Mythcon XXXIX
The Valkyrie & the Goddess: The Warrior Woman in Fantasy

Program Booklet
Mythcon XXXIX
The Valkyrie & the Goddess:
The Warrior Woman in Fantasy

Mythcon 39 Committee:
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August 15-18, 2008
Central Connecticut State University
New Britain, Connecticut

Guests of Honor:
Marjorie Burns and Sharan Newman

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Guests of Honor
Scholar Guest of Honor: Marjorie Burns

Marjorie Burns is an English professor at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. Born in 1940 in Portland, Oregon, her Ph.D. is from UC Berkeley and focuses on the nineteenth-century British novel. She has been on the faculty of Portland State University for over thirty years, where she teaches courses on nineteenth-century British literature, J.R.R. Tolkien, Norse and Celtic mythology, and more. She has lectured on Tolkien throughout the United States, as well as Australia, Norway, England, and The Netherlands. She has twice lived in Norway (once as a Fulbright professor). She has published on nineteenth-century British authors, on J.R.R. Tolkien, William Morris, and John Ruskin.

Amongst her numerous publications, Marjorie has vastly contributed to Tolkien scholarship with her book Perilous Realms, as well as her contributions to The J.R.R. Tolkien Encyclopedia, Mythlore, and chapters for collections such as Tolkien’s Legendarium. Marjorie has also co-written a book exploring the work of geologist J. Harlen Bretz and the flood that shaped the Western United States. She is working with Co-author Douglas A. Anderson on J.R.R. Tolkien: Interviews, Reminiscences and Other Essays. Marjorie has contributed introductions to the Alethes Press editions of Morris’ translated Icelandic Sagas.

When not teaching or writing, Marjorie Burns is a mother of four, a traveler.

Programming with Marjorie Burns

- Scholar Guest of Honor Speech; after Opening Ceremonies, Saturday morning, Torp Theater (Davidson Hall)
- Panel Discussion: “The Valkyrie & the Goddess: Women in Mythopoeic Fiction”; Saturday, 3:30-5:30pm, Lecture Hall (Copernicus Hall)
- Panel Discussion: “Fairy Stories: A Discussion of On Fairy Stories” and the Importance of Faerie in Our World; Sunday, 10:00-11:30am Lecture Hall (Copernicus Hall)
a kayaker, a rock climber, and a lover of adventures. Marjorie lives with her husband, Don S. Willner, in Washington State at the base of a dormant volcano in the Cascade Range.

--adapted from www.marjorieburns.com

Publications by Marjorie Burns

Articles
- “Tracking the Elusive Hobbit [In Its Pre-Shire Den],” Tolkien Studies, Vol. IV, 2007, 200-211.

Books
- Perilous Realms: Celtic And Norse in Tolkien's Middle-Earth. Published by University of Toronto Press, 2005.

In Progress

Chapter Contributions
Sharan Newman is a medieval historian and author. She took her Master’s degree in Medieval Literature at Michigan State University and then did her doctoral work at the University of California at Santa Barbara in Medieval Studies, specializing in twelfth-century France. She is a member of the Medieval Academy and the Medieval Association of the Pacific.

Rather than teach, Newman chose to use her education to write novels set in the Middle Ages, including three Arthurian fantasies and ten mysteries set in twelfth-century France, featuring Catherine LeVendeur a one-time student of Heloise at the Paraclete, her husband, Edgar, an Anglo-Scot and Solomon, a Jewish merchant of Paris. The books focus on the life of the bourgeoisie and minor nobility and also the uneasy relations between Christians and Jews at that time. They also incorporate events of the twelfth-century such as the Second Crusade and the rise of the Cathars.

For these books, Newman has done research at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique France Méridionale et Espagne at the University of Toulouse and the Institute for Jewish History at the University of Trier, as well as many departmental archives.
The Catherine Levendeur mysteries have been nominated for many awards. Sharan won the Macavity Award for best first mystery for Death Comes As Epiphany and the Herodotus Award for best historical mystery of 1998 for Cursed in the Blood. The most recent book in the series The Witch in the Well won the Bruce Alexander award for best Historical mystery of 2004.

Just for a change, her next mystery, The Shanghai Tunnel is set in Portland in 1868. The Shanghai Tunnel allowed Sharan to explore the history of the city she grew up in. She found that the history she had been taught in school had been seriously whitewashed. Doing research in the city archives as well as the collections at Reed College and the Oregon Historical society was exciting and eye-opening. Many of the “founding fathers” of Portland turn out to have been unscrupulous financiers. Chinese workers were subject to discrimination and there was an active red light district. On the other hand, Portland in the post-Civil War period also saw some amazingly liberal movements. Women’s rights were an important issue as was religious toleration. Even at that early date, preserving the natural environment was hotly debated. This is the world in which Emily Stratton, the widow of a Portland merchant and the daughter of missionaries to China, finds herself.

Sharan’s non-fiction The Real History Behind the Da Vinci Code is in encyclopedia format and gives information on various topics mentioned in Dan Brown’s novel. Following on that she has just completed The Real History Behind the Templars which provides a grounded and fascinating history behind the legendary Order made appealing to academics and non-academics alike through her open approach to a vivid history. Wildly popular in history and medieval studies courses, Sharan has also written “Six things that "everyone knows" about the Middle Ages that aren’t true” (available on her site) which explores popular fallacies about the Middle Ages.

Sharan Newman lives on a mountainside in Oregon. --adapted from www.sharannewman.com

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Publications by Sharan Newman

Short Fiction

Novels
- The Guinevere Series
- The Catherine LeVendeur Novels
  - The Witch in the Well. Forge Books, 2004
Heresy, Forge Books, 2002
• To Wear The White Cloak, Forge/Doherty, 2000.
• The Difficult Saint, TOR Books, 1999.
• Strong As Death, Forge Books, 1996.
• The Devil's Door, Forge Books, 1994.
• Death Comes As Epiphany, TOR Books, 1993.

Non-Fiction

• The Real History Behind the DaVinci Code, Berkley, 2005.
• The Real History Behind the Templars, Berkley, 2007.

Additional Guests: Verlyn Flieger

Verlyn Flieger is a Professor in the Department of English at the University of Maryland at College Park specializing in myth studies and comparative mythology. She teaches a sequence of graduate and undergraduate myth courses that offer Celtic, Arthurian, Hindu, Native American, and Norse myth.

Concentrating on modern fantasy with a special focus on the works of J. R. R. Tolkien, Professor Flieger’s publications include Interrupted Music, Question of Time: J. R. R. Tolkien’s Road to Faërie, the winner of the 1998 Mythopoeic Award for Inklings Studies; Splintered Light: Logos and Language in Tolkien’s World; Tolkien’s Legendarium: Essays on The History of Middle-earth co-edited with Carl Hostetter and winner of the 2002 Mythopoeic Award for Inklings Studies; and her fictional works Pig Tale, The Doom of Camelot: “Avilion: A Romance of Voices” and Seeker of Dreams: “Green Hill Country.”

She is editor of the first critical edition of Smith of Wootton Major, which importantly includes: a facsimile of an early draft of the story, Tolkien’s hitherto unpublished “Time Scheme” and character description, his essay on the nature of Faërie, as well as editorial Notes and Commentary.

Professor Flieger is co-editor with Douglas A. Anderson and Michael Drout of Tolkien Studies, a yearly journal devoted to scholarly examination of the works of J. R. R. Tolkien.

For more information about Verlyn Flieger, visit her site http://www.mythus.com/

Programming with Verlyn Flieger

• Paper: “Fate and Free Will in Middle-earth,” Sat. 7:15-8:15pm; Torp Theater (Davidson Hall)
• Panel: “Fairy Stories: A Discussion of ‘On Fairy Stories’ and the Importance of Faërie in Our World,” Sunday, 12:15-1:45; Lecture Hall (Copernicus Hall)
Ted Nasmith was born in Goderich, Ontario, in the mid-fifties. His father was in the Canadian Air Force, stationed in nearby Clinton, and his earliest memories are from a magical three-year stay in France. Ted’s childhood involved a series of moves, and in the mid-sixties he moved to suburbs of Toronto. When he entered high school, he was advised to enroll in a commercial art program he hadn’t known existed. Prior to this Ted always assumed that his habit of drawing constantly was an elaborate hobby at best. During those formative years, he spent hours drawing pictures, mostly of spaceships or airplanes or battles. Whatever stresses were being endured on the outside were mitigated by drawing and other creative pursuits.

