

Summer 8-15-1968

Editorial

Ed Meskys

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Editorial

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Thain & editor: Ed Meškys, Box 233, Center Harbor NH 03226
Mayor & founder: Dick Plotz, 159 Marlborough Rd, Brooklyn
NY 11226

Historian & Tengwar consultant: Bob Foster, 376 E 8 St, Brook-
lyn NY 11218

(Note: to reach Dick mark the envelope PERSONAL, DO
NOT FORWARD TO NH)

CONTENTS

Editorial by Edmund R Meškys	2
The Rise of the Lord of the Rings, a Synopsis of Ancient Annals by Christine Jones 4	
On the Singular Incompetence of the Valar by Burt Randolph	11
Shire Post conducted by Cory Seidman	14

ART

cover:: Bonnie Bergstrom
pg 13:: Vaughn Bode
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My thanks to all who helped make this issue possible: To Charlie
& Marsha Brown and Tony Lewis for helping edit this issue, Mrs
Claire Howard & Marsha Brown for typing the articles, Cory Seid-
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proofreading parts of this issue, and (of course) the contributors.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE TSA

Individual membership in the Tolkien Society of America
costs \$2 when sent to US or APO addresses, \$2.40 (£1) elsewhere.
This brings four issues of the TOLKIEN JOURNAL plus any issues
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Subscription Agencies and dealers are given a 25% discount
on pre-paid orders. (I cannot handle the book-keeping of con-
signment orders.)

All back issues of the TOLKIEN JOURNAL are in print and
available. Price is proportional to size of issue and cost of print-
ing. #1, 10c. #2, 25c. #s 3-6 & 9, 50c ea. #7, \$1. #8, 60c.
GREEN DRAGONS #3 & 4 are available at 10c each. These pri-
ces apply everywhere, but there is a \$1 minimum on orders out-
side the US, Canada & Mexico.

Other merchandise is available to members but is listed only
in the GREEN DRAGON because the list changes frequently.

Note to members: the cost of NIEKAS has gone up to 60c the
copy, 4 for \$2. #19 is temporarily out of print and new subs will
begin with #20, out soon. When it is reprinted the cost of #19
will go up to 75c.

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for other than short quotes.

Editorial

AT LONG LAST

another Tolkien Journal is done! This issue is being finished on
24 July 1968, tho I suppose it will take a few more weeks to get
it printed, bound and mailed out. It has been a hectic year since
I took the Thainship over from Dick Plotz, but I am developing
a system and hope I can get the TJ out on a regular schedule
now. I do believe I'll be able to get another TJ out before the
end of the year. I have the material for it but need articles and
art for the issue after that.

Due to the mechanics of printing it is more economical to
publish one 16 page & 1 32 page issue than two 24 page issues.
Because I am using a more compact format I believe I get as
much material into 16 pages as Dick got into 24 so I will plan
on having every fourth issue a special 32 page one with full-
color cover. Tentatively it will be the first issue of each vol-
ume. I already have a color photograph of the painting I want
to use as the first color cover. It is an excellent picture of Bree
by a Los Angeles area member. [Incidentally, can you name at
least 2 other things in imaginative literature named Bree?]

MEETINGS, PAST & FUTURE

I held two meetings of the TSA and have plans for at least
three more in the near future. As most of you saw in the GREEN
DRAGON, the TSA had a meeting in NY in December and one
in Boston in April. Our next meeting will be at 9:30 am [!!!]
on Labor Day at the Claremont Hotel in Oakland Cal, as part of
the annual World Science Fiction Convention running from
Thursday thru Monday. (No TSA charge, but convention mem-
bership costs \$3.) The convention committee might again
change the meeting time or even day so check the convention
program to be sure.

Then we will have the Tolkien Conference at Belknap Col-
lege in Center Harbor New Hampshire on the weekend of Oct
18-20. I have already about 8 speakers and hope for many more.
An exact time table won't be set up until I have a better idea
of the total number of papers to be presented. Tentatively, Fri-
day evening will be set aside for a reception where attendees
will get a chance to meet one another. The papers, panel dis-
cussions, etc. will run all day Saturday and early Sunday after-
noon, perhaps overflowing to Friday if there are enough.

We are still looking for papers and would like people to sub-
mit them whether or not they will be able to attend. Also, we
want volunteers for panel discussions, to read absentee papers
and suggest topics for discussion. We expect some papers and
panels will not relate directly to LotR but will be on related
fantasy writers, the place of eucatastrophe in literature, etc.

