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Early Articles, Comments, Etcetera about J.R.R. Tolkien

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Abstract

Briefly annotated checklist of minor early secondary materials on Tolkien 1947–1971.

Additional Keywords

Tolkien, J.R.R.—Bibliography; Tolkien, J.R.R.—Critical reception

Early Articles, Comments, Etcetera about J.R.R. Tolkien

A Checklist Compiled by George H. Thompson

These items, dating from 1947 to 1971, have not been previously annotated. Some are here recorded for the first time. The majority, without annotation, are included in Judith A. Johnson, J.R.R. Tolkien: Six Decades of Criticism (Greenwood Press, Westport, Conn., 1986), with a cross-reference in each case to this annotated checklist and its publication in Mythlore. Johnson's number (B 519 for example) is given after each such entry.

Adams, James. "The Wayward Press". Yale News, 6 Oct. 1965, p. 2 [Adams deplores the pirated Ace edition. Of LOTR, he says: "In a transmuted, mythical manner this book embodies the nobility of the English people in one of their gravest moments, that of the treat and defeat of totalitarian Germany." B 370

Alberty, Michael. "Frodo Expert Tells of Hobbit Land". UWM Post (University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee), 28 Nov. 1967, p. ? [A news report. On Nov. 21 Ivor Rogers gave a talk on "A Trip to Middle Earth." He held that fantasy was a way to expand the mind and the imagination in face of a systematized world. He regarded Tolkien as the greatest fantasy writer of all time.] B 511

Allen, Walter. "Speaking of Books: Report from the Campus". New York Times Book Review, 7 Jan. 1968, pp. 2, 42-43. [In discussing his experiences lecturing and teaching in the U.S., he notes that students for the most part read the modern literature on their courses, but "their book" now is LOTR. Though not on the surface probable, this is in fact the case. The same is not true in England (p. 43).] B 624

Boroff, David. "No Big Books on Campus". New York Times Book Review: Paperback Book Section, 10 Jan. 1965, pp. 2, 24. [An article on the theme that university students are reading a wide variety of books, with no cult titles at the moment. "A curious kind of intellectual campusness.... a certain literary dandyism has begun to insinuate itself. At Harvard there is a kind of cult around the work of J.R. Tolkien, a writer of synthetic Anglo-Saxon epics." B 384

Brace, Keith. "In the Footsteps of the Hobbits". Birmingham Post, Midland Magazine, 25 May 1968, p. I. [He notes the curious irony that The Shire has its origins within the boundaries of Birmingham, itself a symbol of industrial barbarism. "... The Shire lies not far from the thundering Stratford Road, where the River Cole still flows rapidly alongside the terraced houses of Sarehole Road, over the watersplash at Green Road, past old Sarehole Mill, and alongside Wake Green Road to the Four Arches footbridge, and the recreation ground, once known as The Dingle." There are three excellent photographs by Alan Hill of what vestiges are still left of this world of Tolkien's youth. The Sarehole Mill is being restored. From a cottage in rural Hall Green, where he lived with his mother, the young Tolkien from the age of 8 walked into the center of Birmingham each day to King Edwards School in New Street. Brace spoke Tolkien at his Oxford home and quotes him on his experiences in the country around Birmingham. Also this: "The war made me poignantly aware of the beauty of the world. I remember miles and

miles of seething, torched earth, perhaps best described in the chapter about the approaches to Mor-dor. It was a searing experience." An important article.] B 643

Brady, Charles A. "The British Novel Today". Thought 34 (Dec. 1959), 518-546. [There are brief references to Tolkien, Lewis, Williams and White as new romancers who have regained for us "the fair, forgotten land of childhood" (pp. 544-545).] B 280

Brady, Charles A. "Children's Books". The Lamp: A Catholic Monthly (Peekskill Garrison, N.Y.) 63 (July 1965), 23. [This survey of the best children's and teen-age literature of the past 100 years mentions H and refers to FG as an example of fancy rather than imagination, of Mock Dragon Tail rather than Real. This article is the continuation of an earlier one, "The Blue Garret and a Jar Marked Marmalade: A Discussion of Children's Books" The Lamp 63 (Jan. 1965), 12-13, 30-31, in which Tolkien's term "eucatastrophe" is mentioned (p. 31).] B 385

