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Founder's Focus

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Mythcon 50

Looking Back, Moving Forward

San Diego, California

August 2-5, 2019

Founder's Focus

This poetry of which I write, in its coarse flexible mesh,
 Rich with a strange juxtaposition of colours,
 Here and there snarled or gaudy, but still strong-fibered,
 With common words in a strange dye, with knots of meta-
 physic--

This is the mesh that drew the loud myth so close
 (The manuals coupled, the echo instantaneous),
 This at last compelled the slow sea-coming
 And loosed upon England the invisible virtues.

Note: the poem is not included in Ridler's *Selected Poems*
 (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1961).

Tolkien, J.R.R. "All that is gold does not glitter".
 Reprinted in *Mallorn: The Magazine of the Tolkien*
Society, No. 10 (n.d. [late 1976]), 33.
 The poem, reprinted from *The Lord of the Rings*, Bk. I, Ch. 10,
 and Bk. II, Ch. 2, is illustrated and in script by Lucy
 Matthews.

STAR CALLS

*The singers call and beckon;
 Songs in glistening streams,
 Gold and silver fingers
 So far I cannot reckon
 Yet reaching mine, it seems,
 Drawing higher, further;
 Their long music lingers
 From my infant dreams.*

*Here I am a stranger;
 Here I have no place.
 I would know a brother;
 I would be a ranger
 Of song-sown fields of space;
 There among the singers
 I may find another,
 Truer, closer race.*

by Gracia Fay Ellwood



FOUNDER'S FOCUS

by Glen GoodKnight

With this issue we have a new editor -- Gracia Fay Ellwood. She has been active in the Society since 1969; a woman of special talents and wide interests. Her published books include Psychic Visits from the Past and Good News from Tolkien's Middle Earth. Despite honest differences on certain areas of concern that do not directly pertain to mythopoeia, I cannot think of a person better qualified to assume the editorship. I ask you the readers to give her the support and confidence she rightly deserves. I will continue to support the production of Mythlore, advising and assisting in various ways.

The Society is now more than 11 years old. My original vision was for it to be a medium of exchange and insights and opinions for people of the same interests, enriching each individual involved. The Society has gone through considerable evolving, and sometimes revolving. When people interact, of necessity there arises "politics" (used in the broad sense). Contrary to what might be assumed, deep down, I have never enjoyed politics in the Society, but endured it, knowing that the reality of human nature requires it. The sole reason the vast majority of Society members joined and continue to join is their enthusiasm for the literature, and their desire to be in contact with others of similar enthusiasm. Using the Society as a ve-

hicle for political games is not their intent, and the majority are quickly turned off when such surface. Thus, I personally have sought to keep politics at a visible minimum. Of course it is unreasonable to expect everyone in an organization will agree, and honest disagreement can be constructive in resolving problems.

My deep hope is that the new Council of Stewards will be open to the ideas of all the members with a sense of reasonable proportion as to the practicality of the ideas expressed. One of the reasons for the recent changes in the Society's Bylaws was to cut politics to the bare minimum, so the Society could get on with the real job we all want it to do. During this transition period the Council is working out new ways to streamline operating procedures. There is a working confidence that this can be done. Speaking for myself, not the Council, I ask you to give it the support it needs at this time.

In the last 11 years there have been problems and even heartache along the way, but below and above that there has been the in-deepening and enrichment I have received from interchange with the very special people of this Society. To all, a deep thank you.

I close with a quote from C.S. Lewis: "The future is bright, the road leads on -- but tomorrow is a Monday morning." Onward!

... Lee Speth

