



Mythopoeic Society

mythLORE

A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis,
Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature

Volume 12
Number 3

Article 1

4-15-1986

Opening Remarks

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Recommended Citation

GoodKnight, Glen and Pavlac, Diana (1986) "Opening Remarks," *Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature*: Vol. 12 : No. 3 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/vol12/iss3/1>

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Albuquerque, New Mexico; July 29 - August 1, 2022

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Additional Keywords

Sarah Beach

Opening Remarks

In this issue we feature papers and a drama from the 16th annual Mythopoeic Conference, held at Wheaton college in 1985. Some of my personal comments about the Conference were shared in an Editorial Note in *Mythlore* 43. The event was a milestone in the ongoing development of the Society in a number of ways. Many papers were given, many more than can be presented in one issue. Future issues will bring other fine papers to you. We hope those given here, along with the Masque and art will give you some idea of the excellence of the Conference on a number of fronts. Enjoy.

G.G. Editor



In his closing remarks at Mythcon II, Glen GoodKnight said, "I think back to last Mythcon and about the Society in general and the growth that we have seen; not only the growth of the Society, but the growth of individuals in the Society. It has personally been very gratifying. There are aspects of the Society that were never anticipated. All I wanted to originally do was get people together, with a cup of tea on their knee, and discuss books.

"But at the time I didn't realize that if you get together with people just to discuss books, you don't relate to them on that level only. You relate to them on many levels...

"I can see that the need is for interaction; we cannot be islands within ourselves, and still develop to our full potential. We need interaction. There are, in the Society, all kinds of people, and we need interaction with all kinds of people...

"The Society has come a long way, but it also has a long way to go. Today we see the signs... Perhaps we will have a Mythcon in Chicago. It will be a matter of years before that can happen, but it can occur. It should happen and will happen..."

Interaction is a key word for our committee -- we have worked to bring together our own kinship of dancers. The results have been more than gratifying. The program for Mythcon XVI featured thirty-two papers, nine films, eight panels, five readings, three drama productions, and two half-day workshops.

We are pleased to have brought Mythcon to the Midwest, and share Glen Goodnight's vision for continued growth. "Without vision the people perish," and with that in mind we'd like to suggest that the next important step for the Society is a conference in England. See you there?

Diana Pavlac

In reference to Diana's remarks, I didn't start life intending to be a prophet -- but it is gratifying to have one's wishes come true, and here we are. Wheaton and the Wade Collection are a very special place to those who share the Society's vision.

At times I have felt a sense of recognition of Galadriel's mood when she spoke these lines in The Lord of the Rings:

I sang of leaves, of leaves of gold, and leaves of gold there grew. Of wind I sang, a wind there came and in the branches blew. Beyond the Sun, beyond the Moon, the foam was on the Sea, and by the strand of Ilmarin there grew a golden tree.

To see one's dream, one's vision, take root and grow, to see others sharing in that vision, is an extremely rich and fulfilling experience.

At times it is surprising to me that something like the Mythopoeic Society was not created before it was. But since it wasn't, I felt the need to do it. It is rather like what C.S. Lewis said about writing books, that he wrote some of the books he did because they were things he wanted to read and no one else had written them. The Mythopoeic Society at its Conferences makes a special celebration of the things that are written in fantasy and myth, for they are, after all, the things we wanted to read.

We owe a special word of praise to the different Conferences' Committees who work with extraordinary dedication each year to bring about all we enjoy at these gatherings. I particularly commend this year's Committee, which has worked so hard in making this milestone in the Society's history come true -- the first Mythopoeic Conference in the Midwest.

In order that we not lose the momentum created by this year's conference, I, for one, feel it is important that we have another Mythopoeic Conference here in the Midwest or on the East Coast within the next few years. I hope that people in the Midwest and East will take this example as a challenge and organize committees for future Conferences in their own territory. We all have things to offer the Society that would enrich us all. Society guidelines for Conferences are available to any interested. Any interested groups should contact the Council of Stewards either formally or informally as soon as possible.

In the meantime, especially for those attending a Mythopoeic Conference for the first time, don't lose the momentum; attend next year. You will find that the things you enjoyed this year will be repeated with normal variation at XVII at Long Beach, near the shores of the blue Pacific. Information about it is in your Program Book, or from Sarah Beach, the Co-Chair. The inexpensive cost should make it very accessible.

The theme of this year's Conference -- A Kinship of Dancers, complements on several levels the Society's motto: Laeta in Choreia Magna -- Joy in the Great Dance. In studying, enjoying, and entering into the visions the Inklings have given us in Fantasy and Myth, we also become kindred spirits, taking up our ever changing positions in that Dance. We not only enter into their visions and hear their music, we find a hard-to-define but very real enhancement of our interrelationships, our appreciations, our steps in the dance with each other. Onward and Upward.

Glen GoodKnight