Also, IF YOU HAVE NOT YET HEARD from me acknowledg-
ing your interest in appearing please write again for I believe I
have misplaced one or two early communications.

As a part of the Conference we are having, through the cour-
tesy of Marquette University, an EXHIBIT of ORIGINAL TOLKIEN
MANUSCRIPTS.

We have arranged with the Center Harbor Chamber of Com-
merce to handle room reservations and you should write directly
to them. (Dormitory space at the school probably will not be
available.) We are preparing circulars with travel information,
lists of rooms available, last minute information about the con-
ference, etc. To be placed on the mailing list please write Tol-
kien Conference, Belknap College, Center Harbor NH 03226. (For
those who want to find us on a map, we are on the north shore of
Lake Winnepesaukee in central NH, about 100 miles north of
Boston.)

A few of the younger members have inquired whether they
would get anything out of the conference. I think most points
of most papers would be understood by any real Tolkien fan. A
few will admittedly be beyond them, however.

Finally, the TSA will have its annual Yule Meet in NYC
some time during the week between Christmas & New Years.
Further details will appear in future GREEN DRAGONS. That
weekend the Modern Language Association is having its annual
meeting in NYC and they usually have several papers on Tol-

kien or Lewis. This year they are preparing a special session on science fiction. (The MLA is the major organization of college & university English professors.)

Now--a question! If the meeting is held on a weekday I will be able to get a hall at nominal cost and so admit TSA members free and only charge 50c or so for non-members. If the meeting is to be held on a Friday or Saturday, however, the hall will cost at least \$100 to rent so admission will have to be charged. Could you let me know as soon as possible how you feel on this matter? I will have to decide and make reservations in the near future because that is a busy time and the best halls are grabbed up early.

There is ONE OTHER MEETING in September. Jan Howard Finder (809 W Illinois St, Ap 4, Urbana IL 61801; 217-344-5489) is having a 'Tolkien Party' early in September at the Holy Name Cathedral in downtown Chicago. Despite the designation of party it will feature some formal talks. Write or call Jan for details.

TOLKIEN NOTES FROM ALL OVER

Henry Regnery & Co of Chicago has published *The Tolkien Relation* by William Ready [184 + vi pp, \$3.95, May 1, 1968]. I have read the book thru rather quickly and without taking notes. It is a biography of Tolkien with a discussion of his works, especially *LotR*. The book is rather interesting but unfortunately I noticed, without even looking for them, at least a half dozen errors, some major.

Also, the TSA has received a letter from Professor Tolkien denouncing the book. He wrote: It has come to my notice that a man called W R Ready has published... a biography of myself. I do not wish to present him with the advertisement of any public protest, but you would do me a considerable service if you would circulate to the Society and its branches the information that this book is bogus. It is published in spite of my strong disapproval. Mr. Ready has neither the authority nor the knowledge to write such a book. He visited me recently for about an hour and talked mostly about himself. We had some correspondence in the early 1950s when he was at Marquette University and negotiating the sale of the typescript of *The Lord of the Rings* to their library. My agents have read the proofs and report it is a piece of word-spinning, inaccurate even in many points among the little information that it provides. ¶ With best wishes to the Society and all its members, Yours sincerely, J R R Tolkien.

In an article about the Tolkien Explosion in the March 2 '68 [Toronto] *Globe Magazine* Ready was quoted as saying that Tolkien would disapprove of his book. It is a rather interesting article and the TSA has acquired copies to be distributed to interested members. Any current member can have a copy free by sending a large stamped, self addressed envelope. (Not required for foreign members.)

Next year Ballantine Books will also be bringing out a book about Tolkien, by Lin Carter. However, if it isn't researched any more carefully than his column about fantasy fans in *IF* magazine, I fear for the worst.

I have made arrangements with ACE BOOKS so that completist collectors can get their edition of *LotR* direct and not have to pay postage. Only a few complete sets are left, I'm told. Send 75c per volume desired to Ace Books, Dept TSA, 1120 Ave of the Americas, NY NY 10036. Remember that Ace has settled its differences with Professor Tolkien and has agreed not to print any more copies without permission, and to pay royalties on all copies sold. Therefore members who want this edition need not feel guilty about buying it.

Ballantine has produced a THIRD different box for its *LotR*. The first was a plain one with no design, the second had a black & white re-drawing of the three covers, and the third is the covers in color.

Early next year Ernst Klett Verlag of Stuttgart (7000 Stuttgart 1, Postfach 809, Rotebühlstraße 77) will publish a German translation of *LotR*. More details, such as price and exact date, will be given as they become available.

