Editorial

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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.
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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, Cirdan 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
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—Janet Brennan Croft