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A Note on an Unpublished (and Probably Unwritten) Collaboration

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Abstract
Brief note explaining a reference to a forthcoming book by Lewis and Tolkien, *Language and Human Nature*, which was never written.

Additional Keywords
Lewis, C.S. and J.R.R. Tolkien. Language and Human Nature (planned collaboration); Tolkien, J.R.R., and C.S. Lewis. Language and Human Nature (planned collaboration); Annette Harper
Green Dragon' is quite a common pub name. Of course this is the sort of case where I ought to be able to put my finger on a dozen of them, but I can't even put my finger on one. If one saw a pub called 'The Green Dragon' one would think 'how commonplace a name!' because it is. 'The Green Dragon', 'The Georgian Dragon', 'The Kings Arms', 'The King's Head', 'The Queen's Arms' or head, 'The Crown and Anchor', 'The Royal Oak', 'Coach and Horses', 'Fox and Goose' and of course 'The New Inn.' They are all very common pub names. I don't think I've ever heard of a 'Prancing Pony' outside of The Lord of the Rings though. In fact, as regards the commonness of 'The Green Dragon' it's mentioned in the first chapter of Chesterton's Flying Inn., where a great play is taken with quite a number of common pub names. 'The Saracen's Head' is another one that comes in in that context.

I seem to be using this installment to catch up on my correspondence... that's all I write about. But I ought to mention one other letter from a former TSA member; this letter about a year old. It's from Jan Finder who is now in Germany and who wrote: "I was in Stuttgart to speak to the German publishers of The Lord of the Rings. It is not selling well and they wanted advice in how to hyper sales, especially on the new paperback edition scheduled to appear in the Fall. My basic feeling was that $35 for the books was a hell of a lot of money. Moreover, 12 bucks for the paperback was also too steep. We did kick around some ideas but I don't think it will help as long as the books cost so much."

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by J.R. Christopher

In Chad Walsh's C.S. Lewis: Apostle to the Skeptics (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1949), p. 10, it is mentioned that The Student Christian Movement Press had announced the forthcoming publication of a collaboration by C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien: Language and Human Nature (a fascinating title). But Dr. Walsh reveals that this book is still in the blueprint stage. (Tolkien, by the way, is referred to as "Prof. F. R. R. Tolkien").


Since the Greeks did not reckon time by Calends, and since Lewis and Tolkien are both dead, the volume is fated never to appear. Perhaps part of what Lewis would have contributed appears in his Studies in Words (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, Second Edition with Three New Chapters, 1967). Perhaps part of what Tolkien would have contributed appears in his "English and Welsh" (in Angles and Britons (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 1963) pp. 1-41). But one cannot help wondering what the relationship between language and human nature is--especially one which would interest the Student Christian Movement Press.