Brady, Charles A. "Imagination is Power: The Liberal Arts College's Opportunity". The Canisius Papers: A Collection of Essays on the Occasion of the College's Centennial Year 1870-1970. Niagara University, N.Y.: Niagara University Press, 1970, pp. 33-50. [That students are conscious of some of the reasons for their malaise is shown by their thirst for poetry and their passion for LOTR. "What the students craved and found in it was the experience of heroism in a literary age that denied heroes, and an imaginative affirmation of the 'eucatastrophe'... of resurrection." A letter from C.S. Lewis of 29 Oct. 1944 is quoted, describing Tolkien's MS as "a huge private mythology of a most serious kind... the whole cosmic struggle as he sees it but mediated through an imaginary world.... Private worlds have hitherto been mainly the works of decadents or, at least, mere aesthetes. This is the private world of a Christian." Lewis adds that Tolkien is "one of those people who is never satisfied with a MS" (pp. 45-46). Lewis' letter is quoted by Brady with slight variations in two reviews of FG: Library Bulletin (1950) and Renascence (1951).] B 800

Breit, Harvey. "Oxford Calling". New York Times Book Review, 5 June 1955, p. 8 [A brief comment on Tolkien who is quoted as saying to Breit: "My work did not 'evolve' into a serious work. It started like that. The so-called 'children's story' was a fragment, torn out of an already existing mythology. In so far as it was dressed up as 'for children' in style or manner, I regret it. So do children. I am a philologist, and all my work is philological. I avoid hobbies because I am a very serious person and cannot distinguish between private amusement and duty. I am affable, but unsociable. I only work for private amusement, since I find my duties privately amusing."]

Brogan, D.H.V. "Why Hobbits?" The Cambridge Review 84 (23 Jan. 1965), 205-207. "Whether as narrator or commentator, Professor Tolkien is the best guide." This is a rather pleasant brief article, but it is not very well written and not very important. Brogan stresses the way T&L brings together "the scattered elements of

attacks industrial blight in LOTR; and the moving presentation of trees in the stories.]

Castell, Daphne. "The Realms of Tolkien". New Worlds SF 50 ([Nov. issue] 1966), 143-154. [An important article by a former student who was granted this interview (an act of kindness by Tolkien) at a time when he was not giving interviews. The first part is a re-working with fewer direct quotes of the 11 Aug. 1966 article in Christian Science Monitor. (One quote from Tolkien appears with reversed sentence order. This fact plus whole paragraphs of quotation make one wonder how such a flow of speech was recorded.) The remainder, p. 147 following is new. Tolkien speaks at some length of Beruthiel (mentioned Book I, p. 325) who puzzles him; he doesn't now much about her. He then discusses science fiction as a form of fantasy in which the "laboratory 'professor' is replaced by the wizard." He describes how he posited Primitive Elvish and a series of changes leading to two separate elvish tongues. Most science fiction writers, in representing other worlds, neglect--says Tolkien--"language as an invention, and as the most important single ingredient in human culture..." They are also poor at name-making, true also of Eddison and "he was a great writer." Tolkien names as, for him, the most moving passages in LOTR; the cock crowing in the pause before the battle of the Pelennor fields, and Gollum touching Frodo as he sleeps. Of the latter Tolkien says: "But there wasn't the chance for Gollum. He'd been evil for too long. There's a point of no return in these things, and Gollum had passed it."] B 448; West II-90

Castell, Daphne. "Tolkien on Tolkien: Making of a Myth". Christian Science Monitor, 11 Aug. 1966, p. 11, portrait. [A popular account of an interview. Two interesting points: "He began to write 'The Fall of Gondolin,' one of the cycle episodes not yet published, in 1917 while he was convalescing on leave from army service. The general plot and several major episodes of the whole cycle were written before the 1930's..." Concerning allegory and his stories; "For one thing, they were mostly written before the thirties. These wretched people who must find allegories in everything!"]

Cater, William. "Lord of the Hobbits". Daily Express (London), 22 Nov. 1966, p. 10. [An article on the popularity of Tolkien's fiction. The interview material, concerning the origins of Middle Earth, is routine.] B 449

Coghill, Nevill. "An Approach to English". Light on C.S. Lewis, ed. Jocelyn Gibb. London: Geoffrey Bles, 1965 (New York, 1966), pp. 51-66. [He introduced Lewis to the work of Charles Williams and from that they met and Williams was introduced to the Inklings (p. 62). He suggests that Williams and Tolkien may have had some influence on Lewis.] B 387

Cook, Elizabeth. The Ordinary and the Fabulous: An Introduction to Myths, Legends and Fairy Tales for Teachers and Storytellers. London: Cambridge University Press, 1969. [There are a few brief references to Tolkien's views about fairy stories and to H and LOTR.] B 749