Ballantine will publish this fall a paperback edition of *The Road Goes Ever On* in the original two colors and full size, but it will cost only \$1 less than the hard cover edition's \$3.95.

In view of the past controversy regarding the appropriateness of trying to read meanings into *LotR* I would like to quote from

C S Lewis' Letters:

Creation as applied to human authorship seems to me to be an entirely misleading term. We re-arrange elements He has provided. This is not a vestige of real creativity *de novo* in us. Try to imagine a new primary colour, a third sex, a fourth dimension, or even a monster which does not consist of bits of existing animals stuck together. Nothing happens. And that surely is why our words never mean to others quite what we intended; because we are re-combining elements made by Him and already containing His meanings. Because of these divine meanings in our materials it is impossible that we should ever know the whole meaning of our own works, and the meaning we never intended may be the best and truest one. Writing a book is much less like creation than it is like planting a garden or begetting a child; in all these cases we are only entering as one cause into a causal stream which works, so to speak, in its own way. I would not wish it to be otherwise. If one could really create in the strict sense, would not one find that one has created a sort of Hell?

This quote is found in Clyde S. Kilby's excellent book, *A Mind Awake: An Anthology of C S Lewis* published this year by Geoffrey Bles of London. The book consists of hundreds of short, pertinent excerpts of Lewis, mostly on religious topics, arranged by subject. [1968, 25 shillings]

The current British hardcover *Hobbit* has 5 color pictures by Tolkien himself. These had been in the first British edition, and 4 of them, plus a 6th, in the first American. (The one peculiar to the British edition, Bilbo as Barrel-rider, is better than the one in the first American edition, the Eagles' eyrie.) Unwin cannot legally sell to American customers but they can order the book from a reputable dealer like Blackwells (Oxford, England) or Fantast Ltd (75 Norfolk St, Wisbech Cambs UK: a specialist in fantasy). A comparison of all the British & American editions of Tolkien is scheduled for a future TJ.

Several other publications about Tolkien should be of interest to members. The first is *The Tolkien Papers* published this year by the English Dept at Mankato State College, Mankato MN 56001 for \$1.25 a copy. These are the proceedings of their Tolkien Festival held two years ago.

This spring the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee held a conference on *The Secondary Universe* which included several papers on Tolkien & related writers. Proceedings will be published some time next year in a special issue of *Arts In Society*. Copies can be ordered in advance for \$1.50 from *Arts In Society*, U of W, Extension Building, 432 N Lake St, Madison WS 53706.

Of the many Tolkien fanzines received, the best by far is *ORCRIST* #1 from Richard West, 614 Langdon St, Madison WS 53703. It has an excellent 30+ page annotated bibliography of material by and about Tolkien, including his scholarly writings. Cost is \$1 + 25c for postage.

Other fanzines received include *ILMARIN* (Scott Smith, 9533 Pentland, Temple City CA 91780), *TOLKIEN TRIBUNE* (Tolkien Fan Club of St Louis, 30 Country Fair Ln, Creve Coeur MO 63141), *MINAS TIRITH EVENING STAR* (Philip Helm, 217 So 2nd, Monmouth IL), *I BARAD* (San Fernando Valley Chapter, 7657 Orion Av, Van Nuys CA 91406) & *UNICORN* (Karen Rockow, 1153 E 26 St, Brooklyn NY 11210). Content & quality vary markedly, & few are 100% about Tolkien. If interested, inquire as to cost & schedule, including a postcard for reply, and send for a single copy. If you like it, then you can subscribe. I should also mention *RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY* (50c, Leland Sapiro, Box 40, University sta, Regina Canada). Tho it is a SF fanzine, the current issue has an excellent article about Tolkien and another by the same writer is scheduled for a future issue.

Several members have written asking the whereabouts of Greg Shaw. I'm sorry, but I don't know. The last time I tried writing, a year or so back, the letter bounced stamped Moved--No Forwarding Address. He has not published *ENTMOOT* for several years.

Countless items about Tolkien are published in fanzines and researchers will have a hard time finding these. Since the Marquette University library already has the manuscripts I think they would make a good depository for all related fanzines. If you publish anything about Tolkien please send a copy to the Marquette University Library, Tolkien Collection, 1415 W Wisconsin Av, Milwaukee WS 53233.

