

Mythcon 42

Progress Report #1

April 27, 2011



July 15 - 18, 2011
Albuquerque, New Mexico
<<http://www.mythcon.org>>

Mythcon 42 Committee

Chair: Leslie Donovan

Papers and Panels: Janet Croft

Promotions and Publications: Jenny Mason and Jason Fisher

Writers' Track: Zach Watkins

Artists' Track: Jonatha Kottler

Registration: Bethany Abrahamson, Megan Abrahamson, and David Oberhelman

Hotel and Meals: Jennifer Sawayda

Logo Design: Jef Murray

If you have questions or would like to volunteer to assist the committee, either in advance or at the conference itself, please contact the Committee Chair, Leslie Donovan, at <mythcon42@mythsoc.org>.

Mythcon in the Land of Enchantment

For the first time in its history, Mythcon 42 will be held in New Mexico, whose state motto, fittingly, is “The Land of Enchantment.” The last and only other time a Mythcon was held in the desert southwest was 31 years ago when Mythcon 11 was hosted in Reno, Nevada. Because of this, the Society Stewards decided it was past time to revisit this part of the country and solicited a Mythcon proposal from Leslie Donovan. A professor at the University of New Mexico, Leslie jumped at the chance not only to show Mythies the enchantments of New Mexico, but also to introduce many of her students and local colleagues to the joys of a Mythcon. With this in mind, she solicited the help of a student group for which she serves as faculty advisor. This group, the UNM Hobbit Society, along with a committee of varied professionals, will host this year’s Mythcon 42 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from July 15th through July 18th, 2011.

In addition, after the spectacular success of Mythcon 41 in Dallas, the Mythcon 42 committee decided that “attendees’ comfort” and “reasonable options” would be our two motivating forces (along with providing great papers, engaging events, and fabulous Mythcon traditions, of course!). So, accommodations this year will again be at a local hotel (more about the hotel’s amenities under “venue” later in this report) and some options for customizing meal plans have also been made available this year.

New Mexico is a state full of rich cultural traditions and fascinating mythologies. Native American figures such as Kokopelli and Coyote, Hispanic folklore about La Llorona and El Cucui, as well as conspiracy stories about Roswell aliens and Chupacabra, this land is populated with an astounding array of native mythologies and oral storytelling that we expect to intrigue Mythcon attendees more familiar with other traditions. So, the Mythcon 42 Committee and the UNM Hobbit Society warmly invite all types of scholars, presenters, students, and special guests to join us in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for another amazing Mythcon set on our ancient desert sands under endless skies with mythical sunsets.

Our Conference Theme is:

Monsters, Marvels, and Minstrels: The Rise of Modern Medievalism

The year 2011 marks the 75th anniversary of both C.S. Lewis' publication of *The Allegory of Love* and J.R.R. Tolkien's lecture “*Beowulf: The Monsters and the Critics*.” Spanning the early Anglo-Saxon/Scandinavian heroic legacies and late Continental French-inspired romance traditions, these authoritative works of scholarship dramatically changed academic discussion on their medieval subjects. In addition, their literary reinterpretations laid the groundwork for the modern medievalism that now informs so much modern fantasy literature, Inklings or otherwise. To commemorate these important anniversaries, Mythcon 42 invites reflection on the impact of these critical works and how they offer new ways to view the fantastic in earlier texts as well as how they initiated many of the approaches modern fantasy applies to its reading of the medieval. We expect our location to encourage discussion of connections between Native American and Hispanic mythological and fantastic traditions and those mythopoeic legacies from the European and Mediterranean cultures.

Guests of Honor



Author Guest of Honor

Catherynne M. Valente

<<http://www.catherynnemvalente.com>>

Catherynne M. Valente is the author of the two-volume series *The Orphan Tales* (consisting of *In the Night Garden* and *In the Cities of Coin and Spice*), which won the 2008 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award. Her urban fantasy novel *Palimpsest* also was nominated for the 2010 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award.

