



Mythopoeic Society

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## Editor's Corner

Glen GoodKnight

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## Online Summer Seminar 2023

August 5-6, 2023: Fantasy Goes to Hell: Depictions of Hell in Modern Fantasy Texts

<https://mythsoc.org/oms/oms-2023.htm>



## Editor's Corner

# EDITOR'S CORNER

## Thoughts about Narnia

This issue might be called a mini-Narnia issue. It has been a long time since we have had a Lewis cover, and Narnia provides an excellent theme. Poetry, lead Article, Art, and Reviews make for a good rounding out. For those who have not yet read any Lewis, the seven Chronicles of Narnia will probably be the best introduction for most. They are rich on many levels in themselves, and may lead the reader to a fuller appreciation of nearly all his other writings.

Narnia was my own introduction to Lewis. In high school I was captivated with Tolkien and sought eagerly for other fantasy that contained a similar excitement and challenge to the imagination. After several disappointments, Narnia was discovered. The beauty, enchantment and power of Tolkien and Lewis in Middle-earth and Narnia caused a fundamental change in my perception of things. In the last twelve years I have read the Chronicles each year. Their many facets become richer with the passage of time. One finds nearly all Lewis' other works are echoed, reflected, or illustrated in Narnia.

Lewis' narrative ability grew within the series, given the accepted limitations of length and style of "children's stories." The first two books, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and Prince Caspian are the weakest in style; the last two, The Magician's Nephew and The Last Battle show Lewis in full flower. Both the dramatic excitement of the plot and character development are the highest in the last two books. The many threads scattered throughout the Chronicles are drawn together for the most transcending and joyous climax I have ever had the privilege to read.

In the 1940's and 50's The Screwtape Letters was the most well known of Lewis' works, but no more. Surely since the 70's The Chronicles of Narnia have been his most popular and widely read books, and it appears that they will remain so. Like Middle-earth, Narnia may be a life-changing experience one should not miss, becoming a treasure beyond price.

## Our Non-Profit Status

The Mythopoeic Society was founded in 1967 and incorporated as a non-profit educational and literary organization in 1971. The primary reason for incorporation was to qualify for lower mailing rates with the post office. Even then postage rates were steep, and anything to reduce them seemed well worth the effort. The time and effort taken to accomplish this was considerable. We had to comply with both State and Federal regulations, and had to make revisions in our governing documents before we received qualification from both agencies.

The Internal Revenue Service inserted a caveat in their recognition to the effect that we are not to promote the sale of books. This evidently was done because it would be possible for an author or his friends to set up a non-profit corporation to promote his books and escape the usual taxes in the process. I pointed out to the I.R.S. that our three primary authors were no longer living, but this did not change their prohibition.

As a result we may say anything we wish about a book - or any other item for sale - except the recommendation to buy it. This is not that terrible a restriction, since people are intelligent enough to make that decision for themselves. Occasionally we have to omit something someone

has written that directly or indirectly appears to violate this restriction. We are not a front organization for any author or publisher, nor do I think we would wish to be. We do not give free promotions of a commercial nature, but are open and pleased to accept paid advertisements.

Along with the above mild restriction we also have the benefit of being able to accept tax deductible contributions, which we do need. Any money given to the Society beyond the base rate of dues (subscriptions) is fully tax-deductible from a person's income. We are in need of such contributions to expand our promotion and out-reach and to improve services. Information about which State and Federal statutes your contributions will qualify under is available on request.

## PREVIEW OF THE NEXT ISSUE

Mythlore No. 28 will include in its contents:

- "The Future of Mythology" by Poul Anderson, is a thought-provoking essay by the well known Science Fiction and Fantasy writer.
  - "She and Tolkien" by John D. Rateliff, shows concrete influences in The Lord of the Rings and The Silmarillion by H. Rider Haggard.
  - "Thematic Implications of C. S. Lewis' Spirits in Bondage" by Stephan Thorson, discusses how Lewis' neglected first published book, written as a young atheist, has important themes to reappear in his later works.
  - "Granting Charles Williams his Donnee" by Thomas Howard, author of Chance or The Dance and The Achievement of C. S. Lewis, is a careful probe into Williams' unique contribution.
  - "Ransom in Perelandra: Jungian Hero?" by Corbin S. Carnell, author of Bright Shadow of Reality: C. S. Lewis and the Feeling Intellect, looks at Ransom in light of Jung and Campbell's "monomyth".
  - "A Subject-Index to Mythlore" compiled by David Bratman.
- These in addition to all the regular features.

## Mythopoeic Fantasy Award

The five nominees for the 1981 M.F.A. are: Lion of Ireland: The Legend of Brian Boru by Morgan Llywelyn; The Grey Mane of Morning by Joy Chant; The Wounded Land by Stephan R. Donaldson; The Beginning Place by Ursula K. Leguin; Unfinished Tales by J.R.R. Tolkien; plus "No Award". Votes must be postmarked by July 20, 1981. Write to: George Colvin, 3500 Lou Ella Lane, Riverside, CA 92507. More information can be found on page 35 of Mythlore No. 26.

## MYTHCON XII A Festival in Faerie

August 7-10, 1981 at Mills College near Oakland, California. Guests of Honor: Elizabeth Pope and Joe R. Christopher. Memberships (\$15), information on rooms and meals, inquiries on participation in Drama and Music, and general correspondence should be sent to Diana Paxson, 90 El Camino Real, Berkeley, CA 94705. You may read your paper or arrangements can be made for your paper to be read. Send notice of intended papers to Eric Rauscher, 6017 Avila, El Cerrito, CA 94530. For Art Show information, write to Edith Crowe. Send Auction material (if you are not attending) to Glen GoodKnight. Edith and Glen's addresses are on page 2. Send your membership as soon as possible.