I would like to recommend a novel by Peter S Beagle, *THE LAST UNICORN* [Viking, 1968, \$4.95]. This is a very peculiar
[cont pg 10]

against the will of Sauron, who held the palantir of Minas Morgul. He was less successful than he realized. Sauron could not make the palantir lie, but he could make it show only part of the truth. So he showed Denethor the growing power of Mordor, and the Steward came to think of Gondor -- and himself -- as the only protection for the West against the might of the Dark Lord. Of those who opposed Sauron, he trusted only those who served Gondor and its Steward -- and this did not include Gandalf and Aragorn.

In 2989, a group of Dwarves from Erebor, led by Balin, went to Moria to try to retake their ancient realm. For five years they seemed to be succeeding. They drove the orcs out, and were not troubled by the Balrog. Balin became Lord of Moria, and his folk prospered. Then orcs, and probably the Balrog too, attacked in force, and the colony was destroyed.

In this year also, Bilbo Baggins of the Shire adopted young Frodo Baggins, "his first and second cousin, once removed either way," to be his heir. Frodo was part Took and part Brandybuck -- two unusual and (compara-

fantasy set in this century (motor cars were once mentioned in passing) which really defies description. It is about a unicorn who suddenly realizes she is probably the last one in the world and sets out on a search for others that might have survived. The closing chapters have the bitter-sweet feeling of eucatastrophe that Tolkien has spoken of. It is, I think, a very powerful story and is to be strongly recommended. I also read his short story, *Come Lady Death* in Terry Carr's anthology *New Worlds of Fantasy* [Ace book A-12, 1967, 75c] which I liked even more than *Unicorn*.

SMIAL DIGGINGS & SUCH

I have decided to confine Smial lists to the GREEN DRAGON for they, too, change frequently. But I do want to mention now a very active independent group, The Middle Earth Universal Foundation located at 4601 Noyes St, Charlestown WV 25304.

Tho the TSA has only a few members outside of the US & Canada there are three foreign Smials... and all are in Australia! Addresses are, Miss E Westwater, 36 Stanburry St, Gladsville NSW 2111, Paul Novitski, 50 Jensen St, Hughes, Canberra, ACT 2605 and Sydney University Tolkien Society, Box 140, The Union, U of Sydney, NSW.

Another organization of interest, but which isn't directly related to Tolkien, is the Society for Creative Anachronism. The main organization is at 1585 Arch St, Berkeley CA 94708, while the NY chapter is care of Mrs Marion Breen, 15 Urbana St, Staten Island NY 1030. There is also an LA chapter but I do not have its address. The Anachronists have the Middle Ages as a hobby and like to dress up in costumes... They hold Medieval Revels, Feasts & Tournaments several times a year at which a costume of any culture or era before 1650 is necessary for admission. (Middle-earth costumes do count.) There is singing, dancing, fighting, food, etc at these events. The Berkeley group holds frequent lessons in Medieval dance and fighting, and I suppose that if there is sufficient interest the NY chapter might do likewise. The Berkeley group now has well over a hundred members (this is one reason the TSA has no Berkeley Smial... those who would organize one are busy with the Anachronists!) some of whom are professors or graduate students with a professional interest in the Middle Ages.

DEPARTMENT OF ETERNAL CONFUSION

Turning the TSA mailing list over to professionals has helped me considerably by giving me more time to get other things done, but has had its complications. They made two kinds of goofs in preparing the addressograph stencils. In many cases they ignored the number on the file card and stencilled TSA 9, which means that the membership is to expire with the 9th (current) TJ. I will try to catch as many of these as possible, but if you feel you have more issues coming than indicated on the label please drop me a post card to be SURE that I caught it. Also, I will almost definitely catch the error when I process your renewal. (If you want a reply, please include an addressed postal card.)

Also, I do not keep Mr., Mrs or 'Miss' on my file cards and they added them to the stencil guessing is some arbitrary fashion which should be used. This has led to several major blunders. For example, both Leslie Turek & Cory Seidman were listed as Mr! At least we are fortunate that the error was made for both of them as they are room-mates! Anyhow, if there is such an error in your stencil please let it stand unless you find it absolutely intolerable. Mention the fact when you renew your dues and I will have the correction made then.

One member misunderstood the meaning of Address Correction Requested on the Conference flyer. If you move the PO will destroy your third class mail, but will send me your new one and charge me a dime. If I put Return Requested they will return it too, and charge 16c. Then I have to pay Lee Letter Service 25c to change your stencil. If something goes astray because you didn't notify me, I will NOT send you a replacement copy. This is getting to be such a nuisance that I am thinking of also reducing your membership by one issue.

tively) adventurous families among the hobbits. He was at that time twenty-one.

