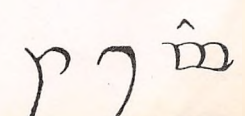


Tolkien Journal

volume II no. 2
Astron 1966

published by the 

Ann

TOLKIEN NOTES FROM ALL OVER & EDITORIAL NOTES

We forgot to mention it in the last issue, but Rebecca Wenger's drawings were freehand adaptations of the Pauline Baynes illustrations for The Adventures of Tom Bombadil and Farmer Giles of Ham, and were printed by permission.

Some worthwhile zines for Tolkien fans:

Entmoot, by Greg Shaw, 2545 Lexington Way, San Bruno, Calif.

Niekas, by Felice Rolfe, 1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, Calif.

I Palantir, at great intervals by Bruce Pelz, Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024.

Shire-Post, a proposed artzine, by Steve Sheckman, 77 Muttontown Road, Syosset, N.Y. 11791. Silk-screen reproduction; art contributions appreciated.

The active battle between Ace and Tolkien's authorized publishers is over, but Ace has not cleared its record. Note their wording of the release in this issue.

Paraphrase of part of a telephone interview with Tolkien by Henry Resnik for the Saturday Evening Post:

Resnik: Dr. Tolkien, what lies east of Rhun and south of Harad?

Tolkien: East of Rhun are Asia and Japan, and south of Harad is Africa.

Resnik: Then Middle-earth is Europe?

Tolkien: Yes.

Our addressing company is responsible for such atrocities as "Mr Robin Geist" (a girl) in the addresses; the change would cost, though, so you'll have to bear with us.

The Poetry Contest will not be judged until the Afterlithe issue.

Notice:

There are tentative plans afoot to split the Tolkien Journal into two separately circulating zines. The Tolkien Journal will remain, with articles and features, while a one-sheet publication, costing probably one dollar a year, will appear more or less monthly. This sheet, the Green Dragon, will carry up-to-the-minute news, snatches of letters, etc. We need your cooperation for this. If not enough people show their interest, the Green Dragon may not appear. Along with this division goes an upgrading of the quality of the articles in the Tolkien Journal. If you have stories, criticism, poems, or essays which might be of interest to Tolkien fans, send them. We would also like you to return the enclosed card for our records by June 15. If you do not, you may not receive the next issue of the Journal. Please give your address as of July 20.

9

BALLANTINE BOOKS

news of



101 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

CHelsea 2-9140

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3/4/66

In September, Ballantine Books will publish THE TOLKIEN READER which will contain the complete text of three published books by J.R.R. Tolkien, TREE AND LEAF, FARMER GILES OF HAM, and THE ADVENTURES OF TOM BOMBADIL as well as other works by this author.

Ballantine Books is the authorised paperbound publisher of THE HOBBIT and THE LORD OF THE RINGS trilogy by J. R. R. Tolkien. The Ballantine editions contain revisions and new material added by the author and have been selling in competition with the unauthorised edition of THE LORD OF THE RINGS issued by Ace. Ballantine Books considers the fact that Ace Books has now agreed to pay J. R. R. Tolkien a royalty a victory for authors' rights. According to Tolkien's British hardcover publisher, Allen and Unwin, Ace's agreement with Professor Tolkien provides that when the present stock of the Ace edition is exhausted, Ace will not be permitted to reprint without the consent of the author, and that Ballantine Books will remain the authorised paperback publisher.



books, inc.

1120 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS / NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036 / TN 7-5050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACE BOOKS, INC. announces with pleasure the signing of an agreement with J. R. R. Tolkien for the payment of full royalties on all copies of THE LORD OF THE RINGS in the Ace editions. A check in excess of \$9,000.00 has been sent to him covering royalties payable through 1965.

Ace Books has been on record from the start as willing to pay royalties to Dr. Tolkien, but not to his publishers who had forfeited his copyrights in the United States. This has been accomplished by our agreement.

Under our arrangement, Professor Tolkien receives full royalties from American paperback sales instead of the customary one quarter royalties for an English author. Dr. Tolkien's letter confirming our agreement reads as follows:

"Gentlemen:

I am happy to accept your voluntary offer to pay full royalties on all copies sold of the Ace editions of THE LORD OF THE RINGS trilogy, even though you have no legal obligation to do so.

You may advise those who may be interested of our amicable arrangement.