Scholar Guest of Honor

Michael D.C. Drout

<<http://acunix.wheatonma.edu/mdrout>>

Michael D.C. Drout is a Professor of English at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, where he teaches Old English (Anglo-Saxon), Middle English, medieval literature, fantasy, Tolkien, and science fiction and writing. His scholarship is focused on tenth-century English literature and culture, meme-based theories of culture, and the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. Drout won the 2003 Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies.



Additional Confirmed Participants

Daniel Abraham <<http://www.danielabraham.com>>

Author, whose works include *The Long Price Quartet* and *The Dragon's Path*

Verlyn Flieger (1998 and 2002 Mythopoeic Scholarship Award Winner) <<http://mythus.com>>

Scholar, whose works include *Tolkien On Fairy-stories*, *Interrupted Music* and *A Question of Time*

Ty Franck <<http://www.danielabraham.com/?tag=ty-franck>>

Author, works include the *InterGalactic Medicine Show* and *Leviathan Wakes* (under his James Corey pseudonym)

Jane M. Lindskold <<http://www.janelindskold.com>>

Author, works include *Wolf* series, *Thirteen Orphans*, and *Five Odd Honors*

Marek Oziewicz (2010 Mythopoeic Scholarship Award Winner)

Scholar, whose works include *One Earth, One People: The Mythopoeic Fantasy Series of Ursula K. Le Guin*, *Lloyd Alexander*, *Madeleine L'Engle* and *Orson Scott Card*

Melinda Snodgrass <<http://melindasnodgrass.com>>

Author, works include episodes of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Wild Cards* series, and *The Edge* series

Leslie Stratyner

Scholar, whose works include *Fantasy Fiction into Film: Essays*

Ian Tregillis <<http://www.iantregillis.com/index.cfm>>

Author, works include *The Milkweed Triptych* and the *Wild Cards* series

Robert E. Vardeman <<http://www.cenotaphroad.com>>

Author, works include *Cenotaph Road* series, the *Swords of Raemllyn* series, and *The War of Powers* series

Carrie Vaughn <<http://www.carrievaughn.com>>

Author, works include the *Kitty Norville* series, the *Wild Cards* series, and *Discord's Apple*

And many more!

Schedule and Events

The Conference Committee is still finalizing with the exact starting and ending times for Mythcon 42, but for trip planning purposes attendees can assume that registration will open about 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 15, with programming scheduled to begin around 2:00 p.m. Mythcon will have programming throughout the days on Saturday and Sunday. The Society Members' Meeting and Closing Ceremonies are planned to finish by 12:00 noon on Monday, July 18. The first meal offered as part of the meal package is dinner Friday evening. While the last official meal in the meal package will be the banquet on Sunday evening, breakfast on Monday is included in the cost of all hotel rooms. For those coming early or staying after the conference, the hotel has its own restaurant and several restaurants are within reasonable walking distance of the hotel.

As always, Mythcon 42 will offer a mix of scholarly papers, discussion panels, readings, Guest of Honor presentations, and other programming. While we are still working on acquiring vendors for our Dealers' Room, we are likely to have sellers offering new and used books, jewelry, soft sculpture characters, costume art, and other items of mythopoeic interest. We also expect to exhibit and have for sale art by local and regional artists.

Evening programming will feature Mythcon staples such as Bardic Circle, masquerade contest, and conviviality in the Hospitality Suite. In addition, the Society's Stewards will host a meet-and-greet reception for conference-goers on Friday evening, after which the UNM Hobbits are considering an optional outing for attendees wishing to see the last Harry Potter movie on opening day. For Saturday evening, the committee is working on hosting a special presentation of Southwestern mythology and folklore related to our conference theme. Our annual banquet on Sunday evening will feature the presentation of the Mythopoeic Awards, the annual performance from the Not Ready for Mythcon Players, and more fun.

