

3-15-1996

Editorial

Tina Cooper

C.I.S. Lowentroun

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Recommended Citation

Cooper, Tina and Lowentroun, C.I.S. (1996) "Editorial," *The Mythic Circle*: Vol. 1996: Iss. 19, Article 2.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mcircle/vol1996/iss19/2>

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Editorial

MOON MARKS

by Sue Nevill

turn in the night to face the window

you have not dreamt the light

this is the mark the moon
full and burning
makes on your sheets

mad moon

searing ice
into the brains of those
who sleep bareheaded

turn

women have died for skin this pale
and men have killed for it
strings of grave light
pulling them down
bowstrings of light
singing

*I am the history of witches
the first excuse
for dance*

*open the window
it is large enough
to climb through
kiss my ivory fingernail and swear
you have forgotten gravity*

*drape yourself in my shocked silence
deaf to everything except
the quiet collisions
of owls
of hearts*

mad moon

freezing the slow maples

*open
the window*

Editorial

Hello again, and welcome to *The Mythic Circle 19*. Another fine story issue, we believe; a brew of fantasy and folktale with a dash of surrealism. Our illustrators have done their usual splendid job (we are particularly fond of the comic crocodile motoring an unusual craft through *The Thunderslammers*), and Sarah Beach has given us an evocative glimpse of a mermaid for our cover. We are grateful to all our contributors, and we hope you enjoy what they have given us.

We hope, also, that you take the time to give us your Letters of Comment. As you will see, we didn't have many for this issue! As you read the magazine, jot down your comments and send them in. Our authors do appreciate them.

We are writing this in October, but as these things go, the magazine probably won't be in the mail before spring. So our best wishes to each of you for a happy Easter.

Tina Cooper and C.I.S. Lowentrout

LETTERS OF COMMENT

Dear Editors--

The Mythic Circle 17 has some really interesting material. I can't say I was entranced by most of the fiction, but Richard Goldstein's Islamic adventure tale "The Ruby" was well thought out. No sword-and-sorcery in the true sense here, but the flavor of occult mystery. There is in my mind a reminiscence of George Meredith's 19th Century story of *The Shaving of Shagpat* (remember the Ballantine 1969 Adult Fantasy Classics series of Lin Carter). And even a touch of William Beckford's 1787 hellish novel of *Vathek* (same series as above)! The feeling of 'labyrinth' is here; watch your step, one escape from a difficult situation can lead to disaster. *Kismet* is in the air, as befits the story's structure and Arabic atmosphere.

"Saucepan Tales by Cellar-Light" by MacGregor Card seems to follow next in complex structure. The Buddha-of-the-Bellman is intriguing enough, but requires a very slow leisurely reading, even re-reading, to get its "plot." Don't rush the tale and let your mind wander over its details. You