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The Council of Elrond

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The Council of Elrond



The Counsel OF ELROND

by Glen GoodKnight

The other shoe has finally hit the floor; it is official that the Lord of The Rings is to be made into a motion picture. United Artists has obtained the rights. The feeling of most of us is of reservation, since much of

LOTR's power upon us is produced because Tolkien does not give much physical description of the characters, but uses more of an archetypal description to convey the personalities; our own minds and imagination fill in the details. This is one of the genuises of LOTR; each one of us has had a somewhat different experience with it; Tolkien allows us to share in the making of Middle Earth; our own mind rounds out, as it were, his sub-creation.

It is mainly this quality, in my opinion, that will make a motion picture difficult. It is bound to have a jarring effect on those of us who have already read LOTR: somebody else will have filled in the details. However I do not wish to be overly or necessarily negative. Since a motion picture is to be made, the Society feels we must offer any and all help we might be able to give -- without thought of publicity or profit -- to United Artists to the end that the best possible motion picture be made. We are not going to sit back and say "it is impossible to make a good Lord of The Rings motion picture, and then very self-satisfiedly damn it when it comes out. Rather our function is to be a friendly pressure group. We will report any new information as it develops.

There seems to be a question as to which Mythlore is: a fanzine or a literary quarterly (as if these terms were mutually exclusive). As editor I feel it is both fish and fowl (you punsters lay off of this metaphor), and I like it that way personally. Why not (hopefully) have the best of both worlds. I like ther serious scholarly articles to further discuss and probe the genre of literature we are interested in. But although we take our subject seriously, I trust we will not take ourselves as seriously. There is room for humor, whimsy, and a good laugh among friends. The letter column reflects a relaxedness I appreciate - keep it up. I imagine Mythlore would appear a rare bird indeed to those accustomed to serious professional journals, and an odd fish to those engrossed in reading the publications of fandom.

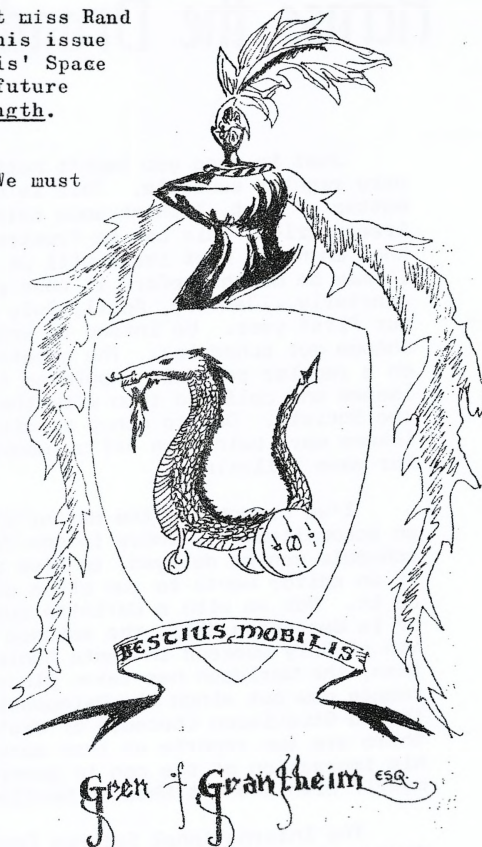
This issue has some very interesting material. One readers has said Mythlore has to be read cover to cover; I trust you do, as space is too precious to waste it. We are pleased to have Dr. Corbin Carnell's appraisal of C.S. Lewis in memory of the sixth year this November he has passed into "the gates of larger life" (In the words of The Book of Common Prayer). Dr. Carnell wrote his Ph.D. thesis on "The Dialectic of Desire: C.S. Lewis' interpretation of Sehnsucht," and excellent study

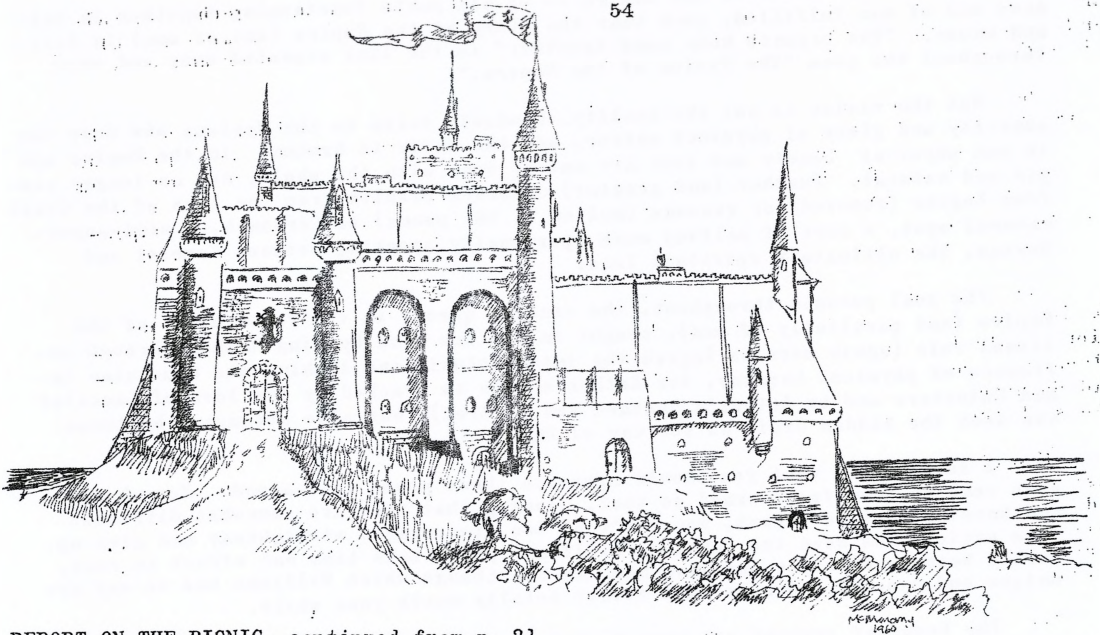
of Lewis' theory and experience of Joy. Don't miss Rand Kuhl's well written articles. We begin in this issue a series of articles on the mythology of Lewis' Space trilogy by Margaret Hannay. We hope to see future articles on Perelandra and That Hideous Strength.