At the time of this report, we have accepted twenty-four papers and two panels, with several more of each promised to come soon. This year's papers cover a wide range of mythopoeic authors, including J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Dante Alighieri, George MacDonald, Neil Gaiman, J.K. Rowling, Roger Zelazny, Nancy Farmer, Susannah Clarke, and others. In addition to presentations and panels grounded in the conference theme, a sampling of topics so far span a wide spectrum of subjects, such as Norse and Celtic motifs, Vedantic thought, medieval architecture, Persephone figures, Dungeons and Dragons, wartime themes, Alaskan Native Americans, fantasy poetry, Transcendentalism, gendered monsters, and, of course, werewolves and vampires!

Writers' Track

Following the successful tradition established at last year's conference, Mythcon 42 will offer a Writers' Track of at least five panel discussions designed to give a variety of practical tips and aesthetic advice for aspiring and experienced fantasy and science-fiction writers. Confirmed panel members for these sessions are all published writers mostly from New Mexico or Southern Colorado. These writers are Daniel Abraham, Ty Franck, Jane M. Lindskold, Melinda Snodgrass, Ian Tregillis, Robert E. Vardeman, and Carrie Vaughn. Along with learning about the craft of fiction from professional writers, our Writers' Track will provide great autograph opportunities!

Artists' Track

In addition to the Writers' Track, for the first time ever Mythcon 42 also plans to offer an Artists' Track of two or three panels. While we are still working on organizing this group of sessions, we expect to have several local or regional artists provide discussions on what it takes to be a professional artist. Members of these panels will be well published or exhibited artists, whose work uses fantasy, mythological and science fiction themes.

Mythcon 42 Call for Papers

Monsters, Marvels, and Minstrels: The Rise of Modern Medievalism

The year 2011 marks the 75th anniversary of both C.S. Lewis' publication of *The Allegory of Love* and J.R.R. Tolkien's lecture "Beowulf: The Monsters and the Critics." Spanning the early Anglo-Saxon/Scandinavian heroic legacies and late Continental French-inspired romance traditions, these authoritative works of scholarship dramatically changed academic discussion on their medieval subjects. In addition, their literary reinterpretations laid the groundwork for the modern medievalism that now informs so much modern fantasy literature, Inklings or otherwise. To commemorate these important anniversaries, Mythcon 42 will invite reflection on the impact of these critical works and how they offer new ways to view the fantastic in earlier texts as well as how they initiated many of the approaches modern fantasy applies to its reading of the medieval.

While legacies inherited from Anglo-Saxon, Celtic, Scandinavian, Biblical, and Classical cultures will be obvious subjects, papers and panels that explore mythological and fantastic works from other early traditions (such as Native American, Asian, and Middle-eastern) are also welcome, as are studies and discussions that focus on the work and interests of the Inklings (especially J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams), of our Guests of Honor, and of other fantasy authors and themes. Papers from a variety of critical perspectives and disciplines are welcome.

Paper abstracts (250 word maximum), along with contact information, should be sent to the Papers Coordinator at the e-mail address below by May 6, 2011. Please include your AV requests and the projected time needed for your presentation. Time slots for individual papers are one hour (45-minute paper plus discussion) or 1/2 hour (20-minute paper plus discussion). Panels consisting of related short papers may be proposed for a 90-minute time slot.

Participants are encouraged to submit papers chosen for presentation at the conference to *Mythlore*, the refereed journal of the Mythopoeic Society.

Undergraduate and graduate presenters are encouraged to apply for the Alexei Kondratiev Award for Best Student Paper.

