

MYTHOPRINT

The Monthly Bulletin of The Mythopoeic Society

Vol. 19 No. 11

Nov. 1982

Whole No. 30

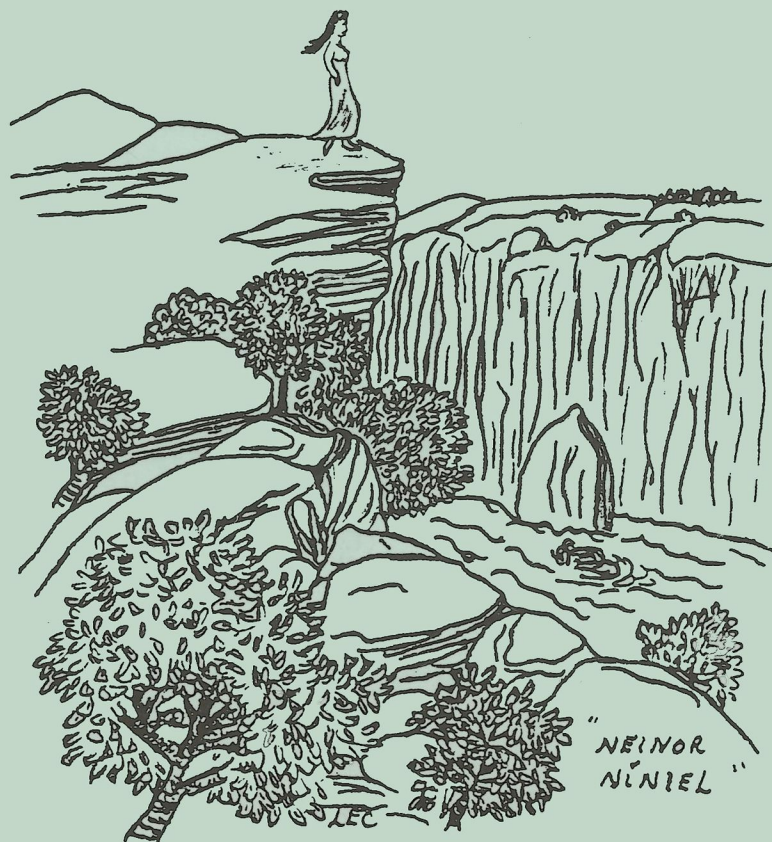


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Lisa Deutsch Harrigan: Page 2

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MASCOT: "The Widget"

Welcome to the New Mythprint!

Hi! We finally did it, and now have our new form of Mythprint in your hands. We hope that you enjoy the larger number of pages and less microscopic print that we can now give you at no additional charge.

This has needless to say been at the cost of our old formatting techniques. If you now wish to submit something to Mythprint in camera ready copy, the columns should be 60 characters of 10 to the inch (that's elite). The usual other conditions apply: make sure your typer is clean, has a good ribbon, and don't end a page in the middle of a paragraph (have you ever tried to paste two halves of a paragraph together?). Needless to say, if all you have is a dead pencil, submit anyway!! I don't mind putting it into the computer!

Artwork is always wanted. Right as of now, WE NEED COVER ART!!! The cover size is 8 1/2 by 7 inches and we need space for our title and issue information. If you really wish to incorporate all that junk in your artwork, let me know in advance. Otherwise, leave space at the top for it. I figure about 2 inches to be on the safe side. And remember, good cover art does not need to go from edge to edge. One thing we can also do is go around artwork in our articles, if we have something that seems to go with a particular article. So, come on all you budding artists, and well practiced ones, too. SEND US ART WORK!!



Also we have finally set display ad rates, if one wishes to advertise and also help to support Mythprint. The rate is \$10 for a full page (8 by 6 1/4). \$5 for a half page (Either 4 by 6 1/4, or 8 by 3). Let yourself be known to your fellow readers!

In case you haven't noticed, each paragraph seems to end with SEND US SOMETHING! This is because Mythprint, by its nature, needs tons of reader support. Without you, nothing happens. Except that my computer gathers dust, and I cry as I try to put another Mythprint together. SO SEND US TONS OF STUFF!! And if you send me too much I might have to go back to microprint again (complain, complain). -- Lisa Deutsch Harrigan.

