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The Council of Stewards

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The Council of Stewards

positive or negative resonances come to mind.

That great span, taking difficult years and lives to erect, bridges the entrance of a bay, uniting two peninsulas and promoting communication. It is an awesome and splendid sight. In the same year *The Hobbit* was the bridge that brought J.R.R. Tolkien out of relative obscurity into popular notice.

Disney's *Snow White* was a major artistic achievement of the time. It was the first feature-length animated motion picture and a delight in many ways. Who can forget the transformation of the evil Queen into the Witch? Small children cover their eyes in terror. For a nation in the Great Depression the assurance that one's "Prince will come" and the transcendent happy ending was gladly received. But oh, those dwarves! Both Tolkien and Lewis were appalled at their vulgar debasement when they saw the film. What a contrast to Thorin and Co.. It is regrettable that Disney's seven have heavily colored the popular perception of dwarves. Both Tolkien and Lewis' dwarves are a far cry from those, but the damage has been done and will take decades more to overcome.

Fifty years ago was an age hungry for heroes. The Fuehrer had proclaimed the superrace, heir of Nietzsche and Shaw. Great forces were on the move while isolated America limped through the Great Depression. Then, from beyond the stars yet American as apple pie, a new hero was born, complete with his own mythic origins and super powers, albeit upon poorly drawn comic book paper. The appeal and response has been strong and on-going to a certain public. But despite Superman's virtues and deeds, I prefer the more humble heroism of Bilbo Baggins. I respond more readily, identify more easily with his emerging virtues and heroics. This gentle hero is one I can learn from, especially his foregoing of self interest near the end of the book.

Fifty years is a long time for most of us. Much has happened since 1937, but Bilbo Baggins was fared well and continues to inspire new generations.

This year's Mythopoetic Conference at Marquette University, whose theme was *The Hobbit's* 50th anniversary, was an event to be long remembered. Attendees from 25 states and five other nations made this probably the best attended to date. The programming, with more than 80 items, sparkled with quality and substance. The Committee's long and careful preparation resulted with manifest success. Christopher Tolkien spoke several times to audiences eager to hear him. The exhibits of Tolkien's manuscripts, artwork, and books rounded out this very stimulating and pleasurable event for all. Beginning with this issue, we are printing many fine papers given at the Conference, along with other papers and regular features.

The Council of Stewards

This is a brief summary of the Stewards' meeting of May 9, 1987.

Glen Goodknight proposed the Bylaw change that was previously printed in *ML* 50, p. 26. Passed unanimously. Then the statement to the members was proposed by Glen that was printed in the previous issue, p. 26. Lee Speth recommended the previous word "insure" be changed to "provide" and that "inadvertent" be added before "abuse." Passed as amended.

It was agreed that a summary of minutes should not be printed until the minutes of a given meeting have been corrected, if necessary, and approved at

the following meeting.

To better facilitate good communication between the Council and Mythopoetic Conference Committees, Christine Lowentrout moved that a new Stewards position be created, that of Secretary for Mythopoetic Conferences. Christine nominated Paul Nolan Hyde. Passed unanimously.

Jon Lackey and Mike Urban were added to the Society's Honor Roll for past services.

Lynn Maudlin proposed that a new Steward, Diana Pavlic, assume her former position, that of Secretary for Publicity. Lynn also proposed she assume new duties as a Steward, that of Membership Secretary --precise definition to be determined later, but would include P.O. Box mail forwarding and maintenance of the *Mythlore* mailing list on her computer. Passed Unanimously.

Glen moved that the minutes show who voted yes, no, or abstain when a vote is not unanimously passed. He then proposed the creation of a Stewards position as Secretary for the Board of Advisors, and that there was a need for an active BoA. Don King was nominated, but the matter was tabled until the July meeting, where Don would be present. (Don was approved at the July meeting.)

There was discussion as to which address is best for the Order Form which was being updated. Matter to be settled at the July meeting.

David Bratman, as immediate past Chair of the Council, was approved to chair the remaining 1987 meetings as Acting Chair, on account of Lee Speth's resignation as Chair.

Copies of the May 9, 1987 approved minutes are available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope with \$.39 postage to the Recording Secretary: Anne Osborn, 2750 Orange, Riverside, CA 92501. Matters that may need Steward action should be sent to her. General questions about the Society and its interests and activities should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary c/o P.O. Box 6707, Altadena, CA 91001.

Conference Guidelines

One of the necessary elements for a successful Mythopoetic Conference is a group of people in a given area to form a Committee to organize the Conference. For those interested in the possibility of organizing a future Mythopoetic Conference there is a set of Guidelines, available from the Society's Secretary for Mythopoetic Conferences, Paul Nolan Hyde, 2661 E. Lee St., Simi Valley, CA 93065.

Mythopoetic Celtic Stationery by Patrick Wynne

This stationery is available for \$5 plus \$1 in handling. It features four designs, all found in *Mythlore* 35: The Celtic circles portray themes from J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams. Each circle is at the top right of the page and is 3 5/8" in diameter, with a lined border around the page. The fourth design is of the four corners found on page 2 of issues before 50, but much larger in size. The set includes 4 sheets of each design, making 16 printed sheets, 12 blank sheets, plus 16 envelopes. The paper is of neutral but beautifully antique-appearing parchment. Each set makes fine personal stationery both for men and women, and are excellent for a special mythopoetic gift. Send your order to: The Mythopoetic Society, P.O. Box 6707, Altadena, CA 91001.