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## Report on Westercon XXII

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### Additional Keywords

mythopoeic society, mythcon

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## WHAT WE DID AT THE WESTERCON

(as seen by the Mythopoeics; being the memoirs of David of the Upper Marches, supplemented by the accounts of his friends and the lore of the Program Book)

'Twas Friday, July 4th, and all good Westron folk did wend their ways to an extraordinary council known as Funcon II or Westercon XXII. Actual preparation for this event had begun the day before, with the setting up of the art show, huckster tables and conference rooms. For early arrivars there were also a LASFS meeting, an authors' reception and other happenings. However, this account must begin with my arrival on the morning of the 4th.

One of the first previews I had of the con (seen as we drove in) was Ye Program 'Booke of Westercon. Did it have a rich, finely tooled cover of red leather, stained and marked by the passage of many years? Of course not; it was beautifully adorned with a joint color illo done by Tim Kirk and George Barr. A thorough perusal of the Hobbit coloring Book confirmed my expectations of the con, and foretold the way in which the art show would be the center of interest for me and, I think many another Tolkien fan.

Rather than giving a moment to moment account of the con, which space does not allow, I will begin by describing the art show, later mentioning some of the more noteworthy events and people we saw. The show was held in the Nautilus room on the basement level of the Miramar Hotel. We (The Mythopoeic Society) had a corner of the room for our exhibit, which was heralded by a large Mythopoeic banner. Here I saw five goodly and spacious tables groaning under the psychological weight of paintings and sculpture by Tim Kirk, George Barr, Bonnie Bergstrom, Bernie Zuber and many others. There were the originals of the plates from Mythlore, orcs and a Malacandran scene by Tim, some Tolkien sculptures by Steve Kirk, banners by George Barr, paintings by Bonnie and numerous wonders less clearly remembered. At the end of the west table subscriptions and copies of Mythlore were sold, and the monthly bulletin was distributed free. Elsewhere in the show there was also much of interest to Mythopoeic members. Of particular note were the individual displays by George Barr, Tim Kirk, and Mattewillis Beard. The beauty of the art work was marred only by the small white tags (affixed by orcs) bearing the ominous legends "Not For Sale" or "Minimum Bid". Prices were scarcely of halfling proportion, but many, like I, found some consolation at the sketch table, where diligent sifting might produce a Barr or a Rotsler. (Another good way to lose money was the huckster tables, where one could obtain the British copies of Hobbit, LOTR, Smith, and Tree and Leaf.)

Now I must mention some events of the con. Although there were many Keynote Speeches, Theme Panels, debates with or about Harlan Ellison, banquets, etc. of interest to general sf fen, I shall try to confine myself to things of importance like the TSA meeting, the Mythopoeic meeting, the masquerade, and news of the Southfarthing.

The third of these (first in order of time) was beyond all my hopes. Elrond himself was there, in a striking new costume and accompanied by a young entwife hight Bonnie Birchstrom. Also in attendance were Cirdan the Shipwright, Eowyn, a maiden of Dol Amroth and several others. Together they made a striking group, but judges are unpredictable and, alas, our Middle Earth party made it only to the semi-finals.



Special mention should also be made of the Illustrated Woman, who stole the show by coming in a Black Numenorian costume popular in the reign of Castamir.

Next morning (Saturday) at 9:00 AM it was time for the TSA meeting held in the Aviation Room. The first item on the schedule planned by John Sadoski was a slide show of Tolkien Art. This was accompanied by discussion from a panel made up of George Barr, Bjo Trimble, Bernie Zuber and Bonnie Bergstrom. Afterwards, Ed Meskys spoke for a time on TSA business and activities. There was not enough time for the anticipated panel on "Mysteries in The Lord of The Rings" so Glen was asked to speak on his Cosmology article from Mythlore #3.



At 11:00 the meeting of the Mythopoeic Society began with announcements from Glen. The topic of the panel discussion was "C.S. Lewis' Space Trilogy and Man's Near Future" to go along with the overall theme of the con: "The Spectre of Tomorrow". Panelists Glen GoodKnight, Simone Wilson, Rand Kuhl, and Manning MacDonald focused mainly on That Hideous Strength and The Abolition of Man by Lewis.

Sometime around noon, the meeting dissolved and the people scattered to lunch and various other activities. The afternoon passed quickly and toward evening, people congregated once more at the art show, as the silent auction culminated in voice bidding. Tension was high and many hopes were fulfilled or broken as auctioneer Bruce Pelz moved down the lines of art work. (Prices were outstanding --for the artists.) The old story of too much wealth and not enough wit was exemplified by an avid-trekkie who bought George Barr's "The Wood Elves" under the impression that it depicted a pair of Vulcans. In terms of prizes, Tolkien people did much better here than in the masquerade.

The last event of the day was the convention banquet and awards presentation, which I shall not describe, since few Tolkien fan attended it. As of dusky halls of the Miramar fell into complete darkness, I found myself headed to Bernie Zuber's room for a gofinda party (derived through Orkish spelling from the name of its inventor, King Golfimbul.) Such things are better experienced than recounted, so I will hold myself to mentioning some of the interesting people I met there, at lunch, and else where during the con. From the West coast of course came well known members of the Society such as Tim Kirk and George Barr. In addition, there were Alpajpuri, Sherriff of Smials and editor of Carandath, Mattewillis Beard (known to readers of Hoom) and last, but not le ast, Robin Hood (alive, but now, alas, somewhat infirm of mind. He suffers the delusion that he is actually a Creative Anachronists named John DeCles and married to a Tolkien illustrator, the former Diana L. Paxson.

From the East coast came the heart of Niekas and Tolkein Journal: editor Ed Meskys and the secret masters Charlie and Marsha Brown. (Ed had with him some copies of manuscripts by Tolkien and some materials from the forthcoming TJ. Glen and several others of us were able to talk to him quite extensively and the results of that conversation appears elsewhere in Mythlore.)

At last, since I have already doubled the amount of space Glen allowed me, this account must end. Westercon XXII has now been created and can be savored in the minds of those who attended it. If you were not there, may this account encourage you to attend the next con in Santa Barbara. Vale.

# NARNIA CONFERENCE

This is the first conference (to our knowledge) to be held on the seven children's books by C.S. Lewis, known collectively as the Chronicles of Narnia. They are 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. Papers on any aspect of the Narnia books as a whole or separately are acceptable. Deadline for submission is October 30, 1969. Papers may be read by the author or submitted to be read in absentia.

Date: November 20, 1969 (71st anniversary of C.S. Lewis' birth).

Time: From 10 AM to 3:30 PM.

Place: The Theatre of Arts Building, Palms Park, 3050 Overland Blvd.

Los Angeles, Calif. 90064. Take the Overland off-ramp one block north of the Santa Monica Freeway.

Cost: Admission to the Conference is free. The published proceedings of the Conference, including artwork, is \$1.50.

Send orders for the proceedings, possible papers and all other correspondence to: Glen GoodKnight, 6117 Woodward ave. Maywood, Ca.