

Mythcon 50

Looking Back, Moving Forward

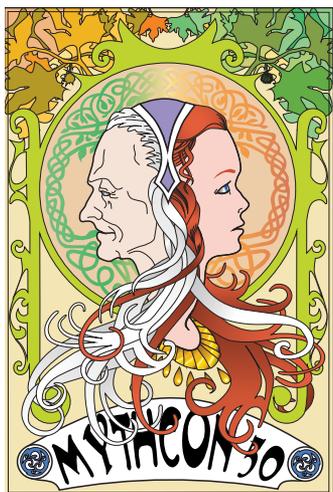
San Diego, California

August 2-5, 2019



Progress Report 1

About Mythcon



The Mythopoeic Society Conference, informally known as “Mythcon,” is an annual Tolkien and Inklings-focused conference held over an extended weekend late-July to mid-August; the location moves throughout America, beginning Friday afternoon and concluding Monday at noon.

Mythcon has historically been held at a college or university campus. Each conference is constructed around a theme related to Inklings studies and/or fantastic and mythic literature. Conferences usually feature an author and a scholar guest of honor. Papers, panel discussions, readings,

entertainment, an art show, a dealers’ room, and other activities fill the four-day event. Another Mythcon highlight is our annual banquet, after which the Mythopoeic Awards are presented. A small (usually 100–200 people) size and intimate setting makes Mythcon an excellent venue for meeting people with common interests. You may see the full history and individual conference pages by visiting our [Mythcon History](#) page.

The Mythopoeic Society has always encouraged scholarship in mythopoeic and Inklings studies by providing a venue in which scholars, new and established, may present papers which may in turn be considered for publication in *Mythlore*, assisting scholars in need of financial aid to attend Mythcon, and recognizing student scholars with the Alexei Kondratiev Award.

Mythcons are also a lot of fun and feature some serious play: the *Not Ready for Mythcon Players*, performing a semi-spontaneous piece of topical silliness, a Masquerade with prizes for everyone, Bardic Circles in the evenings, and Golfimbul (Mythcon 45 Chair and former GOH Mike Drouot explains it in his entertaining report on the [2014 Mythcon](#)).

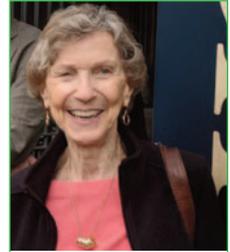
This year’s conference is the third in a series of golden anniversaries for the Society, this time celebrating the 50th year of our Mythopoeic conferences. We are indeed looking back and moving forward.

Guests of Honor



John Crowley, Author Guest of Honor: Best known as the author of *Little, Big*, winner of the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award in 1982, and *KA: Dar Oakley in the Ruin of Ymr*, winner of the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award in 2018. Crowley taught Creative Writing at Yale until his retirement in 2018.

Verlyn Flieger, Scholar Guest of Honor: One of the most prolific and beloved scholars in our field, Flieger won Mythopoeic Scholarship Awards for *A Question of Time: J.R.R. Tolkien's Road to Faerie* (1998), *Tolkien's Legendarium: Essays on The History of Middle-earth*, co-edited with Carl Hostetter (2002), and *Green Suns and Faërie: Essays on J.R.R. Tolkien* (2013). She is co-editor of the journal *Tolkien Studies* and has written fiction as well. Retired from the University of Maryland in 2012, she continues to teach courses online through Signum University.



Call for Papers

Our conference theme references Roman mythology's Janus, the god of beginnings and endings, gates and doorways, transitions, passages, and duality. We are moving forward into the future while also, at least for this Mythcon, looking backward to the places from which we've come.

