

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