PROGRESS REPORT # 2
JUNE 9, 2010

MYTHCON 41 COMMITTEE

Chairs: Jason Fisher / Randy Hoyt
Registrar: David Oberhelman
Treasurer: Randy Hoyt
Papers Coordinator: Robin Anne Reid
Publications Editor: Jason Fisher
Dealers Room: Danna Segel

If you would like to volunteer to assist the committee, either in advance work or at the conference itself (room monitors, for instance), please contact one of the Chairs: Jason Fisher at mythprint@mythsoc.org, or Randy Hoyt at mythcon41@mythsoc.org. Thank you.
MYTHCON COMES TO THE LONE STAR STATE

At Mythcon 39 in Connecticut, the first Mythcon ever to be held in New England, we found ourselves reflecting on the fact that Mythcon had also never been held in Texas. The nearest Mythcon has come to the Lone Star State is Oklahoma (Mythcon 37), four years ago; apart from this single instance, Mythcon has never even been close. But considering the size and population of Texas — not to mention the friendliness of Texans! — this seemed an unforgiveable oversight. And so, with a Tookish sense of adventure and a hastiness befitting the young Entings we are (or rather wish we still were), we decided to bring Mythcon to Dallas. It is hard to believe this decision was taken more than a year and a half ago now!

What follows is our second (and final) progress report for Mythcon 41. Here, you'll find more detailed information about the venue; prices for additional options, including single banquet tickets and rates for individual conference days; and a lot of new information on the programming we will be offering! We have also confirmed additional guests for our special writers’ track.

Once again, we would like to extend a personal welcome to all of you, most especially to those of you who have never visited North Texas. Judging by those of you who have already registered, it's going to be what we call a real barn burner!

Mythcon 41 Co-chairs,

Jason Fisher
Editor, Mythprint

Randy Hoyt
Mythopoeic Society Webmaster

The Conference Theme — War in Heaven

From the great epic poems of ancient Greece and ancient India to the Book of Revelation and the Poetic Edda; from John Milton and William Blake to J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams; from Philip Pullman to Neil Gaiman and beyond, theomachy (conflict amongst and against the gods) has been a perennial theme in mythology and mythopoeic literature. Moreover, the conference year of 2010 marks our theme with special significance as the 80th anniversary of the publication of Charles Williams’s novel War in Heaven. We hope to encourage new conversation on Williams, too often overshadowed by Tolkien and Lewis.
GUESTS OF HONOR

AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR

Tim Powers is a science-fiction and fantasy author. He has received numerous awards and nominations for his works, including two World Fantasy Awards, for his novels Last Call (1992) and Declare (2000). He has been nominated for four Mythopoeic Fantasy Awards, most recently for Three Days to Never (2006). His novel The Stress of Her Regard won that award in 1990. Disney Studios recently optioned his novel On Stranger Tides for adaptation into a fourth Pirates of the Caribbean movie.

SCHOLAR GUEST OF HONOR

Janet Brennan Croft is the editor of Mythlore, one of the premier periodicals on the Inklings and fantasy literature. She has published many articles and three books on J.R.R. Tolkien: Tolkien On Film (2005), Tolkien and Shakespeare (2007), and War in the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien (2004), which won the Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies.

ADDITIONAL GUESTS

A. Lee Martinez
Author of A Nameless Witch, Monster, Too Many Curses, Divine Misfortune.

Shanna Swendson
Author of the Enchanted, Inc. series as well as scholarship on such works as Pride and Prejudice and Firefly.

Jason Henderson
Author of Alex Van Helsing: Vampire Rising, The Darkling Band, and Sword of Dracula.

Will Clarke
Author of Lord Vishnu’s Love Handles and The Worthy: A Ghost’s Story.

John D. Rateliff
Renowned Tolkien scholar and author of The History of The Hobbit.

Diana Pavlac Glyer
Renowned Inklings scholar and author of The Company They Keep: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien as Writers in Community.

Suzanne Frank
Director, SMU CAPE Creative Writing Program, and author.

