



Mythopoeic Society

mythLORE

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What is The Mythopoeic Society and *Mythlore*?

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WHAT IS THE MYTHOPOEIC SOCIETY AND MYTHLORE?

The Tolkien explosion of 1965-1966 has considerably subsided, but in its wake has come a renewed general interest in fantasy and myth, and in the mythopoeic writers in particular. Doctoral dissertations are replacing graffiti. The Mythopoeic Society was founded during the last wave of the Tolkien mania, but even in Southern California there is little of the cult about it. The Society had its first meeting in October 1967, following the celebration of Bilbo and Frodo's Birthday in September of the same year. The Society meets monthly to discuss a book, or a topic from a book, by one of the three authors. At present there are two branches of the Society: the San Gabriel Valley branch and the San Fernando Valley branch. There is the possibility of other branches begun in 1969. Besides the monthly discussions, the Society sponsors a celebration of Bilbo and Frodo's Birthday in September and and Elvish New Year's picnic in the Spring of each year.

The word Mythopoeic is derived from myth and the Greek infinitive ποειν = po-ein, which means to make, thus the word means to make myths or mythmaker. The way it is pronounced in the Society is Myth-o-po-ay-ic, although this pronunciation is disputed. The alternative is Myth-o-po-ic, which has a less aesthetic sound to it.

MYTHLORE

Mythlore, the Quarterly Journal of The Mythopoeic Society is primarily interested in the fictional works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams. It is also interested in general aspects of fantasy and myth, by themselves and in relation to literature. Mythlore is also interested in other writers, who in some way are related to the three authors, such as George MacDonald, G.K. Chesterton, E.R. Eddisson, Olaf Stapledon, Dorothy Sayers, William Morris, Arthur Machen, Owen Barfield, H.P. Lovecraft, to mention a few.

The editorial policy is that material related to the three authors, from any angle, is potentially acceptable. The fact that Tolkien, Lewis, and Williams are men of faith is evident, however Mythlore is not a theological journal. By saying this we do not rule out of our sphere of interest the spiritual implications of their works where they are inseparably woven within the literary dimension.

Readers should not expect that everything printed in Mythlore will sound as if coming from one mind. There is room for different points of view; the letter column is provided for discussion and feed-back.

Mythlore hopes also to gather news of current activities across the nation and around the world, related to its interests. Much seems to be continually happening: new books, conferences, special events, etc.