High school training in various art subjects provided him with an excellent learning environment, and he gained much confidence in his abilities. In his third year, on his sister’s recommendation, he discovered J. R. R. Tolkien’s The Lord of the Rings. That became an immediate new focus for the artist. Discovering Tolkien had a very profound effect on him and helped lead to much that he now counts most significant in life. It opened up a dormant love of lost and misty times, myth and legend. Not since childhood had he felt such a sense of ‘home,’ unaware of the effects the intervening years had had in displacing it. He began immediately to draw scenes inspired by this magical, nostalgic realm, becoming absorbed for many hours at a time. Tolkien and the drawings were an important influence, blunting some of the temptations of those years, and the excitement of depicting Middle-earth never seemed to diminish. With much encouragement from friends and family, paintings of scenes from The Lord of the Rings led to dreams of having his artwork published, especially in one of the newly appearing calendars, but this seemed a distant and possibly unrealistic prospect. Attempts amounted to little, with polite letters of rejection the only result. In time he came across some new Tolkien art which served to galvanize him once more, prompting the painting of new scenes for his own amusement. Amongst these influences were the Tolkien calendars by the Brothers Hildebrand, and Joan Wyatt’s Tolkien paintings. With encouragement, Ted again approached Tolkien’s publishers. This time they responded positively, offering to include four of his works in the 1987 compilation calendar.

Going from that to other calendars was a shorter step, leading to four works in the ’88 calendar, followed by his first full calendar in 1990, some 14 years after first dreaming of such a possibility. Other calendars followed, as well as use of Ted’s work on the covers of paperback editions of The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit. In October of ’96, just after returning from the UK, he received a faxed letter from Tolkien’s publishers asking if he was interested in illustrating The Silmarillion. A few months earlier he had sent a series of colour thumbnails to them after spending a number of months compiling them from pencil sketches. These, he hoped,
could be used perhaps in an artbook, but happily instead became the basis of negotiations for the first illustrated edition of this largely unsung masterwork.

This new illustrated version of The Silmarillion was published in the fall of ’98, and proved to be another significant step for Ted in achieving success and recognition as a Tolkien artist. However, The Lord of the Rings will remain his ‘first love’, and the commission to paint three successive Tolkien calendars for 2002, ’03 and ’04 allowed him to return to it.

Thanks to Tolkien’s influence, Ted developed semi-scholarly reading habits, delving into such esoteric subjects as sociology, politics, psychology, and religion, as well as cosmology, ancient history, and anything else he thought might be interesting. And he read novels in various genres, including fantasy, but generally didn’t care for the authors most promoted as the ‘next Tolkien.’ He fed his imagination on things and ideas grounded in reality, but which might reflect qualities in Tolkien’s distant realms and add subtext to his interpretations of them.

Aside from his career as an illustrator, Ted has had a musical side. From adolescence on he has been a guitarist and singer, writing many songs (some Tolkien inspired), as well as performing as a tenor in several choirs, both worship and concert oriented.

Whenever time allows in his very busy life, he cherishes getting away to his province’s north country, having a love of nature which was nurtured in him from the beginning. It provides the kind of escape only a wilderness environment can, both calming and invigorating, always helping him remain centered.

--adapted from bio on www.tednasmith.com

Bernadette Bosky has written professionally on topics from self-esteem to forensic entomology, mostly writing literary criticism and reference articles. Her articles on Charles Williams have appeared in Mythlore and books from Greenwood Press and Bucknell University Press; she also wrote the introduction to The Masques of Amen House and contributed articles on Charles Williams and on C. S. Lewis to The Dictionary of Literary Biography. She lives in Yonkers, New York, with Arthur Hlavaty, Kevin Maroney, and nine pet rats; she teaches full time for a Korean-American academy in Queens.

Programming with Bernadette Bosky

- **Paper:** “The Muse and the Succubus: Beatrician and Hollow love in Descent into Hell and in Charles Williams’ Life,” Sunday 9:45-10:45, Room 213 (Copernicus Hall)
- **Panel:** “Fairy Stories: A Discussion of “On Fairy Stories” and the Importance of Faërie in Our World,” Sunday, 12:15-1:45, Lecture Hall (Copernicus Hall)
Registration will be open in the lobby of Copernicus Hall on Friday, August 16th from 12-noon until 5pm, and on Saturday, August 16th from 8:30-9am. To register outside of these hours, please check the registration table to see if anyone’s stationed there. If not, look for Emily Rauscher, ask other committee members for her directions or caller on her cell phone: 510-773-4989 between 8am and 8pm.

Daytime Programming has been scheduled in 60-minute time-slots, unless otherwise noted. Programming in 60-minute slots should run between 45-55 minutes; those in 90 minute time slots should run about 75 minutes or a bit over. Extra time has been allotted, when feasible, to get from programming to meal times.

Programming changes and important announcements will be available in a schedule addendum within the registration packet and will be made at Friday evening festivities, and Saturday morning’s Opening Ceremonies. These changes will also be posted outside individual programming rooms, and on The Official Easel in the lobby of Copernicus hall.

Dealers’ Room is 236. Hours are: Friday, 2pm-5pm Saturday, 12:45-4:45pm Sunday, 12pm-6pm

Do-it-Yourself and Unofficial Programming: Is there something you’d like to discuss, a reading you’d like to give, a round-robin-discussion you’d like to organize, or another piece of programming you’d like to invite folks to attend? Announce the time and place on the Unofficial Easel in the lobby of Copernicus Hall. We suggest you gather at meals, in dorm lounges or on campus grounds during the daytime. You are free to use Mythcon reserved rooms (the Lecture Hall, rooms 22405, 232, and 213 in Copernicus Hall only) provided no other programming is scheduled during the time you’d like to meet. Please check your schedule (and any amended schedule notes) carefully before picking a time and place for your programming. Please do NOT use unoccupied rooms or personal dorm rooms for this purpose.

The Bardic Circle: This long-time Mythcon tradition—a round-robin gathering of songs, poetry, and music like Bards of old—can go on ‘til the wee hours. Gather your favorite lyrics, tune up your instruments, and bring them along. Lynn Maudlin will host this year’s Circle on Friday and Sunday evenings. Saturday evening we will have a slight twist with our first Full Moon Music & Meditation Circle. We invite drummers, singers, pagans and non-pagans alike, and anyone inclined to gather in celebration of the Full Moon. These locations will be announced.

If you have any questions or urgent concerns and cannot find another committee member you can reach us on our cell phones: Anthony Burdge 347-210-1898, Jessica Burke 347-210-0951. Please call between the hours of 9am and 9pm ONLY!

Detailed information about Papers & Presentations can be found on page 15.

Details about Panel Discussions are available on page 14.

** Programming in Copernicus Hall unless otherwise noted **
**Schedule**

**Friday**

12:00-5pm  Registration opens (Copernicus Hall: Main Lobby)

2:00-5:00pm  Dealer’s Room Opens (Room 236)

1:45-2:45pm  Paper: Jason Fisher “Tolkien’s Wraiths, Rings, and Dragons: An Exercise in Literary Linguistics” (Room 22405)

1:45-2:45pm  Paper: Daniel Baird “Becoming a Warrior Empress: Chinese Mythology in Twelve Kingdoms: Sea of Shadow” (Room 213)

2:45-3:45pm  Paper: David Bratman “The Forgotten Women of Middle-Earth” (Room 213)

2:45-3:45pm  Paper: Christopher Tuthill “Made to Hold Light: The Feminism of LeGuin’s Earthsea Books” (Room 232)

3:45-4:45pm  Book Discussion: Mythopoeic Award Finalists—Followed by Khazad dûm Book Toss (Lecture Hall)

3:45-4:45pm  Paper: Carl Hostetter: "The Circles of the World: Fate, Free Will, and the Okumeng in Elvish Thought" (Room 22405)

5:00-6:30pm  **DINNER** (The Semesters area of the Student Center)

7:15pm  Planetarium Show (Planetarium)

Followed by  Evening Festivities

Welcoming Party for Elves, Hobbits, Dwarves, and Valkyries (costumes optional) (TBA)

Mad Doctor Smith’s Video Laboratory (TBA)

Bardic Circle (TBA)

**Saturday**

7:00-8:30am  **BREAKFAST** (The Semesters area of the Student Center)

8:45-9:00am  Procession March from the Student Center to Davidson Hall

9:00-10:45am  Opening Ceremonies, including Scholar Guest of Honor speech by Marjorie Burns (Torp Theater, Davidson Hall)

11:00-12:00pm  **LUNCH** (The Semesters area of the Student Center)

12:45-4:45pm  Dealer’s Room Opens (Room 236)