Lou Antonelli
Author of Fantastic Texas, dozens of short stories, and recipient of ten honorable mentions in The Year’s Best Science Fiction.

Author James A. Owen was originally scheduled to participate in Mythcon 41, but he is regrettably no longer able to attend.
SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

The precise starting and ending times for Mythcon 41 are being hammered out now, but for trip planning you can assume that registration will open about noon on Friday and programming is scheduled to begin at 2 PM and will continue into the Society members’ meeting and the closing ceremonies which are expected to finish by 12 PM. The first meal offered as part of the board package is dinner Friday evening. On Monday, breakfast is the final meal on the package. (For those coming early or staying late, there are many restaurants near the conference venue. If you need recommendations for a restaurant for lunch Friday or Monday, or even dinner Thursday, feel free to contact the conference committee.)

Mythcon 41 will offer a mix of scholarly papers, discussion panels, readings, films, Bardic Circle, Guest of Honor presentations, and other programming. We are especially excited to offer a Writers’ Track, in special association with the CAPE Creative Writing Program at Southern Methodist University — more on this below. Our Dealers’ Room will sell books and other items of mythopoeic interest. We expect to have an art show as well, with art pieces for sale in the Dealers’ Room.

Sunday evening will feature the Banquet, presentation of the Mythopoeic Awards, costume presentation, the annual performance from the Not Ready for Mythcon Players, and more fun.

BANQUET ENTRÉE SELECTION

Those attending the Banquet must choose their entrée. If you do not choose, we will choose for you! You may select one of the following (side dishes are the same for both entrées):

- Southwestern Chicken with Roasted Pepper Cream Sauce
- Beef Medallions with Blue Cheese Crumbles and a Demi Glaze Sauce

We have created an online survey where you can make your selection as well as offer us feedback on room preferences. Point your web browser to the following address to fill out the survey:

http://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/41/survey/

SPECIAL WRITERS’ TRACK

We are very excited to offer a full Writers’ Track, for the first time at Mythcon. This will include panel discussions and workshops with a variety of fantasy, science-fiction, and horror writers, most of them from North Texas. A. Lee Martinez, Jason Henderson, Will Clarke, Lou Antonelli, Shanna Swendon, and Suzanne Frank are all scheduled to participate — and of course, our author Guest of Honor, Tim Powers. Amateur and professional writers alike are invited to join our special guests for in-depth conversations about the craft of fiction, with special emphasis on the genres of speculative fiction — including fantasy, science fiction, and horror. The programming will be spread across Saturday and Sunday, four hours each day.

INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS BY AUTHORS

Tim Powers: Taking Your Plot and Characters Seriously
Jason Henderson: Launching a Book Series: From Idea to Bookshelf
Suzanne Frank: Playing God: Building Worlds for Your Fantasy Fiction
Diana Glyer: Doing What the Inklings Did: Practical Advice for Writing Groups
PANEL DISCUSSIONS WITH AUTHORS

No Publisher? No Problem! The Nuts and Bolts of Self-publishing
Working with Agents, Editors, and Publishers
Should Speculative Fiction be Realistic?
Don’t Judge a Book by Its Movie

We are also arranging time for our visiting authors to autograph their books, so be sure to bring copies (or buy them in the dealers’ room). The location and exact times are still being hammered out, but keep an eye on the conference website (http://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/41) for more information.

PAPER AND PANEL PROGRAMMING

We are still finalizing the detailed schedule of events (which we will make available shortly before Mythcon), but we are pleased to give attendees an advance look at accepted papers and panels for this year’s conference. This year’s papers cover a wide range of mythopoeic authors and works, including J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, Neil Gaiman, George MacDonald, J.K. Rowling, Robert Jordan, E.R. Eddison, and others. Panels at Mythcon 41 will cover a similar breadth of subject matter, with a particular emphasis on the conference theme. In addition to plenary speeches and keynote addresses, here is a taste of what you can look forward to:

ACCEPTED PAPERS

Audrey Adams: What’s in a name? A Morphological Approach to The Odyssey
Daniel Baird: Fox-Fairies, Demons, and Ghosts Oh My!: An Overview of Common Fantasy Figures in Asian Children’s Stories
Christine Barkley: Tolkien’s Creativity
Sarah Beach: All or Nothing: The Tendency for Dualism in Apocalyptic Fantasies
Robert Black: Many Meetings in Fangorn: Tolkien’s Ecological Mythopoesis of Gender
David Bratman: Unmasquing Charles Williams
Brian Cambra: The Augustinian Subordination of Friendship in Tolkien’s The Lord of the Rings
Rachel Cantrell: The Messiah, Salvation, and the Devil: The Dichotomy of Good vs. Evil within the Twilight Saga
Joe Christopher: The Magic Flute and “The Nameless Isle”
Joe Christopher: From Despoina to Delta [the Greek letter]
Adrian Cook: The Poet Must Be Pagan: Pantheonic Interdependence in Mythopoeic Literature
Kelly Cowling: Lessons from the Perilous Realm: Mythopoeic Literature as Deautomatizing Practice
Janet Brennan Croft: Psyche in New York: The Devil Wears Prada Updates the Myth
MaryK Croft: Myth is the History We Barely Remember: The Novelization of the Celtic Epona in Morgan Llywelyn’s The Horse Goddess
Ashley Crump: The Battle for the Soul in American Gods and Anansi Boys
Kazia Estrada: Emerging from the Shadows: A Study of Lilith in George McDonald and C.S. Lewis
Mike Foster: “A Child’s Garden of Tolkien”: The Father Christmas Letters, Roverandom, Black & White Ogre Country
Valerie Frankel: Exploring Narnia: The Hero's and Heroine's Journeys in Concert
Dominick Grace: The Last Canadian and the Canadian Apocalypse
Melody Green: Gandalf, Frodo, Aragorn and Harry: Types of Sacrifice in Fantasy Literature
Mark T. Hooker: Reading John Buchan in Search of J.R.R. Tolkien
Lisa Macklem: The Apocalypse on a Budget: Supernatural’s Family Affair
Lynn Maudlin: Through a Glass Darkly, Then Face to Face: War In Heaven Reflected in the Works of Tim Powers
Brian Melton: Into the Trenches of Narnia: C.S. Lewis the Soldier and the Narnian Way of War
Michael Milburn: Art according to Romantic Theology: Charles Williams’ Analysis of Dante Adapted to J.R.R. Tolkien’s “Leaf by Niggle”
Jef Murray: Fanning the Secret Fire: Sub-Creation as a Spiritual Voyage
Jef Murray: A Journey Through Middle-earth: Sketches and Paintings of Tolkien’s World
Jennifer Sawayda: The Man Behind Farmer Giles
Anne Collins Smith: Virtue’s Evil Twin: Draco Malfoy and the Acquisition of Vice
Petra Strassberg: Robert Jordan’s Wheel of Time and the Monomyth
Aaron Taylor: ‘Mirrored in his soul with all its awe’: Cosmological Conflict in Njegoš’s Ray of the Microcosm
Robert Tredray: War in Heaven: Did Williams Really Mean it?
Richard Tuerk: Problems with Rebirth: A Rabbit, a Duck, and a Kitten in Works by Beatrix Potter
Scott D. Vander Ploeg: Agon and Agony: Game to War in Saberhagen’s Swords and Clash of the Titans
Donald Williams: A Tryst with the Transcendentalists: C.S. Lewis on Beauty, Truth, and Goodness Part II: Truth
Joseph Rex Young: Aphrodite on the Home Front: E.R. Eddison and World War II

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Heavenly Battles in the Tolkien Classroom (A Paper Session Panel with Leslie Donovan and Friends)
Are Fantasy and Science-Fiction Social Commentary in Disguise?
Appropriating Divinity: Gods and Other Mythological Beings in Fantasy Literature
Faith and Fantasy: How Authors’ Religious Views Affect Their Fiction

Please note that these programming details are subject to change. The complete schedule of the times and locations for all programming will be made available shortly before the conference.
ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

We are thrilled to offer two special presentations at Mythcon 41. Both take the form of "readers' theatre" pieces. The first has never been performed at Mythcon before (and has only been performed once anywhere, in Oklahoma City this past April). You will not want to miss either of them!