Editorial

by David Bratman

The ancient argument as to the worth of fantasy and other "nonrealistic" genres of literature made a succinct appearance in a somewhat unexpected place recently. Library Journal invited 22 writers to make short statements for its September 15th issued -- writers whose first novels are being published as paperback originals this fall discuss themselves, their books, and their feelings about the craft of writing. It's worth reading -- they have something to say.

Cindy Memser, author of Eve's Delight, a story set in the here-and-now, apparently dislikes the romances, science-fiction, and fantasy which form most of the books around her. "There is," she says, "entirely too much escapism which is labeled acceptable fiction these days." Her book deals with the "unflinching self-examination of its true-to-life protagonists."

Paul Edwin Zimmer, author of The Lost Prince, might almost be responding directly when he writes, "Book reviewers praise writers who (in journalistic tradition) 'record experience', but the poet -- the 'maker' -- must create experience."

Is fiction craft or art? Is its function an external one, to give the the reader lessons about the world, or an internal one, of artistic beauty for its own sake? A lot of rarified questions like these are echoing around these simple statements, and I shy away from answering them. But, if you don't mind, I'll answer one little question of my own. What do Eve's Delight's "true-to-life protagonists" do? In the author's words, "a model wife and mother for 21 years has the audacity, at age 41, to take on Maxwell's Plum, Plato's Retreat, a 23-year-old stockbroker, and an international intrigue with a dashing Englishman." This is true-to-life? This is not "escapism"? Well, maybe it isn't. But I'll beg Ms. Memser's pardon and go live in a place like Paul Edwin Zimmer's Tarencia instead. It seems just as realistic to me. And a lot more artistically satisfying, too.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

This "First Novelist" feature also reveals much about the state of genres in new literature. Sometimes it seems that fantasy (and SF as well) have lifted themselves out of the genre ghetto they used to inhabit. But from here it appears that the movement is all relative. Everything else has sunk into genreism instead. Even the "mainstream novel" of life crises and finding oneself is a genre with its own set rules now. The well-mined field of historicals dominates the paperback originals here. Some of their authors sound almost desperate in their search for a place-and-time that hasn't been done to death already. Inmixed with these and the modern novels are just two works of science-fiction, and two fantasies (the other is Diana L. Paxson's Lady of Light and Darkness). At least they aren't segregated off, but are in alphabetical order with everyone else. That's a gratifying feeling in itself.

The following issue of Library Journal (October 1) contains a similar feature; this time it's 42 authors of new hardback first novels. The genre distribution is quite different. Very few historicals, but lots of mysteries and thrillers. And, sad to see, virtually no fantasy or anything like it.

Review

By David Bratman

The Year's Best Fantasy Stories: 8, edited by Arthur W. Saha. DAW, paperback, #2.50.

Although this is the eight volume of DAW's annual collection of fantasy short stories, it is only the second one edited by Arthur W. Saha. Lin Carter edited the previous six, and the contrast between to the two editors is very great. Carter's anthologies have plenty of sword-and-sorcery stories, which gave off an atmosphere of Weird Tales circa 1935, and there always seemed to be at least one over-written story by himself. There is nothing like that in this collection. Saha's tastes run toward quite "modern fantasies", in which Peculiar Things happen to innocent people (but not, fortunately, horror stories in which it's Gruesome Things that happen), with a generous helping of real, old-fashioned fairy tales. The eleven stories in this anthology make a finely balanced and pleasant read.

ACTIVITY

Deadline for Activity Calendar
preceding the month of publica-
tion will be due the 1st of Nov-
ember. The deadline for the calendar
to be due the 1st of December. That

Discussion Groups

NEW GROUPS

New York City Area:

A Tolkien Discussion Group. Currently
discussing The Silmarillion.
Margaret Purdy, 307 Kensington Dr.,
Ridgewood, NJ 07450 PH: (201) 447-2723

Oakland-Berkeley, California: STORISENDE
Daniel Oakes, 5452 Locksley St.,
Oakland, CA PH: (415) 547-4817.

CALIFORNIA: North

Monterey Peninsula: THE GREY HAVENS
Barb Mann, 11555 Rancho Fiesta Rd.,
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Sacramento: AVALON

John McPike, 2257 Hurley Way, #98
Sacramento, CA 95825. PH: 924-8510.

*Nov. 20, 1982 (Saturday) 7 PM
Topic to be decided. At Valerie Van
Vranken's, 10328 Mill Station Rd,
Rancho Cordova, CA. PH: 362-2156.