12:45-1:45pm  Paper: Anne V. Osborne-Coopersmith “Wagner’s Ring and P. Craig Russell’s Reinterpretation” (Room 232)

12:45-1:45pm  Paper: Donald T. Williams “A Tryst With the Transcendentalists: C.S. Lewis on Goodness, Truth and Beauty” (Room 22405)

12:45-2:15pm  Panel: “The Xena Syndrome: Overcoming the Stereotype of the Female Warrior on Page & Screen” with Janet Croft, Edith Crowe, Ellie Farrell, Arden Smith; moderated by Jessica Burke (Lecture Hall)
12:45-2:15pm  Panel: “The Xena Syndrome: Overcoming the Stereotype of the Female Warrior on Page & Screen” with Janet Croft, Edith Crowe, Ellie Farrell, Arden Smith; moderated by Jessica Burke (Lecture Hall)

1:45-2:45pm  Paper/Panel: Noelle Davies “Peter S. Beagle’s The Last Unicorn & Defining Magical Realism” Geoffrey Reiter “Two Sides of the Same Magic: The Dialectic of Mortality & Immortality in Peter S. Beagle’s The Last Unicorn” (Room 232)

1:45-2:45pm  Paper: Christina Scull “Memory as Evidence in Tolkien Scholarship” (Room 22405)

2:45-3:45pm  Paper: Tammy Gant “Changing the Landscape: Women Warriors in the fiction of Robin McKinley” (Room 213)

2:45-3:45pm  Paper: Joe Christopher: “Artistic Form and the Supernatural in Pushing the Bear” (Room 232)

3:30-5:00pm  Panel: “The Valkyrie & the Goddess: Women in Mythopoeic Fiction” with Marjorie Burns, Sharan Newman, Verlyn Flieger, Leslie Donovan; moderated by Jessica Burke (Lecture Hall)

5:00pm  Dealers’ Room Closes

5:00-6:30pm  DINNER [The Semesters area of the Student Center]

7:15-8:15pm  Paper: Verlyn Flieger “Fate and Free Will in Middle-earth.” (Torp Theater; Davidson Hall)

Followed by  Musical Performances by Lynn Maudlin; Ted Nasmith
Followed by  Hobbit-style muchable crunchables in the Hospitality Suite (TBA)
Mad Doctor Smith’s Video Laboratory (TBA)
Full Moon Music & Meditation Circle (TBA)

Sunday

4:20am  Sale of College Land (Isolate Tower)

8:00-9:00am  Pre-Caffeine Walk-about (meeting & route TBA)

8:45-9:45am  Paper: Jessica Burke “Guinevere’s Voice in the 19th Century” (Room 213)

8:45-9:45am  Discussion/Service: Mere Christian (Room 22405)

9:45-10:45am  Paper: Bernadette Bosky “Tolkien’s Women in the Inklings” (Room 213)

9:45-10:45am  Paper: Anthony Burdge “Fairy Stories in New York City?” (Room 232)

10:30am-12:00pm  BRUNCH (The Semesters area of the Student Center)

12:00pm-6:15pm  Dealers’ Room Opens (Room 22405)

12:15-1:15pm  Paper: Leslie A. Donovan “Brightly Shining & Armed for Battle: The Valkyrie Legacy in Tolkien’s Middle-Earth Fiction” (Room 213)


2:15-3:15pm  Paper: Diana Glyer “C.S. Lewis in Disguise: Fictional Portraits of Jack in the Work of the Inklings” (Room 22405)

2:00-4:30 Auction (Planetarium)
3:15-4:15pm  
**Paper:** Hannah Thomas & Cathy Hansen: “Fantasy vs. Non-Fantasy: Female Characters in Modern British Literature”  
**Room:** 213

3:15-4:15pm  
**Paper:** Kristine Larsen “Sea Birds & Morning Stars: Ceyx, Alcyone, and the Many Metamorphoses of Eärendil and Elwing”  
**Room:** 22405

3:15-4:15pm  
**Panel:** “Women in Middle-earth” with Ted Nasmith, Sharan Newman, David Bratman; moderated by Janet Croft  
**Place:** Lecture Hall

4:15-5:15pm  
**Paper/Presentation:** Ted Nasmith “From Middle-earth to Westeros and Back Again; New Artworks in a Familiar Vein”  
**Room:** 232

4:15-5:15pm  
**Paper:** Nicholas Birns “Esoteric & Democratic: Tradition in Rowling, Tolkien, & Lewis”  
**Room:** 22405

5:15-6:15pm  
**Paper:** Janet B. Croft “The Education of a Witch: Tiffany Aching, Hermione Granger, and Gendered Magic in Discworld & Potterworld”  
**Room:** 232

5:15-6:15pm  
**Panel:** “Language & Myth: The Role of Language & the Birth of New Languages in Fantasy” with Carl Hostetter, Arden Smith, Alexei Kondratiev, Sharan Newman & Ted Nasmith; moderated by Jason Fisher  
**Place:** Lecture Hall

6:15pm  
Dealers’ Room Closes; General Programming Ends

7pm  
**BANQUET,** including Author Guest of Honor speech by Sharan Newman  
**Place:** Constitution Room; Memorial Hall

Followed by  
Evening Sillies in the Torp Theater (Davidson Hall) which includes: Mythcon’s magical Masquerade, and stellar performances by the Not Ready for Mythcon Players and Lord of the Ringos: Piano Courtesy of Mike & Joanne Foster.

Followed by  
Bardic Circle (TBA)

Games with Goblin Heads on a patch of green earth on campus with preferably no hills

Mad Doctor Smith’s Video Laboratory (TBA)

Hobbit Snacks and Dwarf Drinks in the Hospitality Room (TBA)

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**Monday**

7:00-8:30am  
**BREAKFAST** (The Semesters area of the Student Center)

8:45-9:45am  
**Paper:** Jeff Swift: “Realistic War in Tolkien’s Battles”  
**Room:** 22405

8:45-9:45am  
**Paper:** David Emerson “Innocence as a Super-Power: Little Girls on the Hero’s Journey”  
**Room:** 213

9:45-10:45 am  
**Paper:** M. Farrell “Cabbages & Kings: Narrative Balance in the Novels of Patricia A. McKillip”  
**Room:** 22405

9:45-10:45am  
**Paper:** Joe R. Christopher “The Thematic Organization of Spirits in Bondage”  
**Room:** 22405

10:50-11:50am  
Members’ Meeting; Followed by **CLOSING CEREMONIES**
Panel Discussions

The Valkyrie & the Goddess: Women in Mythopoeic Fiction
Marjorie Burns, Sharan Newman, Verlyn Flieger, Leslie Donovan;
Jessica Burke [mod]
90 minutes
Saturday 3:30-5:00pm; Lecture Hall

For centuries, Women have been divided into two categories—virgin or whore, saint or slut—with no room for gray areas. In recent times, thanks to changed views—in religion and spirituality, in education and culture, and in reconsidering women’s positions in history—women have taken their rightful places in the more positive, empowered roles of The Valkyrie and The Goddess. What is the history behind the valkyrie? Does the term Goddess necessitate religion or spirituality—or is that an impossibility? This discussion endeavors to explore these images of women in history, culture, spirituality, and—most importantly—in Mythopoeic Fiction.

Language & Myth: The Role of Language & the Birth of New Languages in Fantasy
Carl Hostetter, Arden Smith, Alexei Kondratiev; Jason Fisher [mod]
60 minutes
Sunday 5:15-6:15pm, Lecture Hall

Without language worlds would cease to be. Language shaped Tolkien’s world and his life. The sound of language and the spark of language is inspiration. But all too often, new languages found in Fantasy and Mythopoeic fiction are considered as something less than “the real thing.” This discussion will explore the function of language in Fantasy fiction and the complexities of the very real languages spoken in these other worlds.

Women in Middle-earth
Ted Nasmith, Sharan Newman, David Bratman; Janet Croft [mod]
60 minutes
Sunday 3:15-4:15pm; Lecture Hall

The uninformed have dared accuse Tolkien of having “no women” in his realm of Middle-earth. But hobbits know better. In fact, it can be said with certainty that J.R.R. Tolkien created some of the most empowered, most memorable female characters in 20th century literature. Beyond the standard strong women of Middle-earth, this panel will discuss Tolkien’s women from Melian to Yavanna to Lobelia Sackville-Baggins.