The Major and the Missionary: A Love Story. Presented by Diana and Mike Glyer. From 1968–1973, Warren Hamilton Lewis enjoyed a lively correspondence with Dr. Blanche Biggs, a medical missionary serving in Papua. All of their letters survive, and they give an inside look at daily life during this small slice of history. They also provide uncommon insight into the personality and spiritual life of Warren Lewis. The presentation will begin with some background on this unusual correspondence, followed by a reading from the letters themselves. The excerpts form a strong narrative, almost a short epistolary play, as the Major and the Missionary get acquainted, become close friends, and begin making plans to meet each other in Oxford. (Presenting entirely unpublished material with the permission of the Wade Center.)

“The Masque of The Manuscript”, a play by Charles Williams. Presented by David Bratman and Cast. Charles Williams, poet, playwright, and novelist, worked as an editor for the Oxford University Press. In the 1920s he wrote a series of short plays in verse celebrating the work of the Press, performed by the author and his co-workers for the entertainment of the staff. The plays were published as The Masques of Amen House, edited by David Bratman (Mythopoeic Press, 2000). “The Masque of the Manuscript” is the charming and witty allegory of a scholarly manuscript in search of publication. See her face the severe review of the Librarian and the high gods of Production, Publicity, and Editorial. Will she survive their ruthless editing, and be reborn as a finished book? Join us in July to find out.

STUDENT AWARD

The Council of Stewards is pleased to announce a new award for the best paper presented at Mythcon by an undergraduate or graduate student. This new award is being introduced at Mythcon 41 and has been named in honor of the recently departed Alexei Kondratiev, long-time Society member and himself a brilliant scholar. The deadline for submitting applications has been extended to midnight, June 15, 2010. Final papers are now due to the award committee chair (Janet Brennan Croft) by midnight, June 28, 2010.

For the original announcement: http://www.mythsoc.org/news/mythcon-student-award-announced/

For the news of the memorial to Alexei Kondratiev and extension of the deadline: http://www.mythsoc.org/news/alexei-kondratiev-memorial-award/

Download the application form (in PDF format) here: http://www.mythsoc.org/assets/mythcon-student-award.pdf

The spoils that will go to the victor include the following:

- The winner will receive a certificate, a one-year subscription to Mythlore, and half-off registration for the next Mythcon he or she attends. The winner is also strongly encouraged to submit the paper to Mythlore for consideration.

- The winner will be announced at the Mythcon banquet and on the society’s website, as well as in Mythlore and Mythprint.
REGISTRATION

The following membership rates for Mythcon are good through July 2, 2010. After this date, tickets will only be available at the door.

- $80 for Mythopoeic Society members
- $90 for non-members
- $60 for students
- Free for children (under age 12)

We are also pleased to announce rates for individual days:

- $15 for Friday, July 9
- $30 for Saturday, July 10
- $30 for Sunday, July 11
- $15 for Monday, July 12

If you are uncertain of your Society membership status, please contact our Membership Secretary, Marion Van Loo, at membership@mythsoc.org.

ROOM AND BOARD

Please Note: We have sold all the rooms in our room block at the hotel. We can continue to sell additional room and board packages through the middle of June, as long as the hotel has vacancy. If you would like to stay at the conference venue, please book your room through the conference website right away!

MEALS AND LODGING

Full room and board packages include lodging for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night, along with the following meals: Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday breakfast, lunch and banquet ticket; and Monday breakfast. Additional nights with breakfast are available on Thursday and Monday night. Packages may be purchased online at: www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/41/room/

Conference Packages

- Fri, Sat, Sun with Meals - Double Occupancy (per person): $235.00
- Fri, Sat, Sun with Meals - Single Occupancy: $325.00

Additional Night Before Conference

- Thursday with Fri breakfast - Double Occupancy (per person): $45.00
- Thursday with Fri breakfast - Single Occupancy: $80.00

Additional Night After Conference

- Monday with Tues breakfast - Double Occupancy (per person): $45.00
- Monday with Tues breakfast - Single Occupancy: $80.00
MEALS ONLY

Those who will not be staying on site may purchase a package with meals only: this includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, Sunday lunch and banquet ticket.

