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Letters

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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

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Judith J. Kollmann

Flint, MI

Mythlore means a great deal to me. It fulfills at least two roles, both outstandingly, and it's the only periodical I know of that does -- it is a fan journal and a scholarly publication. It also exhibits good taste, excellent art work, and high quality in all articles, correspondence, columns -- everywhere. I feel it is the only regularly published journal in this area of such quality. *Seven* is also good, but as an annual it just doesn't cover as much ground.

Hope all is well with you and yours, and that I'll see you this summer!

Ruth Berman

Minneapolis, MN

(On *ML* 51) among the articles, the three word-based ones made up an interesting group -- riddles and OED and you-declension. Writers less learned than Tolkien sometimes get their *yous* mixed up, using *ye* as the object of a sentence, or using *thou/thee* in speaking to more than one person.

In Lawrence W. Cobb's "Courtly Love in *The Allegory*," I was distressed by his claim that "the place Feminists claim for" women is "that of ascendancy over men." Feminists claim equality, not ascendancy. Men seem to have considerable difficulty distinguishing between the two words.

Jorge Quinonez

San Diego, CA

I just received *Mythlore* LI; you have done an outstanding job on it. Thanks for publishing my letter in it. Issue 51 of *Mythlore* has a good mix and balance of articles, and among the most interesting ones I've read out of all the *Mythlores* I've received to date, which are only five. Though, I heard many of the articles read as papers at the Mythopoeic Conference in Milwaukee they were more worth reading in print than just hearing. I particularly enjoyed reading Tom Loback's articles on the Elvish populations of the First Age. Mr. Loback's research into Elvish demography seems to be quite thorough. I wouldn't mind seeing more of these sorts of technical articles on Middle-earth and its inhabitants in the future.

Speaking of Middle-earth, I would like to share with the readers of *Mythlore* some apparent conflicts of dates I found, not too recently, in *The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien* (hereafter *JRRT*), regarding the abandoned and unfinished sequel to *The Lord of the Rings* (hereafter *LOTR*): *The New Shadow* (hereafter *NS*). In letter #256, dated May 13, 1964, *JRRT* places the time of the events that unfolded in *NS* "... about 100 years after the Downfall [of Mordor]..." Thus, this would place the year of the sequel in 100 Fourth Age. In letter #338, dated June 6 [?], 1972, *JRRT* states the date of *NS* occurs "... to the end of the reign of Eldaron [spelled Eldarion in *LOTR* by *JRRT*] about 100

years after the death of Aragorn..." Adding the year of Aragorn's death (120 Fourth Age) and the 100 years stated in letter #338 would place the time of *NS* around 220 Fourth Age.

Therefore, the difference in time between the each account given in the two letters is 120 years (220 Fourth Age - 100 Fourth Age = 120 years); quite a bit indeed! This inconsistency in the difference of dates could be explained as a simple error on *JRRT*'s part (since both dates are given in letters eight years apart, *JRRT* might have forgotten the exact date) or perhaps the dates refer to two different drafts of *NS*, one set in 100 Fourth Age and the other in 220 Fourth Age, since we know *JRRT* almost always made more than one draft of a story. Additionally, between the eight years the letters were written, *JRRT* might have had the chance to make a new draft of *NS* in which he changed the date of the story. Who knows? Only those people, like *JRRT*'s son Christopher Tolkien, with access to *JRRT*'s original manuscripts will know for certain the answer to the question on the conflict of dates. When I had a chance to speak to Christopher Tolkien at Mythcon he stated that *NS* might come out in one of the future planned volumes of *The History of Middle-earth*.

SUBMISSIONS

Mythlore actively seeks submissions of articles, art, letters of comment, poetry, reviews and other relevant material. See page 2 for the addresses of the appropriate editor when making submissions.

All written submissions, including articles, columns, letters, poetry and reviews must be in one of two forms:

(1) Type-written submissions must be double-spaced. Two copies should be submitted, including the original.

(2) IBM compatible formatted 5 1/4" floppy disk. The files should be straight ASCII files unless the material has been written using "Word Perfect" (4.0, or more recent, preferred) or "Volkswriter3" (2.0 preferred). Most material produced on a Commodore 64 (using a 1541 disk-drive) is also acceptable. In addition, we have the capacity to receive articles electronically by modem. Please contact Paul Nolan Hyde (see page 2 for address) for further information regarding this possibility.

These forms of submission saves *Mythlore* time and money and in effect represents a much-appreciated contribution to the Society, and is strongly encouraged whenever possible.

The preferred style of articles is the *MLA Handbook*, except that short citations such as *ibid.*, *op. cit.*, and author and page number, can be incorporated in parentheses in the text. Any additional questions concerning submissions should be addressed to the Editor.