For this conference, while work on any topic is welcome, we are particularly interested in presentations that

- ✿ acknowledge the long history of scholarship on fantasy literature while looking ahead, sometimes in new and unexpected ways
- ✿ incorporate or reference past developments in research
- ✿ survey the development of critical response to an author or a topic, the use of a certain theoretical approach, or the history of a strand of criticism
- ✿ look forward to future areas of research
- ✿ consider the genre's place in history and its development into new media and new ways of involving the reader or consumer
- ✿ introduce us to new or neglected mythopoeic authors and other creators
- ✿ consider liminality, border situations, or the pivot point between old and new

Papers on the works and interests of our guests of honor are also especially welcome. Send abstracts of 200–500 words to this year's Paper Coordinator, Janet Brennan Croft, at mythlore@mythsoc.org by **April 26, 2019**.

Alexei Kondratiev Award (Student Paper)

At Mythcon 41, the society introduced a new award for the best paper presented at Mythcon by an undergraduate or graduate student. This award was named in honor of Alexei Kondratiev, long-time Society member and a scholar of wide-ranging interests in mythopoeic and related studies, who passed away in 2010. The winner of the award receives a certificate, a one year subscription to *Mythlore*, and half-off registration for the next Mythcon he or she attends. The winner will be announced at the Mythcon banquet, on the society's website and in *Mythprint*, and is encouraged to submit their paper to *Mythlore* for publication. More information and the award application can be found on our web site: www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/alexei.htm

In order to be considered for the award, the application form must be submitted to the committee chair, Janet Croft, at mythlore@mythsoc.org by **July 2nd**, and the finished paper must be submitted electronically by **July 23rd**. The paper must follow *Mythlore* style guidelines and should be 4000–9000 words long. 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.

Glen GoodKnight Starving Scholars Fund

The Starving Scholars Fund was renamed in honor of our founder, Glen GoodKnight, upon his passing in November 2010. Glen always emphasized the importance of encouraging scholarship in Inklings studies and was happy to see this fund come into existence in 1993. The Fund supports attendance at Mythcon for scholars and other participants. Preference is given to persons presenting a paper or participating on a panel, though others are not automatically excluded from consideration. Awards consist of a contribution toward room & board costs or, very rarely, other conference expenses such as travel costs. The Mythcon Papers Coordinator, in consultation with the Mythopoeic Society Council of Stewards and the Conference Committee, makes the final decision in

regard to award recipients, amounts, and application of funds. No more than half of the Fund's balance may be used in any given year. Contact mythlore@mythsoc.org for more information.

Art Show

Mythcon 50 will have an art show. If you're interested in bringing your art to display, please contact Sue Dawe by email at suedawe@ineworld.net and she will provide more details

Dealers Room

Mythcon 50 will have a Dealers' Room. If you're interested in bringing your wares to sell, please contact J'nae Spano by email at autumn.fox@cox.net and she will provide more details.

Masquerade

Mythcon 50 will have a masquerade as part of our Saturday night entertainments. A Mythcon masquerade is a staged costume presentation that ranges from the sublime to the silly; its focus is fun and entertainment. Everyone is invited to participate; sign-up forms will be at Mythcon.

Conference Schedule

For planning and travel purposes, Mythcon 50 registration will open at noon on Friday, August 2, and there will be program items starting at 2 p.m. Friday afternoon until dinner. After dinner we will have our casual meet-and-greet **Reception** hosted by the Society's Stewards; other entertainments and activities to be announced.

Saturday morning, August 3, the **Procession and Opening Ceremonies** will start at 9:00 a.m., including our first plenary Guest of Honor address, followed by more papers and panels throughout the day, breaking for lunch and dinner. After dinner: entertainments including the Masquerade and post-programming activities (e.g., Bardic Circle).

Programming continues Sunday, including the **Society Auction** in the afternoon, and the **Banquet**, second Guest of Honor address, and **Awards** presentations on Sunday evening.

Final program items will start Monday morning at 9:00 a.m., followed by the **Annual Mythopoeic Society Members Meeting** (all are welcome) and closing ceremonies, concluding at noon.

Conference Registration

Current registration rates are as follows. Rates are likely to rise and will be higher “at the door.”

