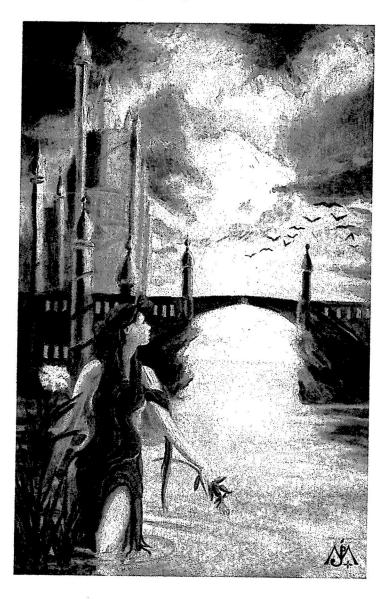
MYTHPRINT

The Monthly Bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society Vol. 46 No. 7/8 July/August, 2009 Whole No. 328/329



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The Succubus Series Reviewed by Berni Phillips Bratman

Succubus Blues, by Richelle Mead, Kensington Books (New York, NY), 2007. Tpb, \$15.00, 343 pp. ISBN: 978-0-7582-1641-0.

Succubus on Top, by Richelle Mead, Kensington Books (New York, NY), 2008. Tpb, \$15.00, 314 pp. ISBN: 978-0-7582-1642-7

Succubus Dreams, by Richelle Mead, Kensington Books (New York, NY), 2008. Tpb, \$15.00, 296 pp. ISBN: 978-0-7582-1643-4

Succubus Heat, by Richelle Mead, Kensington Books (New York, NY), 2009. Tpb, \$15.00,320 pp. ISBN: 978-0-7582-3199-4

I could never be human again, but these were the people I wanted to be damned with. [Succubus Heat, p. 311]

Meet Georgina Kinkaid, manager of a popular Seattle bookstore. Like many of us, she likes to read and hang out with her friends after work. Of course, her friends tend to be vampires, imps, and the occasional angel. That's all right though — she's a succubus, a life-force stealing, sold her soul to the devil, shape-changing creature of darkness.

Georgina is a modern update of the hooker with a heart of gold, a paranormal hottie who has to make her quota, seducing the innocent, to keep her boss, the archdemon of Seattle, happy. She was once a mortal woman who cheated on her husband. She became a succubus in return for everyone forgetting about her in her mortal life. Immortality becomes wearying, so she got a day job in a bookstore. Imagine her delight when she discovers her favorite author, Seth Mortensen, has decided to hang his hat in the bookstore's café and do his writing there. Georgina becomes the babbling idiot many of us do when we first meet a favorite author. Even better, he's cute and he seems to like her.

Unfortunately, no matter how strongly they're attracted to each other, Georgina can't be more than a friend to Seth. He has a pure soul, the kind that she as a succubus is supposed to be hunting for and tapping. To be intimate with Seth would mean shortening his life, and she likes both him and his writing too much to do that. In fact, while Georgina is good at her infernal job, she is also very kind-hearted and prefers to feed off sleazy men rather than the good ones she is supposed to be using.

In these books, half the time we see Georgina in her book store setting, interacting with her coworkers and socializing with them. They are unaware that she is anything other than a nice woman who likes books and white chocolate mochas. It's only with her supernatural friends that she can let her hair down. In this part of her life, some sort of mystery ensues in each book and Georgina becomes a sexy, shape-changing Nancy Drew, out to solve the paranormal mystery of the book. There are four books currently out, but more are forthcoming.

These books are not YAs*. There is sex in them, but it is not gratuitous. Considering her supernatural category, there is surprisingly little sex in the books. The books are fairly plot-driven with snappy dialogue. Rather than sex, they are more about Georgina's feelings, and she is very, very human and moral at heart. She made a bad choice long ago and now has to live with the consequences. She may be a shape-shifting creature damned to hell, but other than that, she's not much different from the rest of us.

*Richelle Mead does have a YA series, Vampire Academy and its sequels, which I would highly recommend to teens.



