

Winter 1-15-1967

Introduction/Dedication

Richard Plotz

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



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

Recommended Citation

Plotz, Richard (1967) "Introduction/Dedication," *Tolkien Journal*: Vol. 3: Iss. 1, Article 6.
Available at: https://dc.swosu.edu/tolkien_journal/vol3/iss1/6

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.

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>



Introduction/Dedication

JOHN RONALD REUEL TOLKIEN WAS BORN IN BLOEMFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA, ON 3RD JANUARY 1892. ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO, ON 3RD JANUARY 1967, THE WORLD CELEBRATED HIS SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY. IN THE INTERVENING YEARS, HE HAS GAINED A REPUTATION AS ONE OF THE FINEST CONTEMPORARY MEDIEVAL SCHOLARS AS WELL AS ONE OF THE MOST CREATIVE MINDS OF THE MODERN LITERARY WORLD.

WITH THIS ISSUE OF THE TOLKIEN JOURNAL, WE SALUTE YOU, PROFESSOR TOLKIEN, ON YOUR WORK WHICH HAS INSPIRED SO MANY OTHERS. WE WISH YOU CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH, THAT IN FIFTY-SIX YEARS YOU MAY PASS BOTH BILBO AND THE OLD TOOK, AND THAT YOU MAY CONTINUE TO ENLIGHTEN THE WORLD IN MATTERS CONCERNING THOSE PERIODS OF OUR HISTORY WHICH HAVE BEEN HIDDEN FOR SO LONG. WE DEDICATE THIS ISSUE TO YOU, TO YOUR WORKS, TO YOUR GREAT PHILOLOGICAL EXERCISE THAT IS EQUALLY A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO IMAGINATIVE WORLD LITERATURE, TO YOUR SPIRIT WHICH IS SO HAPPILY CONTAGIOUS. JOHN RONALD REUEL TOLKIEN, WE GIVE YOU OURSELVES. HAPPY BIRTHDAY. NAI ANAR AR ELENi SILUVAR TIELYANNA OIALE.

- - -

For this special issue of the Tolkien Journal, we asked Tolkien fans all over the world to send their greetings for inclusion. We received full-length articles from W.H. Auden and Clyde S. Kilby, shorter articles from Peter Beagle, Nancy Smith, and Edmund R. Meskys, and various statements and contributions from many others. We include all these responses. But first we would like to introduce our contributors. The table of contents appears on the inside back cover.

W.H. AUDEN is the world-famous poet and critic. His poems appear frequently in The New Yorker and many other publications, are often anthologized, and have been published in book form. He is an old friend of Professor Tolkien's, and wrote the original review of The Fellowship of the Ring for The New York Times.

PETER BEAGLE is the author of A Fine and Private Place and I See By My Outfit. He brought The Lord of the Rings to the attention of Ian Ballantine with some references in his second book, and his essay "Tolkien's Magic Ring" was used as the preface to The Tolkien Reader.

GILLES GERRIS is a Belgian poet currently living in London, who is working privately on a translation of Professor Tolkien's fiction into French.

CLYDE S. KILBY is chairman of the English department at Wheaton College in Illinois. The author of The Christian World of C.S. Lewis, he was a friend of both Lewis and Tolkien. Last summer he was in Oxford helping to bring The Silmarillion closer to completion.

EDMUND R. MESKYS teaches physics at Belknap College in Center Harbor, New Hampshire. He is co-editor (with Felice Rolfe) of Niekas, one of the biggest and most successful of fanzines.

HOWARD NEMEROV is a poet, author, and playwright who teaches in the English department at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. He has written reviews of The Lord of the Rings.

WILLIAM O. SCOTT teaches English at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. His wife, NAN C. SCOTT, called the Ace publication to the attention of Professor Tolkien in June 1965. Her correspondence was instrumental in the final persuasion of Ace to pay royalties.

COPYRIGHT © 1967 by RICHARD PLOTZ -- TOLKIEN JOURNAL III:1

NANCY SMITH and her husband Bernard are old friends of the Tolkien family. She prepared the index from which were taken the Ballantine and the new hardcover indexes. She is also something of a cook, specializing in hobbit food.

P.L. TRAVERS is the author of Mary Poppins (not the movie, the book) and a Tolkien fan, of course. No further explanation is necessary.

ALBERT VANDERBURG is a modern American sculptor currently in London. He is the craftsman of the unfinished giant diorama "Lothlórien", which depicts several scenes from the forest.

We have also included presentations from all four legal publishers of The Lord of the Rings, as well as a sprinkling of material from our regular contributors. We hope you will enjoy this issue as much as we have.

= + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + =
* # * # * # * # * # * # * # * # * # *

SMIALS

It's taken a long time to realize it, but the smial craze is the most sensible way to organize the Tolkien Society. We have heard from organized smials in Denver, Los Angeles, North Andover (Mass.), and Stony Brook (N.Y.), to pick a few of the better-organized from the myriad of existing ones. We would like to publish a fairly complete list in the next issue of the TJ. This should serve a simultaneous service: if there are two smials in an area they should know about each other in case they want to merge or cooperate. Smial, Professor Tolkien tells us, means "burrow", and "is a likely form for a descendant of /OE/ smygel, and represents well the relationship of Hobbit tran to Rohirric trahan." It is, strangely enough, related to Smeagol (Hobbit Trahalld), meaning "worming in". No matter about that, though. The important thing is that a smial be a hobbitlike fellowship, people who could have coexisted in a Shire or Buckland smial. This is not to say that there can be no quarrels; cf. the Brandybuck smial. The ideal smial meeting is hard to determine; perhaps one criterion should be infrequency. Meetings are always best when held on special occasions: Yule, Midyears Day, 25 Rethe, 6 Astron, 22 Halimath, etc. The 1966 Yule Moot, held by Scott Smith's L.A. smial, is a good example. Write Scott at 9533 Pentland, Temple City, Calif. 91780 for ideas. Now, we would like everyone who has already formed a smial or who would like to form one to drop a card to the TSA with SMIALS written (preferably in bright red) on the front and the name and address of the smial chairman, range of location, and approximate membership on the back. Please--only one card per smial. We get enough letters without having to deal with unnecessary duplications. If we get notices from all the smials, we should have a long list nextish, but we need it. And send information even if we know about you. It's easier that way. More about this next time, and have a good 25 Rethe.

#

IMPORTANT NOTICE: THE OFFICES OF THE TOLKIEN SOCIETY OF AMERICA WILL BE CLOSED FROM 15 JUNE TO 31 AUGUST FOR A SUMMER VACATION (THE FIRST IN THE TSA'S TWO YEARS). MAIL RECEIVED DURING THIS TIME WILL NOT BE PROCESSED UNTIL SEPTEMBER, AND THEN ONLY AFTER CURRENT MAIL HAS BEEN PROCESSED. URGENT QUESTIONS CAN WAIT, BECAUSE WE WON'T BE AROUND TO ANSWER THEM. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE JOURNAL CAN WAIT, ORDERS CAN WAIT, ANYTHING CAN WAIT. WE'RE NOT MALICIOUS; WE JUST WON'T BE HERE. THANX.

--4--