Full Conference Registration for Mythopoeic Society Members	\$75
Full Conference Registration for Nonmembers	\$90
Full Conference Registration for Students*	\$60

Please note: Join the Mythopoeic Society and then register for Mythcon 50 at the Society Members rate to save money and receive other member advantages. See the *Mythopoeic Society's website* for details. If you are uncertain of your membership status, please contact our Membership Secretary, Lynne Darga, at membership@mythsoc.org. To register or to make a room and board payment (see below), PayPal registration is available on the *Mythcon 50 registration page*. To pay by check, please make payable to the Mythopoeic Society and mail to:

The Mythopoeic Society
PO Box 6707
Altadena, CA 91003

** Full-time students are those taking 12 or more credit hours per semester/quarter at an accredited college or university. Must present a current, active student ID at check-in. For children attending with parent(s) or legal guardian(s), 12 and under are free, 12 to 18 pay the student rate.*

Conference Venue

San Diego State University provides wonderful programming space and dorm housing is similar to suites we've recently occupied in Illinois, Massachusetts, and Berkeley Mythcons. Programming will be located in the Aztec Student Union, approximately 800 feet from our housing units, across the Aztec Walk East “sky-bridge” —fun for the Procession!

The **Room & Board package** for Mythcon 50 will start with dinner at The Garden cafeteria in the Cuicacalli Residence Hall and housing Friday night through Sunday night in one of the two Cuicacalli towers (either Tepeyac or Tacuba, basically identical). Cuicacalli (“kweeka-cal-ee”) is arranged in suites which include a small central common area as well as a full sized refrigerator, microwave, and sink as a “kitchenette.” There are two hallways with three bedrooms and a large-sized bathroom each; one bathroom in each suite is ADA-compliant. Bedrooms have 1, 2, or 3 extra-long single beds. The 3-bed room is generally laid out with two upper bunks (!!), there's only one per suite, and we will use them as larger singles, barring actual need for a triple.

The Mythcon Room & Board package does *not* include lunches this year. Meals included are Friday night dinner, Saturday breakfast and dinner, Sunday breakfast and banquet, and Monday breakfast. Lunches will be “on your own” and there are many options within easy walking distance, some within the Aztec Student Union; we will provide a list at the conference.

The option to come in early and/or stay later is available. Two meals per day are required to stay on campus, so early and late arrivals will include breakfast and lunch in the Garden cafeteria (the least expensive meal combination).

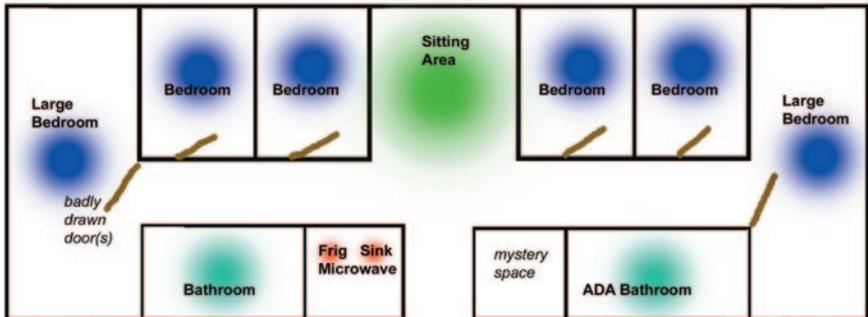
Full Conference:

DOUBLE occupancy, three nights, six meals	\$350 per person
SINGLE occupancy, three nights, six meals	\$430
EXTRA night(s) w/ breakfast & lunch:	
DOUBLE occupancy, per night	\$90 per person
SINGLE occupancy, per night	\$120

Note: The Garden cafeteria sells individual meals, so if you are staying off-campus you may buy a meal ticket at the desk as you enter.

You can take a virtual tour or look at a slide show *here*. *Please note:* while full suite occupancy during the school year may be as high as 9 persons, our full occupancy will be 6, possibly 7, depending on the layout of the particular suite (an example below).

