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## Ye Ink Stand

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## Mythcon 51: A VIRTUAL “HALFLING” MYTHCON

July 31 - August 1, 2021 (Saturday and Sunday)

<http://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/mythcon-51.htm>



## Mythcon 52: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

Albuquerque, New Mexico; July 29 - August 1, 2022

<http://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/mythcon-52.htm>

### Abstract

Letters from fans in *Mythril* #2

### Keywords

Mythril; Mythopoeic

# Ye Ink Stand



Dear Laura,

Some remarks, authorial and otherwise:

First off, please forgive the quality of typing...I generally pride myself on my typing, but coin typewriters are notoriously unwieldy, so...

If you want to add anything in the way of editorial comment, which is so fondly beloved by writers and editors for the very good reason that it helps them point out to readers things they may not grasp for themselves, you might mention that half of the story of TRULY YOURS is the painter's, which is not written down, only hinted at. He is not really to be blamed, because as we observe, he proved to be the more deluded of the two.

I might suggest, without being asked, that if you should run TRULY YOURS, an appropriate layout might be a wide square of type surrounding a sketch of Lloyd's painting--assuming that the story would fit properly (you see what I mean about coin typewriters--; indeed).

And that is all I have to say, mirabile dictu! Thank you for requesting my stories; see you at the next Inklings meeting. Namarie.

Yours,  
Galen



Dear Miss Ruskin,

As an active enthusiast of literature pertinent to the field of heroic fantasy, I wish to extend to you my most hearty congratulations, in regards to your production of "Mythril." When Miss Newman (ed.--Lois Newman), in the course of a conversation, highly recommended your publication, I decided that it would behoove me to obtain a copy. After a rather thorough examination of your journal, I found my money to have been well spent.

During the course of my association with "fandom" it has been my fortune, more often my misfortune, to view countless amateur publications. "Mythril's" virgin issue avoided the numerous pitfalls which beplague such endeavors. As a literary journal, (ed.--a fiction journal, really; our literary quarterly is Mythlore.) your publication was, in my opinion, an unqualified success. Throughout the entire first edition of "Mythril," the imaginative writing and verse established and maintained a standard of literary excellence that is most uncommon in nonprofessional efforts. In the final analysis, the first issue of "Mythril" was extremely interesting and entertaining.

The stories which appeared within that issue are so enjoyable that I find it to be extremely difficult in deciding which tale I favour the most. After much careful consideration, I have narrowed my selection down to these three works: Lost in Sherwood, by Paula Sigman; The Conqueror, penned by yourself; and The Forging, so aptly written by Bruce McMenomy. It was unfortunate that none of the aforementioned stories were allowed sufficient wordage in which to be fully realized. Still, all these tales bode well of the potential, as professional writers, that their authors have.

Before closing, I should like to comment briefly on your literary endeavour, The Conqueror. While I can make no claims to being an accomplished historian, I have been since childhood preoccupied with the scholarly aspects of history; therefore, I believe that I may speak with some degree of authority. The Conqueror is not only well written, but is based on a rather unique interpretation of the subjugation of the Aztec nation. Unfortunately, your portrayal of Hernán Cortés is quite inaccurate, in an otherwise superlative piece of historical fantasy. I seriously doubt that an experienced soldier, such as Cortés, would have been awestruck by the death of a mere, in his opinion, pagan godlet. After all, had not Cortés assisted in the near-extermination of the native populace of Cuba, before he celebrated his twenty-fourth birthday? (I think he did it before he blew out the candles--ed.) When the superior forces of Narvaez opposed this Conqueror at Cempoalla, did not Cortés move his meager command daringly against his enemy? (ed.--Bernal Diaz del Castillo, who was there at the battle, recounts it in his Discovery and Conquest of Mexico, 1517-1521) Throughout his entire military career, Cortés displayed respect for only cold steel and bold strategy. With these facts in mind, I reaffirm my doubt that your characterization of Cortés was true to form. Still, despite your generosity to the shade of a most bloody reaver, you managed to render a tale well worth remembering.

In closing, allow me to wish you continued success with your every endeavour. I shall be eagerly awaiting your next publication, with the hope that the second issue of "Mythril" exceeds the excellence of the first edition. Until then, may the gods that reign supreme, grant you a lifetime of blessings.

Vaya con Dios,  
F. Tyrone Bailey

Dear Miss Ruskin,

I would like to make a few comments of my own upon your comments...Concerning what the dream of a dragon, in this story, can actually be taken to be, the following. I was thinking in terms of the dream visions of the hero of William Hope Hodgson's House on the Borderland in part, that is, vague, semi-symbolic things without order or exact reference point, which can be interpreted to one's betterment, but never with exact surety. Another possible source is Piers Anthony's The Macroscope. Pictures of actual events seen, but with no way of telling exactly when, or where.

Thank you  
Michael M. Levy