Yours sincerely,

(signed J. R. R. Tolkien)"

21st March, 1966

Editor-in-Chief
Publishers' Weekly
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York 10036

Dear Sir,

Certain aspects of the settlement between Ace Books and Professor J.R.R. Tolkien reported in the PW of 14th March seem to require clarification, which perhaps his English publisher may provide.

1. Far from being "on record from the start as willing to pay royalties to Dr. Tolkien, but not his publishers", Ace Books published and distributed their version of THE LORD OF THE RINGS without reference to or communication with the author. Only after energetic protests from numerous quarters had been sustained for several months did Professor Tolkien receive, in December last, for the first time, a letter from Ace Books.
2. As Ace Books did not care to correspond with Professor Tolkien's publishers, the inference that the author would only receive one quarter of the U.S. paperback royalties is theirs. It is also untrue. Except in Formosa, incidents of moral piracy are happily rare. When they do occur, few responsible publishers would wish to profit in any way from an injury to one of their authors.
3. In reaching agreement with Professor Tolkien, Ace Books undertook not to print any further copies of their version of THE LORD OF THE RINGS without the author's permission. As sole rights for an authorized paperback have already been granted to Ballantine Books, it is difficult to conceive such permission ever being possible.
4. It is noteworthy that the net result of this affair has been to distract an author of genius for six months from all creative work. Those who admire Professor Tolkien's books and clamour for more will draw their own conclusion.

Yours faithfully,
for GEORGE ALLEN AND UNWIN LIMITED
Rayner Unwin

J

LOTHLORIEN

1965-66

environment consisting of acrylic-on-canvas panels and polychromed wood

16' length x 8' width x 7' height

A STATEMENT FROM THE ARTIST

Noting that my copy of "The Hobbit" bears the information nineteenth printing, I must readily admit to being a latecomer to the Tolkien circle. My tardiness was, however, I hope partially excused by the almost excessive attention paid to the book and the succeeding three volumes during the first virtually non-stop reading: one of the classic "stop only to find food (but not during the eating of it) and for a bare minimum of sleep". After this first marathon reading session, I immediately turned back to Chapters Six and Seven of Book II and reread the account of Lothlorien and the visit there by the Company of the Ring. After three readings of the entire saga, those two chapters remain (along with Chapter V of "The Hobbit") my favorites.

The biggest problem in attempting some sort of visual interpretation of the Lothlorien segment lay in the editing of an incredibly rich descriptive text. The journey into and the respite in Lothlorien is almost minutely described and it soon became evident that one single work, whether sculptural or two-dimensional, would not suffice nor would a series of non-related works accomplish what seemed at least the minimum necessary effect. The solution to the problem seemed to be incontestably the use of an environment where the viewer would be drawn into the work and immersed in an atmosphere as close to the original verbal description as possible.

This solution arrived at, the secondary problem immediately made itself felt and developed into a much more serious one: how to remain true to the text and the detailed description and at the same time produce a pictorial work of acceptable visual continuity and sustained interest. Whether this problem is satisfactorily solved I cannot say. The answer lies in whether or not the idea of an "interpretation" allows a certain degree of departure from the original and a flexibility in minor (or major) detail.

The Tolkien enthusiast will be quick to notice certain elements within the work which are inconsistent with the actual descriptive text -- these departures were each subjected to debate and consideration with concern for the work as a whole taking precedence in most cases over absolute attention to detail.

(continued)

Blocking out the incidents to be depicted was an easier task, although the temptation to enlarge the work to include greater detail of Caras Galadon and the final farewell with its Fellini-like visual possibilities did provoke some hesitation. Nevertheless, the decision rested on the sequence leading from Nimrodel to Cerin Amroth to the dominating presence of Celeborn and Galadriel to the Company (with the notable absence of any attempt to really make absolute drawn characters in this case and the total absence of Frodo and Sam) to the Mirror of Galadriel and finally leaving with the outside "friend" and future guide spying from a tree. This sequence seemed to touch upon each major aspect of the two chapters and, in combination with the three-dimensional elements of the environment and the controlled lighting, established a visual atmosphere which is, I think, in keeping with the overall effect of the Tolkien description.

Lothlorien, as a place in Middle-Earth, was a world unique: a Utopian world inhabited by a race willing to lose their private Utopia for the benefit of the universal Positive; ruled by sovereigns unwilling to risk accruing unnecessary power for fear of distorting their natural ambition and clouding their personal intellectual responsibility, yet maintaining power sufficient to check the Negative and aid those in search of a fairer world. If I have made a major mistake in my own "Lothlorien", it is more probably in emphasizing the lightness, beauty and tranquillity of this best of all possible worlds, omitting reference to the intensity and dignity of the responsibility its inhabitants carried. If this be so, I plead guilty and stand in the good company of Sam Gamgee: "I feel as if I was inside a song, if you take my meaning."