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The Xena Syndrome: Overcoming the Stereotype of the Female Warrior on Page & Screen
Janet Croft, Edith Crowe, Ellie Farrell, Arden Smith; Jessica Burke [mod]
90 minutes
Saturday 12:45-2:15, Lecture Hall

With strong women come stereotypes—particularly if such strong women don armor and take to fighting. When women become warriors, standards and questions are applied that would not be thrust upon their male counterparts. Women have their intelligence, sexuality, morality, and sanity questioned if they want to fight—both in the real world, and on page & screen. Where do these stereotypes come from? Are they more prevalent in fantasy fiction, on the silver screen, or in the real world (either on a modern battlefield or with reenactment groups)?

Fairy Stories: A Discussion of “On Fairy Stories” and the Importance of Faërie in Our World
Marjorie Burns, Verlyn Flieger, Ted Nasmith, Bernadette Bosky; Anthony Burdge [mod]
90 minutes
Sunday 12:15-1:45, Lecture Hall

“On Fairy Stories” was not just a watershed essay in the life and works of J.R.R. Tolkien. It was a moment of great clarity for our world, and from that essay alone many great Truths can be learned. In Tolkien’s works—not just this essay but in his letters and his stories—he spoke about the importance of enchantment in our world and the gaping void left when enchantment is absent. Has our world grown beyond this? This discussion will examine Tolkien’s legacy, the role of sub-creation, and the invaluable lessons learned from Faërie.
Daniel Baird  
“Becoming a Warrior Empress: Chinese Mythology in Twelve Kingdoms: Sea of Shadow”  
Popular in Japan and America, Twelve Kingdoms, is based on the teen novels of the same title by Ono Fuyumi. Because of the success of the anime, Tokyopop is translating the seven novels into English with the first two at this time completed. The first novel, Sea of Shadow, focuses on the character Yoko who, at the beginning of the novel, is an introvert high school girl. Ono skillfully weaves a gripping tale as we follow Yoko’s sudden kidnapping from school and her subsequent terrifying adventures in a fantastic world loosely based on Chinese mythology. Yoko learns not only about the new world, but also about herself as she matures from an indecisive patsy to a warrior empress capable of facing the most horrifying of mythological beasts alone in the forests.  
Friday 1:45-2:45pm; Room 213

Bernadette Bosky  
“The Muse and the Succubus: Beatrician and Hollow love in Descent into Hell and in Charles Williams’ Life”  
Williams’ novels, from Shadows of Ecstasy on, can be seen as ways for Williams to work out real theological issues within safely nonrealistic stories. Williams may have been working out personal issues as well. Williams’ letters to Lalage and his relationship with Celia show a disturbing tendency to ignore the real women and concentrate on his own mythic creations woven around them--far different in scope, but not in kind, from Wentworth’s preference in Descent into Hell for the false Adela over the real, imperfect, troublesome Adela with her own desires and needs. Thus, while Stanhope’s relationship with Pauline in that novel exemplifies how such a relationship can go right for both the mentor and the impressionable young woman, Wentworth’s relationship with the succubus demonstrates how such a relationship can go wrong, especially damaging the mentor.  
Sunday 10:45-11:45; Room 213

Anthony S. Burdge  
“Faerie Stories on Staten Island?: Reflections upon the life and work of Staten Island’s Most Obedient Servant: Cornelius Kolff”  
Most residents of New York City and my own hometown of Staten Island aren’t aware of the rich tapestry of mythic fairy stories the land around them has inspired. With its overdevelopment, who would believe that the world of Faerie manifested in the life
and works of one of Staten Island’s first real estate developer Cornelius Kolff (1860-1950). Kolff was a foundation of his community, a civic leader, naturalist, philosopher, “apostle of good will,” and writer. He sought to preserve natural “[hi] stories” within his writing and letters. By doing this he was able to illustrate for future generations that Staten Island was and still is a refuge for fairy folk. This paper, utilizing Tolkien’s essays concerning Fairy Stories as a guidepost, will examine Kolff’s life and two of his own literary contributions, Staten Island Fairies and The Haven of Wooden Shoes.

Sunday 9:45-10:45; Room 232

Joe R. Christopher:
“Artistic Form and the Supernatural in Pushing the Bear”

Diane Glancy’s Pushing the Bear: A Novel of the Trail of Tears
(1996) is a semi-dramatic fiction, filled with various speakers on the titular journey. This paper discusses this form and its artistic effect, and then discusses some of the Cherokee supernatural beliefs reflected in the novel, focusing on the titular image of the bear, which is sometimes a metaphor, sometimes a myth.

Saturday 2:45-3:45; Room 232

Joe R. Christopher:
“The Thematic Organization of Spirits in Bondage”

C. S. Lewis’s Spirits in Bondage: A Cycle of Lyrics (as by Clive Hamilton, 1919) is organized into three sections, so any discussion of its thematic organization may seem over-obvious. But some things may be said beyond the titles of the three sections: “The Prison House,” “Hesitation,” and “The Escape.” First, that the “Prologue” to the book sets up the first and third sections. Second, that the first section (of twenty-one poems) begins with a poem titled “Satan Speaks” and has one with the same title as the thirteenth poem. This first section seems to divide into two parts approximately at the point of this thirteenth poem. Third, the second section, “Hesitation” (three poems), deals with the poet’s hesitation over escaping this world. Fourth, the third section (sixteen poems) agree on the escape from this world, but not on what is being escaped to.

Monday 9:45-10:45am; Room 22405

Janet B. Croft
“The Education of a Witch: Tolkien’s Middle-earth Fiction”

Two contemporary young adult fantasy series, the Tiffany Ach-ing sub-series of Terry Pratchett’s Discworld novels and J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter books, deal with the education of the young in the practice and ethics of magic. On Discworld, there is a distinct divide along gender lines in how the young are trained – boys go to Unseen University in Ankh-Morpork, and girls are apprenticed to senior witches. In the Harry Potter universe, however, witches and wizards receive exactly the same training and have done so at least since the founding of Hogwarts. A recent paper by Kathryn N. McDaniel provides a clue to Rowling’s hidden commentary on gender and power by showing how gender issues are displaced onto the house elves; building on her work, this presentation will show how issues of gendered magic/power are also represented by the house elves.

Sunday 5:15-6:15pm; Room 232

Leslie A. Donovan
“Brightly Shining and Armed for Battle: The Valkyrie Legacy in Tolkien’s Middle-earth Fiction”

Valkyrie figures of Scandinavian myth and Anglo-Saxon heroic legend offer images of women typically embodied as radiant, courtly queens or armed, baleful warrior-women. By investing them with such vallkyrie-associated conventions, J.R.R. Tolkien transforms women char-
acters in his Middle-earth fiction from mere literary accessories of little narrative consequence to mythic figures whose words and actions carry significant power. Further, valkyrie traditions allow Tolkien to construct characters such as Éowyn and Arwen in The Lord of the Rings, Melian and Lúthien in The Silmarillion, and Galadriel in both texts, as central participants in his themes of grievous loss and glorious fulfillment, individual will and community responsibility, determined constancy and unlooked-for revitalization. By examining some of Middle-earth’s women in light of the valkyrie legacy, this paper discusses how such figures not only to pay homage to Tolkien’s beloved medieval heritage, but also to support his creation of a modern “mythology for England.”

Sunday 12:15-1:15pm; Room 213

David Emerson
“Innocence as a Super-Power: Little Girls on the Hero’s Journey”
Many fantasy stories, especially quest stories, follow at least part of the archetypal Hero’s Journey described by Joseph Campbell in The Hero with a Thousand Faces. This paper looks at examples of the Hero’s Journey with little-girl protagonists, and examines how these versions of the story conform to and differ from the archetype. By focusing on Baum’s Dorothy, Lewis’s Lucy, and Miyazaki’s Chihiro, I intend to show that female versions of the hero -- and especially very young females -- use different skills and gain different rewards in their quests than the stereotypically male heroes of quest stories.

Monday 9:45-10:45am; Room 232

Eleanor M. Farrell
“Cabbages and Kings: Narrative Balance in the Novels of Patricia A. McKillip”
Patricia A. McKillip is known as one of the stylistic masters of modern fantasy. From her first major genre novel, The Forgotten Beasts of Eld, published in 1974, the author has consistently published stories that embody the essence of high fantasy while also demonstrating a unique authorial voice and a distinctive style. McKillip’s worlds are both sketched in pencil and painted in oils, describing fully and equally both the jeweled and perfumed world of the powerful, of kings and mages, and the mundane and everyday world where cooks and scullery maids and laundresses make their valid and necessary contribution. Concentrating on three recent novels that best illustrate this narrative balance between upstairs and downstairs, this paper will explore the author’s descriptive choices in The Book of Atrix Wolfe (1995), The Tower at Stony Wood (2000), and Ombria in Shadow (2002).

