



July 9-12, 2010

Crowne Plaza Suites

7800 Alpha Road

Dallas, Texas 75240

www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/41

PROGRESS REPORT # I

MARCH 31, 2010

MYTHCON 41 COMMITTEE

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

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

MYTHCON COMES TO THE LONE STAR STATE

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

Our theme is an old one (but new to Mythcon): WAR IN HEAVEN.

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

Having thus set the table, let us proceed to the hors d'œuvres: the first progress report for Mythcon 41. We would like to begin by extending a personal welcome to all of you, most especially to those of you who have never visited North Texas.

Mythcon 41 Co-chairs,

Jason Fisher
Editor, *Mythprint*

Randy Hoyt
Mythopoeic Society Webmaster

GUESTS OF HONOR

AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR

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



SCHOLAR GUEST OF HONOR

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

ADDITIONAL GUESTS

James A. Owen

Author of *The Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica*, *Starchild*, and *Mythopolis*

A. Lee Martinez

Author of *A Nameless Witch*, *Monster, Too*, *Many Curses*, *Divine Misfortune*

Jason Henderson

Author of *Alex Van Helsing: Vampire Rising*, *The Darkling Band*, and *Sword of Dracula*

Will Clarke

Author of *Lord Vishnu's Love Handles* and *The Worthy: A Ghost's Story*

John D. Rateliff

Renowned Tolkien scholar and author of *The History of The Hobbit*

Diana Pavlac Glycer

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

Suzanne Frank

Director, SMU CAPE Creative Writing Program, and author.

SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Starting and ending times for Mythcon 41 are still approximate, but for trip planning you can assume that registration will open about noon on Friday and programming will begin no earlier than 2 PM. The first meal offered as part of the board package is dinner Friday evening. On Monday, breakfast is the final meal on the package. Programming will continue into the Society members' meeting and the closing ceremonies which are expected to finish by 1 PM.

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

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

SPECIAL WRITERS' TRACK

We are very excited to offer a full Writers' Track at Mythcon 41. This will include panel discussions and workshops with a variety of fantasy, science-fiction, and horror writers, most of them from North Texas. James Owen, A. Lee Martinez, Jason Henderson, Will Clarke, and Suzanne Frank are all scheduled to participate. Amateur and professional writers alike are invited to join our special guests for in-depth conversations about the craft of fiction — with special emphasis on the genres of fantasy, science fiction, and horror. And be sure to bring your copies of the authors' books for autographs!

Further details about specific Writers' Track programming will be made available in our next progress report. Stay tuned.

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR MYTHCON 41

Papers dealing with the conference theme, **WAR IN HEAVEN**, are especially encouraged. We also welcome papers focusing 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 other fantasy authors and themes. Papers from a variety of critical perspectives and disciplines are welcome. Each paper will be given a one-hour slot to allow time for questions, but individual papers should be timed for oral presentation in 40 minutes maximum. Participants are encouraged to submit papers chosen for presentation at the conference to *Mythlore*, the refereed journal of the Mythopoeic Society. Paper abstracts of no more than 300 words, along with contact

information, should be sent to the Papers Coordinator at the address below (e-mail preferred) by May 15, 2010. Please include any A/V requirements (which we will try to accommodate), as well as the projected time needed for your presentation.

All paper presenters must register for the full conference. Please send proposal abstracts or questions to the Mythcon 41 Papers Coordinator.

Robin Anne Reid

Mythcon 41 Papers Coordinator
Department of Literature and Languages
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Commerce TX 75429
Robin_Reid@tamu-commerce.edu

STUDENT AWARD

The Council of Stewards is pleased to announce a new award for the best paper presented at Mythcon by an undergraduate or graduate student. This new award is being introduced at Mythcon 41!

You can download the announcement and application form (in PDF format) here:
<http://www.mythsoc.org/assets/mythcon-student-award.pdf>

- An application form must be submitted to the award committee chair, Janet Brennan Croft, at mythlore@mythsoc.org, at least 30 days before the first day of Mythcon. (the deadline for 2010 is June 9.) If you did not receive an application with your paper acceptance and wish to enter, please contact Janet directly.
- The paper must follow *Mythlore* style guidelines and should be between 4,000 and 9,000 words long. The finished paper must be submitted electronically to the chair at least ten days before the first day of Mythcon. (The deadline for 2010 is June 29.)
- 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.
- The awards committee will consist of the Mythcon paper coordinator, the editor of *Mythlore*, the Mythopoeic Press secretary, and up to two other Society members if needed.
- The winner will receive a certificate, a one-year subscription to *Mythlore*, and half-off registration for the next Mythcon he or she attends. The winner is also strongly encouraged to submit the paper to *Mythlore* for consideration.
- The winner will be announced at the Mythcon banquet and on the society's website, as well as in *Mythlore* and *Mythprint*.