ALBERT VANDERBURG

New York City
February, 1966

["LOTHLORIEN" will be exhibited at the Frederick Teuscher gallery, 53 West 83 Street, New York, in June. -- Dick Plotz]

cg

Chapters for the T.S.A. - Dick Plotz

Since I'll be going away to Harvard next year, I won't be able to spend so much time on TSA correspondence as I have been. In order to decentralize correspondence, as well as meetings, etc. I have drawn up a chapter system for the TSA. The chapter lines may in some cases conflict with convenience, and they are not rigid. I expect they will change, but the idea will remain, and that idea is this.

Each chapter will have a chairman whose duties will be to report to me on all activities in his area. He will receive the correspondence from all members in his chapter, and forward to me the most interesting and important. He will coordinate or at least know about all meetings in his area, and send reports of anything significant that goes on. He will have a copy of the mailing list for his area, and all new members in his area will be referred to him. I'll write to some people who I know are interested, but if anyone wants to head his chapter, let me know.

Chapters are as follows:

NNE: N.H., Vt., Me.
MAS: Mass.
SNE: Conn., R.I.
LIS: Nassau & Suffolk.
NYC: NYC; nearby NY State.
UNY: NY State not near NYC.
NJE: New Jersey.
PEN: Pa., Del.
BAL: Md. exc. WDC.
WDC: D.C. & suburbs.
SOU: from Va. & Tenn. south.
ECE: W. Va., Ohio, Ky., Ind., Ill. (exc. CHI).
CHI: Chicago & suburbs.
MIC: Mich.
SCE: Mo., Ark., La.
SWE: Tex., Okla., Ariz., N.M.
NCE: Wis., Minn., Iowa.
NWE: Mont., Ida., Wash., Ore.
SCA: S. Calif.
NCA: N. Calif.

Canadian members may join the nearest U.S. chapter. Members in states not mentioned may be included in the most convenient chapter. Overseas members may receive the Journal as members of the OVE "chapter", but there will be no official organization of OVE, as members are too widely distributed. All this may change, but this is how it stands for the moment. Be sure to indicate your chapter on your data card.

"FRODO LIVES" BUTTONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

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The Great Chronicle of Middle-World
by John Plotz

The most delightful part of Harvard University's immense library is the Houghton Library, the rare book collection. There, among manifold manuscripts and first editions, pistol-packing guards, and suspicious librarians, I spend many enjoyable hours in the Middle-Earth section. The Mannish collection is second in the world only to Oxford's. The Dwarf section is weak and the Halfling section is, of course, only fragmentary. The works of Elves, however, are unbelievably well-represented. In this part Harvard's library is surely the finest one anywhere. It is so large that scores of crates of Elvish material lie still unopened in the basement.

I am a modest Middle-Earth scholar, my first passion being Upper Magyar literature of the late third century A.D.; but my good friend Dr. Gardner, curator of Third Age manuscripts, asked me recently to help him open some of those mysterious crates. You can imagine how eagerly I accepted. We started work late one afternoon last month.

Dr. Gardner is preparing a revolutionary monograph on our discovery, to be published in the Houghton Quarterly of Learned Studies late this year. It is my great pleasure to announce the discovery first in the Tolkien Journal.

We opened the first crate. The top layer was not very exciting, mostly rather poor illuminated manuscripts of Elessar Elvish lays. But halfway through the crate we found an old piece of parchment, burned at the edges and practically falling apart, covered with a writing completely unknown to either me or Dr. Gardner. Attached to it was an Elvish trot, written, apparently, by an Elf scholar sometime in the middle of the Third Age. Here is an English translation from the Elvish:

"...and if this darkness comes to Middle-World, will the men of Ostrigoth pass away like the leaves in autumn, and the eagles cease to circle in their power?"

And Telstar Powerman, wanderer of the North, and heir to the house of Philistan, answered him saying, "Yea, old man, the danger is great. But yet this darkness may be overcome if our hearts are stout and the nineteen rings, with the power of the seven trees in them, are joined with the ten sceptres, which were made in the days of Enovid the Great when he went out into the West and drank of the four streams of the Wesson and found great strength. If these are joined and the eight great tribes stand side by side as in the days of the Purple Council in the time of Geysir, who was king over all the tribes that dwelt to the south of the Muddy Mountains, then, perhaps, the power of the Evil Three may be broken and they will pass from the face of Middle-World for ever."

