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Editorial

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Editorial

Abstract

Once again we test the limits of both our printer and the U.S. Postal service with the size of this issue of *Mythlore*. Our inbox overflows with essay and note submissions, and publishers WILL keep publishing books we want to review. The next limiting factors we may face, alas, are continuing paper shortages and prohibitions on shipping to certain countries, whether politically or pandemically-imposed. We'll deal with those as we come to them; meanwhile, *Mythlore's* content continues to be available free on our online platform, even as we move into a new phase with the engagement of our longtime printer, Sheridan, as our subscription management service.

Additional Keywords

Martin, George R.R.



EDITORIAL

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For this issue we feature papers on all three of our core authors. We start with Lewis. Ben Reinhard provides a fresh analysis of C.S. Lewis's feud with T.S. Eliot, tracing it not just through his letters and scholarship but, surprisingly, through indirect criticisms of *The Waste Land* in *The Pilgrim's Regress* and *The Silver Chair*. An appropriate topic as this year marks the centenary of the publication of *The Waste Land*. Kelly Webber contributes a Jungian analysis of Orual in Lewis's *Till We Have Faces*. Joseph Thompson follows up his exploration of Charles Williams's Arthurian poetry in *Mythlore* #139 with a closer look at the figure of Merlin.

Turning to more recent fantasy, Inbar Shaham applies Greimas's semiotic square analysis to the family dynamics of the *Game of Thrones* television series, while Joseph Rex Young convincingly argues that Sansa Stark, in George R.R. Martin's source books, is a particularly interesting example of the archetypal Gothic heroine.

Verlyn Flieger, doyenne of Tolkien scholars, expands on her recent riveting online lecture on the missing great Tale of Earendel by also considering a neglected source for Lúthien and Beren's story. Owen Dugan and James Krasner too look at Tolkien's often subversive use of source material, in this case to bolster his deeper themes about sub-creation, time, and loss. Adding another voice to this harmony is Alex Ostaltsev's application of Bakhtinian chronotope theory to Tolkien's project in *The Lord of the Rings*, in a striking conjunction with the two preceding papers.

Taking another path into Tolkien's works, our final two papers range widely in the world of comparative religion and mythology. Kris Larsen delves

into Tolkien's repeated use of twins across nearly all of his works, placing his fascination with this motif in the context of the foundational mythology and religion studies of his day. And Doug Kane provides us with an unexpected Buddhist perspective on one of Tolkien's important yet somewhat shadowy figures, Círdan the Shipwright.

Our first two notes are in conversation with each other as well as with Kane's essay, and might also be read as codas to our 2021 special issue on Ursula K. Le Guin. Robert Steed provides us with tools and vocabulary to better understand Le Guin's Daoist themes and motifs, while Sabina Schrynemakers applies Daoist thought to one of Le Guin's best known and most thought-provoking stories, "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas."

Robin Reid, whom we welcome to our Editorial Advisory Board with this issue, responds to Donald Williams's Note in *Mythlore* #139 and continues the conversation about Verlyn Flieger's 2019 paper "The Arch and the Keystone." Essential to her discussion is the wider recent context of disturbing, even threatening push-back against free academic inquiry into and interpretation of Tolkien's legendarium. An online supplement to her Note documents this phenomenon. We close with a lengthy review section, sure to expand your to-be-read list.

Mythcon 52 will be live in Albuquerque July 29-August 1, 2022, and will include a virtual track; see the ad in this issue for details and a link to the website. Our first Online Midwinter Seminar was a success and will be repeated in February 2023 with the theme "Fantasy Goes to Hell"; follow us on social media for updates.

If you would like to keep up with news relating to *Mythlore*, please follow us on Facebook, where we post advance notice of papers accepted for upcoming issues, lists of items available for review, and so forth. In addition to the members of the *Mythlore* Editorial Advisory Board, the Mythopoeic Society Council of Stewards, and our ever-dependable referees, I'd also like to express my continuing gratitude to Phillip Fitzsimmons, Reference and Digitization Librarian at Southwestern Oklahoma State University Libraries and our Administrator for *Mythlore* and Society Archives, who has been directing the team adding archival content to dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/, and to his assistant Ben Dressler. My thanks also to David L. Emerson for moral support, eagle-eyed proofreading, and keeping the editor optimally caffeinated.

—Janet Brennan Croft