South Bay: KHAZAD-DUM

Pat Witham, 208 Ocean View Ave,
Santa Cruz, CA 95062 PH:423-4036

*Nov. 7, 1982 (Sunday) 1 PM
Anything on Lord Peter Wimsey by
Dorothy Sayers (we decided that we
wanted a whimsical topic) at Pat
Witham's house.

CONTINUED ON NEXT COLUMN

South Bay: KHAZAD-DUM

*December, 1982
Our traditional
Meeting, and Meeting
Crowe's and Amy
Briarfield Ave., R

CALIFORNIA: South

Hollywood-Wilshire: I
Dolores Espinosa,
Alhambra, CA 91801

Orange County: NARGO
Kathryn Benedict,
Santa Ana, CA 92701
LOCATION: University
Irvin Campus.

Nargathron is also
Tolkien Fellowship
Pomona Valley: DESOLA
Meg Garrett, 910
Ontario, CA 91762

San Diego: CAIR PARAV
Pam May, 4060 Fron
CA 92103. PH:(714)

San Gabriel Valley: I
Anne Wilson, 41
Pasadena, CA 91106

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington:KNOSSOS
Mary Morman, 55
Washington, DC 2001

CALENDAR

ar is the first of the month
tion, i.e. December issue infor-
vember. January information will
nk You.

roup Meetings

M

Reading, Eating,
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Wisniewski's, 2674
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MYDGAARD

920 N. Atlantic #E
, PH:284-0848

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1428 S.Broadway,

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ATION OF SMAUG

W. Rosewood Ct.,

VEL

t Street, San Diego,
291-1539

LOTHLORIEN

4 N. Mar Vista,
PH:792- 8512

1 Brummel Ct. NW

2 PH: 554-2661

HAWAII

Honolulu: SAMMATH NAUR

Stephen L. Brown, P.O. Box 22332,
Honolulu, HI 96822 PH:836-4940

*Nov. 7, 1982 (Sunday)

The Earthsea Trilogy by Ursula K.
LeGuinn

*Dec. 5, 1982 (Sunday)

The Princess Bride by William Goldman
Plus: Monthly readings from The
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by
Douglas Adams.

All meetings start at 2 PM and are
located at: Ken Burtness, 59- 557B
Ke Iki Road, Haleiwa, HI PH:638- 7497

ILLINOIS

Chicago: MINAS AERON

Renee (Arwen) Alper, 2436 Meadow Dr. N
Wilmette, IL 60091

(Also the home of the American Hobbit
Association)

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor: GALADHREMMIN ENNORATH

Please contact their secretary:

Dave & Grace Lovelace, 519A Long Shore
Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

PH: (313)769-2896

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis-St. Paul: RIVENDELL
David Lenander, 1472 Summit Ave.,
St. Paul, MN 55105 PH: (612) 244- 6410

NEVADA

Reno: CRICKHOLLOW
Joanne Burnett, 3275 Vickie Lane,
Sparks, NV 89431 PH:329-4809 or
Tina Fields-Murphy & Stephen Gaddis,
1081 Evans Ave., Reno PH:329-3628

OHIO

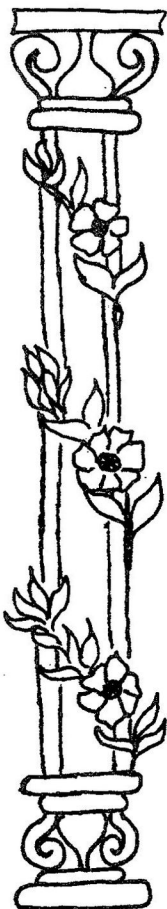
Dayton-Kettering: THE PRANCING PONY
Eileen Ribbler, 1912 Hazel Ave.,
Kettering, OH 45420 PH: 256-1830.
ALL MEETINGS are on the third Sunday
of each month at 7 PM. Contact
Secretary for location.

WASHINGTON

Seattle-Tacoma: EREBOR
James Wallace and Ginger Johnson,
9401- 23rd Ave. NE, #5, Seattle,
WA 98115. PH: (206) 527-4663.
*November 20, 1982 (Saturday) 7 PM
Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean Auel at
Bridget Tierney's, 4207 S.W. Spokane
St., Seattle, WA. PH: 937-2228.
*December, 1982
Reading and Eating Meeting at the
Secretaries'.

