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Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature

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

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# EDITORIAL

## 75 IN 25

It was January 3, 1969, twenty five years ago, that the first issue of *Mythlore* was completed. Looking back over all the issues, all the articles, art work and other elements, and all the people who have contributed to it, is wondrous, sobering, and gratifying.

The Mythopoeic Society was less than 16 months old when *Mythlore* was born. The enthusiasm that lead to the formation of a number of discussion groups in the Southern California area made me eventually realize the importance of a visual and written form of communication with many others who shared the interests of The Mythopoeic Society. I remember well the winter of 68-69, being the year of the infamous Hong Kong flu. I had come down with it at the beginning of December. Most of the issue was already typed on mimeograph stencils, and I thought I would have time to finish the typing and run off the pages during the Christmas break. I still remember typing to finish the stencils, but being woozy with the flu made me make mistakes. In retrospect I needed a word processor to save and correct text. Such did not exist then, and I had to repeatedly use the blue liquid correction fluid (known with contemptuous affection as "corflu"). The fluid emitted a chemical vapor, which over a period of time in close quarters, made me woozy in its own right. I'm afraid this double wooziness caused a number of typographical errors in the first issue. But despite this, the issue was finally finished on the afternoon of the third, just in time to take to a Tolkien birthday party. *Smith of Wootton Major* had only been published in 1967 and the party was based on the feast of Good Children.

The first four issues were mimeographed, with graphics and artwork done on an electronic stencil machine, and then hand stripped in. The covers and other full page art were printed offset. Most of the pages had to be cranked out by hand, sheet by sheet, on a mimeograph machine. Then the pages had to be hand collated and stapled, followed by addressing envelopes, stuffing and mailing. Time and physical effort to produce these, in hindsight, was no small thing.

Since issue 5, the issues have been printed offset, but even so, the time spent in layout, collating and mailing were still great. Since issue 9, the pages have been put in order and saddle stitched by the printer. The text was done primarily on electronic typewriters with carbon ribbons.

The cost of postage to mail out issues became larger and larger. This was one of the major reasons the Society went through a long tortuous process of creating new governing documents, in order to incorporate as a non-profit corporation, which was necessary

to a receive a non-profit discounted bulk mailing rate. We eventually moved to a special second class mailing permit. Postal regulations for bulk mailings is a world unto itself, and must be carefully followed.

In issue 34, we presented the first article done with a computer generated text with a justified margins, left and right. From issue 35 onwards we have used computers to generate text in justified columns, but it wasn't until Issue 55 we were able abandon the dot matrix printed text and move to true typesetting done on a laser printer. For the last twenty issues, we have concentrated on refining how this computer generated and laser printer produced text is produced. We now wait to see what new refinements and breakthroughs in design and production will be used. If *Mythlore* continues to follow four issues a year, it will be the Spring of the year 2000 when we reach the 100th issue. I look forward to passing that milestone. It would take an issue in itself to thank all the individuals who have contributed to *Mythlore*, in so many different ways. To each and everyone I say "thank you very, very much." Onward!

— Glen GoodKnight

## MYTHLORE



JANUARY 1969