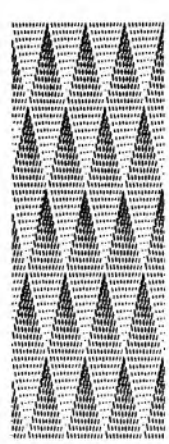


No, no, sweetie-baby! Hobbit, right? Little man, right? They gotta be cute!



Now that's a hobbit!!



TOLKIEN IN MEDIA

The general reaction received from most people watching the 90 minute cartoon production of *The Hobbit* by Rankin and Bass was relief that it was not any worse than it was. Rather than reviewing the all too many problems with the production (the space is too short), I would like to ask the readers if any of you agreed with the depictions of the various characters? I realize that squeezing the whole book into such a short time caused the crushing necessity to abridge, but as one 11 year old commented to me (who had previously read the book) "They left out all the good parts." This underlies my most basic reservation to this production and to the forthcoming film by Ralph Bakshi, due out this autumn. It is that the thousands who will see these productions, not having read Tolkien previously, will believe they now know the story, and not bother to read Tolkien. They will be lost to the true beauty and skill that only reading can bring. Satisfied with a mere caricature; ignorant of the real thing. —Ed.

MYTHOPOEIC CONFERENCE IX

The 1978 Mythopoeic Conference will be held on August 11, 12, and 13 at the Ambassador Inn, 1525 Merkly Avenue, West Sacramento, California 95691. Rooms are \$14.50 a night for singles, and \$17.50 a night for doubles. The rooms have kitchenettes. To reserve rooms you must contact the Inn directly. Phone (800) 352-3877. (Those in the local area can call 421-3859). Free continental breakfast available. Membership registration is \$7 in advance, or \$10 at the door. Daily memberships are \$5. Memberships should be sent to Mythcon IX, 5533 Keoncrest #2, Sacramento, California.

The Guest of Honor is Katheryn Kurtz, author of the *Deryni* fantasy series. There will be an art show, a masquerade, papers, panels, topic discussion session, an auction, and a host of films. Those wishing to submit papers (to be read in person or in absentia) should write immediately to Gracia Fay Ellwood, [redacted] giving a short outline.

Lewis Institute

A Lewis Institute will be held from June 19 to July 15, 1978 at Seattle Pacific University, with courses (for credit), workshops, theatre and public lectures. Speakers include Richard Purtill and Chad Walsh. For further information write: Michael H. Macdonald, [redacted]

Williams Week

A week with Charles Williams will be held July 17-23 at St. Andrew's Priory, Valyermo, California, 93563. Phone (805) 944-2178. Dr. Thomas Howard will be the leader. For further information write to the Guest Master at the Priory.

A FRAGMENT

The following has been sent by the Duke of Numenor of The Realms of the Dunedain-in-Exile:

ARCHIVES 2523.0029 Extract for the Regent's Grace
The following paragraphs have been appended (in an unidentified hand dating from the fifth or sixth century of the Christian era) to the last records of the early part of the Fourth Age.

— Archivist

And so it came to pass that evil men and usurpers sat at the throne of the King Elessar, and all the Free Peoples were constrained to acknowledge them their lords. But ever as the Dunedain laboured in their bondage to these unlawful kings, they remembered the child which has been born in Osgiliath, and it became a legend and a hope among them that the heir of Elendil by true descent lived still in the North, waiting for the time when he might come victorious and take unto himself the crown and sceptre of his fathers.

And there was from that time a long fading in Middle-earth of all that the Elves had taught: beauty grew rarer, and language cruder, and learning smaller; and the men of the west knew what it is to fight the long defeat. Slowly, slowly, with all the patience of eternity, the One was changing Middle-earth. And when it came to pass that Caradhras was but a larger hill, men still read the stories of the King who would return; when Anduin the Great flowed over Rath Dinen, the folk who hunted on its banks put their children to sleep with legends of the king; and when the lands and tongues and gods of men were changed beyond all recognition, still soldiers and maidens dreamed of the king who would return.

Who knows what shaping of men was made while the lands were being changed? Who can tell what new trees sprung from the roots of Elendil the Tall? It can only be said that there came to every nation, when it most needed and desired one, a chief or king who might have worn the star of Elendil. And such a chief was Aeneas, and such a king was David; but the greatest of these kings was he who took his name according to the fashion of the Dunedain of old, for unto him was it given, for a little while, to bear the Sword Reforged, and to call upon a wizard's counsel, as Elessar once did. And he who did these things was called King Arthur.