



Mythopoeic Society

mythLORE

A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis,
Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature

Volume 19 | Number 1 | Issue 71, Winter

Article 16

Winter 12-15-1993

Artists' Comments

Sarah Beach

Paula DiSante

Patrick Wynne

Denis Gordeyev

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Recommended Citation

Beach, Sarah; DiSante, Paula; Wynne, Patrick; and Gordeyev, Denis (1993) "Artists' Comments," *Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature*: Vol. 19 : No. 1 , Article 16.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/vol19/iss1/16>

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Artists' Comments

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Front Cover: "Prester John Celebrates Mass" by Sarah Beach

The cover piece is taken from Charles Williams' *War in Heaven*.

Everything was veiled; the voice of the priest-king was the sound of creation's movement He stood; He moved His hands. As if in benediction He moved them, and at once the golden halo that had hung all this while over the Graal dissolved and dilated into spreading colour At a great distance Lionel and Barbara and the Duke saw beyond Him, as He lifted up the Graal, the moving universe of stars, and then one flying planet ... and all in light and darkness and peace. *War in Heaven* (Eerdmans, 254-255)

There is, of course, a bit more to the quote that influenced the picture. That's the problem with Williams — all the words that go into building up the image are hard to condense. What I wanted to convey in the picture was the perception of the whole of creation coming through Prester John in the midst of the communion service.

I also decided to let the Graal float in the air, as it were. Somewhere — though I may be misremembering this — it gets said that the Graal can take care of itself. And since Prester John is, if not totally supernatural, a bit more than an ordinary man, I felt that he would know that it would do its job in the ritual without his assistance.

Page 23: "The Red Arrow" by Paula DiSante

He sank on one knee and presented the arrow to Théoden. 'Hail, Lord of the Rohirrim, friend of Gondor!' he said. 'Hirgon I am, errand-rider of Denethor, who bring you this token of war. Gondor is in great need. Often the Rohirrim have aided us, but now the Lord Denethor asks for all your strength and all your speed, lest Gondor fall at last.'

"The Red Arrow!" said Théoden, holding it, as one who receives a summons long expected and yet dreadful when it comes. His hand trembled. The Red Arrow has not been seen in the Mark in all my years! Has it indeed come to that? *The Return of the King*

This isn't exactly a major event from *The Lord of the Rings*, but one that I like and yet have not seen illustrated before. So I decided to try it, and again picked watercolor for the medium. It is said in the text that

Merry choked back a cry; for a moment it seemed to him that Boromir was alive again and had returned. Then he saw that it was not so; the man was a stranger, though as like to Boromir as if he were one of his kin, tall and grey-eyed and proud.

For this reason, I attempted to make Hirgon resemble (somewhat) a drawing of Boromir that I did six years ago.

I also tried, out of deference to his ultimate fate, to give Hirgon a noble head. After all, he will lose said head within a couple of chapters.

The original of this picture is only about 25 percent larger than what appears here. I regret painting so many figures in so small a space. Those teeny-tiny heads almost made me crazy, because I could not do nearly the detail to which I am accustomed.

Dúnhere, lord of Harrowdale (on the left), was given a receding hair line. Most of the figures I have drawn or painted in the past have tons of hair. I mean — how many balding Elves do you know? So I thought I would change gears. I had to pick a human to try this on, and Dúnhere was just sitting there, minding his own business There's also enough chain mail here to choke an oliphant, and after a while it became tiresome to paint. But it is appropriate to the scene — so there it is!

The Center Spread (pp. 34-35): by Patrick Wynne

Patrick Wynne created this piece for the cover of the souvenir program book for the Tolkien Centenary Conference, held at Oxford this last summer. He decided not to write a commentary on it, as, in his words "it speaks for itself." However, there is one small item that ought to be pointed out, especially for those who do not easily read elvish letters. The little book with elvish letters on it actually says "Remember Taum Santoski." Taum, who had assisted Christopher Tolkien with manuscripts in the Marquette collection, died in 1991. He is missed, and Patrick's tribute is noteworthy.

Back Cover: "Helm's Deep" by Denis Gordeyev

This illustration was originally printed in the 1992 Russian translation of *The Lord of the Rings*. The artist's attention both to detail and motion is a delight. We will see more of his work in future issues.

Art Submissions

Mythlore welcomes the submission of new artists to its pages. Both full page and column pieces are encouraged. Full page art should be 7.25" wide by 9.25" tall — it may actually be larger if it is in proportion. Column art should first be 5" wide by 6" to 8" tall, which can be photographically reduced to fit the printed size of the column. Material inspired by or illustrating the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, or Charles Williams is especially sought, but other mythological and fantasy inspired artwork is also welcome. Write directly to the Art Editor, whose address is found on page 2.