

published by recommendation of one of the publisher's children, to whom he had shown the manuscript. Yet all of the Middle-earth stories have attracted primarily adult readers. And an archetypal, Theosophical commentary was published by the comparative-religion scholar Robert Ellwood in *Frodo's Quest*.

Another more recent example is the *Harry Potter* series of seven primary books, plus several supporting volumes. They were first published for the children's market, but have been avidly taken up by adults and interpreted in a variety of sophisticated ways. I wrote a collection of articles on the books, compiled into an electronic book by the Website *Theosophy Forward*, under the pen name Prof. Abditus Questor: [The Ancient Wisdom of Harry Potter](#).

Yet other examples are the *Mary Poppins* books of P. L. (Pamela Lyndon) Travers, a stage name adopted by Helen Lyndon Goff, an Australian actress, journalist, and novelist (Travers being her father's first name). Born in 1899 and died in 1996, she moved to England in 1924. She met the Irish Theosophical poets George William Russell (AE) and William Butler Yeats, through whom she developed an interest in the mythologies of the world. She also met and was greatly influenced by the Russian mystic George Gurdjieff. She was an early and long-time contributor to *Parabola: The Magazine of Myth and Tradition*, founded in 1976. Among her many contributions to that magazine were "On Unknowing" (10.3, Aug. 1985), "The Unsleping Eye" (11.1, Feb. 1986), and "Nirvana Is Samsara" (11.2, May 1986).

A collection of Travers' articles, many originally published in *Parabola* but others in a variety of places, is *What the Bee Knows*. The articles in this collection show Pamela Travers to have been an inspired and inspiring writer on the topics of myth, symbol, and story. The book's title is notable. Travers explains it in a headnote on page 3: "'Ask the wild bee what the Druids knew' / Old English adage." Here "Old English" refers to an older form of the English language, rather than to the scholarly use of that term for what is more popularly called Anglo-Saxon. As Travers acknowledges elsewhere in *What the Bee Knows* (p. 81), the adage goes back to the Scottish Highlands. It was popularized by the Scottish author William Sharp (1855-1905), who wrote under the penname of Fiona MacLeod. In addition, however, there is a long tradition associating bees with instruction and entertainment. Bees produce honey and wax (in their honeycombs). Honey is taken as a symbol of