

Spring 4-15-1966

Letter to Publishers' Weekly

Rayner Unwin

Follow this and additional works at: https://dc.swosu.edu/tolkien_journal



Part of the [Children's and Young Adult Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Unwin, Rayner (1966) "Letter to Publishers' Weekly," *Tolkien Journal*: Vol. 2: Iss. 2, Article 7.
Available at: https://dc.swosu.edu/tolkien_journal/vol2/iss2/7

This Note is brought to you for free and open access by the Mythopoeic Society at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Tolkien Journal by an authorized editor of SWOSU Digital Commons. An ADA compliant document is available upon request. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.

Online Summer Seminar 2023

August 5-6, 2023: Fantasy Goes to Hell: Depictions of Hell in Modern Fantasy Texts

<https://mythsoc.org/oms/oms-2023.htm>



Letter to Publishers' Weekly

9

21st March, 1966

Editor-in-Chief
Publishers' Weekly
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York 10036

Dear Sir,

Certain aspects of the settlement between Ace Books and Professor J.R.R. Tolkien reported in the PW of 14th March seem to require clarification, which perhaps his English publisher may provide.

1. Far from being "on record from the start as willing to pay royalties to Dr. Tolkien, but not his publishers", Ace Books published and distributed their version of THE LORD OF THE RINGS without reference to or communication with the author. Only after energetic protests from numerous quarters had been sustained for several months did Professor Tolkien receive, in December last, for the first time, a letter from Ace Books.
2. As Ace Books did not care to correspond with Professor Tolkien's publishers, the inference that the author would only receive one quarter of the U.S. paperback royalties is theirs. It is also untrue. Except in Formosa, incidents of moral piracy are happily rare. When they do occur, few responsible publishers would wish to profit in any way from an injury to one of their authors.
3. In reaching agreement with Professor Tolkien, Ace Books undertook not to print any further copies of their version of THE LORD OF THE RINGS without the author's permission. As sole rights for an authorized paperback have already been granted to Ballantine Books, it is difficult to conceive such permission ever being possible.
4. It is noteworthy that the net result of this affair has been to distract an author of genius for six months from all creative work. Those who admire Professor Tolkien's books and clamour for more will draw their own conclusion.

Yours faithfully,
for GEORGE ALLEN AND UNWIN LIMITED
Rayner Unwin