About roommates/suite-mates: We place people in double rooms (two beds in one bedroom) according to your roommate requests; we will try to put people into suite groupings according to your requests but we cannot guarantee it. If you book a double room without specifying your roommate, we will try to assign you a suitable roommate (and suite-mates) BUT we cannot guarantee it; it is possible that someone requesting a roommate be assigned will have to “upgrade” to a single; happily the price difference isn’t very big this year.



Parking will be available in P3 or P4 (parking garages across Campus Drive from Cuicacalli); we recommend buying a one-week parking pass, available on our website. It's also possible to buy parking from the machines located within the garages, or use the Pay-by-Phone parking app; see website for more details.

For those who cannot or don't wish to stay onsite, there are many hotel options. For ease of commuting on the Green Line trolley, we recommend the *DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San Diego–Mission Valley*, on Hazard Center Drive; it is across the street from the Hazard Center Station and only 15 minutes (7 stops) from the SDSU Transit Center. *Town & Country* hotel is also a short walk from the Fashion Valley Transit Center, one stop further along the Green Line. You can search online for other hotels along the Green Line. Please check out the *Green Line trolley schedule* online and note that *“Seniors/Disabled/Medicare” fares* are half-off (senior status starts at age 60).

Getting to San Diego:

San Diego is a beautiful city to visit and you can easily drive, fly, or take the train. There is a very good public transportation system of buses and trolleys, as well as taxis and ride-share services, so you don't need to rent a car in order to visit any of the wonderful local destinations.

For San Diego International Airport (SAN, Lindbergh Field):

<https://www.san.org/>

For Amtrak (SAN): <https://www.amtrak.com/stations/san>

Things to do in San Diego:

San Diego is a city on the water, with miles of beautiful beaches, harbors, and bays. The *San Diego Zoo* is very large and impressive and, 30-some miles north east, their sister *Safari Park* is even larger and in many ways more impressive. Balboa Park, “the nation's largest urban cultural park,” is beautiful and well worth visiting, as of course is *Sea World*. The *Maritime Museum of San Diego* and the *USS Midway Museum* are fascinating. San Diego visitor web sites include:

<https://www.sandiego.org/>

<https://www.sandiegovisit.org/>

<https://hiddensandiego.net/>

San Diego County is also considered by many to be the “Craft Beer Capital of America”—in a later Progress Report our staff zymologist Jason Fisher will provide some details.

Mythcon 50 Members

(as of 2/5/19)

Megan Abrahamson
Edward Alexander
Moses Allen
Marcia Bigger
Bernadette Bosky
David Bratman
Berni Phillips Bratman
Matthew Breth
Bonnie Callahan
Tim Callahan
Anne Osborn Coopersmith
Roy-Charles Coulombe
Janet Brennan Croft
Edith Crowe
Margaret Dean
Paula DiSante
Leslie Donovan
David Emerson
James Faris
Eleanor Farrell
Alicia Fox-Lenz
Stephen Gaddis
Victoria Gaydosik
Christopher Gilson
Diana Glycer
Sierra Glycer
Lisa Harrigan
Carl Hostetter

Gary Hunnewell
Shasta Hunnewell
Sylvia Hunnewell
Tristan Hunnewell
Joel Hunter
Linda James
Mary Jo Kapsalis
Carol King
Bruce Leonard
Nancy Martsch
Lynn Maudlin
Elise McKenna
Colin Moll
Sarah O'Dell
Jeanell Pelsor
Karla Powell
Bonnie Rauscher
Eric Rauscher
Courtney Riojas
Shannon Riojas
Arden Smith
Sherwood Smith
Hannah Thomas
David VanLoo
Marion VanLoo
Don Williams
Amy Wisniewski

Mythcon 50 Committee

Lynn Maudlin – Chair

Janet Brennan Croft – Papers Coordinator

David Bratman – Programming

Sue Dawe – Art Show

Lisa Deutsch Harrigan – Treasurer

Eleanor Farrell – Publications

Jason Fisher – Zymology

J'nae Spano – Dealers' Room

Marion VanLoo – Masquerade

Courtney Riojas, Shannon Riojas – Without Portfolio

Mythcon 50 logo design: Sue Dawe