Mythcon 40: That's the Frat I Want to Join! By Berni Phillips Bratman

"Give me an M! Give me a Y! Give me a T! Give me an H!" I was never able to get the hoards of teen cheerleaders sharing the UCLA De Neve Plaza with the Mythcon attendees to fully spell out Mythopoeic Society, even though we shared the conference facility with them and an abundance of under-aged soccer players. Mythcons often wind up sharing facilities with sports teams having summer programs, and this year's was no exception. The cheerleaders and soccer players were more numerous and loud than last year's football players, but at least the cafeteria had coffee and plenty of it.

The first official event was the question and answer session with the two distinguished guests of honor, Dr. Diana Pavlac Glyer, scholar, and James A. Owen, author. Both share not only a love for the Inklings but also a love of art and considerable skill at it. They were delightful together. By the time attendees had checked into their rooms, all had figured out a unique feature of the conference center: an elevator that shuddered and shook and stuttered in a manner worthy of one at Hogwarts. Someone likened it to a ride at Disneyland, but I'm not sure exactly which it would be.

Saturday morning dawned with the traditional procession as the overture to the opening ceremonies. Founder Glen GoodKnight was there, looking dignified in a suit and tie rather than his elder garb of Elrond

It was commented that there seemed to be fewer banners in the procession this year. This was not only due to the increasing restrictions on airline luggage, but also on some people being unclear on where the procession started. Mythies are nothing if not adaptable, however, so there was at least one make-shift banner.

Once inside the building, we discovered another quaint feature of the conference center. The fire doors to the auditorium and other rooms have an automatic alarm which starts squealing after they have been open for a period of time — as when a large number of people are processing in for opening ceremonies. Like the shuddering elevator and energetic cheerleaders, this became another motif of the weekend.

Diana's keynote address, "Sailing Out to Sea in Our 'Coracle of Verses," was delightful, even if her penultimate slide of Reepicheep in his coracle had gone walkies. This

was followed by the keynote panel on "Inklings and Creative Community," which was graced by the addition of Tim Powers, author guest of honor for next year's Mythcon. (Get your membership now!) I can't comment on the Saturday night entertainment, as I took part in it. Sherwood Smith had done an adaptation of Dorothy L. Sayers' "Love All," a 1930s romantic farce which was sort of like the Marx Brothers meets Emily Dickinson. Sherwood, Mike Glyer, Mike and Jo Foster, Edith Crowe, David Bratman, and I read parts in a readers' theater style. The Khazad-dûm book toss was cathartic. We held it outside in the plaza, finding a shady spot with a sturdy, concrete wall to thump the books against. I started it off by tossing a zombie book. (No, not Pride and Prejudice and Zombies, another zombie book it's a hot new genre.) I had asked people not to throw virtual books but took pity on Autumn Rauscher, who had a great need to hurl a book which she had returned to the library. Months later, she was still ranting about its inappropriateness, so Marion Van Loo and I made a book cover for my zombie book and she threw that with great passion. Marcie Geffner threw the first two Twilight books, while confessing that she was reading the third and fourth. (They're not good, but they're addictive.) I snatched up book two as I had already read book one, and book one was taken by someone as well. More incredibly bad books were tossed: a romance novel set in the 17th century featuring a heroine named Fiona, a name which did not exist then; a self-published apocalyptic Christian fantasy written completely in present tense in passive voice; and an unbelievably bad book with art as bad as the writing featuring pirate dolphins and aliens from outer space. The banquet Sunday evening was delicious. James A. Owen was presented with many, many food sculptures, the majority of which seemed to feature dragons. Chair Sarah Beach had thoughtfully provided each table with a box of toothpicks to enhance the sculptures, and some food artists had done magnificent work. Food Sculptor Supreme, Sue Dawe, returned this year and produced a stunning representation of the Indigo Dragon, the ship in book one of Owen's series. Other notable entries included "Here

There Were Chickens," a plate of chicken bones left over from dinner (presented by Chris Gilson), and "The Lost Condiment of Atlantis in All Its Splenda" (say that out loud), a packet of Splenda on a saucer, revealed by the removal of a cup (presented by Don Williams).

Owen's guest of honor speech was touching and moving, even if he did threaten to write David Bratman into a book. This was followed by the Dead Inklings panel (David Bratman as Tolkien, James A. Owen as Williams, Don Williams as Lewis, Mike Glyer as Warnie Lewis, and Laura Simmons as their interviewer, Dorothy L. Sayers – not an Inkling) and "Like a Rolling Ring," Mike Foster and Lynne Maudlin singing Bob Dylan songs with lyrics recalling the events in Lord of the Rings.

