

Briefly Noted: Fastitocalon 6.1/2 and Hither Shore 12

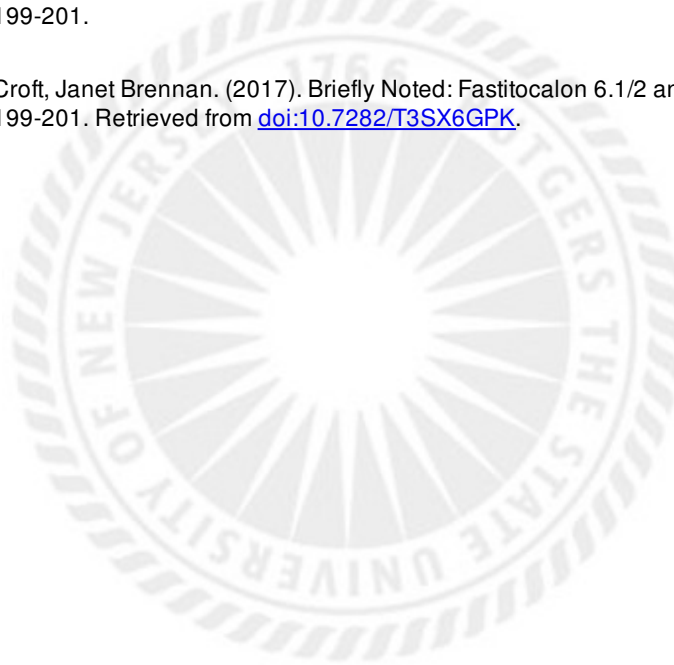
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Article begins on next page

A Well of Wonder belongs on every Inklings scholar's shelf. As a recovering reporter, this reviewer especially admires Kilby's interviewing skills, the foremost of which was simply being a good listener. His puissant perusals of the published, and, in the case of his 1966 summer of working with Tolkien on *The Silmarillion*, the unpublished works of the authors he writes about here are what make this book so extraordinarily valuable.

In *A Well of Wonder*, years of Inklings study and first-hand experiences come together in a rich and robust scholarly chronicle. Clyde Kilby enjoyed friendships and conversations that *Mythlore* readers can only dream about. Reading this book, those dreams come true.

—Mike Foster

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Alpajpuri, and Bernie Zuber. "Mythcon Report." *Mythcon I, Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA, 1970*. Ed. Glen GoodKnight. Los Angeles: Mythopoetic Society, 1970. 59.

Kilby, C.S. "Tolkien, Lewis, and Williams." *Mythcon I, Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA, 1970*. Ed. Glen GoodKnight. Los Angeles: Mythopoetic Society, 1970. 3–4.



BRIEFLY NOTED

FASTITOCALON: STUDIES IN FANTASTICISM ANCIENT TO MODERN.

Special issue: *Fantastic Animals, Animals in the Fantastic*. Guest editors: Oliver Bidlo, Thomas Honegger, and Frank Weinreich. Vol. 6, nos. 1 and 2, 2016. Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier. ISSN 1869-960X, ISBN 978-3-86821-680-6. €25,00.

HITHER SHORE: INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL ON MODERN FANTASY LITERATURE.

Special issue: *Tolkien's On Fairy-stories*. Guest editor: Thomas Fornet-Ponse. Vol. 12, 2015. Scriptorium Oxoniae. ISBN 978-3-9818313-0-6. €23,50.

FASTITOCALON CONTINUES ITS SERIES OF SPECIAL ISSUES with this on fantasy and animals. The lead essay by Friedhelm Schneidewind orients us to the territory to be covered: archetypal animals familiar from folk tales, like the fox, wolf, lion,

and bear; companion animals, like cats, dogs, and horses; wild animals like rats, crows, owls, serpents, and spiders; all as they appear across many genres of literature and popular culture. The following article by Anja Höing usefully orients us to theory surrounding the concept of the talking animal in story.