Commuter Meal Package: $125.00

Those who will not be staying at the hotel or eating any of the meals can still purchase a ticket for the banquet on Sunday night.

Sunday Banquet Ticket: $50.00

TRAVEL

Air travelers have two options. Dallas Love Field (DAL), the smaller airport, served primarily by Southwest Airlines, is located approximately 13 miles (20 minutes) from Crowne Plaza Suites. Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), the larger airport, served by all major airlines, is located approximately 18 miles away (25 minutes). The Hotel airport shuttle offers a discounted price of $15 per person each way.

PLEASE NOTE: For instruction on how to use the Hotel airport shuttle service and a voucher for the $15 rate, print off the last page of this progress report and take it with you to either of the two Dallas/Fort Worth area airports.

Other options for transportation to and from the conference venue: taxis should cost about $35 each way from Love Field, or about $45 each way from D/FW Airport. Both airports offer rental cars, and for those renting a car at either airport or driving from nearby cities, free parking is available at the conference venue.

Dallas public transportation also serves both airports. Conference attendees can take local light rail from the airport, make one transfer at Union Station, and then catch a free shuttle from the stop nearest the hotel. You can also take Amtrak and switch to local light rail at Union Station. For those considering public transportation, please note that this is a very leisurely way to reach the conference venue! From Love Field, you can expect the trip to take as much as an hour and a half. From D/FW Airport, you can expect the trip to take close to three hours. This depends, of course, on your arrival time. The advantage, of course, is that public transportation is dirt cheap!

For assistance planning your routes, please consult:

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART): [http://www.dart.org](http://www.dart.org)
Amtrak Rail Service: [http://www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)
THE VENUE

Mythcon 41 will be held at the Crowne Plaza Suites in Dallas, Texas.

Crowne Plaza Suites
Dallas – Park Central
7800 Alpha Road
Dallas, Texas 75240

For driving directions and other travel information, visit:
http://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/41/venue/

The Crowne Plaza Suites Park Central hotel in Dallas, Texas is the winner of the prestigious Torchbearer Award and is recognized for Meeting Service Excellence. Positioned in the heart of the North Dallas Park Central Business District and five minutes from “Restaurant Row,” this all-suite, boutique-style hotel is designed to meet the demands of corporate and leisure travelers in the North Dallas area. The hotel's impressive event facilities comprise nearly 12,000 sq ft, making it “The Place to Meet” in North Dallas.

While in Dallas, Texas, guests flock to renowned Galleria Dallas and North Park malls for incredible shopping. Other nearby attractions include Myerson Symphony Hall, the West End of downtown Dallas and Pizza Hut Park. Hotel amenities include free hotel-wide Wi-Fi access, outdoor/indoor pool, a Fitness Center, concierge services and free parking.

For long-time Mythcon attendees who may be more accustomed to the university campus model, some of the benefits of our venue this year:

- Everything is now under one roof; there will be no walking across a sprawling university campus in the heat of the Texas summer;
- Instead of cramped and Spartan campus dormitory rooms with twin-sized bunk beds, we will be staying in hotel suites with double- or king-sized beds;
- Our hospitality suite will be a real hospitality suite, with a refrigerator, wet bar and other amenities, not a converted dormitory room;
- Instead of eating in the campus cafeteria — and possibly sharing the space with sports teams and cheerleading camps (we all remember this!) — we will be dining in the hotel’s restaurant and bistro;
- All the facilities are generally much nicer and more modern, and we will have the cooperation of a capable and experienced staff;
- The hotel provides low-cost shuttle service to and from both airports; in addition, they offer free shuttle service to any location within a five-mile radius, including restaurants and public transportation stops.
MYTHCON 41 REGISTERED MEMBERS (as of June 9, 2010)