The team of Ellie Farrell and Emily Rauscher outdid themselves this year in the script for the Not Ready for Mythcon Players. "Here There Be Pirates" featured three young fellows, Long John Mithril, Black Jack Clive, and Charles Wilson, in the ship, the Drunken Hobbit, as they sailed the seas and encountered various perils. I was one of the sirens on the isle of Cliché, cheerleaders led by head cheerleader, Arden Smith. Autumn Rauscher was a frightening Editor, threatening them with impending deadlines and other dire words. Finally the three sank into the voluminous embrace of the Muse, played by Lynn Maudlin.

The title of this report comes from a comment Sue Dawe overheard. We were playing Golfimbul down near the street on the outer edge of campus, having a good time. A pair of young men walked by, and Sue overheard one say to the other, "That's the frat I want to join!"

Marcie Geffner was the Savior of Golfimbul, having brought a replacement set of orc's head, bat, and a zoo of stuffed bunnies as Gary Hunnewell was not there. As a Mythcon first, every member of the author guest of honor's family participated in Golfimbul, even though it was surely after the bedtime of a couple of them. In a surprising upset, Chris Gilson seems to have banished forever the taunt of "

linguist" in Golfimbul, placing first in the two events and receiving the gold medal at closing ceremonies. In an unsurprising event, I received the honorary linguist award for poorest performance at Golfimbul. I'm going to have to practice, because I'll see you all NEXT YEAR IN DALLAS!



Diana Pavlac Glyer and James A. Owen



Lee Speth (left side, holding banner), Glen Good-Knight, James A. Owen (right side, holding banner)

Groups

For more information or to start a new group, contact Marion Van Loo, Membership and Discussion Group Secretary

Chartered Groups

CA			

Los Angeles/Pasadena: Mydgard

Lee Speth,

September 20: Charles Williams' birthday) Here, There Be Dragons, by James A. Owen 2:30 p.m. Garfield Park, on Mission St. in South

Oakland: C.S. Lewis Society of California

David J. Theroux,

Web site

San Francisco Bay Area: Khazad-dum

Amy Wisniewski & Edith Crowe,

Web site

September 13: The Bell at Sealey Head by Patricia McKillip. Hosts: Chris Gilson and Adam Christensen,

COLORADO

Denver area: Fanuidhol ("Cloudy Head")

Patricia Yarrow,

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington & Suburbs: Knossos

Mimi Stevens,

HAWAII

Oahu: Sammath Naur

Steve Brown,

Web site

ILLINOIS

Peoria: The Far Westfarthing smial

Mike Foster,

IOWA

Docorah: Alfheim Doug Rossman,

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge: Roke

Sally Budd,

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor area: Galadhremmin-Ennorath

Dave & Grace Lovelace,

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis-St. Paul: Rivendell

David Lenander,

TBA: Discussion with Lois McMaster Bujold Sharing Knife series

TBA: Thirteenth Child by Patricia Wrede TBA: The Migician's Book by Laura Miller

Web site:

MISSOURI

St. Louis: Imladris

Tonia O'Neal, The Tolkien Adventure Community,

NEVADA

Reno: Crickhollow

Joanne Burnett,

NEW YORK

New York: Heren Istarion

(The New York Tolkien Society)

