

Summer 7-15-1992

The Mythopoeic Society

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Recommended Citation

Mythlore Staff (1992) "The Mythopoeic Society," *Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature*: Vol. 18 : No. 3 , Article 13.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/vol18/iss3/13>

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Mythcon 50 Logo and Website Link

The Mythopoeic Society

THE MYTHOPOEIC SOCIETY

The Mythopoeic Society is an international literary and educational organization devoted to the study, discussion, and enjoyment of the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams. It believes these writers can be more completely understood and appreciated by studying the realm of myth; the genres of fantasy; and the literary, philosophical, and spiritual traditions which underlie their works, and from which they have drawn and enriched.

Definition

The word "mythopoeic" (pronounced myth-o-pé-ic) means "mythmaking" or "productive of myths." It is a word that fits well the fictional and mythic works of the three authors, who were prominent members of a unique informal literary circle known as the Inklings, which met in Oxford, England, during the late 1930s through the 1950s. While the writers' works are individually distinct, there are common values, parallel themes, and cross-influences to be found.

Origin and Development

The Mythopoeic Society was founded in 1967 by Glen H. GoodKnight. From its first meeting in Southern California, it has grown to be an international organization. In 1970 it held its first annual Mythopoeic Conference. In 1971 it incorporated as an educational and literary non-profit, tax-exempt organization. In 1972 THE TOLKIEN SOCIETY OF AMERICA merged with it to create a larger and stronger framework. Today its members can be found in all parts of the United States, as well as many other nations around the world.

Membership

Membership in The Mythopoeic Society is open to individuals, and includes participational and voting rights. It is \$5 per person per year. Two or more individuals residing at the same address may apply for joint membership, giving each full membership rights. But they will receive one copy of the publications they have paid for under their joint membership.

Those living outside the USA may pay for their membership, publications, back issues, and other items by using an International Money Order, personal check, or money order in another nation's currency. If foreign currency is used, 15% should be added to the current prevailing exchange rate at the time of ordering to cover conversion costs.

Non-member subscriptions to the publications are available to Libraries, Institutions, and individuals who do not choose membership.

Membership costs, subscription rates, and prices for back issues of the publications and other items are listed on the Society Order Form, which is available on request.

The Mythopoeic Conference

Each year the Mythopoeic Society holds its Mythopoeic Conference, which usually lasts three to four days, providing a variety of activities. Papers, panels, discussions, a musical program, a masquerade, an art show, an auction of books and memorabilia, films, drama, and colorful pageantry are some of the usually scheduled events. Each year the Conference hosts one or more Guests of Honor, who address the Conference. Details of the Conference are printed in advance in *Mythlore* and *Mythprint*.

The Mythopoeic Fantasy And Scholarship Awards

Beginning with 1992, each year at the Mythopoeic Conference Banquet the Mythopoeic Society presents four awards: The Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Literature for Adults, The Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Literature for Children, The Mythopoeic Scholarship Award for Inklings Studies, and The Mythopoeic Scholarship Award for Myth and Fantasy Studies. The Fantasy Awards are given to works of fantasy published during the preceding year, whose outstanding merit best exemplifies "the spirit of the Inklings" for that year. The Scholarship Awards go to works published in the preceding three years that make a significant contribution to scholarship in their respective fields. The Awards are selected by vote of volunteer committees comprised of members of the Society. Members are encouraged to be involved in these selection committees. David Bratman is the Awards Coordinator, and can be written to through the Society post office box.

Discussion Groups

Some Society members participate in meetings of independent, affiliated Discussion Groups. The Society seeks to help these groups by being a clearinghouse of information, and by printing meeting times, dates, and topics in *Mythprint*. Information and assistance in forming a Discussion Group in your area are available on request.

Other Society Publications

MYTHPRINT is the Society's monthly newsletter featuring meeting information, news of the Society and its interests, reviews, editorials and discussion reports. 20 pages, 7" x 8 1/2". Prices for Society members: \$7 for 12 issues, 3rd Class delivery in the USA and Canada; \$10 for overseas surface mail; \$10 First Class delivery in USA and Canada; \$14 for overseas Air Mail. Send subscriptions to: Orders Dept., 1008 N. Monterey St., Alhambra, CA 91801 USA.

MYTHIC CIRCLE is a fantasy fiction periodical, published three times a year, which also includes art, letters, and poems. 50 pages, 8 1/2" x 11". Prices: 3 issues for \$13 for Society members \$18 for non-members, or \$6.50 for the current issue. Write to: P.O. Box 6707, Altadena, CA 91003 USA.

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