Friday 1:45-2:15pm; Room 22405

Jason Fisher
“Tolkien’s Wraiths, Rings, and Dragons: An Exercise in Literary Linguistics”
Tolkien wrote that “[The Tree of Tales] is closely connected with the philologists’ study of the tangled skein of Language,” suggesting an intimate symbiosis between creation and philology. In an early essay, Tom Shippey termed this generative methodology “creation from philology,” and it is this approach to language and literature I intend to discuss. I will begin with a series of linguistic roots then trace out a ramifying tree of interrelated words and meanings in many of the languages Tolkien knew, connecting them to the ever enlarging scope of Middle-earth and its encompassing legendarium. I will attempt to show how Tolkien began with philological ruminations then followed them from word to word like a trail of breadcrumbs, and how out of these reflections a narrative would begin to coalesce. I will thus attempt to retrace some of Tolkien’s own philological journey “there and back again”, pointing out the linguistic landmarks along the way.

Monday 8:45-9:45am; Room 213

Tammy Gant
“Changing the Landscape: Women Warriors in the fiction of Robin McKinley”
In this essay I explore the Damar novels of Robin McKinley to discuss how she uses women warriors to reshape society. Both novels focus on a woman caught in a world that is sometimes hostile or just indifferent to her and which refuses to accept her. I will show
that as each woman battles foreign, domestic and internal foes, she isn’t just battling to save her country. She is in reality battling to make a place for herself. I analyze the way these women warriors are named and re-named throughout the novels, the physical and social setting of the world, how the women alter the physical landscape in order to win crucial battles and the role sexuality, marriage and maternity plays as each woman first saves society and then re-makes it to create a place for her unique heritage and abilities.

Saturday 2:45-3:45pm; Room 213

Diana Pavlac Glyer
“C. S. Lewis in Disguise: Fictional Portraits of Jack in the Work of the Inklings”
Members of the Inklings often mention other Inklings in their work: they quote each other in scholarly papers, they write silly and serious poems about each other, and they offer tributes in written memoirs, book reviews, and obituaries. They also base fictional characters on one another, and these appear throughout their stories. In this paper, I will describe several fictional characters that are based on C. S. Lewis as he appears “in disguise” in the work of J. R. R. Tolkien and Owen Barfield. I will conclude by discussing what these examples tell us about how Lewis was viewed by his closest friends.

Sunday 2:15-3:15pm; Room 22405

Wayne Hammond
“At Home among the Dreaming Spires: Tolkien and Oxford University”
For more than thirty years, J. R. R. Tolkien lived his life according to the rhythms of scholarship at Oxford. What that meant to him, and the effect it had on his writings, is too little appreciated. Although Humphrey Carpenter devotes space to the subject in his excellent biography, his account greatly oversimplifies the complex and burdensome situation in which Tolkien often found himself while trying to balance his many responsibilities. This paper will present a fuller picture, drawing upon new research into Oxford archives.

Sunday 1:15-2:15pm; Room 22405

Carl Hostetter
“The Circles of the World: Fate, Free Will, and the Oikumene in Elvish Thought”
This paper explores the interconnections of Fate, Free Will, and the oikumene, the inhabited world, as reflected in Elvish language and thought, and in relation to the differing natures and destinies of Men and Elves.

Friday 3:45-4:45pm; Room 22405

Kristine Larsen
“Sea Birds and Morning Stars: Ceyx, Alcyone, and the Many Metamorphoses of Eärendil and Elwing”
Among the many Metamorphoses in the Ovid’s classic text is that of Ceyx. Son of Hesperus, the Morning Star, he inherited the beauty of his divine father. Ceyx set sail on a perilous journey to consult with the oracle of Apollo and died in a storm. His wife Alcyone leapt into the ocean, but was turned into a seabird, as was her husband. These and other parallels between the story of Ceyx and Alcyone and that of Eärendil and Elwing are striking. The story of Eärendil and Elwing evolved over time, with the most consistent aspects possibly its avian and astronomical connections. While the connection between Eärendil and Venus is well known, evidence supports an identification of Elwing with the observed appearance of the planet Mercury. This paper will examine connections between the Ceyx/Alycone and Eärendil/Elwing tales through the lenses of myth, literature, astronomy, and meteorology.

Sunday 3:15-4:15pm; Room 22405

Ted Nasmith
“From Middle-earth to Westeros and Back Again; New Artworks in a Familiar Vein”
Ted will be presenting slides of his newest artworks, principally the series of castle paintings intended for chapter headings in an upcoming book devoted to the fantasy of George R. R. Martin, to be called The Complete Guide to the Ice and Fire Universe (Random House). Ted will also present recent Tolkien
commissions which may not be familiar, and in general discuss his current endeavours and plans from here.
Sunday 4:15-5:15pm; Room 232

Anne Osborne-Coopersmith
“Wagner’s Ring and P. Craig Russell’s Reinterpretation”
P. Craig Russell’s interpretation of Wagner’s Ring of the Nibelung has been praised as “wildly ambitious and utterly gorgeous” [Frank Miller] and “the most faithful and inspiring reworking of the opera into comics form” [Neil Gaiman]. His valorous heroines, such as Brunnhilde, Sieglinde and the Valkyries, are depicted as they would be on stage, and each illustration interprets Wagner’s music as the ultimate fantasy saga. Come hear the music and see the pictures.
Saturday 12:45-1:45pm; Room 232

Lisa Padol
“To Lift a Sword With Pride? Images of Women’s Empowerment”
There are many modern stories, written and visual, about modern women warriors who use swords. Do women warriors have to give up all that makes life pleasant? Or is being a warrior actually empowering? Unsurprisingly, different authors have different answers, but I maintain that examples of women who are empowered are badly needed. Examples considered will include Buffy from Buffy: The Vampire Slayer, Gil Shahal from Barbara Hambly’s Darwath series, Val from Holly Black’s Valiant, and the Bride from Kill Bill.

Sunday 5:15-6:15pm; Room 213

Geoffrey Reiter
“Two Sides of the Same Magic: The Dialectic of Mortality and Immortality in Peter S. Beagle’s The Last Unicorn”
The question of mortality is a significant aspect of Peter S. Beagle’s classic 1968 mythopoeic novel The Last Unicorn. Some characters (the unicorns, the harpy, Schmedrick) are blessed (or cursed) with immortality, while others (Mommy Fortuna, Captain Cully, the people of Hagsgate, King Haggard) are mortal but obsessed with achieving immortality. Beagle suggests that that ideal is a synthesis of these qualities: immortality is not bad per se, but those who lust after so much that they fail to appreciate their daily lives are destroyed or at least spiritually impoverished. Thus, while a quest for the imperishability of immortality (as symbolized by the unicorn) is a legitimate pursuit, it should not come without acknowledging mortality (symbolized by the Red Bull) and living each moment to the fullest.
with Noelle Davies: Saturday 1:45-2:45pm; Room 232

Amy Schoofs-Rahne
“Reflections in the Belle Dame’s Button Eyes: Dualism and Identity in Neil Gaiman’s Coraline”
This presentation will deal with the integral place of dualism and identity in Coraline. I explore how Gaiman uses dualism to create a disconcerting postmodern carnivalesque atmosphere. I explain how dualism magnifies the importance of identity and the defining nature of the singular subject in real verses unreal worlds. I also delve into Gaiman’s powerful use of the traditions of mythology and folk magic, as well as his references to the Romantic writers, John Keats and Christina Rossetti. I also address his creation of Coraline’s dual world by detailing visual and spacial realities inspired by his work in graphic and film mediums. With this paper I hope to open up Coraline to serious investigation as a classic of children’s literature.
Sunday 1:15-2:15pm; Room 232

Christina Scull
“Memory as Evidence in Tolkien Scholarship”
Evidence for biography and criticism of J.R.R. Tolkien comes from a wide variety of sources, of which human recall is the most problematic. Tolkien’s friends and children had occasional lapses of memory which have entered the literature as fact, and even Tolkien himself sometimes misremembered dates or gave conflicting accounts, perhaps most notably in his Foreword to the second edition of The Lord of the Rings. In this paper I will discuss the vagaries of memory in general, and then review some problems of memory as evidence encountered when writing The J.R.R. Tolkien Companion and Guide.
Saturday 1:45-2:45pm; Room 22405
Jeff Swift  
“Realistic War in Tolkien’s Battles”  

Fantasy literature is not the genre most turn to for advice on foreign policy. The very definition of the word fantasy suggests unreliable representations. But fantasy literature may be the most successful genre at realistically portraying things as serious as war. I discuss three elements of battle realism as found in the Battle of the Pelennor Fields.  