The coat of arms bears some description. We must start with Fred Brenion who is writing a history of the Society as if it were written about three thousand years from now, a la Digging the We'uns which Fred has not read. The history is called the Mythopoeician Chronicles. All proper nouns are mixed up: Fred is Gared Frenion, Bernie is Brandy Zeber, Bonnie is Blanny Blagstrom, and I am Gren Grandtime. But Fred didn't draw this coat of arms, Bruce McMenomy did.

It seems I have called my self the Movable Beast (apologies to Hemingway) because I am traveling around to all four branches, one a week. Thus to Bruce a dragon on wheels, the Bestius Mobilis.

We I have dragged in all this to illustrate my point, which is that the Bestius Mobilis is going to personally slow down. It is obvious from the large sizes of last months meetings and the picnic that the Society is continuing to grow very fast. Since there are usually only four Saturdays in a month, if there is to be more branches founded (and there will) then there will have to be more than one branch meeting on the same night -- and that means I can no longer be ubiquitous. Therefore a reconstruction of the administrative structure of the society is under way and will be in full operation by December or January. Each Branch will have a three person committee responsible for it: the Moderator, The Secretary, and the Treasurer. Each office will have more duties than the office implies; each would be equal in rank. The committee would meet before their branch meeting and confer. Each of these steering committees within commuting distance would meet with me every two months to confer, make overall decisions and plans. This will, we hope, keep us together as the one big happy family we are, and I can devote more time to Mythlore, assisting new branches, and catching up on my correspondence. In the letter area up till now, I guess you could call me the Bestius Imobilis. Ahh, for more time, which next to money for Mythlore, is the scarcest commodity I have. On the other hand I am grateful for my life being filled with knowing and corresponding with and writing for some very wonderful people. On this the second anniversary of the Founding of the Society I raise to salute you. The dream has materialized and fulfilled it self in totally unexpected ways. You and the three and the One have done what a few years ago I would have solemnly denied: eucatastrophe. As Lewis said "the future is bright, the road leads on, but tomorrow is a Monday morning." So excuse me while I get back to work, along with the rest of you.





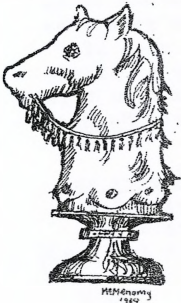
REPORT ON THE PICNIC, continued from p. 21

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

If you have been wondering if your issue of Mythlore is defective because some of the pages are blank, don't worry, that is if they are on the reverse side of full page art. We prefer the leave the other side blank, just in case you like a picture so much that you want to mount it, also so there will not be show-through from the other side. I should also clear up a bit of information left out of the last issue. The Anonymous Poetry was, you guessed it - or did you - composed by a computer! If you thought it not nice but more like N.I.C.E., well..... The bacover on Mythlore, July '69, was done by Tim Kirk, depicting the scene from The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe by Lewis, just before Aslan is killed.

And that plus the fact that the artwork on this page (except for the bottom) and on P. 54, depict things from Narnia done by McMenomy (who also did the Narnia Conference lettering on p. 17. Bruce is 15 and enviously talented) reminds me to again mention the Narnia Conference.

We would appreciate it if you would send in your \$1.50 subscription for the proceedings now, so we can purchase the paper and stencils now so we can get out the proceedings as soon as possible. It will be, as they say in fandon, a one-shot, with both spot illos and full page artwork. I am personally excited about the Conference, hoping that it will further stimulate more people to read the seven Narnia books. Narnia is great and does have many admirers, but of course not nearly as many as LOTR. I think the vast majority of those who enjoy LOTR, would enjoy Narnia very much also. If any of you are on an ego-trip, humble yourself, and go to the children's section of The Public Library where the books are to be found. One must have the faith of a child.... ("and joy be yours in the morning.")

I would like to mention some new books recently out. The first is J.R.R. Tolkien by Cathernie R. Stimpson, Columbia U.P. (Essays on Modern Writers #41). C.S. Lewis has said that to be a literary critic, one should basically like the type of literature he is criticising (e.g. one should not criticise detective stories, unless one likes that kind of story. Liking it, one can then see the particular story's defects within that kind of story. Miss Stimpson violates this necessary consideration, and to me invalidates her literary criticism. She is scathing in her attack on Tolkien, accusing his imagination as "timid and jejune." She seems to be on a political trip, for it seems to me she implicitly implicates Tolkien as being part of the political hypocrisy of the Western World! Well you can't win 'em all. I see I'm out of space and will mention the other new books in the next issue.

