

10-15-1969

## Bilbo and Frodo's Birthday Party

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### Recommended Citation

Peredhil, Elrond (1969) "Bilbo and Frodo's Birthday Party," *Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature*: Vol. 1: No. 4, Article 5.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/vol1/iss4/5>

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### More Perilous and Fair: Women and Gender in Mythopoeic Fantasy

August 2-5, 2024

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## Bilbo and Frodo's Birthday Party

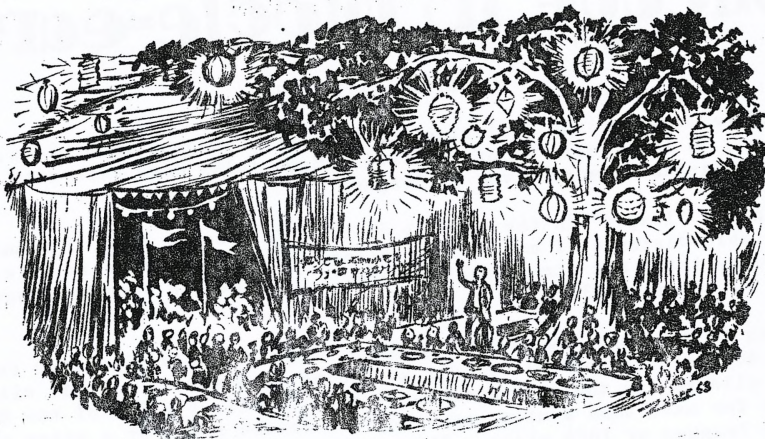
### Additional Keywords

bilbo

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# Bilbo and Frodo's Birthday Party

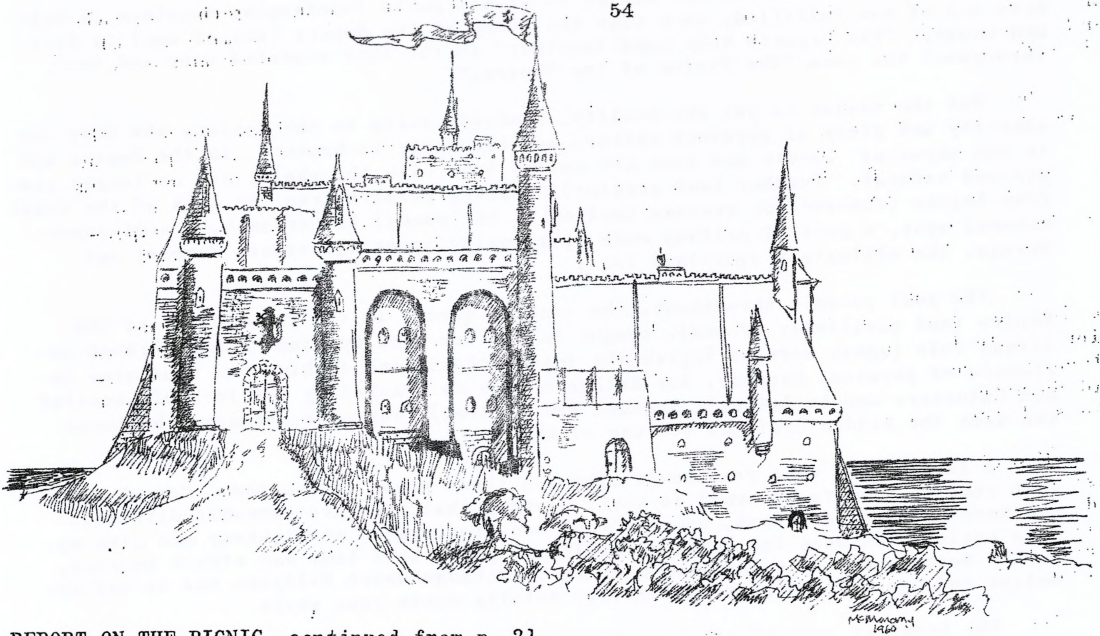
reported by Elrond Peredhil

I arrived early at the site, Cheviot Hills Park in West Los Angeles to get things set up. The weather was warm and sunny in a mild haze. People came slowly at first but by noon we had a very large group, around 250 persons. Many had heard about the picnic from "a friend of a friend." There was no cliquishness with the regular members, the newcomers mingled freely with long established members. The events of the day included a relay race with teams of two rolling mushrooms with their nose to the line and back. There was a folk dance inside the auditorium which was great fun. We had an impromptu dramatic reading of the confrontation of Gandalf and Theoden with Saruman, with Stanley Hoffman as Gandalf, David Ring as Theoden, Jim Wolford as Eomer, a friend of Gerald Rioux as Gimli, Bonnie Bergstrom as the narrator, and myself as Saruman. The Tolkien Quiz was won by John Sadoski, the "man with the computer memory" of Tolkien matters and the quickest raised hand in fandom. Our Auction raised enough money for a bulk mailing permit, thanks mainly to Dwain Kaiser as effective auctioneer.

The costumes at the picnic were better than ever. Someone said that some of them were as good as those that might win a prize at a Westerncon masquerade. David King won first prize as King of The Dead, complete with snaking sword. Other winners were Rick Risemberg and Steve Black as Smaug, Frank Delahoyd as Bombadil, Sandra Jackson as The Hobbit, one of the Monson's children as Gollum; there were non-Tolkien costumes at the picnic, such as Bill Mosher as Peter, High King of Narnia, and Simone as The Fool from Williams' *The Greater Tramps*. There must have been nearly a hundred people in costumes, which gave the picnic a very festive feeling.

Later in the day we had the traditional mathon exchange, the singing of "Happy Birthday" and blowing out of candles, a proclamation received from The Tolkien Society of Sweden congratulating us on this the third annual observance, and to top it off for me personally, myself receiving your award to me - The Mythopoeic Banner - presented by Bernie Zuber and made by Simone Wilson. It was one of the happiest days of my life. Now September 20, 1969 has passed, but the good vibrations continue with ever enlarging reverberations. (continued on page 54)





# REPORT ON THE PICNIC, continued from p. 21

I want to add this note I received in the mail the following week from a girl who had never been to a Mythopoeic function before:

I think the Mythopoeic Society is one of the greatest ideas ever. It brings people together and is so warm and inviting, in a happy, open way. When I first came to the Hobbit party, I felt uneasy and unsure, but everyone was so friendly, I couldn't help but join in as feel as important as everyone else. That's another thing you people are super at, making everyone feel an equal, and just as much a part of the scene as the rest. If there were more poeple like you and the Society, this good 'ole earth might just hold out afterall. Thanks for the happiness.

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THE COUNSEL OF ELROND, continued from p. 3.

I would like to thank all the artists for the top job they are doing. This does not mean we do not want to see the appearance of new artists on the pages of Mythlore. Please note the art work of Bonnie Bergstrom in this issue for this reason: it shows that the Society is interested in all of Tolkien's mythopoeic work, not just The Hobbit and The Lord of The Rings. Bonnie has done the cover from "Leaf by Niggle," a story I think is very important to a more complete understanding of Tolkien's personality and world-view. Bonnie's illos on pages 29, 30, 36, and 53 are from The Adventures of Tom Bombadil. And speaking of Tolkien's other works, let me strongly urge you, if you haven't read it yet, it his "Essay on Fairy Stories," which I feel very important to a corect interpretation of LOTR, particularly his coining of the term "eucatastrophe." All these works mentioned can be had in the paperback, The Tolkein Reader from Ballentine.



MLY