Courtney, Winifred, ed. The Reader's Adviser: A Guide to the Best in Literature. 11th ed. New York and London: R.R. Bowker, 1968, I, 369. [there is a bibliography of Tolkien's fictional writings, and a brief account of this work and present popularity. the comment on LOTR is the same as in the 10th ed., 1964.] B 647

Davenport, Guy. "J.R.R. Tolkien and the Pirates". National Review 17 (21 Sept. 1965), 833. [A brief account of Ace Books publishing LOTR without paying royalties, which he describes as a "barbarity", and a mention of the forthcoming Ballantine edition.] B 391

Doyle, Brian, ed. The Who's Who in Children's Literature. New York: Schocken, 1968, pp. 266-268. [A clear, brief, and reasonably accurate biography and account of Tolkien's writing. LOTR is called a "breathtaking... epic heroic romance cycle."] B 653

Ellwood, Robert S., Jr. "Middle Earth: The Allegorical Epic of J.R.R. Tolkien". Holy Cross Magazine 72 (May 1961) 203-206. [Part of this material appeared later in the joint review with his wife of LOTR in the Reformed Journal (1967).] B 295

Ezard, John. "Writers Talking--1: The Hobbit Man". Oxford Mail, 3 Aug. 1966, p. 4. [An article based on Tolkien's first interview with a newspaper according to Ezard. Tolkien came to the countryside at Sarehole near Birmingham at the age of three. He loved it intensely and looking back dates everything from it. "It was a kind of lost paradise and it was wonderful." Besides its contribution to the shire, Tolkien mentions an old mill and two millers who went straight into FG. (this material is further explored by Keith Brace, Birmingham Post.)] B 451

Ferguson, T.S. "Gandalf Lives--in paperback". Sunday Telegraph, 6 Oct. 1968, p. 17. [A hobbit with Tolkien's face is pictured. A news item about the success of Tolkien's books and the forthcoming 1-volume paperback edition of LOTR. According to Allen & Unwin, sales of LOTR have increased in geometrical progression since it was published. Sales of the hardback H increased after it was published in paper.] B 657

"Fine Arts". The Belknapian (Belknap College, Center Harbor, N.H.), 31 Jan. 1967, p. 1. [A column on Tolkien's achievement, defending him against Muir's charge that his style now and then fails him, and quoting Tolkien as saying that Man pitted against the universe deserves to be seen as a hero.] B 519

Foster, William. "William Foster Meets Professor Tolkien/ A Benevolent and Furry-footed People"/. The Scotsman (Edinburgh) Week-end Magazine, 25 March 1967, p. 1. [This long slap-dash combination of facts, quotes from Tolkien taken from a variety of sources, and pot-shots at American cultism is not always accurate.] B 550

"From Oz to Baker Street: Notes on the Literary Underground". Charlie (A Magazine for the Adventurous Generation) (New York) I (Sept. 1968), 18-19. [Includes a brief account of the Tolkien Society of America and of the Tolkien Journal and Green Dragon.] B 630

Fuller, Edmund. "Speaking of Books". New York Times Book Review, 12 Jan. 1964, p. 2. Three poems from ATB. "Sonnet," "Song" and "From 'Shadow-Bride'" are reprinted. [This general essay on fantasy--zero profundity--briefly mentions H and LOTR with high praise.] B 355

Glass, Richard. "The Bridge of Khazad-Dum". I Palantir No. 4 (Aug. 1966). Illustration pp. 7-18; Explanation, pp. 19-20. [FR, Book II, Chap. 5 is presented in Comic Book form-- an ambitious and interesting project. The Balrog is especially effective.] B 457

Glauber, Robert H. "Escape to Truth: Three Authors Write Fantasy for a Troubled World". The Living Church. 21 Feb. 1960, pp. 14-15. [The writers are Lewis, Tolkien, and Williams. The article is slight and is not reliable in interpretation. It briefly surveys Tolkien's work. "His prime concern is a pertinent reevaluation of our knowledge of good and evil." "Wise theologian that he is, Tolkien never attempts to personify the evil the hobbits battle."] B 287

Green, Roger Lancelyn. Into Other Worlds: Space Flight in Fiction from Lucian to Lewis. London and New York: Abelard-Schuman, 1957. ["Mars is indeed still largely the 'Barsom' described by Burroughs... and Shelob in The Lord of the Rings is so like the Siths of the Barsomian caves that an unconscious borrowing seems probable" (p. 130). For Tolkien's reaction see R.A. Lupoff.]

Greenburg, Alvin. "Open-Endedness in the Novel: Toward a Structure of Values". Paunch No. 30 (Dec. 1967), pp. 67-78.

[Life is earnest, life is real
And fantasy has no appeal.]

