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The Voice of Tash

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The Voice of Tash



The Voice of Tash

by Glen GoodKnight

Finally I get my chance to speak! (Croak!) Lewis gave me a very small speaking part in *The Last Battle*: "Thou hast called me into Narnia, Rishda Tarkaan. Here I am. What hast thou to say?" Not much chance to express myself! But then I did have my second chance at Mythcon I, when I entered the masquerade, pretending to be Glen GoodKnight dressed up as myself. "Thou hast called me into Mythcon, C.S. Kilby. What hast thou to say?" Glen, in his dumb little imitation of me, was kept locked back in his room. He didn't know what a Pandora's box he opened. Now I'm loosed again and have commanded this column: "Thou hast called me into Mythlore, Glen GoodKnight. What hast thou to say?"

GoodKnight thought he'd go as me to prove, to those who were beginning to doubt, that he didn't really think he was Elrond, even though he had come to previous picnics as him. He chose me to show his "other side," as it were. I find this flattery highly impudent. Imitate Tash, will he? Well now he's gotten into more than he bargained for!

Mythlore! What are all you thin-blooded literary dilettanti reading this simpering rag for? Wake up! I'm now forming a new group, much better than you bunch of misdirected optimists. It is going to be called the Miserific Society. Our goal is total power, and the stamping out of simpering goodness. (Since there is some doubt in our ranks that we could actually stamp out goodness, we all agreed at least to poison and weaken its effects.) The Board of Directors will be: Myself, Jadis, Morgoth, Sauron, and the Oyarsa of Thulandra. The following people will serve the Miserific Society thusly: Recording Secretary - Simon LeClerc; Corresponding Secretary - Screenshot; Treasurer - Sir Giles Tumulty; Sergeant-at-Arms - Miss Hardcastle; Social Chairman - Lily Sammlie; Public Relations - Saruman; Information Chairman - John Wither; Orientation Chairman - Professor Frost; Community Relations - Lord Feverstone; Society Expan-

sion - Edward R. Weston; Chaplain - Rev. Straik; Ecology Advisor - Professor Filostrato.

Join the inevitable wave of the Future! Write to Lord Tash, 666 Wayward Avenue, Wormwood, Ca.

I have little else to say to you for the time being, so I'll release Glen for now. Of course, after what I've said, there is little fear that anything he could say could sway you now. (Croak!)

Whew! Messing with Tash really is dangerous! He jinxed this column and issue and left me speechless for four months. It has been that long from the time he spoke and my words here. This issue was nearly done in December. All the articles were typed and pasted up; in fact, everything in the issue was ready except for the proofreading, and the equivalent of about two pages of material to be written by myself to finish the issue. My time from about November on was spent to a very large degree on a matter that is a one-time experience for the Society: incorporation, which included the drafting of the Articles and Bylaws. I don't mean to give the impression I did this alone; certainly not, but doing legal research and the checking and rechecking to make sure everything was done *per forma* consumed many hours. There was an urgency to this. Incorporation should, in the long run, save the Society money, because we hope to get the nonprofit mailing permit with the Post Office (which means lower postage costs, which do mount up!). This is the main reason we are incorporating. Anyway, sorry about the delay of this issue. The next issue is well underway and will have a very good assortment of articles.

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The Inklings II Writers Workshop (begun in February 1971) is organized in the spirit of the Oxford Inklings, in that members bring works in progress to be read and discussed by others present. A periodical of the group will be published shortly.

The Mythopoetic Linguistic Fellowship (begun in March 1971) is interested in "all things linguistic and philological" related to mythopoetic literature. It especially invites corresponding members, and plans to shortly publish Parma Eldalhamberon (The Book of the Elven Tongues).

The Company of Logres (begun in April 1971) uses the image of the Arthurian Mythos as a focus, and is interested in delving into the meaning of myth from many angles, including psychological, philosophical, metaphysical, religious, and literary. It is hoped that relevant material for Mythlore will be generated from this group.

Besides the branches, special-interest groups, and publications, the Society has a yearly literary convention known as Mythcon (see page 23), and in Southern California, picnics every Spring and Fall, where members come from the several branches to meet and communicate in a festive atmosphere.

Obviously much has happened, and is continuing to happen. At the beginning, the Society operated on a kind of common-law system of getting things done. When a change in doing things was needed, it was agreed upon and announced, but with the growing number of branches such a system was not efficient enough to meet the needs. Therefore, beginning in September of this year, the Society began the long and tedious task of writing a constitution. To write such a document when a organization is just beginning is much simpler than (to mix a metaphor) to change skins in mid-stream. During the six-month process, we felt that the Society would benefit in numerous ways by incorporating. Therefore the Society now has Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The formation process involved the membership of the Society, the Council, the Board of Directors, and the assistance of a lawyer. At this date all the preparatory work has been done except for one page of figures, to file with the State. When the Articles are filed and the Society is incorporated, it will save the Society money in its yearly postage costs, since incorporation will qualify the Society for a nonprofit mailing permit.

As a result, we feel that we now have Articles and Bylaws that are viable for a truly national organization. The Society would like to see many more branches across the country join this family of shared interests. Increased sharing of ideas, creativity, and friendship is our goal. Our enthusiasm is expansive, but not absorptive. The Society does not wish to absorb or compete with any other functioning group or organization of like or similar interests. Rather, we would hope for greater communication between all existing groups for the enrichment and benefit of all.

- Glen GoodKnight, Easter 1971