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Poem and Glossary

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NOW IS THE TIME

The time for delay in making your definite plans to attend this year's Mythopoeic Conference is past. Now is the time to pay your registration, mark your calendar, and make travel arrangements.

We in the Society are fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the first of its Conferences outside the USA, in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia. Why not combine the Conference with additional vacation time in this very attractive region of Canada.

--JRC-- thanks John D. Haynes for sending him a copy of his work.

Yates, Jessica. "50 Years of Fantasy." Books for Keeps, London, No. 46 (Sept. 1987), [Lewis; Tolkien]

Yates surveys fantasy literature for children written in the fifty years since The Hobbit. Tolkien's children's book did not profoundly affect the genre, but his Lord of the Rings influenced children's fantasies and paved the way for their publication. C.S. Lewis drew upon The Lord of the Rings in his Chronicles of Narnia for their elements of "medieval culture, North European landscape and ... high seriousness of conflict between good and evil where the fate of the world is involved." Authors such as Lloyd Alexander, Ursula Le Guin, and Alan Garner followed in the Tolkien tradition and extended the genre: for example, into the sub-genre Yates calls Folklore Fantasy, the use of ancient myths in a present-day setting. "Traditional folklore and more recent theories about ley lines, standing stones, the Mother Goddess and the Horned God were plundered to find themes for children's stories. Tolkien also drew on the old legends, but he absorbed them into his mythology giving the folklore roots within his own saga."

Noble fantasies have been written by British authors since Tolkien, through the fantasy market has always been less "buoyant" in Britain than in the U.S. Recent authors of special note are Americans Robin McKinley, Meredith Ann Pierce, and Tamora Pierce, and British writers Diana Wynne Jones and Pat O'Shea. David Eddings Belgariad is recommended for its combination of Tolkienian elements with ironic humor. A short list of epic and folklore fantasy in print (in England), not including works by Tolkien and Lewis, is appended to the article.

--WGH--