

Summer 7-15-1966

## Tolkien Notes From All Over

Richard Plotz

Follow this and additional works at: [https://dc.swosu.edu/tolkien\\_journal](https://dc.swosu.edu/tolkien_journal)



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

---

### Recommended Citation

Plotz, Richard (1966) "Tolkien Notes From All Over," *Tolkien Journal*: Vol. 2: Iss. 3, Article 2.  
Available at: [https://dc.swosu.edu/tolkien\\_journal/vol2/iss3/2](https://dc.swosu.edu/tolkien_journal/vol2/iss3/2)

This Editorial Introduction 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](mailto: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>



## Tolkien Notes From All Over

TOLKIEN NOTES FROM ALL OVER

A number of people have wondered how I got the date 7146 for this year in Shire Reckoning. Actually, it was a roundabout and inaccurate process, for which I apologize. I used the analogy Fourth Age: age of recorded history: since the year 1 in the Hebrew calendar. I then added  $1420 + 5726$  to get 7146. Simple? Arbitrary? Of course. Try this instead. John Alcock suggests that since Númenor is Atlantis the date of the fall of Númenor is the same for Atlantis. Working back through a reference in Plato's Timaeus, he comes up with A.D. 1966=S.R. 9834. In other words, the War of the Ring ended in 6449 B.C. Heresy? Perhaps, but draw your own conclusions.

Mrs. Gracia Ellwood, at 207 Takaishi, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan, is writing an essay on Christ-imagery in LotR ("as well as belonging to the fun school"). Suggestions?

Amy Richardson, 196 Washington Street, Wellesley, Mass., and some of her friends are writing a musical farce on LotR. Poison-pen letters and helpful hints to Amy, please.

The Ballantine LotR "won easily" the Chicago Tribune Paperback of the Year Poll for 1965, according to the Tribune's July 31 books section.

Joseph Hearst, who has connections with these things, caused the Ash Nazg (in the original) to be placed inside a nuclear "device". "I can make no statement of cause and effect, but the device yielded one and a half kilotons more than expected. Perhaps the power of Barad-dur is not completely dissipated."

The rumors of a Tolkien Festival that have been floating about are true. It will be at Mankato State College, Mankato, Minn., on Friday evening, 28 October, and Saturday, 29 October. Worthy manuscripts requiring less than forty minutes' presentation time will be read at the conference. Send contributions by 15 September to "Tolkien Festival", Mankato State College.

John Moses suggests that Tolkien readers might be interested in the Michaël Youth Group. I don't know what it is, but the address is Threefold Farm, Hungry Hollow Road, Spring Valley, N.Y. 10977.

Fred Lerner reports:  
There is a "philological autobiography" of Tolkien in his essay "English and Welsh", pp. 35, 36-37, 41. The book is Angles and Britons: O'Donnell Lectures. (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 1963). The Epic of Gilgamesh in Egyptian mythology touches on the idea of the Uttermost West as a place of rebirth and eternal peace.  
There is (or was) a town called Long Cleve in Rockland County, N.Y. When Fred returns from the Army, he plans to run for Mayor of East Paterson, N.J., and he expects to win. As Mayor, his duties will be much the same as those of the Mayor of Michel Delving. His first official acts will be to change 54th Street to The Greenway and to change East Paterson to Bywater, N.J. 07407. Good luck, Fred.

Don Sosin, en route to Munich to form a TSA smial there, called a Tolkien meeting on the Nieuw Amsterdam. It was the talk of the ship (and quite successful, too).

Edward S. Lauterbach, Associate Professor of English at Purdue, suggests some reading: In C.S. Lewis: Poems there are several poems on Narnia. In Letters of C.S. Lewis he refers to Tolkien frequently; this is something to look into, though there is no index. Try also George MacDonald's The Lost Princess: A Double Story for mythic symbolism. Lauterbach also recommends the children's books of Lloyd Alexander for Welsh mythology, and The Weirdestone of Brisingamen by Alan Garner (the last is so similar to Tolkien's books that I found myself saying "Gandalf" instead of "Cadellin", the wizard in Weirdestone). I would add to this list Islandia, by Austin Tappan Wright, a book which held me with almost as much power as LotR. Wright has even sampled Islandia's interesting language for us. Islandia was finished before The Hobbit was started, as Wright died in 1931! No possibility of plagiarism here.

The Tolkien Reader has arrived! The proven glory of Tree and Leaf, Farmer Giles of Ham, and The Adventures of Tom Bombadil is joined to The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth Beorhthelm's Son, an original play by Tolkien based on the Anglo-Saxon poem The Battle of Maldon. The book is prefaced by "Tolkien's Magic Ring", an essay by Peter Beagle that originally appeared in Holiday magazine. The Tolkien Reader is available to members of the Tolkien Society at the special price of 75¢.

After September 16, I will be handling the Tolkien Journal at Harvard. The address is: Pennypacker 38, Cambridge, Mass. 02138. Orders for buttons, books, and back issues should go to 159 Marlborough Road, as before. My faithful servant Banazir Galpsi will take care of them.

Bob Foster's Index, or Glossary, or whatever he wants to call it, is finally taking form. The first section--on astronomy--was published in Niekas 16, and future sections will follow in Niekas. The general idea is that readers of Niekas will make comments on the index, and Bob will use these comments for a revised index, to be published eventually in book form. The finished book will be about 250 pages long, and will be an indispensable guide for all students of Middle-earth. TSA members are urged to help by subscribing to Niekas and sending in their comments on each section of the index to Niekas or the TSA. Send 35¢ to Niekas, c/o Felice Rolfe, 1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, California.

The fire-lighting charm on the Gandalf button reads, "Naur an edraith ammen! Naur dan i ngaurhoth!" It is used by Gandalf to ward off the wolves in Caradhras Pass.

Does anybody have any ideas or information on a Braille transcription or recording of LotR? If so, write to: John Covici, 635 W. Warren Apt. 4, Detroit, Michigan 48201.