

## **BREE MOOT AND THE "BEYOND BREE" AWARDS**

Bree Moot is a conference sponsored by the JRR Tolkien fan magazine "Beyond Bree", the newsletter of the Tolkien Special Interest Group of American Mensa.

Bree Moot is usually small and informal. Events may be held in one hall, with papers and presentations in the afternoon, a Banquet with a Special Tolkien Desert in the evening, and a Guest of Honor Speech, Awards, Masquerade, and entertainments. Followed by singing, games, and good talk into the wee hours. On the next day, perhaps a Goblin Market (a flea market, at which attendees can sell their goods) and more papers. Bree Moot has twice combined with other conferences, so the program can vary. In 2004, instead of a full-size Moot, we held a Banquet in conjunction with a scholarly conference: "The Lord of the Rings 1954-2004: Scholarship in Honor of Dr Richard E Blackwelder" at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. And, as a Participating Society, we sponsored a panel on "Tolkien Fandom & Scholarship" at the Tolkien 2005 international conference in Birmingham, England.

The Fourth Bree Moot saw the presentation of the first "Beyond Bree" Awards, given "In recognition of outstanding contribution to the study of J.R.R. Tolkien, from the Readers of 'Beyond Bree'". The Award itself is a handsome framed certificate signed by "Beyond Bree" readers present. The Third and Fourth Awards were presented at Bree Banquet and Tolkien 2005.

First Bree Moot: Oct 29-30, 1994; Abbey Hotel, Bettendorf, IA. Sponsor Ron Hyde.

Bree Moot 2: Oct 28-29, 1995; the Cheshire Inn, Clayton (near St Louis), MO. Sponsors Gary Hunnewell & John Houghton. Guests Tom Shippey and Christopher Mitchell.

Bree Moot 3: May 9-11, 1997; University of Minnesota & Radisson Metrodome Hotel, Minneapolis, MN. Sponsor David Lenander. Theme: "Illustrating Tolkien". Guest John Rateliff.

Bree Moot 4: July 30-Aug 2, 1999; Archbishop Cousins Center, Milwaukee, WI. In conjunction with Mythcon XXX. Sponsor Richard West. Guests Douglas Anderson, Sylvia & Gary Hunnewell. Theme: "Bree & Beyond: Exploring the Fantasy Worlds of JRR Tolkien and His Fellow Travelers". Presentation of first "Beyond Bree" Awards to Charles Elston & Dr Richard E Blackwelder.

Bree Moot 5: April 27-28, 2001: University of St Thomas, St Paul, MN. In conjunction with the Tolkien Conference, April 26, University of St Thomas. Sponsor David Lenander. Presentation of 2nd "Beyond Bree" Awards to Richard & Perri West and Gary & Sylvia Hunnewell.

Bree Banquet: October 23, 2004: John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI. In conjunction with "The Lord of the Rings 1954-2004: Scholarship in Honor of Dr Richard E Blackwelder" at Marquette University, Oct 21-23. Sponsor Nancy Martsch. Presentation of 3rd "Beyond Bree" Awards to René van Rossenberg and Mike Foster.

"Beyond Bree" is a Participating Society in the international conference Tolkien 2005: Aug 11-15, Aston University, Birmingham, England. "Beyond Bree" sponsors a panel "After the Movie: Tolkien Fandom & Scholarship", August 13. Presentation of 4th "Beyond Bree" Awards to David & Dorothea Salo, Wayne Hammond & Christina Scull, Anthony Burdge & Jessica Burke.