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THE THEME UNITING THE NINE ARTICLES in this issue is transformation, or if we follow the lead of Charles A. Huttar in his contribution and reference Spenser, *mutabilitie*—a fitting topic for the early days of spring. Here you will find original sources transformed by adaptation, concepts and ideas transformed over time or by new hands, and personal lives transformed and revealed in art.

We'll begin with the personal transformation of an author. Nancy Bunting, in "Tolkien in Love," makes a case for examining Tolkien's work as an amateur visual artist as a key to understanding the important stresses and changes in his life over the winter months of 1912-1913, as he anticipated reuniting with Edith Bratt after their forced separation.

Next, the personal transformation of a literary character: Erin K. Wagner studies the metamorphosis of Orual, the main character of C.S. Lewis's *Till We Have Faces*, under the "divine surgery" of the dream-visions sent by the gods.

While we'll turn next to ideas and concepts transformed, we'll continue to consider dream-visions in my own dissection of Tolkien's concept of "Faërian Drama." I attempt to define its characteristics through the way it changes the lives of dreamers such as Scrooge, the *Pearl* poet, and Smith of Wootton Major.

Grzegorz Trębicki introduces us to Miyuki Miyabe, who deliberately rings changes on Tolkien's concept of sub-creation in his thought-provoking *The Book of Heroes*, a story that turns the virtues of storytelling itself on their heads.

In "'They Have Quarrelled with the Trees,'" Deborah Klein uses the tools of eco-criticism to read Lewis's attitudes towards nature, hierarchy, and the changes wrought by technological progress in the Narnia books and the Cosmic Trilogy.

Joseph Young, building on his paper in *Mythlore* #117/118, calls for a change in critical attitudes towards E.R. Eddison, revealing a deep philosophical and spiritual foundation at the base of the lush, glittering surface of the Zimiamvia trilogy. A careful unraveling of mythological references and evidence from previously unpublished Eddison letters at the Bodleian back up his conclusion.

Film adaptation can be one of the trickier manifestations of literary *mutabilitie*, and the Peter Jackson adaptations of Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*

and *The Hobbit* are particularly controversial. The team of Frank P. Riga, Maureen Thum, and Judith Kollmann makes the case that Jackson's screenwriting decisions actually echo Tolkien's own abortive attempt to revise and change *The Hobbit* to bring it into line with the mood and milieu of *The Lord of the Rings*.

And further pursuing this thread—the author revising his own writing—Josh B. Long examines the fraught concept of “self-plagiarism” in Tolkien's works. Self-plagiarism or self-borrowing is something more than just repeating themes and motifs throughout one's literary career, and Long details examples of scenes, dialogue, character traits, and so on echoing from one work to another, with particular attention to *The Lord of the Rings* and *Smith of Wootton Major*.

We end with Charles A. Huttar's reflections on *mutabilitie* in the Narnian tale which Michael Ward suggests is most ruled by the ever-changing moon, *The Silver Chair*. Huttar weaves together an examination of the characteristics of the classic detective tale, Spenser's *Two Cantos of Mutabilitie*, and the plot and style of Lewis's novel into a satisfying whole.

Items reviewed in this issue include: *George MacDonald: Divine Carelessness and Fairytale Levity* by Daniel Gabelman; *The Gender Dance: Ironic Subversion in C.S. Lewis's Cosmic Trilogy* by Monika B. Hilder; *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* as translated by John Gardner; *Myths of Light: Eastern Metaphors of the Eternal* by Joseph Campbell; *The Riddles of the Hobbit* by Adam Roberts; *The Modern Literary Werewolf* by Brent Stypczynski; *Fairy Tales Reimagined: Essays on New Retellings*, edited by Susan Redington Bobby; *C.S. Lewis's Perelandra: Reshaping the Image of the Cosmos*, edited by Judith Wolfe and Brendan Wolfe; *The Ideal of Kingship in the Writings of Charles Williams, C.S. Lewis, and J.R.R. Tolkien* by Christopher Scarf; *The Ring of Words: Tolkien and the Oxford English Dictionary* by Peter Gilliver et al; *J.R.R. Tolkien: The Forest and the City*, edited by Helen Conrad O'Briain and Gerard Hynes; and two journal issues, *Tolkien Studies X* and *Seven: An Anglo-American Literary Review 30*.

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—Janet Brennan Croft