Anthony Burdge & Jessica Burke, The New York Tolkien Society,

OREGON

Mid-Willamette Valley Area

Donovan Mattole,

Portland: Bywater Inklings Gary Lundquist **MISSOURI** St. Louis: The Khazad Gary & Sylvia Hunnewell PENNSYLVANIA NORTH CAROLINA Lancaster Area: C.S. Lewis and Friends Charlotte: The Carolina Tolkien Society Neil Gussman, Matt & Renita Peeler Pittsburgh: Fantasy Studies Fellowship OHIO University of Pittsburgh, Lori Campbell, U Pittsburgh, Department Akron David Staley of English, SOUTH CAROLINA Columbia: The Columbia C.S. Lewis Society Special Interest Group Nina Fowler, The Elvish Linguistic Fellowship Carl Hostetter, WASHINGTON Web site: Newsletter, Vinyar Tengwar. Journal, Parma Eldalamberon: Christopher Gilson, Seattle: Mithlond John D Rateliff, September: The Greater Trumps by Charles Williams Correspondence Group October: The Case of Charles Dexter Ward by H.P. Lovecraft Once Upon A Time (children's fantasy) Web site: Laura Krentz, Correspondence circular. Web site WISCONSIN Milwaukee: The Burrahobbits Jeffrey & Jan Long, Online Discussion Groups September 22: 25th Anniversary of the Burrahobbits Reading **Society Announcements** Group-A Retrospective Hosts Jan/Jeff, 7 p.m. Sign up: October 27: The Call of Cthulhu and Other Dark Tales by H.P. Loveor contact Joan Marie Verba craft. Host Dave 7 p.m. Mythsoc E-List **Prospective Groups** Society activities and general book-related discussion. Tampa Bay: Hobbiton Paul S. Ritz, Sign up or contact juan iviane verua. North Central Florida: Eryn Galen LiveJournal Mythopoeic Society discussion forum B.L. McCauley, Society activities and general book-related discussion, Sign up: or contact Lisa Deutsch Harrigar. INDIANA Central Indiana: Cerin Amroth

Ellen Denham,

The Inklings in Fiction: An Annotated Bibliography By David Bratman

At the paper I gave on "The Inklings in Fiction" at Mythcon 40, several people asked for a bibliography of the works discussed. I had none prepared at the time, so I am publishing it here.

By "The Inklings in Fiction" I mean depictions of the Inklings as characters in stories or novels. These come in three forms:

- 1) Characters who are, or purport to be, the Inklings themselves, usually as heroes of fantasy adventures or making tiny cameo appearances in stories with historical settings;
- 2) Romans a clef, that is, stories whose characters are the Inklings with the names and some identifying details changed;
- 3) Characters who are not supposed to be the Inklings, but whose personalities or character are, or are claimed to be, directly based on them.

This list omits fiction by the Inklings themselves (mostly Tolkien, Lewis, and Barfield), which is covered thoroughly in Chapter 7 of *The Company They Keep* by Diana Pavlac Glyer (Kent: Kent State University Press, 2007). It also omits stories based on or inspired by the Inklings' fiction, or stories in which the characters are reading or have read the Inklings' books but have not met them in person. These are other extensive realms worth exploring.

Allingham, Margery. More Work for the Undertaker. London: Heinemann, 1949. Eric Routley (The Puritan Pleasures of the Detective Story [London: Gollancz, 1972], p. 151) suggests that Inspector Charles Luke in this mystery novel is based on Williams.

Crispin, Edmund. The Case of the Gilded Fly. London: Gollancz, 1944. John Heath-Stubbs (Inklings Jahrbuch 5 [1987], p. 68) suggests that the playwright Robert Warner in this mystery novel is based on Williams.

Crispin, Edmund. Swan Song. London: Gollancz, 1947. Mystery novel with an Inklings cameo. In chapter 8 the detective sits in the Bird and Baby and notes C.S. Lewis walking by; "it must be Tuesday." Notable as a contemporary reference.

Dexter, Colin. The Secret of Annexe 3. New York: St. Martin's, 1986. Mystery novel with an Inklings reference: the detectives sit in the Bird and Baby and read the Inklings plaque (p. 71).

King, Laurie R. A Letter of Mary. New York: St. Martin's, 1996. Mystery novel with an Inklings cameo, taking place in 1923. The detective, Mary Russell, reports on meeting Tolkien in Oxford (p. 225).

Magrs, Paul. Mad Dogs and Englishmen. London: BBC Publications, 2002. A Dr. Who novel. The Doctor travels to 1940s Cambridge to meet "The Smudgelings," highly irreverent caricatures of the Inklings who get caught up in interplanetary intrigue among sinister intelligent dogs.

Morrow, James. Blameless in Abaddon. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1996. Satirical fantasy novel about a man who sues God for allowing evil and pain in the world. God's defense attorney, G.F. Lovett, is a thinly disguised C.S. Lewis. Caustic, but Lovett is allowed to put up a stout defense.

Norman, Philip. Everyone's Gone to the Moon. New York: Random House, 1995. Autobiographical novel of a journalist who (offstage) interviews Tolkien, as the author once did.