The Pragmatic fight: Tolkien shows the armpits of war—the lack of glory, the abuse of power, the occasional stupidity exhibited in battle. The Heroic fight: We cannot overlook the fact that many heroes in this battle are less like the valiant knight in shining armor and more like his armor-shiner. The Futile fight: Tolkien added an element of the hopeless and the vain. This was a dismal affair full of cheap shots, bad feeling, and the persistent anxiety that one might never see family or till fields again.

Monday 8:45-9:45am; Room 22405

Hannah Thomas & Cathy Hansen  
“Fantasy vs. Non-Fantasy: Female Characters in Modern British Literature”  

This discussion is a comparison of the treatment of women in British fantasy novels to the treatment of women in other British literature from the same respective periods. Starting with the Inklings, we will progress into the present day.

Friday 2:45-3:45pm; Room 22405

Don Williams  
“A Tryst with the Transcendental: C. S. Lewis on Goodness, Truth, and Beauty”  

C. S. Lewis shared with the English Romantic poets an interest in the transcendentals—goodness, truth, and beauty—and an emphasis on nature as received by human imagination as a way of having contact with them. But while he shares the Romantics’ universe of discourse, he comes to radically different conclusions. Wordsworth remembers being troubled by a presence that led to elevated thoughts, but finds himself rationalizing the fact that what he has seen he can see no more and trying to reconcile himself to the passing away of a glory from the earth. Keats conflates truth and beauty and thinks that is all we need to know, but fails to be one with his skylark, being tolled back to his sole self despite all the wings of poesy can do. Lewis, on the other hand, discovers that by rooting the transcendental in the reality of the Christian God, by seeing beauty (for example) as coming through nature rather than being in Nature, he can continue to be “surprised by joy.”

Saturday 12:45-1:45pm; Room 22405
Members of the Mythopoeic Conference are welcome to take available-light photographs and video *for personal use.* We ask that you use caution when taking flash photographs.

Performers reserve all rights to their performances and may request that cameras (video and/or still) be turned off. NO film may be taken for commercial purposes without written clearance of the filmed subjects; neither may video be uploaded to YouTube or similar sites without express permission of the subjects of said video.

Thank you for your cooperation; remember, the face you save may be your own!
Lynn Maudlin will perform a small selection of original songs at the Saturday night concert, possibly including "If You Can't Live Without Me Then Why Aren't You Dead" if you behave nicely and she doesn't forget the lyrics… Saturday, 8:15pm; Torp Theater (Davidson Hall)

Ted Nasmith will perform a set of songs drawn mainly from both his recent music CD The Hidden Door, as well as music from his Beren and Luthien: A Song Cycle, co-written with Alex Lewis. Saturday, After Lynn Maudlin’s Performance; Torp Theater (Davidson Hall)

The Lord of the Ringos
Ted Nasmith & Mike Foster gave birth to this inspired musical idiocy after comparing notes (pun intended) in Birmingham at Tolkien 2005. Last year in Berkeley Lynn Maudlin threw additional songs into the madness. "That way, whoever the performers are, the people who should be sued (teasing! kidding! really!) for mangling Lennon-McCartney all are credited. What if The Beatles succeeded in making a movie of LotR, as they seriously intended? What would its soundtrack be like? We give you an impish glimpse...be afraid. Sunday Evening, After the Banquet; Torp Theater (Davidson Hall).

The con committee encourages anyone who brought a costume to join the Masquerade. It is an entertaining show, non-competitive, and fun for all. An entry form for the Masquerade is included in your registration packet. Please complete it and return it to the Society Table in the Dealer’s Room by 1:00 pm on Saturday. The Masquerade will take place on Sunday night, following the Banquet. All entrants must have any accompanying music/audio and/or text to be read by the announcer ready by that time. Any new information regarding the Masq will be posted on the Notice Board.

See Marion VanLoo, Masquerade Coordinator, at the Society Table if you have any questions.
After Hours Entertainment

And don’t forget a long-standing Mythic tradition of irregularly scheduled programming which will include our Hospitality Suite, Bardic Circle, Video Madness, and games with Goblin heads (provided the head is brought forth).

The Seventh Not Very Annual Mary M. Stolzenbach Memorial Clerihew Contest

Peregrine Took
Was not exactly a crook.
But if while walking in the fields of Farmer Maggott
He found a mushroom, he’d bag it.

Mythcon 39 2008 celebrants are invited to participate in the timeless (pretty quick, actually) poetical rubric of the clerihew in the Seventh Not Very Annual Clerihew Contest.

Invented, maybe, by E. Clerihew Bentley over a century ago, the clerihew is a four-line verse that rhymes AABB. The first line consists of a proper name. The second line must end with a full stop (period, question mark, exclamation point).

Entries should be submitted one to a page, with the author’s name written on the reverse. Categories are Before Tolkien (up to 1892), During Tolkien (1892-1973), and After Tolkien (1973-2005). Thus:

Sir Lancelot
Wore iron pants a lot.
Talk about sex appeal!
Real buns of steel!

Galadriel
Could’ve had the One Ring, but wottthehell.
She was no moron;
She knew she’d wind up worse than Sauron.

Sir Lancelot
Wore iron pants a lot.
Talk about sex appeal!
Real buns of steel!
Tom Shippey
Is a speaker both wise and quippy.
In a bold critical venture, he
Declared Tolkien the author of the
century.

The Nashville Mandate:
Only one entry per category, or alternately three
clerihews per contestant, please. Submit entries
to the Clerihew Contest box in the Mythcon
table (Dealers’ room) by 4 p.m. Saturday.

A distinguished panel of judges, They Who
Must Never Be Named, will evaluate each en-
try using the HOC system [Humor, Original-
ity, Clerihewness]. Winners will be read at the
Mythopoeic Society banquet and awards cere-
mony Sunday evening and rewarded with the
traditional prize of a jeroboam of Chateau de
Porteur d’Anneau invisible champagne.

The Sixth Not Very Annual Mythcon Mary
M. Stolzenbach Memorial Clerihew Contest
last year in Berkeley featured a rare display of
concord between the judges unparalleled since
the first contest held at Wheaton College in
1998, when Mary Stolzenbach herself swept all
three categories.

While Mary’s unprecedented and never dupli-
cated sweep was not repeated, Mythopoeic Soci-
ety corresponding secretary Edith Crowe was
the unanimous choice for top verse in two catego-
ries. One of her clerihews honored Mary, in
whose honor the clerihew contest has been dedi-
cated hereupon and henceforth.

Berkeley’s own Karen Sullivan took the top over-
all award based on her score of 81 of possible 90
points. Judges rank clerihews on a 1-10 scale in
three categories: Humor, Originality, and Cleri-
hewness.

The winners, published exactly as written, in-
clude:

Honorable Mention:
Eowyn of Rohan
Thought Aragorn was the most admirable man.
Until she met Faramir
And then Az a yor ahf mir!
--Marcie Geffner
(The Yiddish translates as “I should get so
lucky!”)

Before Tolkien:
Gawain the knight
Wore chain mail too tight.
His foe (who was green)
Called his armour obscene.
--Madeleine Robins

During Tolkien:
Clive Staples Lewis
Used letter-writing devils to sock it to us.
One might challenge his theology more than a
bit
But even a heathen might challenge his wit
--Edith Crowe

After Tolkien:
Mary Stolzenbach
As a clerihew contest winner was always a lock.
Though others may pen a good one now and then
We shall not see her like again.
--Edith Crowe

Grand Champion:
“Severus Snape,
Why the creepy black cape?”
“’Cause it’s stylish, you louse!
And ten points from your
House!”
--Karen Sullivan
**Presenter Bios**

**Professor Daniel Baird** earned a PhD in comparative literature from the University of Oregon — the culmination of a dream that began as a child when he preferred reading *Lord of the Rings* to any other activity. His current research lies in comparing Asian and Western mythology in children’s literature.

**Nicholas Birns** teaches at Eugene Lang College of the New School in New York. He has published on many areas of post-eighteenth century literature, has published two books on twentieth-century literature, and is working on two more. This summer, he held a Visiting Research Fellowship at the University of Wollongong in Australia, where he travelled to the Blue Mountains, but was disappointed not to find Nogrod and Belegost.

**David Bratman** has written on Tolkien and the Inklings for the journals *Mythlore*, *Mallorn*, and *Tolkien Studies*, and in the books *Tolkien’s Legendarium* (ed. Flieger & Hostetter) and *The Company They Keep* (by Diana Pavlac Glyer). He lives in a home called Minnipin Cottage with wife, books, and cats.