Moreover, beside the "real" horrors of Beckett and Burroughs, Tolkien's is a packaged nightmare, the see-through coyness of pseudo-myth that cannot get out of its plastic wrappings." Tolkien has story-telling ability but he guides us to "a false simplification of resolution" (p. 74).] B 555: attribution to Punch incorrect.

Grescoe, Paul. "William Ready is Cunning, Devious, Relentless, Ruthless (and Sneaky)". The Canadian Magazine (Southstar Publishers, Toronto) 24 April 1971, pp. 28-29. [This friendly account of William Ready and his career as a librarian, mentions in passing that "he gently blackmailed private papers from J.R.R. Tolkien... As Ready tells it, he'd arranged a university lecture tour for Tolkien, who had to cancel it because of illness. Tolkien, very apologetic, asked Ready if there was any way he could make it up to him. Well, yes, there was. Tolkien found himself selling Ready his archives."] B 851

Haas, Joseph. "Come to Middle-earth, Where Frodo Lives". Chicago Daily News, Panorama, 3 Sept. 1966, pp. 2-3. [An introduction to Tolkien and LOTR, with extensive description and commentary. "The great events of the Third Age match those of Europe's Dark Ages, when it was beset by barbarian tribes from the east and the Viking raiders from the north and when, later, it would gather its nations together in the Crusades to march against the dark-skinned Saracens who held the Holy Land." The earlier Hobbits spoke Old English, the present ones Middle English, the men of Rohan Latin, while the tongue of the Elven-folk was akin to Greek. The incurable wound inflicted by Shelob is "a corruption of innocence that destroys forever Frodo's naivete so he can never again dwell in peace in Hobbiton, a kind of Eden." B 461

Hass, Joseph. "The Making of Credible Myths". San Diego Union. 17 July 1966, p. 6. (Chicago Daily News Service.) [The Ballantine and Ace paperback editions of LOTR have sold more than 750,000 copies. There is a Tolkien Club and a Tolkien Society. But fans will have to wait a while for his next major work, The Silmarillion. However, in September Ballantine will publish The Tolkien Reader.] B 462

Hight, Gilbert. "Time Fiction: This is a transcript of one of a series of radio talks printed and distributed by the Book-of-the-Month Club." Copyright Oxford University Press 1954. One of a series of 13 talks

sponsored by Oxford University Press in the New York Metropolitan area and by Book-of-the-Month-Club elsewhere. Not reprinted in book form. [After briefly commenting on space fantasy and time fantasy, he turns to a discussion of LOTR as time fantasy set in a country like England in the Dark Ages. Though LOTR has an important defect, "the hero is not worthy of the story; nor is the villain," it is still "a highly original, highly unusual book." There are resemblances to William Morris, Lord Dunsany, Lewis, MacDonald, Williams, Rackham, and S.H. Sime.] B 115

"Hobbit Fans I Made N.H." Boston Globe. 18 Oct. 1968, p. 43. [A brief report on the Tolkien Society of American conference at Center Harbor, N.H., Oct. 18-20.] B 631

"Hobbitmania". Diplomat (New York), Oct. 1966, pp. 40-41. [Comments praising Tolkien from the following: Howard Nemerov—"the work is unique as far as I know: a version of the Quest in which the object is not to get but to get rid of; not to possess, hence not to be possessed"; Richard Burton; Timothy Leary—LOTR is a morality play, evil is power; William Proxmire; Elizabeth Janeway: on the pleasures of translating H into Russian; Lynda Bird Johnson; Richard Plotz: notes the popularity of Tolkien but denies that his works are an escape; Hathaway Kale Melchior; and Laurel Wengel, age 9 1/2.]

"Hobbit on Top". Evening Standard. 2 Feb. 1967, p. 6. [A brief news item stating that Tolkien's Hobbit books are the number one best-seller in paperback in the U.S.] B 521

Huck, Charlotte S. and Young, Doris A. Children's Literature in the Elementary School. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1961, p. 302. [The section on "Modern Fantasy" briefly describes H. "Tolkien has created an amazingly real and somewhat frightening world..."] B 297

Hugh-Jones, Siroil. "Once Upon a Time". The Tatler (London), 12 Dec. 1962, pp. 733-737. [A brief survey of children's literature past and present is followed by pictures and brief biographical accounts of 8 writers of children's literature. About Tolkien the following information is offered: he "used to give blood-chilling rendering of Grendel's mother in his unforgettable lectures on Beowulf" (p. 733). His garage-study is crammed with the books of his profession and overlooks his garden which contains trees that he brought as saplings from the Middle East (p. 735).] B 316

Jones, Chris. Letter. Tolkien Journal III:4 (Nov. 1969), 21-22. [He asks if Margaret M. Howes (TJ III:2, 1967) knows that Tolkien says Stromboli is Mount Doom. This was reported by Dick Plotz at the Dec. 1966 meeting. The Editor thinks Stromboli would come near Minas Morgul.]