Then Telstar Powerman, wanderer of the North, and heir to the House of Philistan, grasped his sword Selfoss and brandished it and shouted "Keflavik" and leapt on his horse and rode toward the land of the Rasputins with the speed of the wind...

b

Far into the land of the howling winds there is a land called Upper-Middle-World. We of Middle-Earth know little of this place, but the Wanderer brought these pages to Imladris recently. It is called The Great Chronicle of Upper-Middle-World, or, Round and Round We Go Again. The first pages are lost.

The fragment ends here. At least the Elvish trot ends here. Probably the Upper-Middle-World page does not go too much further. Though we searched for other evidence of this whole new world, we searched in vain. It's the only piece of Upper-Middle-World extant. Think though what areas of scholarship are opened by it! I look forward expectantly to the mountains of speculation and controversy which it will generate

Social Philosophy in The Lord of the Rings by Barry Tunick

A liberal, democratic would-be pacifist, I enjoyed LotR in spite of my convictions. For Tolkien's trilogy is conservative and authoritarian and glorifies violence. Consider:

Conservative: The emphasis is on traditions, tales, legends and the restoration of a previous era. Our heroes are feudal kings, princes and knights. The Hobbits are of the landed, leisured gentry. Seldom do we hear of the common person--the farmer, the soldier, the serf.

Authoritarian: The world is seen as good vs. bad. Boromir and Denethor are the only bad-good guys. Everyone else wears (figuratively) black hats or white hats. Even Gandalf is gray only temporarily.

Violent: As in the Scandinavian sagas and myths (to which I was turned on by the trilogy), glory in battle is the highest goal. True, the violence is mitigated in that only un-human orcs and monsters are usually killed (just as currently we kill not human beings but only Viet-Cong or Communists).

LotR shows a romantic idealism. The pomp is perfect. The speeches, pageantry and ceremony always go off without a hitch. No flies bother the horses and no one ever hiccups or forgets his lines.

Don't get me wrong. I realize that Tolkien was writing escape fantasy, not socialist realism, and that a morality story must contrast good and evil. The above are just afterthoughts; I delighted in LotR.

But I prefer to think that my enjoyment despite the above conflicts with my idealism reflects less upon the depth or sincerity of my convictions than upon Tolkien's marvelous abilities as storyteller.

1

LOCS BOX

Dear Dick,

I've just received and read the Afteryule Journal, of course enjoying it michelly. However, one thing disturbs me greatly. I have a great deal of respect for Mr. Boardman's successful application of the basic laws of heredity to elf-human matings, but question the validity of such findings when seen within the context of LotR. Although it seems to be the fashion to explain supernatural phenomena (not to mention deities) by scientific rationalization, I feel such an interpretation of LotR, the beginnings of which seem to be upon us in "The Hereditary Patterns of Immortality in Elf-Human Crosses", would ruin much of the beauty (to lift a word from John Plotz's letter) of the trilogy. To reduce the Valar ("At the end of the First Age the Valar gave to the Half-elven an irrevocable choice to which kindred they would belong.."--III 389; "immortality is a recessive characteristic, and is transmitted...by the Mendelian Laws."--Tolkien Journal, II, 1, p. 11), and then probably the Western Lands, to a status comparable to that now accorded the first eleven chapters of Genesis is inconceivable to any true lover of Middle-earth. Yet this seems to be what Mr. Boardman's thesis leads us to. Eventually, if this trend continues, a thesis will be advanced that the War of the Ring was caused by economic factors, or even that Elves, Dwarves, Hobbits and Orcs were merely different races of men.

I am in favor of detailed study and interpretation of LotR, but only when such work does not violate the principle of internal integrity: take Middle-earth as it is, not as it "should be" by our corrupted, skeptical and "scientific" standards.

May the hair on your feet grow ever longer,
Bob Foster
376 E. 8 Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218

But, Boo, you would be denying to the creative the opportunity to interpret Middle-earth rather than to merely "study" it. I share your sentiments about the Boardman article, but you must admit that it was an attempt at creative (if incorrect) interpretation of Tolkien's world.

