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In This Issue

In this issue we are pleased to feature the cover art of Partick Wynne, one of this year's Guests of Honor at the Mythopoeic Conference. There is more to the cover art than at first meets the eye. We see Gandalf reading a book in the Library of Minas Tirith, but what exactly is he reading? What follows is an alliterative-verse translation of the book, done by Christopher Gilson independently after seeing the Elvish calligraphy:

Then ~~Master~~-fate did manly fetch
His cunning, clomð that cliff-beneath
The drake and drew his death-wand out.
Then with arm all strength of anger stung
That hero the soft, hord-heaping snake.
When Golden-girt with pangs of pain
In mighty misery mounted up,
He coiled across and clove the gorge
To lay along it, bosom beating,
Until his flames unfurl and fires slake.

Since it was Pat who gave us this translation, we know it meets with his approval and great delight.

The very striking back cover is by Paula DiSante, who has just recently completed her Masters' at the USC Film School. Congratulations Paula on this accomplishment!

Some of the articles in this issue are by people we are already familiar with: games designer and artist Tom Loback, our Reviews editor and Professor of Fine Arts, Nancy-Lou Patterson, and the versatile Patrick Wynne.

Another article is by Mary V. Borhek, author of several books and a number of articles. She argues that *A Grief Observed* was indeed written from Lewis' personal experience, and comments on the nature of his life changing marriage to Joy Davidman.

A paper on how three "modern" authors deal with the matter of Merlin is from Gwyneth Evans, who teaches English at Malaspina College in Nanaimo, B.C., Canada.

An article from a different slant on Tolkien's "New" Mythology is from Edwin Bettridge, who teaches English at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.

We have a paper on Le Guin's short story "Sur" from Barbara Brown, who is a graduate student in English at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Her main interests are feminist literary criticism and 19th century English novels by women.

To round out the issue we have our two regular columnist, Paul Nolan Hyde and Alexei Kondratiev, bring us information on the various system of Runes and Le Guin's latest Earthsea novel, respectively.