About the year 3000, Saruman of Isengard began to use the palantir of the Tower of Orthanc, and found himself in communication with Sauron. The Wizard, alternately persuaded and intimidated by the Dark Lord, became a traitor to Sauron; his ambition was to find the Ring and rule Middle-earth himself. Whether Sauron knew this but was contemptuous of Saruman's power, or whether he actually trusted the wizard as an ally was never clearly known; but he seemed to have no fear of Saruman. The reverse, for a time at least, was also true; and for several years Saruman, the double traitor, was able to keep the trust of the West and the alliance of the East, while increasing his personal power by gathering armies in Isengard, and poisoning the minds of Theoden and Denethor against Gandalf, whom he hated. Meanwhile, he continued to search for the Ring -- as did Sauron, of course.

And meanwhile, in 3001, Bilbo Baggins, the holder of the Ring, gave his last birthday party and said farewell to the Shire.

REPORT FROM QUEENS COLLEGE

For some time the student & faculty dining halls at Queens College, Flushing NY, have been tempting palates by offering once a week a menu from a different foreign country. In line with this practice, and in observance of Frodo's & Bilbo's birthday, the Queens College Dining Halls presented last Sept 21 the following: Hobbit Mushroom soup, Sam's Fish & Chips, Coney Stew (beef & rabbit), Troll's Roast Breast of Mutton, Bacon & Mushrooms of the Shire, Prancing Pony Plate (cold meat, ripe cheese & mushrooms), Gandalf's Platter (cold chicken, eggs & pickle), Steak Uruk-hai (steak tartare), Gollum's Delight (pickled herrings), Carrotses, Parsnips, Lambas (shortbread), buttered scones & raspberry jam, Seed Cake Balin, Apple Tart Bifur, Pippin's White Cake, Beorn's Honey Cake (Baclava), Apples, Cheeses & Ent Draught (a fruit punch).

Both student & faculty dining halls were decorated with facsimiles of LotR book jackets, maps, Middle-earth posters and replicas of newspaper and magazine reviews of LotR, all of which were supplied by Ballantine Books. In addition, there were hand-lettered posters bearing such legends as Happy Birthday Bilbo & Frodo, Frodo Lives and Go Gandalf Go. All members of the dining room staff wore Middle-earth buttons (and bemused expressions).

Credit for the event goes to Mr. George Bineth, Lecturer in English at the College, and Mrs Kay Kuipers, Director of the College dining halls. They researched LotR thoroughly, along with *The Hobbit & Tolkien Reader*, for every possible mention of food.

Food-wise, the birthday celebration was a success, at least in the faculty dining hall. A very cursory examination of greasy paper plates on the tables in the student cafeteria revealed more remains of burgers & fries than of anything else. Interestingly, more of the faculty seemed to know what was going on than did the students, most of whose reaction to the novel cuisine was a thumping *Hus?* It was unfortunate that the Middle-earth menu was offered on the first day of the semester, thus precluding any opportunity to publicize it in advance.

Claire Howard.

WRITING IN TENGWAR

I get many request, especially from younger members, for information on how to write in Tengwar (the script-like form, as opposed to the Runic Cereth). The information IS in the appendices of LotR but is confusing because there is more than one way of using it and none are perfectly suited for English. It is like an Egyptian asking how to write his language in Roman letters. How should he use the 'J' for instance? To represent an H sound (as in Spanish), a Y sound (as in German), or a Dž sound (as in English)? Tengwar was used for Sindarin & Quenya, different languages containing different sounds, and the characters had different values in these languages... just like J. Also, there were two modes... systems for placing vowel marks. [Tengwar, like Hebrew, is not a true alphabet for it has no vowel characters. See Diringer's Book, *The Alphabet, Philosophical Library*] In one the tehtar (vowel marks) are placed over the preceding consonant, in the other over the following. One or the other can be used, but they should NEVER be mixed the way they were on some bad buttons originating on the West Coast.

Thus it takes a lot of determination to write, successfully, using Tengwar. A lot of arbitrary decisions must first be made, and even then one can't just use a chart and say that (always) C goes to I. Among other things, the Tengwar is phonetic while English spelling isn't.

John Closson, who designed the good buttons, is working on the problem of what system would be best for English, and comparing the countless systems that have been proposed. He will eventually write an article for TJ suggesting one uniform system for interested members to use in communicating with one another. (But please don't write to me in Tengwar for I cannot read it & must send it to Bob Foster or Cory Seidman for translation.)