Kirsch, Robert R. "Adventures You May Have Missed". Los Angeles Times. 14 Oct. 1965, Part V, p. 6. [He explains the controversy over the Ace edition of LOTR, giving correct information about the copyright law. He concludes that in LOTR "we find some echoing quality of our own dedication to freedom."] B 408

Knoblauch, Mary. "Fantastic Fable for our Time". Chicago Sunday American. 10 July 1966, Magazine, pp. 12-13. [A straightforward account of Tolkien's popularity and of the books on which his fame is based; with only a few factual errors."] B 469

Lerner, Fred. Letter. Niekas No. 12 (15 June 1965), p. 66. [He notices "the parallel between Gollum's (physical) descent from Smeagal and Grendel's (genealogical) descent from Cain." "Both murdered a brother."]

Lewis, C.S. Letter to Edmund R. Meskys, 3 Oct. 1963. Niekas No. 7 (15 Dec. 1963), p. 23. [He grants permission to reprint "The End of the Wine" from Punch and adds: "I fear Numenor (=Atlantis) is the only point at which there is a tie between Tolkien's mythology and mine. When you'll get any more in print from him, Lord knows. You see, he is both a procrastinator & perfectionist. You have no idea with what laborious midwifery we got the Lord of the Rings out of him!"]

Lewis, C.S. "Preface". Essays Presented to Charles Williams. Ed. by C.S. Lewis. London: Oxford University Press, 1947, pp. v-xiv. [There is a reference to Tolkien on p. v: "His [Williams'] All Hallows' Eve and my own Perelandra (as well as Professor Tolkien's unfinished sequel to the Hobbit) had all been read aloud, each chapter as it was written. They owe a great deal to the hard-hitting criticism of the circle. The problems of narrative as such--seldom heard of in modern critical writings--were constantly before our minds."]

Lipkind, William. "Fairy Tales: A Tradition for Excellence Today". Saturday Review 45 (12 May 1962), 31-32,34. [H is briefly discussed as a potential classic. "... Tolkien has written a children's epic, an imaginative work of great power, sweep, nobility, and tenderness" (p. 34).] B 317

Mandel, Mark. "An English Certar Mode". Entmoot No. 4 (1966), p. 32. [He establishes vowel signs based on the Greg Shaw-Don Simpson system (see Shaw, Greg) to be used with the Certar set of characters.] B 475

Mansfield, Peter. "meanderings". Eldritch Dream Quest I:2 (May 1961), 31-33. [LOTR was the Science Fiction Book Club's Christmas Extra selection for 1960. It is the Allen & Unwin Readers Union edition, identical in paging, maps, etc., but with different binding. Its price is little more than half that of the regular Allen & Unwin edition.]

Mansfield, Peter. "Middengeard". Eldritch Dream Quest I:1 (Nov. 1960), 3-6. [He explains the Norse and Old English conceptions of Middle Earth and compares LOTR and Poul Anderson's The Broken Sword.]

Mansfield, Peter. "On 'Tyrfing' and--er--Other Fings". Eldritch Dream Quest I:2 (May 1961), 36-41. [The similarities of LOTR and Anderson's The Broken Sword result from the authors being well versed in Icelandic sagas and kindred subjects, particularly The Kalevala (p. 41).]

Nichols, Lewis. "In and Out of Books". New York Times Book Review, 8 Aug. 1965, p. 8. [He explains in an entirely factual way the decision of Ace to publish LOTR and notes the Ballantine announcement of an authorized edition to be issued in October.]

O'Gorman, James. "The World of Fairies". New Zealand Tablet, 15 Nov. 1967, pp. 22-23. [A review article that includes brief mentions of FG ("the fruit of the author's studies in Medieval literature and history and... studded with learned jokes and allusions") and ATB; and that reviews in some detail Tolkien's ideas on the fairy story. O'Gorman gives special stress to the literary values of fairy story.] B 588

P., D.L. "Tolkien". Twentieth Century Writing: A reader's Guide to Contemporary Literature. Ed. by Kenneth Richardson. London: Newnes, 1969, pp. 606-607. [A brief biographical note and account of LOTR. "The force, power and fascination of the work have to be experienced before they can be understood."] B 783