Adams, Audrey
Agan, Cami
Alexander, Edward H.
Antonelli, Lou
Baird, Daniel
Barkley, Christine
Bartholomew, Kathleen
Beach, Sarah
Bergstrom, Paula
Black, Robert
Bratman, Berni Phillips
Bratman, David
Bridgon, Floyd
Brittain, Cora
Burns, Sandra
Callahan, Bonnie
Cambra, Brian
Cantrell, Rachel
Christopher, Joe
Christopher, Lynn
Clarke, Will
Claypool, Gavin
Coopersmith, Anne Osborn
Cowling, Kelly
Crane, Christopher
Croft, Janet
Croft, Sarah
Croft, MaryK
Crowe, Edith
Crump, Ashley
Dean, Margaret
Decker, Sashana
DeTardo, Merlin
DiSante, Paula
Donovan, Leslie A.
Emerson, David
Estrada, Kazia
Estrada, C.J.
Farrell, Eleanor
Fisher, Jason
Ford, Judy
Foster, Jo
Foster, Mike
Frank, Suzanne
Frankel, Valerie
Gilion, Christopher
Glyer, Diana
Glyer, Mike
Glyer, Sierra
Grace, Dominick
Green, Melody
Grover, Leah
Guerin, Greg
Guerin, Karen
Henderson, Jason
Henrich, Christopher
Hodge, Mary
Hodge, Rosamund
Hooker, Mark
Hostetter, Carl
Houghton, John Wm.
Hoyn, Randy
Hunnewell, Gary
Hunnewell, Rachel
Hunnewell, Sylvia
Kalescki, Carol M.
Kapsalis, Mary Jo
Lawnicki, Nick
Leckelt, Aleta
Leonard, Bruce
Mackdem, Lisa
Martinez, A. Lee
Mauldin, Lynn
McElwee, Ginger
Melton, Robert
Milburn, Michael
Mitchell, Philip
Murray, Jef
Nyman, Amy
Nyman, Bert
Oberhelman, David
Powers, Serena
Powers, Tim
Rateilff, John D.
Coulter, Janice K.
Rauscher, Autumn
Rauscher, Bonnie
Rauscher, Emily
Rauscher, Eric
Rees, Shelley
Robin, Doris
Roper, Denise
Rushlau, Lynn
Sawayda, Jennifer
Smith, Arden
Smith, Owen M.
Smith, Anne Collins
Speth, Dolores
Speth, Lee
Stoddard, William H.
Strassberg, Petra
Sturgill, Joshua
Svetova, Ekaterina
Taylor, Aaron
Thomas, Hannah
Tredray, Robert
Tuerk, Richard
Vanderploeg, Scott
VanLoo, David
VanLoo, Marion
Wagner, Wendell
Williams, Don
Young, Joseph

The Mythopoeic Society is an international literary and educational organization devoted to the study, discussion, and enjoyment of the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and mythopoeic literature. We believe the study of these writers can lead to greater understanding and appreciation of the literary, philosophical, and spiritual traditions which underlie their works, and can engender an interest in the study of myth, legend, and the genre of fantasy. Find out about the Society's activities at: www.mythsoc.org.
UPON ARRIVAL AT DFW AIRPORT:

- In the baggage claim area you will find the Ground Transportation Information Board. Dial "005" to connect you to the Yellow Checker Shuttle dispatch center. They will direct you to the Yellow Checker Shuttle loading zone.
- The Yellow Checker Shuttle loading zone is outside the baggage claim area on the curb, at the orange signs marked “Shared Ride Yellow Checker Shuttle”.
- Usually there is a Yellow Checker Shuttle on the curb. If you called from the baggage claim information board, he will arrive within minutes to transport you to the Crowne Plaza Dallas Suites Hotel.

UPON ARRIVAL AT DALLAS LOVE FIELD AIRPORT

Yellow Checker Shuttle loads outside the baggage claim area next to the taxi loading. We encourage you to call (214) 841-1900 and your shuttle will arrive in a few minutes.

Welcome to Dallas, Texas • Dispatch (214) 841-1900