SECRETARY FOR DISCUSSION GROUPS (Please
write to her about forming groups, or if
you have any questions):

Margaret Carter
2652 White's Point Dr.
San Pedro, CA 90732



"The River Maid" by Jane Yolen, and "Pooka's Bridge" by Gillian FitzGerald are original stories with all the atmosphere of traditional fairy tales. Tanith Lee's "When the Clock Strikes" is a tables-turned retelling of a genuine fairy story -- to say which one would be to give away the plot. "The Only Death in the City" by C.J. Cherryh tells of a romance between two people in a decadent civilization. They're not a mortal human and an immortal elf, but they could be, and read as such the story has some striking psychological insights into such romances.

The stories that take place in the here and now range from the mysterious seriousness of Lisa Tuttle's "A Friend in Need" and Sam Wilson's "Midas Night" to the light humor of the bureaucratic hell in Bob Leman's "Skirmish on Bastable Street" and the chess-playing mythical beasties in Roger Zelazny's "Unicorn Variation" (winner of the Hugo Award). The oddest story of all is "The Quickening" by Michael Bishop (winner of the Nebula Award). Everyone in the world wakes up somewhere different than where they were the previous night. Can they go home? Will there be anything they can do at home if they get there? Is there anything else they can do with their lives? The answers are surprising, and a little disturbing.

This anthology may not sell well, because much of fantasy's popularity today is in epic world-creation, which doesn't fit well into short stories. That would be a pity, for this is an extremely worthwhile and well-chosen collection of tales.

WorldCon Report

Or other things to do at a Science Fiction Convention

Another delightful thing I was able to do at WorldCon was watch the American Hobbit Assoc.'s latest play called The Greatest Gondorian Hero. The play was written by Renee (Arwen) Harper and Maxine Berkowitz (Smeagol).

I must admit that after a hard day on the battlefield, I have been known to watch a bit of telly. One of the shows I watch is The Greatest American Hero. And it was obvious that I'm not the only one who has discovered that mass insanity.

REPORT: CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

Arwen's and Smeagol's adaptation into a play of some aspects of that show with JRR Tolkien's work was a true fannish bit of nonsense that worked quite well. The acting was, as is usual for fannish acts, somewhat rough. But was more than made up for with terrible jokes and insane ideas.

The roles that stood out were Chuck Huber's Geshlepper, a true bumbling wizard; Smeagol's Rink Hafling, who looked smashing in her Dr. D's; and "Finlaurie" Farkas' Galadriel, who dripped of Southern hospitality.

All in all it was a wonderful laugh. Keep your eyes open, all who visit Chicago, perhaps they will find the courage and do it again at another SF con. -- Lisa Deutsch Harrigan.

Membership Directory

The Mythopoeic Society is planning a Directory for the use of its members. We hope to put you in touch with each other, held new discussion and activity groups form, help you get word of Mythopoeic events and opportunities in your area.

But you have to let us.

It won't happen unless a significant number of Mythprint and Mythlore subscribers agree to release their names for inclusion (in fact, only those who have consented can be included). So please, clip, xerox, or hand copy the form below, sign it, and send it post haste (ie, eftsoons) to Lee Speth, 1008 N. Monterey St., Alhambra, CA 91801. (You needn't bother, if you signed a form displayed at MythCon XIII.)

The Mythopoeic Society may publish my name and address in its official Membership Directory.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mythprint is the monthly bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society, a nonprofit educational organization devoted to the study, discussion, and enjoyment of myth and fantasy literature, especially the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and Charles Williams.

The address for subscriptions and back issues of Mythprint is c/o Lee Speth, 1008 N. Monterey, Alhambra, CA 91801. Subscription, including membership in the Society is \$6 for 12 issues (one year) in the USA and Canada, \$8.50 elsewhere. Please add \$2.40 for first class delivery, if desired. Checks should be payable to The Mythopoeic Society, and may be paid in US or the equivalent UK or Canadian funds.

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Submissions of news, reviews, discussion group reports, letters, art work, and display ads should be sent to: P.O. Box 28427, San Jose, CA 95159-8427.

The Mythopoeic Society also publishes Mythlore, a quarterly journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, General Fantasy and Mythic Studies. Subscription is \$10 per year from Lee Speth, 1008 N. Monterey, Alhambra, CA 91801. Checks payable to The Mythopoeic Society.



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