Submit Paper and Panel Proposals to:

Janet Brennan Croft, Papers Coordinator

Head of Access Services, University Libraries, University of Oklahoma

[<jbcroft@ou.edu>](mailto:jbcroft@ou.edu)

Student Awards and Financial Assistance

Alexei Kondratiev Award for Best Student Paper

The Council of Stewards gives one award for the best paper presented at Mythcon by an undergraduate or graduate student. This award was introduced at Mythcon 41 and was named in honor of Alexei Kondratiev, long-time Society member and himself a brilliant scholar, who died in 2010. All applications for this award must meet these requirements:

- An application form (see format and requirements below) must be submitted to the committee chair, Janet Brennan Croft, at <jbcroft@ou.edu>, at least 30 days before the first day of Mythcon. (Deadline for 2011 is June 15.)
- The finished paper must be submitted electronically to the chair at least ten days before the first day of Mythcon. (Deadline for 2011 is July 5.)
- The paper must follow *Mythlore* style guidelines and should be between 4,000 and 9,000 words long. Guidelines may be accessed at: <<http://www.mythsoc.org/mythlore/submissions>>.
- Applicants must be accepted in or currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at the time their abstract was submitted.
- Applicants must attend Mythcon and present the paper to qualify for the award.
- Winners will receive a certificate, a one-year subscription to *Mythlore* and half-off registration for the next Mythcon they attend. He or she 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*.

Application Form (must include the following items in this order)

Name:

Mailing address:

Institution:

Major:

Status:

Title of paper:

Abstract of paper (up to 250 words):

Glen GoodKnight Memorial Scholarship Fund

For scholars needing financial assistance, the Mythopoeic Society offers one or more Glen GoodKnight Memorial Scholarships each year. Formerly called the Starving Scholars Fund, this fund was renamed to honor the founder of the Mythopoeic Society in 2010. Awards from this fund are meant to partially defray the costs of Mythcon registration, room, and board, but they are not typically targeted toward travel expenses. Scholars may request the application form for these awards from the Papers Coordinator, Janet Croft, at <jbcroft@ou.edu>. Completed applications also should be submitted to the Papers Coordinator. Preference will be given to persons presenting a paper or participating on a panel, though others are not automatically excluded from consideration. The Papers Coordinator, in consultation with the Mythopoeic Society Council of Stewards and the Conference Committee, will then make the final award(s). Award(s) will consist of membership in the conference or credit toward other conference expenses.

The deadline for applying for funds is normally two weeks after the deadline for paper abstracts; for Mythcon 42, the deadline will be May 20, 2011. Decisions on grants will be made within two weeks of this deadline. Applicants will be notified if they have been awarded funds.

Registration, Room and Board

Conference Registration

The following membership rates for Mythcon 42 are good through May 6, 2011:

\$75 for Mythopoeic Society members

\$85 for non-members

\$55 for students

Free for children (under age 12)

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

Hotel Lodging

This year, attendees will make room reservations directly through the conference hotel:

MCM Elegante Hotel

Toll free: 1-866-650-8900

Rate: \$81/night + 13% tax *

To make reservations, you must call by phone and reference "Mythcon 42" to get our special rates. Online reservations through the website will not qualify for our special conference rate. The special rate for regular rooms is available for single or double occupancy; this works out to be less than \$280 for Friday through Monday.

- All rooms include a full, hot breakfast buffet each morning.
- All rooms receive 2 complimentary drink tickets from the bar for each evening.
- All rooms are non-smoking.
- Rollaway beds are provided free of charge, as long as you request them in advance through the hotel.

The hotel will honor the Mythcon special rate for up to 3 additional nights before the conference (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) and 3 nights after the conference (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday).

Meals

Meal packages and banquet tickets may be purchased through the Mythcon 42 website at <<http://www.mythcon.org>>, under the Room and Board link. You may also pay by personal check, made out to "The Mythopoeic Society" and sent by regular mail to the address below:

Leslie Donovan, Mythcon 42 Chair

c/o University Honors Program

MSC06 3890

1 University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM 87131, USA

Meal Package (Fri dinner, Sat lunch/dinner, Sun lunch/banquet), \$120

Banquet only (Sunday), \$45

Additional Meal Option:

Our arrangements with the hotel allow us to work with conference attendees who do not want the full meal package or will be traveling with family or friends who may not want the meal package; please contact the Mythcon 42 Committee at <mythcon42@mythsoc.org> to work out your custom details.

