4-15-1986

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Abstract
Briefly annotated checklist of minor early secondary materials on Tolkien not represented in Judith A. Johnson's *Six Decades of Tolkien Criticism*.

Additional Keywords
Patrick Wynne
Early Review of Books by J.R.R. Tolkien
Compiled by George H. Thompson

Part III
Smith of Wootton Major & "Smith of Wootton Major & Farmer Giles of Ham"

Smith of Wootton Major

SWM '67A
Boston: HM, 24 Nov. 1967

SWM '67E

Smith of Wootton Major & Farmer Giles of Ham

SWM & FGH
New York: BB, March 1969


Best Sellers 27 (1 Dec. 1967), 358. [A brief favorable description.]

"Box of Spice." Times Educational Supplement, 24 Nov. 1967, p. 1219. ["This wisp of a story is about the Land of Faery... The book has that haunting quality characteristic of the best of the 'deeper' folk-tales. A brief review, mostly summary.]

Derrick, Christopher. "And See Ye Not Ye Bonny Road?" Tablet (London) 222 (10 Feb. 1968), 132. [It is "a myth of great delicacy" but a precise allegory. It enjoins love "towards the old small pie ties and the middleness of Middle Earth." Much of the column is taken up with highly poetic religious thought.]

Ezard, John. "Headington's Spellbinder". Oxford Mail, 14 Dec. 1967, p. 8. [This is "the best single thing" Tolkien has written. It perfectly illustrates what a fairy story is. Moreover it is moving to read "and it's moving also to find that Prof. Tolkien, writing from Headington in his 70th year, is still adding new strings to the bow of his imagination."]

EZ "Fiction", Virginal Kirkus' Service 35 (15 Sept. 1967), 1164-1165. ["The star is a trinket, and so, virtually this... Brief."]

Ford, Stephen C. "Dying Cult Pushed Along: Tolkien Offers Faltering Fantasy for Adults". Courier-Post (Camden, N.J.), 14 Dec. 1967, p. 20. [Mainly a plot summary. "It's a story strictly for the palim set, regardless of what it claims to be."]

"Forecasts: Fantasy". Publisher's Weekly 192 (18 Sept. 1967), 62. [SWM is announced for 24 Nov. 1967. This gentle little fantasy is, "purely and simply, a fairy story." It belongs to the children's book realm. The writing has a poetic quality.]

Green, Roger Lancelyn. "Slicing a Magical Cake". Sunday Telegraph (London), 3 Dec. 1967, p. ? [SWM is worthy to rank with FGH and LBN. Like LOTR, "the true Tolkien magic is as securely hidden as the star in the Master Cook's cake and can only be found by those who chance to swallow it unknowingly."


Head, Victor. "Some New Books for Children: Tolkien's World of the Hobbits". The Field, 23 Nov. 1967, p. 1027. ["This slight and magical fairy tale" will serve as introduction to H, now in paper. It is in turn a prelude to LOTR, "a prodigy of imagination and a classic to rank with those of Lewis Carroll, Kenneth Grahame, T H White and A A Milne."]

Hudson, C.H. "Tolkien Territory". Oxford Times, 10 Nov. 1967, p. 26. [Some of the spell may come from memories of LOTR, but SWM has its own moments of awe and terror. The cook who comes among the people is compared to Strider. Brief.]

The Junior Bookshelf 32 (Feb. 1968), 54. [A very satisfactory story which will probably appeal to a larger audience than the Hobbit sequence. "The central portion might almost be by MacDonald but the story does not seem derivative in any way, just a new and rather nicer bit of Tolkien."]

Lauritsen, Frederick M. Review of SWM. Library Journal 92 (15 Nov. 1967), 4175. [Unlike FGH, SWM develops Tolkien's ideas about the land of faery. "Because Tolkien uses both plot and characters merely as mediums to express an idea, they are lacking depth."

Lewis, Naomi. Review of SWM. The Humanist (London) 83, 1164-1165. ["The star is a trinket, and so, virtually this... Brief."]

Lobdell, J.C. Review of SWM. National Review 20 (7 May 1968), 461. [The story is "even a little too charming" but the reviewer is thankful for a new story from Tolkien and a few great moments. Brief.]