Dear Mr. Plotz,

Having finished vol. 2, no. 1 of Tolkien Journal within ten minutes of reception thereof, I must say that this is a noble undertaking, for which I had been hoping for a long time. However, I agree with John Plotz of Cambridge, Mass. that the surest way to ruin the paraworld which the Master has striven so hard to establish is to treat it too seriously. As long as reading the Books is fun, well and good, but when researching and commenting on them becomes work, it is time to stop. This, however, in no way diminishes my esteem for the TSA, and for anyone who raves insanely about the greatness of LotR as is my wont. I will say that once I attempted to compile a dictionary of Sindarin and Quenya, but gave it up when I couldn't tell which was which. If someone can have fun doing this, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy.

I am a co-director of the student-operated paperback bookstore here at Webb, Sign. When my associate was found to be buying the Ace Edition, I quickly tossed him into Dol Guldur (my own Barad-dur is not yet completed), and ordered thenceforward only the Good Edition. So far we have sold about fifteen sets, quite a few to teachers, and since out of two hundred students here, about thirty already had copies, I feel we have done quite well.

I would like to comment on two letters I read in the Journal. In reply to Cory Seidman, why force the Tengwar to fit phonetically a language for which they were never intended? In a language such as Latin, the vowels are clear enough to be expressed with Tengwarian tehtar, but making complicated changes and rules to fit them to a language so complex phonetically as English strikes me as being a bit silly. I use the Tengwar myself for class notes and scribblings, but like the Elves, I use anything which comes along to represent a sound, and related signs for related sounds, but without the unElvish (as it seems to me) practice of rigid adherence to a table.

To Mr. Boardman, concerning applicability of Mendelian heredity to Elvish immortality: if immortality can be dispensed with at will (e. g. the choices of Luthien Tinuviel and Arwen Undomiel) it seems rather difficult to speak of it as a distinctly physiological, and therefore genetic quality.

In case it has not been brought to anyone's attention, the first prize in the Art Show at Westercon XVIII (The Eighteenth Annual West Coast Science Fantasy Convention) went to a beautiful oil painting entitled "Khazad-dum".

Yr. obdt. svt. in perpetuo,
Peter Sloman
Webb School of California
Claremont, Calif. 91711

To repeat one of your criticisms with a slight change: why force the Roman alphabet to fit a language (English or Turkish) for which it was never intended?

Dear Dick,

The TSA Journal is getting better and better. Wish I had known you were going to do such a big one. I would have sent you the article I sent ENTMOOT. It is about two pages and I thought it would be too long.

I'm glad to hear that Ballantine has turned the Ring inscription right-side-up and changed the cover. I will be interested to see the new cover. When was this new edition issued? Will it be given general distribution? Guess I can get one through Witter anyway.

Glad to hear I had been pronouncing "Meriadoc" right. I did pronounce "Michel" as "Michael" tho.

To carry Poul Anderson's analogy a little further, the girl's marriage to "C" was a marriage of convenience, as "C" is a business partner of her father (H-M)!

d

The Reis article was great, tho little of it was news to me. I hadn't seen the use of this word "mythopoeic" before. I've read all the modern books that he mentions except that I haven't finished PHANTASTES and will probably have to start over again from the beginning since I got off it some time ago. Does Mike Ward get the Journal? He is a Ring fan; he even read the entire FAERIE QUEEN last summer. Now that we have a nice mouth-filling word like "mythopoeic", we can argue over what other works fit the label. What about Kingsley's WATER BABIES or Lindsay's VOYAGE TO ARCTURUS?

Inclosed is my effort in the poetry contest. I sincerely hope you get something better!

Sure wish I could have made that meeting. I would have loved to meet you and Auden and the rest.

The Boardman article was beautifully worked out. I am somewhat in doubt, however, about the orc-hobbit cross referred to as being on p. 12 of THE HOBBIT. Reading pp. 12-13, it seems pretty clear that the cross referred to is the elf-hobbit cross in the Took family, and that the supposed orc-hobbit cross, the orcs being called goblins, is the same union, but as seen by the Took's enemies, who circulated the base canard that it was a goblin-hobbit union.

The Rebecca Wenger illos look a lot like Pauline Baynes'. The cover is very good too. If you keep improving you may succeed in filling the aching void left by the demise of I PALANTIR.

Best,
Ned Brooks
911 Briarfield Road
Newport News, Va. 23605

I understand from Ballantine that the 4th printing of LotR will have the corrections. The "revised edition" of The hobbit (revised I don't know how) has the changes in the cover.