Of particular interest to *Mythlore* readers will be several articles on animals in fantasy works frequently discussed in these pages. Steve Gronert Ellerhoff explores western concepts of shamanism as depicted in Richard Adams's *Watership Down* in "The Rabbit Who Saw It All Coming," critiquing Joseph Campbell and touching on issues of cultural appropriation. Victoria Holtz Wodzack considers C.S. Lewis's engagement with animals, and how Talking Beasts "complicate the categories" tidily drawn up in the medieval imagination (110), in "On Pilgrimage Among Beasts: Narnia, and the Beasts Who Teach."

Two articles relate to Tolkien. Łukasz Neubauer's "The Eagle is Not Coming: Some Remarks on the Absence of the News-Bearing Eagle in Peter Jackson's Adaptation of *The Lord of the Rings*" examines the ways in which the director's treatment of the Eagles lessens the eucatastrophic impact of their appearances. Timo Lothman's "The Ravaging and Hoard-Guarding Antagonist: A Cognitive Approach to *Dragon* Conceptualizations in *Beowulf* and Selected Writings of J.R.R. Tolkien" is a dense study of the metaphorical meanings of dragons and their actions.

Other essays discuss queer readings of foxes, animals in Kafka's works, Andrzej Sapkowski's *Witcher* series (by frequent *Mythlore* reviewer Kristine Larsen), animals in Icelandic, Mesopotamian, and Talmudic tales, and the manga series *Inuyasha*.

HICHER SHORE COLLECTS THE PAPERS FROM THE ANNUAL TOLKIEN SEMINAR of the German Tolkien Society, which this year focused on Tolkien's seminal text "On Fairy-stories." As usual, some essays are in German and some in English, with summaries provided in the other language (some of which make me deeply regret that I read no German). As with *Fastitocalon*, most of the contributions are from European authors, and in fact there is some overlap in authors between these two issues.

Stand-out articles, to my mind, include Renée Vink's "Human-stories or Human Stories?", on death and immortality in tales told of humans by elves, Gerald Hynes on "Theorists of Sub-creation Before Tolkien's On Fairy-stories," and Jonathan Nauman's "Chesterton's Chalk," on creativity and the commonplace in Tolkien and Chesterton. Marguerite Mouton closely compares "On Fairy-stories" and *Smith of Wootton Major*, and Thomas Fernet-Ponse meditates on Faërie, Utopia, and escapism. For those interested in the tools of digital humanities, Claudio Antonio Testi's paper is replete with charts of word-pairs

in the text and their implications. Łukasz Neubauer's essay on the Eagles complements his essay in *Fastitocalon*, above. Thomas Honegger's contribution is perhaps the first lengthy consideration I've seen of "Sellic Spell," Tolkien's retelling of the *Beowulf* epic as fairy-tale verse.

The hefty volume closes with a series of book reviews, but before that section, editor Honegger pens a "Reviewer's Complaint" about rampant provincialism in literature searches and carelessness in editing. Here in the United States we have a tendency to overlook European scholarship, and the reverse is true as well; but with the research tools we now have available—databases, indexes, reference works, online journals—this neglect is becoming less and less excusable. Our field has long since reached a level of maturity where amateurish work should be beneath all of us. I will take the opportunity here to plug the *Mythlore Index Plus*, which can be downloaded from the Society's website at mythsoc.org, and to recommend my article, "Bibliographic Resources for Literature Searches on J.R.R. Tolkien." I hope to see other scholars follow this lead and create similar guides—and to see teachers and scholars use these guides in the classroom and in their own research!

—Janet Brennan Croft

WORKS CITED

- Croft, Janet Brennan. "Bibliographic Resources for Literature Searches on J.R.R. Tolkien." *Journal of Tolkien Research*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2016, article 2. <http://scholar.valpo.edu/journaloftolkienresearch/vol3/iss1/2>.
— and Edith Crowe. *Mythlore Index Plus*. Last updated March 2017. <http://mythsoc.org/press/mythlore-index-plus.htm>.

