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Editorial

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Editorial

Abstract

This issue of *Mythlore* is the first to include a special section since I became editor in 2006. “Divination in Mythopoeic Fantasy” is the topic, and Emily E. Auger is the guest editor for the content starting on page 160. Her editorial describes the theme and the articles and notes included in this section in more detail.

Our regular content begins with an essay by Patricia Monk on Tyrion Lannister, a central character in George R.R. Martin’s *A Song of Ice and Fire*, whom Monk describes as a fulcrum point within the series. In her reading, the dwarf Tyrion’s experiences can be mapped onto the hero’s journey. He is surrounded by dragon imagery which, in a Jungian interpretation, positions him as a potential heir to the throne of Westeros.

Additional Keywords

George R.R. Martin; Westeros



EDITORIAL

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Guillaume Bogiaris, in “Love of Knowledge is a Kind of Madness,” compares how C.S. Lewis and H.P. Lovecraft, two authors not often set side-by-side, both use and interpret concepts from Plato’s philosophy. Notably, both were familiar with Plato’s allegory of the cave, and both tackled similar issues about the nature of created reality and the place of man within it—but came to vastly different conclusions about what that place is and about what that knowledge can do to a person. Another essay in the Divination section also concerns Lovecraft.

Dorothy L. Sayers, though primarily thought of as a writer of mysteries and plays, a lay apologist, and a translator, began her writing career as a poet. Barbara L. Prescott analyzes the poems in her first published book, *OP.L.*, and in particular tracks a pattern of symbolism relating to Oxford University in the retelling of the story of Helen of Troy in the fifty-one-stanza epic poem “Alma Mater.”

A.G. Holdier makes the case that the theories and definitions of Faerie which Tolkien developed in “On Fairy-stories” can be fruitfully applied to the evolving and expanding Marvel Cinematic Universe, as it ties together its wide-ranging series of superhero films in a vast “visual instantiation of Tolkien’s concept of Faerie.”

And to round out the articles in this section, Giovanni Carmine Costabile asks us to consider, with an open mind, the possibility that tales of the Ali Baba type lent elements to Tolkien’s *The Hobbit*: the treasure, the guardian,

the clever trickery of the hero and his helpers, the salutary lessons about over-reaching greed, all can be found in this broadly-distributed root tale-type as well as in Tolkien's story.

The Notes section for this issue is a tribute to late science fiction and fantasy author Ursula K. Le Guin. David Bratman contributes an overview and appreciation of her career and influence; I provide a bibliography of works by and about her in *Mythlore* and Mythopoeic Press books; and we include a poignant illustration by Pat Wynne from *Mythlore* #56. This is followed by the usual review section, and then the special issue material: essays on H.P. Lovecraft, Stephen King's Dark Tower series, and Susanna Clarke's *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norell*, notes on Tarot in fantasy novels and prophecy in *The Lord of the Rings*, and relevant reviews.

This is the first issue of *Mythlore* produced primarily through the BePress editorial management platform generously hosted by Southwestern Oklahoma State University Libraries. I'd like to express our gratitude to Phillip Fitzsimmons, Reference and Digitization Librarian at SWOSU and our Administrator for *Mythlore* and Society Archives, who has been directing the team adding archival content to <http://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/>.

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, we do still have a number of copies remaining; please contact the editor at mythlore@mythsoc.org.

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 for his assistance with proofreading.

In closing, I am saddened to announce another recent death that was a major blow to our Society. David D. Oberhelman, most recently the Steward for the Mythopoeic Society Awards, and before that Steward for the Mythopoeic Press, was a librarian at Oklahoma State University and passed away due to complications from the flu in February 2018. He wrote reviews for *Mythlore* and *Mythprint* and presented papers or led panels at Mythcon on a regular basis. David's distinctive presence at Mythcon and on the Council of Stewards will be sorely missed.

—Janet Brennan Croft