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The Counsel of Elrond

Glen GoodKnight

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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

Albuquerque, New Mexico • Postponed to: July 30 – August 2, 2021



Additional Keywords

Bonnie GoodKnight; Tim Kirk



The
Counsel
of
ELROND
by
Glen
GoodKnight

Those of you who are regular previous subscribers to Mythlore may have wondered about the delay of this issue since Mythlore 8. This has been due primarily to the merger of The Tolkien Society of America with The Mythopoeic Society. Tolkien Journal is now merged with Mythlore.

The merger took place due to the unfortunate blindness of the Thain of TSA, Ed Meskys. He is now a member of The Mythopoeic Society's Board of Directors, and starting with this issue, will have a column in each issue of Mythlore. When the merger took place in April, we proceeded to handle the production of the final issue of Tolkien Journal: layout, printing, and mailing. TJ 15 was the special issue in honor of J. R. R. Tolkien's 80th Birthday. It is a very fine issue, and I encourage those who didn't receive it to obtain a copy (see page 29).

With a combined circulation of 1,000 readers, Mythlore is able to saddle stitch this issue. Hand stapling and taping is an incredible amount of work for this many issues. You are going to see some interesting things done graphically and with the layout in future issues. The improvements done on this end will be coupled, I hope, with creative contributions from you the readers. We are always seeking the best articles. Most of those submitted are about some facet of The Lord of the Rings, understandably. More material on C. S. Lewis and Charles Williams are sought. Articles on generic or thematic background material on the three authors is also sought. "The Holy Grail" article in this issue is a good example, since there are Arthurian elements (this is open to challenge, discussion and development) in each of the three authors. There are a number of new books and articles of mixed worth coming out all the time. Reviews of new works about one or all of the three authors, or of general interest to the readers are encouraged. Artists are encouraged to send in submissions of art for use in Mythlore. Work not intended for a full page should not be more than 4 1/2 inches wide. Intelligent, informative, and/or controversial letters for "Missives to Mythlore" are welcomed. Such letters need not be long ones; one or two paragraphs are acceptable if your thoughts are that to the point. All contributors to an issue have their subscriptions extended for another issue.

Being editor of Mythlore is only one of the hats I wear: I am also the editor of Mythprint, the Society's monthly bulletin, and the President of the Society. Being President requires many hats in itself. The Society has grown too large for me to wear all the hats well. As President, I am now delegating many duties and responsibilities that I've carried alone before. Luckily, help has finally come forth in several important areas. I'm not going to be managing editor of Mythprint much longer. The job of paste up and layout will be phased out over the next few months, so that I'll only be writing a column to report to the members on important things going on within the Society. Mythprint has been the major focus for me timewise. It will be a relief to have that major responsibility out of my direct concern. I only

mention this to you readers of Mythlore, so that you will know I will have more time for this publication, which I care about very deeply. Mythlore is and will be a regularly irregular publication, coming out at least every six months, and perhaps three times a year. If Mythlore is called a fanzine, I do consider it a special one. I have seen some fanzines that were put together without apparent thought to coordination of its various elements: cover, articles, letters, artwork, all slapped together with no consideration of their relation to each other, or for the impression they create as a whole. I do try to make each issue as "balanced" as I can with the materials and resources that are available. How I define what makes a "balanced" issue is a highly personal and subjective feeling that defies precise verbal definition. I have been urged that Mythlore come out quarterly at all costs. The suggestion is reasonable in itself, but I do not feel three months is enough time to arrange all the elements of Mythlore and have each issue "balanced," or meet my own creative standards. I want Mythlore to be as good as it can, and hope you readers feel the same.

Most people attracted to The Mythopoeic Society were drawn by the shared interest in J. R. R. Tolkien; others were drawn by the shared interest in C. S. Lewis. Those who were familiar with Charles Williams before knowing of the Society, almost always knew of the other two authors. For those of you who only know one of the three authors, I would recommend the following three articles: "Tolkien, Lewis, and Williams" by C. S. Kilby in the Mythcon I Proceedings, "Who Were the Inklings?" by Joe R. Christopher in Tolkien Journal 15, and "The Social History of the Inklings, 1939-1945" by myself in Mythlore 5 - TJ 12. The five best books I know of about the three authors are given here: Shadows of Imagination: the fantasies of C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams; Edited by Mark R. Hillegas. Southern Illinois University Press, 1969. Books With Men Behind Them by Edmund Fuller; Random House, 1959. The Precincts of Felicity by Charles Moorman; University of Florida Press, 1966. Imagination and The Spirit edited by Charles A. Huttar; Williams B. Eerdmans, 1971. Romantic Religion: A Study of Barfield, Lewis, Williams, and Tolkien by R. J. Reilly; University of Georgia Press, 1971.