Pasnak, James. "The Road Down from the Hill: an Image in the Work of J.R.R. Tolkien". British Columbia Library Quarterly 32 (Oct. 1968), 14-20. [This paper, on the theme of the unfulfilled quest, advances considerable evidence but reaches few conclusions. It ends with the idea that Tolkien's final message is one of hope. (This subject is far more incisively treated by Michael Wood, New Society 13 (1969), 492-493.)] B 694

Pellowski, Anne. The World of Children's Literature. New York: R.R. Bowker, 1968, p. 376. [Tree and Leaf is described in a brief entry as "perhaps the most definitive statement ever thought out on the subject of 'faerie'."] B 696

Pelz, Bruce. "Wither Wither Tolkien Fandom". I Palantir No. 4 (Aug. 1966), pp. 4-6. [This "editorial" is the basis of a speech to be delivered at the 24th World Science Fiction Convention, Cleveland, Sept. 1966. He reviews the history of I Palantir, The Fellowship of the Ring (oriented toward science fiction) and the emergence, on the heels of Tolkien's new popularity, of the Tolkien Society of America (much less science fiction oriented). A good survey on the subject of Tolkien fandom.] B 482

Petersen, Clarence. "Who's the Happiest?" Chicago Tribune, Books Today, 20 March 1966, p. 8. [This article about the settlement of the Ace Books affair quotes liberally the publicity releases from Ace, Ballantine, and Tolkien.] B 484

Plotz, Dick [Richard]. "Tolkien Notes from All Over". Tolkien Journal [I]:2 (1965), p. 3. [The notes include Tolkien's written question about the cover of the Ballantine H: "Can any member of the T.S.A. tell me what a lion and emu are doing in the vignette, or what is the thing with pink bulbs in the foreground? The publishers won't say and merely sob because I don't approve."]

Powell, John. "Tolkien's The Hobbit". Radio Times (BBC London), 28 Sept. 1968, p. 48. [A brief description of H, and an announcement of an 8-part serialization: "The Hobbit is particularly suited to radio.... The music and song setting... are composed by David Cain and played and sung by the Early Music Consort on a unique collection of medieval instruments.... Voices will be treated radiophonically; the goblins will be harsh and dissonant, the High Elves will (quite literally) have music in their voices; the trolls will audibly turn to stone in the light of dawn."] B 700

P[rice], A[nthony]. "With Camera and Pen". Oxford Times, 27 Jan. 1956, p. 8. [A brief graceful biographical sketch. Tolkien conceived "the extremely arrogant idea, as he puts it, of providing an original mythology written in English." The success of LOTR has caused some disruption in Tolkien's life and his work on other parts of the mythology. "But this is not really a serious hold-up, since the whole mythology is already on paper."] B 253

Rogers, Ivor. "Take a Tolkien Trip to Middle Earth". The UWM Post (University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee), 27. Feb. 1968, p. 9. [A lively personal write-up of the

way H and LOTR have over the years lived with him and of the way they have now been taken up by the young.] B 706

Shaw, Greg (as devised by Don Simpson). "A Proposed System for the Phonetic Representation of English Sounds with the Feanorian Letters". Entmoot No. 2 (1965) [pp. 9-14]. [Sindarin, the better known of the elvish languages of the Third Age is the subject. The Tengwar or consonants have been fairly adequately laid out by Tolkien in Appendix E of LOTR. But the Tehtar of vowel signs are only sketchily indicated. The object of the article is to establish a system of vowel signs (following Tolkien so far as can be) so that any one accepting this system can write and read the elvish script. Three points of clarification are added in an "Editorial", No. 3 (1966), p. 25. This article stirred up a lot of comment in the letter column. The most significant letters are by Banks Mebane, No. 3, p. 9 and No. 4, p. 17; Ned Brooks, No. 3, pp. 10-11; Don Simpson, No. 3, p. 12 and No. 4, p. 18; and John Crossen, No. 4, pp. 20-22, who argues for a transliteration based directly only on English spelling rather than on phonetics. See also Mandel, Mark.] B 420

Shaw, John Mackay. Childhood in Poetry. 5 vols. Detroit: Gale Research, 1967, pp. 2539-2540. [H, ATB, and LOTR are included, as well as typical passages of poetry and lists of the poems in each volume.] B 603

Shumaker, Wayne. Literature and the Irrational. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1960. [He mentions Tolkien as among those who have "sought deliberately for the quality of myth" (p. 247). "In emphasizing the frightening adventures described in Tolkien's The Lord of the Ring [sic], we become better acquainted with the structure of dread—our dread, wherever and however it may occur, not merely the dread of elves and hobbits" (p. 261). These are the only references to Tolkien.] B. 290

