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Letters

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LETTERS

Readers' Letters are an important form of feedback and exchange, an opportunity to comment on past issues and to raise questions for others' comments. Each letter that is printed extends the writer's subscription by an additional issue. Letters by disk are most preferred (see elsewhere in the issue in the Submissions announcement for formatting information), but typewritten and handwritten letters are also welcome. **Please send your letters directly to the Editor:** Glen GoodKnight, 742 South Garfield Avenue, Monterey Park, CA 91754 USA

Rhona Beare Newcastle Univ., Australia

I forget if I have already written to say how I enjoyed *Mythlore* LXXI. The picture on page 33 shows you [Glen GoodKnight] smoking a pipe dressed as Elrond? There was an error in the summary of my *Ravenhill* article on page 56: the door of Arthur's Stone faces west.

I am studying the second cave-painting picture in Tolkien's "Fairy Christmas Letter" for 1932. The hairy rhinoceros is from a pebble from La Colombière, Ain; you will find it in P.M. Grand, *Prehistoric Art*, illustration 91. The red stag (left hand side, below the mammoth and left of the bison) is being pursued by the red spearman with

three feathers in his headdress; they come from Vallatorca Cañon, Castellón, Spain (see Denis and De Vries, *The World's Art*, Vol. I). Can anyone explain the man with antennae, one of which ends in a flower? I suppose the "antennae" might be a peacock's tail feathers?

See the right side of the picture, below the head of the large white horse. Above the horse's hindquarters is a goblin drawing of a (?) goblin with antennae. I haven't seen anything quite like these two figures in books on cave paintings, Old Stone Age or New.

[Since you mentioned Elrond, my "identification" with him goes back to before the Mythopoetic Society began. I believe it was in 1966 that Richard Plotz identified with Frodo and W.H. Auden with Gimli. Elrond was the character that resonated within me, and even though I have not always voiced it over the years, this identification has always been in the background. Its newest manifestation can be seen on a certain hunter green Jeep Cherokee with the license plate "1 ELROND." — GG]

Wayne Hammond Williamstown, MA

I wanted to write to... compliment you on the improvements in print quality and typography, and therefore readability, you've been introducing in *Mythlore*. Issue 74 was the best yet... You're making effective use of uncial

and Lombardic capitals for display, the William Morris (?) initials work well, and the incidental typography (e.g. pp. 63, 65) and special headings (pp. 28, 32, 60) are very attractive. But have you noticed that typewriter double quotes are being used, except in the "Inklings Bibliography" entries I keyboard, instead of proper typographic double quotes? And it would be more successful to use for the second and third lines on the cover the solid uncials you use inside, as a contrast to the open lettering of *Mythlore*.

I've recently had occasion to go through all my back issues of *Mythlore* and was struck not only by how much the typographic quality of the magazine has improved over the years, but also by the number of interesting and substantive essays that have appeared — many of which I overlooked at the time, or could not appreciate as well then, or read before I knew their authors personally.

[The layout program used, Ventura, has an option to automatically convert " and " to " and "; and – to —. Somehow this option was accidentally turned off. It has been restored now. Sorry for not catching it earlier. On the subtitle on the cover: I experimented with solid black letters, agreeing that the white filled letters that small are too hard to read. I hope you like the compromise in this issue. — GG]



A REPRISE FROM MYTHLORE 1



1. No, no, sweetie-baby! Hobbit, right? Little man, right? They gotta be cute! 2. Now that's a hobbit!



- O.K. — After Steve Reeves and his vikings rescue you from the forest outlaws, you set out to rescue the princess from Sauron, who's holding her for ransom...