I mention these articles and books in the hopes that if you are not familiar with the relation of the three authors to each other and the similarities (some quite obvious, others delightfully subtle) in their work, you will have sources. Of course the first place to start is with the works of the three men themselves. Here is a list of the Regular Reading List of the Society. These are the works that are discussed in the Society's twenty current branches. (They discuss other works and authors as well, under the Elective System, which is explained in the Bylaws.)

by J. R. R. Tolkien

The Hobbit. The Lord of the Rings, which includes Vol. I The Fellowship of the Ring, Vol. II The Two Towers, Vol. III The Return of the King. "Leaf by Niggle." Farmer Giles of Ham. The Adventures of Tom Bombadil. Smith of Wootton Major. "Essay on Fairy-stories." Beowulf: The Monsters and The Critics.

by C. S. Lewis

The Chronicles of Narnia (a seven book series): The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. Prince Caspian. The Voyage of The Dawn Treader. The Silver Chair. The Horse and His Boy. The Magician's Nephew. The Last Battle. The "Ransom" or "Deep Space" Trilogy. Out of the Silent Planet. Perelandra. That Hideous Strength. The Screwtape Letters. The Pilgrim's Regress. Poems. The Great Divorce. Till We Have Faces. Of Other Worlds. Narrative Poems.

by Charles Williams

The seven novels: War in Heaven. Many Dimensions. The Place of the Lion. The Greater Trumps. Shadows of Ecstasy. Descent Into Hell. All Hallow's Eve.

The Noises That Weren't There (an unfinished 8th novel which was printed in Mythlores 6, 7, & 8) Taliessin Through Logres. The Region of the Summer Stars. Arthurian Torso. Collected Plays.

The purpose of the Society is not to promote the sale of commercial books, but rather that the works be read. It is encouraging to know however that all of the above works are in print, and if your local library does not have them they can obtain them.

Many of you are familiar with the name of C.S. Kilby. Those in the Society know him as the Guest of Honor at Mythcon I in 1970, and the only American to have read The Silmarillion. On September 30th 1972, his 70th birthday was celebrated in a very special way. There was a surprise party held at Wheaton College, where he has taught English for many years. Over 250 people were present. President Armerding of the College spoke with enthusiasm about the special Inklings Collection that C.S. Kilby originated. This collection he calls "the best in the world," contains manuscripts by C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, Owen Barfield, J.R.R. Tolkien, George MacDonald, and Dorothy Sayers. The most recent addition to the special collection was over 2,000 pages of manuscripts of Williams which arrived in September. Gifts for the collection, in honor of C.S. Kilby's 70th birthday, totalled almost \$4,000, and the party was a great success. The elaborate planning was kept a secret. Hundreds of cards and letters were received, including a special calligraphed card from the Society drawn by Bruce McMenemy. Admirers of the Inklings also have much admiration and gratitude for C.S. Kilby and his work. We wish him the very best.

MYTHCON IV

This year's Mythcon will be held on August 17-20 at the Francisco Torres in Santa Barbara, California. Membership is \$4 until July 1st; \$5 from then to the convention. \$1 supporting members receive the Program Book. Make checks payable to Mythcon, c/o the box address.

The program will include: many discussion groups, papers, panels, an art show, a masquerade, a living chess game with characters from mythopoeic works, films, a banquet, music, drama, an auction, and guests of honor.

The rates for food and lodging are very reasonable: \$43.50 single occupancy (\$36.00 per person - double occupancy) gives you three nights lodging and meals. Mythcon II was held there, so we know how good the food and facilities are. The Torres is a convention center that offers seclusion away from the hubbub of the city. It is a mile from the sea, and the weather is delightfully pleasant in August.

Mythcon is a convention of national participation. Make your plans now for a great summer event.

THE MYTHPOEIC SOCIETY

is a literary and educational organization interested in the study, discussion, and enjoyment of myth, fantasy, imaginative literature, and especially the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams. The Society is based on the idea that these three authors provide both an excellent introduction to, and fundamental understanding of, this entire genre of literature.

The Mythopoeic Society engages in activities which seek to engender interest and study by individuals and groups which lead them to a greater understanding and integration of all aspects of the human experience, as well as greater individual and social insight and creativity.

GREEN DRAGON (Continued from page 28)

eventually make a chessboard based on the countryside of Middle earth to go with the rest of the set.

She also showed me a Frodo doll she had made and which was not for sale or normally exhibited.

We talked a little of Tolkien and other fantasy and I could see that both really loved the books. I asked about how she did the three LotR covers. She said it was a hasty production because of the unauthorized edition and she hadn't read the books yet when she was commissioned to do the covers. She had known the Ballantines for some time and they gave her the job because they knew they could depend on her to do a good job quickly. She only had time to quickly skim the books and it is really remarkable that such appropriate covers could have been done so rapidly. I know the initial reaction had been unfavorable but this was because most fantasy fans prefer representational art. But the symbolism of the covers is very appropriate.

I wanted to talk some more with them about fantasy and LotR and their art but several customers came in and it was getting late so we had to leave.

Nan and I both enjoyed the visit very much and we plan to return the next time we are in New York.

HOLY GRAIL BIBLIOGRAPHY (continued from page 11)

- Parzival, by Wolfram von Eischenbach, translated by Helen Mustard and Charles Passage, Vintage Books, 1961.
Peredur, in Medieval Myths, ed. by Norma Lorre Goodrich, or in the Mabinogian, translated by Lady Guest, Everyman.
The Tale of the Sangreal, in the Morte D'Arthur of Sir Thomas Malory, ed. Eugene Vinaver, Oxford U. P.

Mythprint has already been mentioned on page 29. I would encourage you to subscribe if you have not already done so. It is published every month, and sent by Second Class Mail. It is the vital newsletter of the Society and of news related to its interests. In it we report the latest rumors about The Silmarillion; news of the Hobbit movie to be made; and progress reports on Mythcon, in addition to the many features mentioned on page 29.

Please keep us informed of your Change of Address