Smith, James S. A Critical Approach to Children's Literature. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1967. [There are brief references to H, pp. 51, 74, 121, 175, 182, 190, 192, 221, 222, used as an example of a thoroughly imagined fantasy world.] B 605

"Success Amazes Him". Eastern Province Herald (Port Elizabeth, S.A.), 7 Dec. 1966, p. 11. [A brief dispatch from the paper's London correspondent reports that Tolkien says he can't afford to run a car. On the popularity of his work, Tolkien is quoted as saying: "I'm very surprised really. I just write for my own amusement. I started thinking about fairy tales and heroic romance when I was an undergraduate. But it wasn't until I was invalided from the Somme in 1916 that I started writing them down."] B. 439

T., D. "A Touch of Tolkien Magic". Chicago Sunday American, Magazine, 10 July 1966, p. 13. [A short lyric appreciation. Tolkien's world "is not made to man's scale. It goes beyond him both in goodness and evil; its beauty and its horror have not been leveled down or smoothed up to human standards." This item accompanies an article by Mary Knoblauch.] B 497

Thompson, Kirk L. Letter. Tolkien Journal III:4 (Nov. 1969), 20. [In Books I-IV we are allowed to read Frodo's thoughts and feelings. In Book VI we are not, because the Ring gains greater possession of him and his obsessed mind would bore the reader. After Mount Doom we do not return to an inner point of view because Frodo's thoughts would be almost beyond ken.]

"Tolkien Cult". Evening Standard, 26 Aug. 1967, p. 6. [A brief news item noting the coming publication of SWM and RGE0; and the Tolkien cult in America.] B 526

"Tolkien, John Ronald Reuel". Who's Who 1967. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1967, p. 3063. [Tolkien's degrees, honors, and publications are listed.]

"A Tolkien Month". The Bookseller, 9 March 1968, p. 1576. [The following facts are recorded: On March 14 Allen & Unwin will hold a reception at Crosby Hall in Chelsea for the first London performance of Donald Swann's musical settings of poems by J.R.R. Tolkien. The Road Goes Ever On (30s.) will be published March 28. In October 1936, Rayner Unwin, the nine year old son of Sir Stanley, read the MS of The Hobbit. His comment is quoted. Tolkien brought along "a little story" to the Inklings; "C.S. Lewis liked it so much that he urged him to expand it and publish it, and the result was The Hobbit." Between 1936 and 1967 over 4,750,000 copies of Tolkien's stories were sold. Letters sent to the publisher are quoted. Tolkien will be the subject of a 30-minute color documentary to be shown at the end of March under the auspices of the BBC 2 arts program "Release." It will be produced by Les Megahey.]

"Tolkien Society Head Chosen". The Monadnock (Keene State College, N.H.), 28 Sept. 1967, p. 3. [A news item from Center Harbor, N.H. about the election of E.R. Meskys, Physics instructor at Belknap College, as President of the Tolkien Society.] B 528

Torkelson, Lucile. "New Vision Needed". Milwaukee Sentinel, 13 May 1968, Part I, p. 1. [The report of a speech by Judith Merrill, an editor of The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, to the National conference on The Secondary Universe at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. In an interview Miss Merrill made several references to Tolkien, but short of full quotation, I cannot attempt to reproduce her elusive thought.] B 715

Trewin, J.C. "Drama: Piece Work". Listener 54 (24 Nov. 1955), 911. [A brief favorable comment on the adaptation and production of a serial version of FR by Terence Tiller for the BBC Third Programme.] B 206

"Two Benson Medals after Fourteen Years". The Times, 24 Nov. 1966, p. 14. ["Dame Rebecca West and Professor J.R.R. Tolkien have been awarded Benson Medals by the Royal Society of Literature after a lapse of 14 years since the last award. The medals... are presented to authors in consideration of works of poetry, fiction, history, biography, or belles-lettres."] B 440

Unwin, Rayner. Letter: "On Middle-Earth". Chicago Daily News, Panorama, 9 Oct. 1965, p. [Allen & Unwin and Tolkien himself deny that Ace Books wrote to Tolkien and tried to arrange some kind of publishing agreement with him. This was never done, and nor honorarium has been paid or even offered. This is in reply to Wollheim's statement quoted by Haas (7 Aug. 1965).] B 424

Van Starrex, Al. "Yes Virginia Frodo Lives". Mr. Magazine (Counterpoint Inc., New York) 12 (Sept. 1967), 38-41. [This popular article in an exceedingly popular magazine, is routine, and based on earlier articles by Nancy Griffin, etc. There is a full-page color illustration, plus a map of Middle Earth.] B 612