Travel Information

Venue

All Mythcon 42 programming and events will be held at the MCM Eleganté Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico. By hosting our conference at a hotel instead of a college dorm, attendees will enjoy the advantages of comfortable double or king-sized beds, working with helpful and knowledgeable hotel staff, moving between presentations in one building rather than across a campus in summer heat. This particular hotel offers a charming, friendly environment at budget prices and with lots of amenities to make Mythies very comfortable. Not only does our hotel have a name (MCM Eleganté!) Most fitting with the spicy, quirky flavors of New Mexico, but we are also thrilled by the wonderful amenities it will provide Mythies, such as:

- Easy access to an Interstate highway (I-25)
- Full, hot breakfast free for all guests
- On-site restaurant
- Full service bar
- Room service available
- 2 complimentary drinks from the bar for each guest
- Indoor pool, hot tub and sundeck
- Free wireless Internet throughout the hotel
- Complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport, malls and historic Old Town
- Gift shop on premises
- Several restaurants nearby
- Fitness center
- Business Center
- Handicapped accessible rooms

Contact information for the MCM Eleganté Hotel is below:

2020 Menaul NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107
Toll free: 866-650-4900
Local: 505-884-2511
Fax: 505-881-4806
<<http://mcmelegantealbuquerque.com>>

Airport

Air travelers will fly to the Albuquerque International Airport, which is approximately 15 minutes driving distance to the MCM Eleganté Hotel. This airport is served by most major airlines, including Southwest.

Free Hotel Parking

For those driving their own vehicles or renting cars at the airport, the hotel offers free parking.

Free Hotel Shuttle To/From Airport

As availability permits, the MCM Eleganté Hotel offers free shuttle service to/from the airport. You may schedule this shuttle with the hotel reservations desk when you reserve your room. If you need wheelchair accessible transportation, contact the Conference Committee Chair, Leslie Donovan at <ldonovan@unm.edu>.

Mythcon 42 Registered Members

As of April 27, 2011, the following 66 people have registered for Mythcon 42. At least 10 others have confirmed their intention to register soon.

Abrahamson, Bethany	Leonard, Bruce
Abrahamson, Megan	MacCoull, Leslie
Alexander, Edward	Mason, Jennifer
Beeman, Jessica	Mathews, Patricia A.
Bratman, Berni	Maudlin, Lynn
Bratman, David	McCall, Anna
Catanach, Dawn	McElwee, Ginger
Chatterton, Megan	McEnroe, Frederick
Christopher, Joe	Mitchell, Felicia
Christopher, Lynn	Oberhelman, David
Coopersmith, John	Oziewicz, Marek
Croft, Janet	Powell, Karla
Crowe, Edith	Rauscher, Autumn
Dean, Margaret	Rauscher, Bonnie
DeTardo, Merlin	Rauscher, Emily
DiSante, Paula	Rauscher, Eric
Donovan, Leslie	Reid, Jill
Emerson, David	Reid, Robin
Fisher, Jason A.	Semper, Phillipa
Foster, Joanne	Shaw, Matthew
Foster, Mike	Simon, Deborah
Freed, Maxine	Smith, Arden
Gilson, Christopher	Speth, Lee
Hallam, Andrew	Strassberg, Petra
Harrigan, Harold	Svetova, Ekaterina
Harrigan, Lisa	Thomas, Hannah
Harris, Jerry	Van Loo, Marion
Hattery, Jordon	Wagner, Jr., Wendell
Henrich, Christopher	Watkins, Zach
Kapsalis, Mary Jo	White, Kriss
Kare, Mary K.	Williams, Donald
Larsen, Julia	Winegar, Astrid
Larsen, Justin	Wisniewski, Amy

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 <<http://www.mythsoc.org>>.