Thain Richard Plotz,

I am Vyanar Eldarion, brother of Vorlak Eldarion of the regions of Forskalath and Ivendile, ranger of the West. I consider myself to know as much as anyone about the information in the Lord of the Rings. As the most expert Rangers, my brother and I have already claimed, explored and laid trails on some 200,000 acres. We have mastered the Tengwar and have developed a spoken language from that of combinations of Quenya and Westron. We swear faith in protecting all causes for the refinding of the Ennorath with the swords Naurgoth and Numen Morvilya. Please inform me as to what the Tolkien Society of America is.

Vyanar Eldarion
4107 Dickey Road
Gibsonia, Pa. 15044

30
Gentlebeings:

If this keeps up, the Elvish tongue and script are going to succeed where Esperanto and Shaw's alphabet fail. Stick around for a few centuries and see if I'm not right. How soon do you think there will be a demand for BASIC CONVERSATIONAL ELVISH? Or editions of Tolkien's works in the original Elvish (or Westron as the case may be)? One of these days I'm going to invest in a pen that can render thick and thin strokes--then I'll take up writing Tengwar--to use a ballpoint would be indecent.

I would like anything of a factual nature in the Journal to be concise, complete and accurate. Let me therefore inform Mr. Hoffman that the names of the Dwarves in the Eddas are not garbled. The extra -n or -r at the end of a name is the nominative case ending of the name, just as -is is the case ending of my name in Latvian. Hence such names as Gandalf, or, say, Olaf, which we usually render as "Olaf", but which also becomes "Oliver". Spelling conventions in Norse and English account for the difference between "Dvalin(-n)" and "Dwalin".

Yes, and somebody should learn to spell (page 3, line 4) Mervyn Peake; but I would like to get in touch with R. H. Reis. I am (in case you don't know) secretary of the Gormenghast Junior Chamber of Commerce---Meanwhile, let us nag Houghton-Mifflin to bring back all the colored illos that were in the early editions of THE HOBBIT. I wrote to Allen & Unwin, but they didn't think it a good idea. I'd gladly pay an extra buck to avoid having to buy a rare first edition.

Yours,
Dainis Bisenieks
1033 Pomona
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103

If BASIC CONVERSATIONAL ELVISH were to appear, I'd be the first to buy ten copies. Latest from Allen & Unwin is a projected reissue of the original Hobbit plates in the next printing, later this year; also an Unwin paperback Hobbit with an old Tolkien color illo of Bard killing Smaug on the cover.

Dear Dick,

Mine is, perhaps, a problem which can be solved only by Professor Tolkien himself, but surely the Society will have views on the matter. Please help me!

Who is Eldest?

The question has been smoldering in my brain for years. I used to ask it of people I met on the street. They put me off--"That question shows you've read closely. Read more closely and find the answer."

Well, I've done the research and I've collected the Scriptures which seem relevant to me, and here they are.

On page 182 of The Fellowship (I must cite Ballantine, as the hardbacks weighted too much to be carried from my home in California to Radcliffe) we find Tom Bombadil putting in his claim, the claim accepted by most orthodox readers.

"Eldest, that's what I am... (Tom) knew the dark under the stars when it was fearless"--before the Ring was forged. A strong assertion, and unchallengeable; or is it?

2

What does Celeborn mean, Return of the King, page 321, when he addresses T r e e b e a r d by the honorable title of "Eldest"? I've never credited Celeborn with a lot of brains, but here I must suspect him of quite a vulgar error, the misinterpretation of a bit of lore (Two Towers, page 187):
"Ere ring was made, or wrought was woe,
(Ents) walked the forest long ago."

Are we really to read this as supporting an Entish claim to Eldesthood? Or is there other, more substantial evidence-- solid enough to absolve Celeborn, and incidentally make a liar out of Bombadil?

I take no side in the controversy. It's above my head.

The current nationwide attention paid to the Society by important publications like Seventeen alternately cheers and disheartens me. It will be long before the world is ready for my own personal dreamworld, though manuscript never ceases piling up in my drawers. I call my version of Faerie the Yon Shores (little or no relation to the "Hither Shore" in Galadriel's song). Is there a Tolkien fan somewhere who would like to learn Essian, a very corrupt synthetic-agglutinative cousin of Sindarin? I offer a FREE correspondence course-- would be delighted to trade languages, especially if imaginary. May a star shine on our meeting.

Sincerely,
Joan Biella
Frustrated Linguistics Major
100 Walker Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Joan, maybe you could write a piece on Essian for the Tolkien Journal. I suggest you change for that correspondence course. You might earn a fortune if it's good enough.

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