Wade, David. "Eye of the Blind". The Times, 26 Oct. 1968, p. 9. ["Lack of visual material is one of the chief shortcomings of The Hobbit now being given as an

eight-part serial on Home Service Sunday evenings [BBC Radio]. It has struck me with renewed force... what an important part awareness of landscape plays in the original—a landscape that is watchful, wide and more than a little menacing." The story becomes a succession of events, Gandalf is misconceived, and the music sometimes has an effect of empty sonority.] B 719

Walters, Raymond, Jr. "Say it with Paperbacks". New York Times Book Review, 4 Dec. 1966, p. 60. [A brief account of Ballantine's success with the boxed set of LOTR which "sold more than 50,000 copies with a few months." The list of "Paperback Best Sellers" (p. 60) shows LOTR as No. 1.] B 500

Weir, Arthur R. "J.R.R. Tolkien—A brief Survey, and a Comparison". Eldritch Dream Quest I:1 (Nov. 1960), 7-17. Reprinted in I Palantir No. 4 (Aug. 1966), pp. 21-26. [After touching on the implications of Tolkien's linguistic studies, he reviews his publications, beginning with A Middle English Vocabulary (1922) and including The Pearl—A Verse Translation (1946) which has not yet been published. He then swiftly compares and contrasts Tolkien with Lewis, Williams, Lovecraft and Merritt. He concludes with the observation about LOTR that "there is no where in it any mention of any religion at all! Even more remarkable, there is nowhere any quotation from any religious work..." (p. 16) Even common metaphors from the Bible like "clear as crystal" and "a broken reed" are absent. "... this curious 'spiritual disinfection' is in itself no mean literary feat!" (p. 17)]

Weiss, Malcolm. "For a Summertime Adventure: Visit

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protrays Perelandra as a world where inferiority is not shameful and superiority not something to be seized. Each being rejoices in submitting to others and serving them with gifts. The angelic guardian of the planet joyfully turns it over to the young humans and receives it again as their gift. Tor the King receives the rulership of his world by the gift of Ransom and the Queen, who won it for him by their sufferings at the hands of the Unman. The magnificent singing beast receives life from the female of another species, submitting to her until it is weaned.

Only when these issues are resolved, according to Lewis, can there be a place for scientific knowledge and technology. The matches fail the Time Traveler as often as they help him because his use of technology is not governed by a consistent set of values. Furthermore, his questions about the nature and destiny of man remain unanswered. His Time Machine allows him to escape the trap set for him inside the sphinx, but it takes him to another trap -- the dead end of the final blackening and cooling of the earth. On his second excursion into time he disappears, leaving the narrator to stare into a future "still black and blank... lit at a few casual places by the memory of his story."

What Lewis really did to Wells' brilliant fantasies, then, was to re-assert the world view of Old Western Man. It is a world view characterized by a sense of fun derived from seeking empathy and appreciation rather than domination; by a sense of security derived from believing that mankind has its own place between animals and angels in the Great Chain of Being; and finally, by a sense of joy derived from perceiving that the universe is "sillier and better fun than they make out."

Middle-Earth". Summertime (A Scholastic Magazine) 15 (29 July 1968), 6-7. [A well-written introduction to Middle-Earth—for young readers.] B 721

Wollheim, Donald O. "The Ace Tolkien". Lighthouse No. 13 (Aug. 1965), pp. 16-18. [He realized in 1954 that Houghton Mifflin had failed to secure U.S. Copyright to LOTR. When they later refused to discuss paperback rights, Ace decided to go ahead with an edition. Because the paperback business is highly competitive, secrecy (in the absence of copyright arrangement) was the only sensible course. The charge of "piracy" is unfounded.] B 428

"You Asked Us". The Canadian Magazine, 6 March 1971, p. 20. [In answer to Conrad Boyce's question about the progress of The Silmarillion, the question and answer column quotes the recent reply of Allen & Unwin; Tolkien "is a slow and meticulous writer, so nobody can prophesy when we shall be handed the final typescript."] B 831

Zielinski, Mary. "The Hobbit Habit". Milwaukee Sentinel, 17 Dec. 1966, Part I, pp. 9, 15. [A well written popular article on Tolkien, with special reference to the Marquette University Library exhibition of Tolkien MSS (including illustrations of 2 pages from the unpublished "Mr. Bliss" MS.) and to the Tolkien society organized by Ivor Rogers at the University of Wisconsin. Also a quote from Deborah Webster, one of the six who met at Dick Plotz' instigation by a fountain in New York and began the Tolkien Society of America.] B 510

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