



Mythopoeic Society

mythLORE

A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis,
Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature

Volume 2
Number 4

Article 5

Winter 1-15-1972

Mythcon Reports

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Recommended Citation

Mythlore Staff (1972) "Mythcon Reports," *Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature*: Vol. 2: No. 4, Article 5.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/vol2/iss4/5>

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Mythopoeic Society's Online Midwinter Seminar 2024

17th–18th February 2024: Something Mighty Queer

Submission Deadline: November 30, 2023

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Mythcon Reports

Bernie Zuber has given his Mythcon II report and has covered the highlights, giving his thoroughly enjoyable perspective. I only wish to add a few words of appreciation concerning Mary McDermott Shideler. Talking to her at Mythcon was both stimulating and refreshing. I thought I had come to know her fairly well, but (I cannot say the real Mary) the full Mary, at least as well as one can perhaps know another friend, was not yet known. Her wedding present to Bonnie and I was a copy of her autobiographical *Consciousness of Battle*: an interim report on a theological journey. Reading it in the month after Mythcon was a revelation, both of herself and to myself of depths in myself that my own immaturity had hitherto concealed. I cannot attempt to convey to you the value this book has. I can only heartily and sincerely urge you to read it, and find insights from a fellow human being who has wrestled with the guts issues of life, and herself, and has written a book with extreme honesty and buoyant optimism.

After reading the book and writing her a long letter, she wrote one back and had this to say, in part, about Mythcon:

... all through the autumn I've been blessed with flashes of recollection about Mythcon II. Something will bring to mind a conversation, a face, an event, an idea, and I glow again with the pleasure of being there. And when I've gotten out a copy of *Mythlore* to refer to an article, or the new copy of *Mythprint* comes, I'll have an orgy. So it was Laura Ruskin the Munchkin who writes those wonderful meeting reports... Simone Wilson who wrote the excellent article on Charles Williams' Empire... Bernie Zuber who kept appearing in pictures and text all through every issue of *Mythlore*... I could keep going on almost indefinitely. Dale Ziegler's music, Joe Christopher's closely reasoned arguments.

As you can tell from this, it was the people who most impressed me: their great variety seems to me the strength of the Society. They come to the mythmakers — and the myths — from so many directions, from so many needs, asking such different kinds of questions on such amazingly different levels. I have never seen the power of myth and fantasy so vividly exhibited.

I'd like to stress how important it was for me to see how wide a range the Society covers — from serious, almost intimidating scholarship to just having fun, and from those to whom the mythmakers have communicated a revelation to those who use them as a jumping off point for entirely different forms of thought. Long before it was over, I was out on my feet, but I wouldn't have missed a minute — or a person — in the whole affair.

This year's Mythcon III will be held jointly with the 25th Annual Westercon on the 4th of July Weekend at the Edgewater Hyatt House in Long Beach, California. Our Guest of Honor will be Poul Anderson, well known authors of science fiction and fantasy. We will run on a different schedule from that of Westercon, but will have a combined art show, masquerade, and banquet. Mythcon is planning through its Performing Arts Workshop, a production of "The Return of the Dawn Treader," that will utilize art work slides of the places King Caspian saw on his voyage to the edge of the world and back again. Some other surprises are planned for this production, and I hope as many members of the Society and readers of *Mythlore* will attempt to come. The combined convention is expected to draw over 600.

The Proceedings of Mythcon I is available for sale now. It contains 17 papers plus a written report on the con. The Price is \$2.50. Mythcon II Proceedings contains 7 papers, and will be out by the time you read this. It is \$1.50. Both can be ordered from the Society.



MYTHCON REPORTS