Lobdell, J.C. Review of SWM. National Review 20 (7 May 1968), 461. [The story is "even a little too charming" but the reviewer is thankful for a new story from Tolkien and a few great moments. Brief.]

Malcolm, Janet. "Children's Books for Christmas". New Yorker 43 (16 Dec. 1967), 177-178. [SWM "admirably succeeds in persuading the reader to suspend his analytical powers while he is reading it." The spurious medieval illustrations by Pauline Baynes spell out what Tolkien has been good enough to leave unsaid... Most of the review is a summary of the plot.]

Mitchison, Naomi. "Why Not Grow-ups Too?" The Glasgow
They contain only wholesome characters. The first is a moral fairy story which can be enjoyed by anyone having small. Brief. SWM & FGH recommended only for younger fans. Others may find it slavery, Jan. Luna No. 8 (January, 1970), 27. [These loosely written; the second is enjoyable but to be passed his tenth birthday — or any decade. Beautiful fairy stories are reminiscent of Oscar Wilde. They contain only wholesome characters. The first is loosely written; the second is enjoyable but to be recommended only for younger fans. Others may find it shallow. Brief.]


Peckham, Stanton. "Readers' Roundup." Sunday Denver Post (Col.), Roundup Magazine, 26 Nov. 1967, p. 12. [SWM might be a good introduction to Tolkien's work, and it "just might become a fay classic." Brief.]

Prescott, Peter S. "Books". Women's Wear Daily 115 (17 Nov. 1967), 30. (Also Fairchild News Service.) [A brief, thoughtful review: "...by pointing out the perils of the land of Faery, the realm that 'cannot be approached without danger,' he restores to the genre an uneasy edge too often replaced by sentimentality."]

R., M.G. "Magic and a Moral". The Yorkshire Post (Leeds), 21 Dec. 1967, p. 5. [Brief. "It is a very moral fairy story which can be enjoyed by anyone having passed his tenth birthday — or any decade thereafter."]

Slavin, Jan. Luna No. 8 (January, 1970), 27. [These beautiful fairy stories are reminiscent of Oscar Wilde. They contain only wholesome characters. The first is loosely written; the second is enjoyable but to be recommended only for younger fans. Others may find it shallow. Brief.]

Smith, Ann. "Tolkien is for All Ages". Canberra Times, 10 Feb. 1968, p. 10. [A modest perceptive review. "Much of Tolkien's success in this short and basically simple tale lies in his splendid characterisation and sense of humour. But his great achievement is his juxtaposition of the ordinary, earthy details of village life with impressionistic glimpses of the land of Faery."]


"Under Nines - 1/Out of the Ordinary". Times Literary Supplement, 30 Nov. 1967, p. 1153. [In a review of 10 children's books, one paragraph is devoted to Tolkien. He has simplicity, but it is too studied and balanced.]

V., R.H. "Folk Tales, Legends, and Fanciful Stories". Horn Book Magazine 44 (Feb. 1968), 63. [A brief comment on Tolkien's story: "Like his others, this new one is recounted gracefully and as naturally as a bit of village history."]

Wade, David. "Mighty Midget". New Statesman 74 (29 Dec. 1967), 908. [A long review praising "this astonishing little book" with its "overwhelming density of meaning." "Seen in depth, the swallowing of the star is akin to the coming of grace. It is lent, it has nothing to do with merit, although it must fall onto ground where it will not be extinguished." The book also suggests "that we are not from the spiritual point of view as equal as we like to think."]

Williams, Christopher. "Among a Faery Elite". New Society 10 (7 Dec. 1967), 831-832. [Moderate in length, scathing in tone. One gets to Faery by predeterminer and "after a choppy passage through the ersatz of Tolkien's prose style." Tolkien preserves a hierarchical distance between the imaginary and the real. "Imagination thus becomes a formal gift, remote-controlled by pallid parent figures, and not the right and possible prerogative of every child, as modern children expect it to be."]

See also reviews of RGEO by Brady, Fuller, Glackin, Keney, Mitchell, Wagenknacht, and Wildstrom.

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