Owen, James A. "The Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica." Four volumes to date, with more planned: Here, There Be Dragons, The Search for the Red Dragon, The Indigo King, and The Shadow Dragons. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2006-09, the fourth forthcoming October 2009. Over the course of their lives, Tolkien, Lewis, and Williams repeatedly travel into an alternate world of myth and story which feeds their own imaginations. The most extensive Inklings-in-fiction to date. The author was Guest of Honor at Mythcon 40 in 2009.

Stewart, J.I.M. Young Pattullo, A Memorial Service, and The Madonna of the Astrolabe (London: Gollancz, 1975-77). Vols. 2-4 of his five-volume "A Staircase in Surrey" sequence of novels. Duncan Pattullo, in vol. 2 a 1940s Oxford undergraduate, in vols. 3-4 a 1970s Oxford don, interacts with various university characters, including his Anglo-Saxon tutor, J.B. Timbermill, a fond but eccentric caricature of Tolkien.

Tayler, R.J., and Shakeshaft, J.R. (as R.J. Tinker and J.R. Crankshaft). "Meeting of the Royal Astrological Society." *The Observatory*, June 1974. Parody of the proceedings of a scientific meeting, including a report by Professor J.R.R. Talking on astronomical research in Middle-earth.

Williams, Donald T. "An Unexpected Meeting." *The Lamp-Post*, Spring 2005 (published 2007). Vignette. The shades of Lewis and Tolkien visit the author to encourage him in his Inklings II writing group.

The Mythopoeic Book Awards 2009 Each year the Mythopoeic Society awards book award in four categories. This year's winners were announced at Mythcon in Los Angeles in July.

- * Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature Carol Berg, Flesh and Spirit and Breath and Bone (Roc)
- * Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature Kristin Cashore, Graceling (Harcourt Children's Books)
- * Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies John Rateliff, The History of the Hobbit, Part One: Mr. Baggins; Part Two: Return to Bag-end (Houghton Mifflin, 2007)
- * Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies Charles Butler, Four British Fantasists: Place and Culture in the Children's Fantasies of Penelope Lively, Alan Garner, Diana Wynne Jones, and Susan Cooper (Children's Literature Association & Scarecrow Press, 2006)

Ono, Fuyumi. The Twelve Kingdoms, Volume 3: The Vast Spread of the Seas. Los Angeles: Tokyopop, 2009 hardcover, \$17.99, ISBN 978-1598169485. 294 pages. Illustrated by Akihiro Yamada. Translated by Alexander O. Smith and Elye J. Alexander. Original in Japanese, Tokyo: Kodansha Ltd., 1994. Reviewed by Daniel Baird.

In volume one, readers followed the story of Yoko, a Japanese high school girl kidnapped and drawn into a fantasy world loosely based on Chinese mythology. In volume two, Ono introduces Taiki, the unicorn from the kingdom of Tai whose

the unicorn from the kingdom of Tai whose story predates that of Yoko's by about 15 years. This volume presents the unique story of a power struggle between the ruler of En, Shoryu, and a governor who leads a rebellion against Shoryu. This story predates the other two stories by some 500 years.

With the opening of the novel, En has been without a king for some time and is on the verge of destruction. The Unicorn of En, Rokuta, has just found a new king, but the new king doesn't seem all that interested in ruling as he is in enjoying the good life. Elsewhere Atsuyu, the governor takes in a child, Koya, who was raised by a demon bird. The story then presents a contrasting character study, the service of Rukuta to his King and Koya to the Governor Atsuyu. To say more would spoil the great story!

In this novel more is revealed about how a ruler is responsible for carrying out the Will of Heaven, the role of the unicorn in determining Heaven's Will, and what happens when that Will is defied. There are plenty of dark secrets, plot twists, and political maneuvering that readers have come to expect from Ms. Ono's novels. As in the earlier two books, adolescents can identify with issues such as how to make long term choices and live with the consequences and the joy and sometimes the price of friendship.

Enjoy reading this series and look forward to book four which returns to the story of Yoko Nakajima and the kingdom of Kei and is slated for publication next year. 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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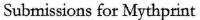
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Ginger McElwee, Editor

The Mythopoeic Society

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