**Anthony Burdge & Jessica Burke** co-run Heren Istarion: The Northeast Tolkien™ Society from their front parlor. They’ve written several book chapters, contributed to the J.R.R. Tolkien Encyclopedia, and were mad enough to accept the quest to host the first Mythcon in the Northeast. They were awarded the “Beyond Bree” award in 2005 for their contribution to Tolkien studies. Anthony first came in contact with Tolkien when his parents read him *The Lord of the Rings* while he was in-utero. Jessica became an avid Tolkien addict at the tender age of 3, when she listened to a record of the Professor reading “Riddles in the Dark.” They live in the wilder lands of Staten Island, with several misguided plants, assorted arms and armor, an ever-growing library, and a deranged cat named Luna.

**Joe R. Christopher** is the author of *The Romances of Clive Staples Lewis* (DAI. 1970) and *C. S. Lewis* (Twayne, 1987) and co-author of *C. S. Lewis: An Annotated Checklist of Writings about him and his Works* (1974)—as well as author of numerous essays in *Mythlore* and elsewhere.

**Janet Brennan Croft** is Head of Access Services at the University of Oklahoma libraries. She is the author of *War in the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien* and editor of *War in the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien* and editor of the essay collections *Tolkien on Film* and *Tolkien and Shakespeare*, as well as the journal *Mythlore*.

**Leslie A. Donovan** is an Associate Professor of the University Honors Program at the University of New Mexico. Her most recent publications include works on Old English women saints, J.R.R. Tolkien, *Beowulf*, and Honors pedagogy. In addition, she has taught courses on Tolkien for more than 10 years.

**David Emerson** is an independent scholar living in Minneapolis. At past Mythcons, he has presented on Donald Swann’s setting of "Errantry" and Michael Moorcock’s Multiverse, and served on the Mythcon 30 committee. He has been known to collaborate with Professor Mike Foster on musical, theatrical, and Clerihewical adventures.

**Eleanor Farrell** is a graphic designer, ex-molecular biologist, reader and occasional reviewer of fantasy literature, past editor of Mythprint, creator of silly Mythcon plays, and famous in Shanghai (but not for any of these things).

**Jason Fisher** is an independent scholar living in Dallas. Some of his recent work includes a series of entries in *The J.R.R. Tolkien Encyclopedia*, as well as chapters in the books *Tolkien and Modernity*, *The Silmarillion: Thirty Years On*, and *Truths Breathed Through Silver: The Inklings’ Moral and Mythopoetic Legacy*. In addition, Jason has presented papers in a variety of academic settings and conferences.
Diana Pavlac Glyer teaches English at Azusa Pacific University. A Society member since 1974, she has served on the Council of Stewards and chaired two Mythcons. She is the recipient of the Clyde S. Kilby Research Grant (1997), the Chase Sawtell Inspirational Teaching Award (2002), and the N.E.T.S. Imperishable Flame Award (2008). Her book about the Inklings, *The Company They Keep*, is a Hugo nominee and also a finalist for this year’s Mythopoeic Society Scholarship Award.


Catherine Hansen is an English literature major and Screenwriting minor at Azusa Pacific University. She’s lived in southern California her whole life and is excited to attend Oxford University in Fall 2008. She stumbled into the wardrobe before she found the ring, so tends to like Lewis more than Tolkien (sorry!).

Carl Hostetter is a Computer Scientist at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center. Avocationally, he is a member of the team engaged by Christopher Tolkien in editing and publishing J.R.R. Tolkien’s linguistic papers, and has been the editor of Vinyar Tengwar, a journal of Tolkienian linguistics, since 1989.

Dr. Kristine Larsen is Professor of Physics and Astronomy, and Director of the University Honors Program, at Central Connecticut State University. Her work on the astronomical motifs and motivations in the work of Tolkien has resulted in numerous publications and presentations.

Lynn Maudlin was born in Los Angeles to a physicist & an aspiring concert pianist and flung into SF and fantasy by her older brother when he gave her a subscription to Analog in her early teens and a copy of The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings for Christmas a few years later. Her introduction to fandom came in 1982 when she discovered Mythcon XIII. In gratitude Lynn spent nearly 10 years on the Mythopoeic Society board of directors and has recently started a second run with the Council of Stewards. Lynn co-founded the fiction zine The Mythic Circle with Sherwood Smith; she served four years as the North American Booking Officer for the Tolkien Centenary Conference (Keble College, Oxford, 1992) and has served on numerous other con coms. Lynn started writing songs at the tender age of 12 and has some 400 songs under her belt (and you thought she was just fat!); she recently completed a musical based upon the book of Ruth entitled *House of Bread*. In addition to being a singer/songwriter, Lynn is an artist, a writer, an editor, a sometime film producer, and a grandma. She loves to laugh but doesn’t remember jokes, is easily pulled into deep conversations about God and the Bible, and appreciates the obsession that is costuming. Lynn is proud she survived the 60s with most of her brain intact. She loves good food, good wine, and chocolate!

Lisa Padol wrote her doctoral dissertation on modern Arthurian literature. She has written several reviews and papers on fantasy literature, sometimes touching on social issues, despite her best efforts.

Geoffrey Reiter is PhD student at Baylor University, currently working on his dissertation on Bram Stoker. He has published essays on Bram Stoker, George MacDonald, and Clark Ashton Smith. He presented a paper on Clark Ashton Smith at MythCon 37 and has a short story in issue 29 of Mythic Circle.

Amy Schoofs-Rahne is an English Literature graduate student at Marquette University in Milwaukee Wisconsin. She graduated with B.A.’s in Fine Art and English Literature at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. She is interested in doing her PhD work on Science Fiction and genre literature through a multi media outlook incorporating Print, Graphic, and Cinematic modes of story telling.
Christina Scull, former museum librarian and editor of the journal The Tolkien Collector, has received four Mythopoeic Scholarship Awards in Inklings Studies, as co-author of J.R.R. Tolkien: Artist and Illustrator, The Lord of the Rings: A Reader’s Companion, and The J.R.R. Tolkien Companion and Guide, and co-editor of Tolkien’s Roverandom.

Jeff Swift studies at Brigham Young University where he will soon begin an English Masters Program. His Tolkien scholarship includes an Honors Thesis and a scholarly book dealing with Tolkien’s stylistic realism. He has lived in Bulgaria, New York, and Utah, and loves camping with his wife of two months.

Hannah Thomas is an English writing major at Azusa Pacific University. She has loved Lewis since the age of 5, when she first entered the wardrobe. Recent forays into Inklings matters include studying abroad at Oxford and attendance at Oxbridge. Many thanks to Dr. G., and hail to the True King!

Chris Tuthill is an assistant professor and librarian at Baruch College in New York City. His reviews and articles have recently appeared in American Reference Books Annual, The Green Man Review, and Blitz Magazine. His fiction recently received Honorable Mention in the Writers of the Future contest.

Donald T. Williams, PhD, is Professor of English and Director of the School of Arts and Sciences at Toccoa Falls College. His most recent books include Mere Humanity: G. K. Chesterton, C. S. Lewis, and J. R. R. Tolkien on the Human Condition (Nashville: Broadman, 2006), Credo: Meditations on the Nicene Creed (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2007), and The Devil’s Dictionary of the Christian Church (St. Louis: Chalice, forthcoming 2009).

The Mythopoeic Press

Recent publications:

- Mythlore Index: Issues 1-100, edited by Edith Crowe and Janet Brennan Croft, artwork by Tim Kirk and Sarah Beach
- The Travelling Rug. By Dorothy L. Sayers, with an introduction and bibliography by Joe R. Christopher and annotations by Janet Brennan Croft
- Tolkien on Film: Essays on Peter Jackson's The Lord of the Rings. Edited by Janet Brennan Croft
- Sayers on Holmes: Essays and Fiction on Sherlock Holmes. By Dorothy L. Sayers, with an introduction by Alzina Stone Dale and annotated bibliography by Joe R. Christopher

These and other titles are available at the Society Table, on our website at: www.mythsoc.org, or through Amazon.com.
The Mythopoeic Awards

Process
The Mythopoeic Awards are chosen from books nominated by individual members of the Mythopoeic Society, and selected by a committee of Society members. Authors or publishers who are members of the Society may not nominate their own books for any of the awards, nor are books published by the Mythopoeic Press eligible for the awards. The Mythopoeic Society does not accept or review unsolicited manuscripts.

2008 Mythopoeic Award Nominees

The Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children’s Literature honors books for younger readers (from “Young Adults” to picture books for beginning readers), in the tradition of the Hobbit or The Chronicles of Narnia. Rules for eligibility are otherwise the same as for the Adult literature award. The question of which award a borderline book is best suited for will be decided by consensus of the committees.

