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Editorial

Janet Brennan Croft
Rutgers University

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Mythcon 50

Looking Back, Moving Forward

San Diego, California

August 2-5, 2019

Editorial

Abstract

A Long-expected update: I'm very pleased to be able to announce that the Mythlore archival website and online editorial management platform is now live. Through the generous sponsorship of Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Mythlore and the Mythopoeic Society now have an official online home for back issues of the journal, *The Mythlore Index Plus*, and, eventually, other publications and society archives.

Additional Keywords

Wade Center; Wheaton College; Rayner Memorial Library; Marquette University

EDITORIAL

A LONG-EXPECTED UPDATE: I'm very pleased to be able to announce that the *Mythlore* archival website and online editorial management platform is now live. Though the generous sponsorship of Southwestern Oklahoma State University, *Mythlore* and the Mythopoeic Society now have an official online home for back issues of the journal, *The Mythlore Index Plus*, and, eventually, other publications and society archives. Phillip Fitzsimmons, Reference and Digitization Librarian at SWOSU (and a society member and contributor to this journal), spearheaded this project and has joined the society's leadership team as Administrator for *Mythlore* and Society Archives. The archive, as well as instructions for setting up an author account on the new platform, submitting articles, and tracking downloads of your contributions, is at <http://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/>.

This issue begins with transcripts of both of the Guest of Honor Speeches from Mythcon 48, held this summer in Champaign, IL. In keeping with the conference theme and 50th Anniversary of the society itself, both talks dealt with research into our deep roots in the writings of the Inklings. Laura Schmidt describes the collection of the Wade Center at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois, which holds extensive archives of the works of our three key authors—Tolkien, Lewis, and Williams—as well as fellow Inkling Owen Barfield, Dorothy L. Sayers, George MacDonald, and G.K. Chesterton. Along the way we get a glimpse into the structure and uses of archives in general. William M. Fliss follows with his talk on the Tolkien Archive at Marquette University's Rayner Memorial Library in Milwaukee, Wisconsin—its origins, usefulness, and current reorganization project.

Our next paper, by returning author Weronika Łaszkiwicz, is a survey of trees and forests in fantasy literature, paying particular attention to works by Charles de Lint and Robert Holdstock and their evocations of the sacred, the numinous, and the mythologically potent through arboreal imagery. Brittani Ivan was the winner of this year's Alexei Kondratiev Student Paper Award at Mythcon, and her essay considers the border between the mundane world and the fantasy world; deliberately fluid and mobile in Diana Wynne Jones's *Hexwood*, and a solid presence central to the plots of Garth Nix's Old Kingdoms series.

Christopher Vaccaro examines a possible source of the imagery associated with Tolkien's representations of divine and queenly women in Alain de Lille's *De Planctu Naturæ*, or *Complaint of Nature*. De Lille was a 12th century theologian and poet associated with the Chartres school, and an influence on Chaucer. Tolkien is also the subject of the next paper—in this case, Richard Angelo Bergen considers Tolkien's skilled evocation of evil and the way he manages to hold Augustinian and

Manichean conceptions of evil in balance, particularly in his depiction of orcs. Next, Margaret Mauk's thought-provoking piece takes us to Harry Potter's world and a study of mothers in that world—and how their actions permit an interpretation of some forms of offensive violence as pre-emptive or even defensive.

Dennis Wilson Wise speculates on the involvement of J.R.R. Tolkien in the group nomination of E.M. Forster for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954; he discusses not only the politics behind the nomination but reads Forster's *Howards End* and *A Passage to India* in the light of the tension between Tolkien's interests in nationalism and inter-racial cooperation. Thomas Rand follows with a shorter paper on Lewis's coinage of the name *Maleldil* and its linguistic implications, and the articles section closes with Robert T. Tally Jr.'s thoughts on the division of works meant to be whole into trilogies.

The Notes section continues the Inklings-archival theme of the two lead papers with an update on Hugo Dyson by David Bratman, a preliminary study of Robert E. Havard by Sarah O'Dell, and memories of Clyde Kilby by Mike Foster. We also have an intriguing note on the name *Trotter* by Veryln Flieger. We conclude, as usual, with a diverse group of reviews. As part of our celebration, this issue reproduces several pieces of art by Sarah Lucy Beach from earlier issues.

This issue we continue the celebration of our three-year series of golden anniversaries: of the Society this year, of the initial founding of *Mythlore* next year, and of our annual conference in 2019. As part of this celebration we will be pulling together a collection of the best material that has appeared in *Mythlore's* first fifty years; please see the call for nominations on page 122 of this issue for details about how you can participate.

If you would like to keep up with news relating to *Mythlore*, please follow us on Facebook, where we post advance notice of items accepted for upcoming issues, renewal reminders, lists of items available for review, and so forth. If you are involved with a conference related to fantasy literature or teaching a course and would like to have print copies of older issues of *Mythlore* to distribute, please contact the editor at mythlore@mythsoc.org.

A special issue of *Mythlore* on "Divination in Mythopoeic Literature" will appear in Spring 2018, with guest editor Emily E. Auger.

In addition to the members of the *Mythlore* Advisory Board, the Mythopoeic Society Council of Stewards, and our ever-dependable referees, I would also like to thank David Emerson, Cary Hoagland, and Sarah Gail Croft for assistance with quote-checking and proofreading.

—Janet Brennan Croft