REGISTRATION

The following membership rates for Mythcon are good through May 15, 2010:

\$65 for Mythopoeic Society members
\$75 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.

ROOM AND BOARD

PLEASE NOTE: Room and board packages must be purchased by June 1, 2010.

MEALS AND LODGING

Full room and board packages include lodging for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night, along with the following meals: Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday breakfast, lunch and banquet ticket; and Monday breakfast. Additional nights with breakfast are available on Thursday and Monday night.

Conference Packages

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

Additional Night Before Conference

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

Additional Night After Conference

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

MEALS ONLY

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

Commuter Meal Package: \$125.00

Packages may be purchased online at
www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/41/room/

STARVING SCHOLAR AWARDS

For scholars needing financial assistance, the Mythopoeic Society offers one or more Starving Scholar Awards each year. These awards are meant to partially defray the costs of Mythcon membership, room, and board, but they are typically not targeted toward travel expenses. Scholars should receive a copy of the application when they submit a paper proposal to the Papers Coordinator, Robin Reid. If you did not receive a copy of this application and would like one, please contact the Papers Coordinator.

Completed applications should be submitted to the conference 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; however, for Mythcon 41 the deadline will be May 1, 2010. Decisions on grants will be made within two weeks of this deadline. Applicants will be notified by mail if they have been awarded funds.

TRAVEL

Air travelers have two options. Dallas Love Field (DAL), the smaller airport, served primarily by Southwest Airlines, is located approximately 13 miles (20 minutes) from Crowne Plaza Suites. Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), the larger airport, served by all major airlines, is located approximately 18 miles away (25 minutes). The Hotel airport shuttle offers a discounted price of \$15 per person each way. Taxis should cost about \$35 each way from Love Field, or about \$45 each way from D/FW Airport. For those renting a car at either airport or driving from nearby cities, free parking is available on site.

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

For assistance planning your routes, please consult:

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

<http://www.dart.org>

Amtrak Rail Service

<http://www.amtrak.com>

THE VENUE

As many of you will know, we had originally planned to hold Mythcon 41 on the campus of Southern Methodist University. Unfortunately, the university's Conference Services department proved too difficult to work with. While waiting for a contract, repeatedly promised but never delivered, we approached Crowne Plaza Suites as a Plan B. This venue had hosted ConDFW, an annual fantasy/science-fiction convention, in February and seemed like an ideal location for us. It became clear very quickly that Crowne Plaza Suites was more excited about our event and demonstrated a willingness to provide a competitive price. Moreover, the venue change brings with it some significant improvements over SMU, including:

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

MYTHCON 41 REGISTERED MEMBERS (as of March 30, 2010)

Edward H. Alexander	Carl Hostetter
Daniel Baird	Randy Hoyt
David Bratman	Gary Hunnewell [Hildifons Took]
Berni Phillips	Rachel Hunnewell [Bianca]
Sandra Burns	Sylvia Hunnewell [Sybel of Eld Mountain]
Bonnie Callahan	Mary Jo Kapsalis
Joe R. Christopher	Bruce Leonard
Lynn Christopher	A. Lee Martinez
Will Clarke	Lynn Maudlin
Gavin Claypool	Ginger McElwee
Anne Osborn Coopersmith	Jef Murray
Edith Crowe	David Oberhelman
Sasha Decker	James A. Owen
Merlin DeTardo	John D. Rateliff
Paula DiSante	Janice K. Coulter
David Emerson	Eric Rauscher
Eleanor Farrell	Bonnie Rauscher
Jason Fisher	Emily Rauscher
Jo Foster	Autumn Rauscher
Mike Foster	Doris Robin
Suzanne Frank	Denise Roper
Chris Gilson	Ekaterina Svetova
Diana Glycer	Robert Tredray
Michael Glycer	Richard Tuerk
Sierra Glycer	Valerie Frankel
Jason Henderson	Marion VanLoo
Mary Hodge	David VanLoo
Rosamund Hodge	

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