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Online Winter Seminar

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In This Issue

There have not been many special issues of *Mythlore* in its twenty-three year history. The last one was last summer: The J.R.R. Tolkien Centenary Special Issue. We are happy to observe with this issue the Centenary of Dorothy L. Sayers. In putting the issue together, I thought it would be a good idea to write an introduction, primarily to point out the connections, unknown to many, between Sayers and the Inklings. Anyone who knows something of the Inklings knows of her friendship with Lewis and Williams, but many do not know how detailed it was. I asked Nancy-Lou Patterson if she could make a list of some of these details; instead she went on to write the excellent introduction on the following two pages.

We owe much to Nancy-Lou in this issue. She was fairly ill in the past few years, and we rejoice in her recovery. At the age of 63, much has happened to her this year. She retired from her teaching in the Fine Arts Department of the University of Waterloo, in Ontario, Canada, and her university made her Professor Emeritus, which is a honor only occasionally given there. Also she has just been awarded the honorary degrees of Doctor of Literature (D. Litt.) at Wilfred Laurier University. This, by the way, is the same degree given to Dorothy L. Sayers by the University of Durham in 1950. Congratulations to the honors and a well earned retirement. Bravo Nancy-Lou!

Besides Nancy-Lou's introduction, and her substantive article on "A Bloomsbury Blue-Stocking," we have Joe Christopher's "The Fragmentary Lord Peter" and Sarah Beach's "Harriet in Rehearsal: Hilary Thorpe in *The Nine Tailors*, in addition to the front and back covers by Nancy-Lou and Sarah."

There is of course material on other topics: Kath Filmer-Davies shares a provocative paper on "Welsh Myth and Contemporary Literature." Even more provocatively we have Mervyn Nicholson's "Bram Stoker and C.S. Lewis. Alan McComas concludes his Tolkien paper "Negating and Affirming Spirit Through Language."

This issue again demonstrates the international participation in *Mythlore*: Nancy-Lou Patterson is a Canadian, as is Mervyn Nicholson, who is the Chairman of the Department of English at the University College of the Cariboo, in British Columbia. Kath Filmer-Davies is Australian, teaching at the University of Queensland. Two of our letters writers are also Australian: the well-known Rhona Beare at the University of Newcastle, Australia, and John Laurent of Griffith University, Australia (who shared a paper on Lewis in the last issue).

As I have said before: ideas do not recognize borders. We welcome participation by all from across-town to the other side of the world.

— Glen GoodKnight