The Mythopeic Press: A Proposal

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The Mythopeic Press: A Proposal

Mythcon 50

Looking Back, Moving Forward
San Diego, California
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copies. Someone asked Mr. Ballantine why the Adult Fantasy series had not sold well, according to an advertisement in Galaxy magazine. Betty Ballantine took the microphone to explain that the writer of the ad mentioned there had been rumors that sales were not good, but, she emphasized, that is not at all true. The series has been selling very nicely. As a follow-up on the discussion about which of Tolkien's characters readers identify with, Antoinette Harris asked Glen why he chose to identify with Elrond. Glen explained that, as one who has retired from the battles of Middle Earth, Elrond has a quality of wisdom that he would like to have. Finally, I asked Ian Ballantine how he had managed to resist the temptation to include dates from Middle Earth in the Tolkien Calendar he recently published. He answered that he was afraid Tolkien would have found fault with them. He always tries to please Tolkien and he has sent him a copy of the calendar and asked the professor to make his own annotations for a 1974 edition. Mr. Ballantine then added the remarks about the film of The Lord of the Rings that I mentioned earlier in this report.

Following the panel I presented a slide show of Tolkien art ranging from Tolkien's own sketches to illustrations by professional illustrators and paintings by fan artists such as George Barr, Diane DeCles, Bonnie Goodknight, Barb Johnson, Tim Kirk and myself. The highlight of the show were the slides of Tim Kirk's thesis paintings from The Lord of the Rings. (The originals were also on display in the convention's art show.) The slide show was well received by the audience and I was asked if duplicate slides or prints would be available from the Society. I advised people to make their requests in writing and we would try to organize a system to make slides or prints available.

It was a pleasure to meet Mr. and Mrs. Ballantine. They were very friendly and quite willing to answer questions about their publications. They also gave us copies of the Tolkien Calendar. I asked Mrs. Ballantine whether future editions of Red Moon and Black Mountain might mention the fact that it received the 1971 Mythopoeic Fantasy award. She said that another edition was definitely planned and that chances were good the award would be mentioned. There is also a possibility that the Society might be mentioned in an introduction to a future Adult Fantasy book. The only disappointment at Lacon, as far as the Adult Fantasy series was concerned, was that its editor, Lin Carter, never did show up. He too had been scheduled for the Tolkien panel.

During the convention the Mythopoeic Society was well represented in the hucksters' room. We had two tables to display our publications and attract prospective members. At one end of the table was a feature a continuous showing of slides taken at various Mythopoeic events by Jim Carleton, Jonathon Hodge and me. This "pictorial history" of the Society was successful in attracting the attention of several people who stopped to ask Glen and our other representatives all about the Society and its various functions.

It will be at least three years before another world or national science fiction convention comes to California but, meanwhile, the Society will continue to participate in regional conventions and, of course, there are the Mythicons. I would strongly advise those of you who have never attended a convention to do so because the excitement of actually being involved can only be truly appreciated on paper. This report gave you an idea of what was only a part of a four-day event involving many different groups and over 2,000 people. Those of you who would like to read more about it, please write. I will try to refer you to other publications that describe Lacon.

For nearly two years there has been talk among interested members of the Society about the possibility of a Press. Both scholarly works focusing on the main areas of interest to Society members, and original works of fiction and poetry related to the genre that Society members appreciate, would be published.

This Mythopoeic Press would not be officially, legally, or financially connected with The Mythopoeic Society. It would be a separate non-profit corporation, with a special kind of membership. Each person who pledges either $50 or $100 would be a voting member of its Board of Directors, deciding which works would be published. Those who loan $100 would receive a free copy of each book the Press would publish for its duration. These pledges would be loans, which would be paid back gradually from the profits earned. Loans less than $50 would be accepted and paid.

The Mythopoeic Press would both supplement and transcend the periodicals of The Mythopoeic Society, as its published works would be complete in themselves.

We are not asking for any funds at this time; only a pledge for funds. The deadline for pledges will be June 1st, 1973. If sufficient pledges have been made by that time, the Press will proceed to establish itself, and contact members for decisions. Now is the time for serious consideration of this enterprise.

Address all pledges and/or correspondence about the Press to:
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