- Black, Holly, Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale (Simon & Schuster); Valiant: A Modern Tale of Faerie (Simon & Schuster); and Ironside: A Modern Faery’s Tale (Margaret K. McElderry)
- Landy, Derek, Skulduggery Pleasant (HarperCollins)
- Rowling, J.K., The Harry Potter series, consisting of Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone (Bloomsbury); Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (Bloomsbury); Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (Bloomsbury); Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Bloomsbury); Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (Bloomsbury); Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (Bloomsbury); and Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (Bloomsbury)
- Springer, Nancy, Dusssie (Walker Books for Young Readers)
- Thompson, Kate, The New Policeman (HarperTeen)

The Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature is given to the fantasy novel, multi-volume novel, or single-author story collection for adults published during the previous year that best exemplifies “the spirit of the Inklings”. Books not selected as finalists in the year after publication are eligible for a second year. Books from a series are eligible if they stand on their own; otherwise, the series becomes eligible the year its final volume appears.

- Goss, Theodora, In the Forest of Forgetting (Prime Books)
- Hopkinson, Nalo, The New Moon’s Arms (Grand Central Publishing)
- Kay, Guy Gavriel, Ysabel (Roc)
- Valente, Catherynne M., Orphan’s Tales, consisting of In the Night Garden (Spectra) and In the Cities of Coin and Spice (Spectra)
- Wright, John C., Chronicles of Chaos, consisting of Orphans of Chaos (Tor); Fugitives of Chaos (Tor); and Titans of Chaos (Tor)

Dragon by Jef Murray
The Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies is given to books on J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and/or Charles Williams that make significant contributions to Inklings scholarship. For this award, books first published during the previous three years are eligible, including finalists for previous years.

- Burns, Marjorie, Perilous Realms: Celtic and Norse in Tolkien’s Middle-earth (University of Toronto Press, 2005)
- Glyer, Diana Pavlac; appendix by David Bratman, The Company They Keep: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien as Writers in Community (Kent State University Press, 2007)
- Rateliff, John D., The History of the Hobbit, Part One, Mr Baggins; Part Two, Return to Bag-End (HarperCollins, 2007)

Butler, Charles, Four British Fantasists: Place and Culture in the Children’s Fantasies of Penelope Lively, Alan Garner, Diana Wynne Jones, and Susan Cooper (Children’s Literature Association & Scarecrow Press, 2006)

O’Donoghue, Heather, From Asgard to Valhalla: The Remarkable History of the Norse Myths (I.B. Tauris, 2007)


Williamson, Milly, The Lure of the Vampire: Gender, Fiction and Fandom from Bram Stoker to Buffy (Wallflower, 2006)

The Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies is given to scholarly books on other specific authors in the Inklings tradition, or to more general works on the genres of myth and fantasy. The period of eligibility is three years, as for the Inklings Studies award.

- Butler, Charles, Four British Fantasists: Place and Culture in the Children’s Fantasies of Penelope Lively, Alan Garner, Diana Wynne Jones, and Susan Cooper (Children’s Literature Association & Scarecrow Press, 2006)
- O’Donoghue, Heather, From Asgard to Valhalla: The Remarkable History of the Norse Myths (I.B. Tauris, 2007)
- Williamson, Milly, The Lure of the Vampire: Gender, Fiction and Fandom from Bram Stoker to Buffy (Wallflower, 2006)

The years listed are those the award was presented. No awards were made in unlisted year.

**Mythopoeic Fantasy Award**

1971  The Crystal Cave by Mary Stewart
1972  Red Moon and Black Mountain by Joy Chant
1973  The Song of Rhiannon by Evangeline Walton
1974  The Hollow Hills by Mary Stewart
1975  A Midsummer Tempest by Poul Anderson
1981  Unfinished Tales by J.R.R. Tolkien
1982  Little, Big by John Crowley
1983  The Firelings by Carol Kendall
1984  When Voiha Wakes by Joy Chant
1985  Cards of Grief by Jane Yolen
1986  Bridge of Birds by Barry Hughart
1987  The Folk of the Air by Peter Beagle
1988  Seventh Son by Orson Scott Card
1989  Unicorn Mountain by Michael Bishop
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Author(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>The Stress of Her Regard</td>
<td>Tim Powers</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Thomas the Rhymer</td>
<td>Ellen Kushner</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>A Woman of the Iron People</td>
<td>Eleanor Arnason</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Briar Rose</td>
<td>Jane Yolen</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>The Porcelain Dove</td>
<td>Delia Sherman</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Something Rich and Strange</td>
<td>Patricia A. McKillip</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Waking the Moon</td>
<td>Elizabeth Hand</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>The Wood Wife</td>
<td>Terri Windling</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye</td>
<td>A.S. Byatt</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Stardust</td>
<td>Neil Gaiman and Charles Vess</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children’s Literature</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Haroun and the Sea of Stories</td>
<td>Salman Rushdie</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Knight’s Wyrd</td>
<td>Debra Doyle and James D. Macdonald</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>The Kingdom of Kevin</td>
<td>Suzy McKee Charnas</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Owl in Love</td>
<td>Patrice Kindl</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>The Crown of Dalemark</td>
<td>Diana Wynne Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>(Combined with Adult Literature award)</td>
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**Mythopoeic Scholarship Award (Inklings Studies)**

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>C.S. Kilby; Mary</td>
<td>C.S. Kilby; Mary</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>McDermott Shideler</td>
<td>McDermott Shideler</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>Master of Middle-earth</td>
<td>Paul H. Kocher</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>C.S. Lewis, Mere Christian</td>
<td>C.S. Lewis, Mere Christian</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Lindskoog</td>
<td>Lindskoog</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>C.S. Lewis: A Biography</td>
<td>C.S. Lewis: A Biography</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>by Roger Lancelyn Green and Walter Hooper</td>
<td>by Roger Lancelyn Green and Walter Hooper</td>
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<td>Tolkien Criticism by Richard C. West</td>
<td>Tolkien Criticism by Richard C. West</td>
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<td>C.S. Lewis, An Annotated Checklist</td>
<td>C.S. Lewis, An Annotated Checklist</td>
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<td>by Joe R. Christopher and</td>
<td>by Joe R. Christopher and</td>
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<td>Joan K. Ostling; Charles W.S. Williams, A</td>
<td>Joan K. Ostling; Charles W.S. Williams, A</td>
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<td>Checklist by Lois Glenn</td>
<td>Checklist by Lois Glenn</td>
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<td>The Inklings by Humphrey</td>
<td>The Inklings by Humphrey</td>
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<td>Companion to Narnia by Paul F. Ford</td>
<td>Companion to Narnia by Paul F. Ford</td>
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<td>The Road to Middle-earth</td>
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<td>Reason and Imagination in C.S. Lewis by Joe R. Christopher</td>
<td>Reason and Imagination in C.S. Lewis by Joe R. Christopher</td>
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<td>Charles Williams, Poet of Theology by Glen Cavaliero</td>
<td>Charles Williams, Poet of Theology by Glen Cavaliero</td>
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<td>C.S. Lewis by Joe R. Christopher</td>
<td>C.S. Lewis by Joe R. Christopher</td>
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<td>The Return of the Shadow</td>
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<td>Christopher Tolkien</td>
<td>Christopher Tolkien</td>
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<td>The Annotated Hobbit</td>
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<td>Douglas A. Anderson</td>
<td>Douglas A. Anderson</td>
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<td>Jack: C.S. Lewis and His Times</td>
<td>Jack: C.S. Lewis and His Times</td>
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<td>by George Sayer</td>
<td>by George Sayer</td>
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<td>Word and Story in C.S. Lewis</td>
<td>Word and Story in C.S. Lewis</td>
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<td>edited by Peter J. Schakel and Charles A. Huttar</td>
<td>edited by Peter J. Schakel and Charles A. Huttar</td>
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<td>Planets in Peril by David Downing</td>
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<td>by Douglas A. Anderson</td>
<td>by Douglas A. Anderson</td>
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<td>Hammond and Christina Scull</td>
<td>Hammond and Christina Scull</td>
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<td>C.S. Lewis in Context</td>
<td>C.S. Lewis in Context</td>
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<td>Year</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of the Century by Tom Shippey</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Tolkien and the Great War: The Threshold of Middle-earth by John Garth</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>The Lord of the Rings: A Reader's Companion by Wayne G. Hammond and Christina Scull</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Mythopoeic Scholarship Award (General Myth and Fantasy Studies)</td>
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