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Online Winter Seminar

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IN THIS ISSUE

It is with mixed feelings that I see *Mythlore* return to its regular format. The last issue was 16 pages longer than normal, due to it being the Special Tolkien Centenary issue, featuring color covers. Many extra hours were spent getting all the varied material ready into its final form. Soon after it was mailed it was time to make preparations to depart for the Centenary Conference itself. As a result, this issue was prepared in less than the normal time it takes, despite the excellent contents. Deep thanks to those who helped in its production. The next issue should see us all back to regular stride.

We have three articles devoted in whole or in part to Tolkien. William Stoddard shares with us a paper he gave at the Mythopoeic Conference in 1991 on "Law and Institutions in the Shire." William Senior shares with us his thoughts on "Donaldson and Tolkien," which may spur further comments on this controversial subject. Johan Vanhecke has done a very interesting survey of the critical reception to Tolkien in the Low Countries.

Judith Kollmann brings us one of the very best papers I have seen on Williams' Arthurian poetry. Her insights provide an appreciated key to many of Williams' themes in his richest works: *Taliessin Through Logres* and *The Region of the Summer Stars*.

Jim Herrick of Hope College brings us an excellent consideration of Lewis' technique in *Out of the Silent Planet*.

Craig Payne, who gave us a fascination paper on John Gardner's *Grendel* two issues ago, brings a different look from the perspective of the Zodiac on the same book.

Our features continue tributes to J.R.R. Tolkien, as was promised in the last issue. These are followed by photos from the Tolkien Centenary Conference held in August of this year. These photos barely begin to give an idea of what a transcendent experience the Conference was for all who attended. The text of the song "The Baby and the Bird" is given here. It has been sung at the closing session of Mythopoeic Conferences for a number of years, but this year it was led by its composer, Diana Paxson, in the Eagle and the Child itself. It couldn't be more fitting than that.

On of the many fascinating people I had the pleasure to meet at the Centenary from many countries was Denis Gordeyev. His unusual and excellent artwork will be seen in *Mythlore* starting with this issue.

The "Letters," "Reviews," and "Inklings Bibliography" continue to makes very interesting reading indeed. And Alexei Kondratiev continues with his excellent column of "Tales Newly Told."

If you appreciate what The Mythopoeic Society and *Mythlore* have meant to you, please share it. See page 8. There is still time to participate in the Appreciations.

— Glen GoodKnight