



Mythopoeic Society

mythLORE

A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis,  
Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature

---

Volume 43  
Number 1

Article 1

---

10-15-2024

## Editorial

Janet Brennan Croft  
*University of Northern Iowa*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore>



Part of the [Children's and Young Adult Literature Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Croft, Janet Brennan (2024) "Editorial," *Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature*: Vol. 43: No. 1, Article 1.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/vol43/iss1/1>

This Editorial Introduction is brought to you for free and open access by the Mythopoeic Society at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature by an authorized editor of SWOSU Digital Commons. An ADA compliant document is available upon request. For more information, please contact [phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu](mailto:phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu).

To join the Mythopoeic Society go to:  
<http://www.mythsoc.org/join.htm>

SWOSU<sup>TM</sup>

---

## Online MidSummer Seminar 2025

### More Perilous and Fair: Women and Gender in Mythopoeic Fantasy

August 2-5, 2024

Via Zoom and Discord

<https://www.mythsoc.org/oms/oms-04.htm>



## Editorial

### Abstract

Yes, this is the biggest issue of Mythlore since the 458-page Centenary Conference joint issue with the Tolkien Society in 1996. It's still true that anything over 300 pages triggers a bump in the postage to mail the issue, but the income from our electronic subscriptions can subsidize an occasional issue over this limit—like this one—without an increase to print subscription prices.

### Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

# EDITORIAL

Yes, this IS the BIGGEST issue of *Mythlore* since the 458-page Centenary Conference joint issue with the Tolkien Society in 1996. It's still true that anything over 300 pages triggers a bump in the postage to mail the issue, but the income from our electronic subscriptions can subsidize an *occasional* issue over this limit—like this one—without an increase to print subscription prices.

A few bits of *Mythlore* business before I introduce the contents. A new member has joined our Editorial Advisory Board. Jim Prothero is a well-respected C.S. Lewis scholar, his latest book being *Sunbeams & Bottles: The Theology, Thought, and Reading of C.S. Lewis* (2022). Kris Swank, a regular contributor to these pages, will join the board with the Spring 2025 issue.

We've instituted an automatically-applied Creative Commons license for all works published in *Mythlore*, which protects author rights while making works easy to share and use. For the copyright-curious, you can read about the CC-BY-NC-ND license we use at [CreativeCommons.org](https://creativecommons.org).

We had an intern for this issue, Katherine Joyce, a student at Penn State University; she worked on the layout, quote checking, and copy editing for three items, and she's the first recipient of funds from our recently-established Mike Foster Memorial Publications Assistance Fund ([mythsoc.org/donate.htm](https://mythsoc.org/donate.htm)). I'd be happy to provide similar experiences for other interns; please contact me if you or students you work with might be interested.

We have in the past created special issues of *Mythlore* around our conference or seminar themes. The society is now launching an open-access online seminar proceedings series, starting with *OMS 3: Something Mighty Queer* later this fall. This is another opportunity for potential interns to contact me about getting some hands-on experience with editing.

It's a bit old-fashioned, but I still enjoy arranging the contents of each issue in some sort of logical or thematic progression, even if online journals are rarely read that way anymore. We start this issue with Brian Attebery's thought-provoking Mythcon 53 Guest of Honor Address, weaving together American literature, folklore, and science fiction and fantasy with Midwest settings.

The first group of essays looks at some surprising pairings of authors. Frazier Alexander Johnson places Oscar Wilde and J.R.R. Tolkien in conversation; Sarah R.A. Waters finds the evidence of Shakespeare's influence on C.S. Lewis; G. Connor Salter looks at T.H. White and J.K. Rowling through a

Lewisian lens; while Anne-Frédérique Mochel-Caballero explores a common concern shared by Lewis and Margaret Atwood.

Anna Smol helps us look at Tolkien's "Homecoming" as a play for theatrical performance, not just reading, and finds the faërian drama hidden in one of its most compelling passages. Lorraine Nasser-Sakass studies Lewis's use of rhetoric to emphasize concepts of time across his body of work.

Another group of papers considers female characters and their issues across multiple authors. Clare Moore untangles a pattern of female enslavement in Tolkien's legendarium; John Rosegrant addresses fraught mother/daughter relationships in Garth Nix's works; Alexander Retakh offers an approach to Galadriel informed by her textual history; and Eileen Donaldson locates a model for Terry Pratchett's young witch Tiffany Aching in Celtic goddesshood.

These papers tie thematically to our first two (non-peer reviewed) Notes. Clare Moore and Leah Hagan respond to Dylan Henderson's "'A Bleak, Barren Land'" (*Mythlore* #143) with an impassioned plea for better and more issue-sensitive scholarship, and Verlyn Flieger takes us back to the roots of Lúthien in Tolkien's biography—as well as the story's impact on his own life. In our remaining two Notes, Matthew Thompson-Handell introduces us to a pre-Tolkien *Beowulf* scholar, George Lyman Kittredge, and Sørina Higgins and G. Connor Salter examine William Lindsay Gresham's poetic tribute to C.S. Lewis, "The Friar of Oxford," and his interest in several of the other Inklings. We close, as usual, with an extensive selection of reviews of books about the Inklings, other fantasists, fantasy in general, and a few less-easily-classified items which may be of interest to *Mythlore* readers.

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, University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at Southwestern Oklahoma State University Libraries and our Administrator for *Mythlore* and Mythopoeic Society Archives, who directs the team adding content to [dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/](http://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/), and to his assistant Ben Dressler. My thanks also to David L. Emerson for moral support, eagle-eyed proofreading and quote-checking, and keeping the editor optimally caffeinated. As well I would like to gratefully acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Editorial Assistant Sarah Gail Croft with editing works cited lists to match MLA 9 style, in addition to proofreading and tasks related to the preparation of the *Mythlore Index Plus*.

—Janet Brennan Croft