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Individual membership in the Tolkien Society of America costs \$2 when sent to US or APO addresses, \$2.40 (£1) elsewhere. This brings four issues of the TOLKIEN JOURNAL plus any issues of the GREEN DRAGON published during the period of membership.

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All back issues of the TOLKIEN JOURNAL are in print and available. Price is proportional to size of issue and cost of printing. #1, 10c. #2, 25c. #s 3-6 & 9, 50c ea. #7, \$1. #8, 60c. GREEN DRAGONS #3 & 4 are available at 10c each. These prices apply everywhere, but there is a \$1 minimum on orders outside the US, Canada & Mexico.

Other merchandise is available to members but is listed only in the GREEN DRAGON because the list changes frequently.

Note to members: the cost of NIEKAS has gone up to 60c the copy, 4 for \$2. #19 is temporarily out of print and new subs will begin with #20, out soon. When it is reprinted the cost of #19 will go up to 75c.

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Editorial

AT LONG LAST

another Tolkien Journal is done! This issue is being finished on 24 July 1968, tho I suppose it will take a few more weeks to get it printed, bound and mailed out. It has been a hectic year since I took the Thainship over from Dick Plotz, but I am developing a system and hope I can get the TJ out on a regular schedule now. I do believe I'll be able to get another TJ out before the end of the year. I have the material for it but need articles and art for the issue after that.

Due to the mechanics of printing it is more economical to publish one 16 page & 1 32 page issue than two 24 page issues. Because I am using a more compact format I believe I get as much material into 16 pages as Dick got into 24 so I will plan on having every fourth issue a special 32 page one with full-color cover. Tentatively it will be the first issue of each volume. I already have a color photograph of the painting I want to use as the first color cover. It is an excellent picture of Bree by a Los Angeles area member. [Incidentally, can you name at least 2 other things in imaginative literature named Bree?]

MEETINGS, PAST & FUTURE

I held two meetings of the TSA and have plans for at least three more in the near future. As most of you saw in the GREEN DRAGON, the TSA had a meeting in NY in December and one in Boston in April. Our next meeting will be at 9:30 am [!!!] on Labor Day at the Claremont Hotel in Oakland Cal, as part of the annual World Science Fiction Convention running from Thursday thru Monday. (No TSA charge, but convention membership costs \$3.) The convention committee might again change the meeting time or even day so check the convention program to be sure.

Then we will have the Tolkien Conference at Belknap College in Center Harbor New Hampshire on the weekend of Oct 18-20. I have already about 8 speakers and hope for many more. An exact time table won't be set up until I have a better idea of the total number of papers to be presented. Tentatively, Friday evening will be set aside for a reception where attendees will get a chance to meet one another. The papers, panel discussions, etc. will run all day Saturday and early Sunday afternoon, perhaps overflowing to Friday if there are enough.

We are still looking for papers and would like people to submit them whether or not they will be able to attend. Also, we want volunteers for panel discussions, to read absentee papers and suggest topics for discussion. We expect some papers and panels will not relate directly to LotR but will be on related fantasy writers, the place of eucatastrophe in literature, etc.

Also, IF YOU HAVE NOT YET HEARD from me acknowledging your interest in appearing please write again for I believe I have misplaced one or two early communications.

As a part of the Conference we are having, through the courtesy of Marquette University, an EXHIBIT of ORIGINAL TOLKIEN MANUSCRIPTS.

We have arranged with the Center Harbor Chamber of Commerce to handle room reservations and you should write directly to them. (Dormitory space at the school probably will not be available.) We are preparing circulars with travel information, lists of rooms available, last minute information about the conference, etc. To be placed on the mailing list please write Tolkien Conference, Belknap College, Center Harbor NH 03226. (For those who want to find us on a map, we are on the north shore of Lake Winnepesaukee in central NH, about 100 miles north of Boston.)

A few of the younger members have inquired whether they would get anything out of the conference. I think most points of most papers would be understood by any real Tolkien fan. A few will admittedly be beyond them, however.

Finally, the TSA will have its annual Yule Meet in NYC some time during the week between Christmas & New Years. Further details will appear in future GREEN DRAGONS. That weekend the Modern Language Association is having its annual meeting in NYC and they usually have several papers on Tol-

kien or Lewis. This year they are preparing a special session on science fiction. (The MLA is the major organization of college & university English professors.)

Now--a question! If the meeting is held on a weekday I will be able to get a hall at nominal cost and so admit TSA members free and only charge 50c or so for non-members. If the meeting is to be held on a Friday or Saturday, however, the hall will cost at least \$400 to rent so admission will have to be charged. Could you let me know as soon as possible how you feel on this matter? I will have to decide and make reservations in the near future because that is a busy time and the best halls are grabbed up early.

There is ONE OTHER MEETING in September. Jan Howard FINDER (809 W Illinois St, Ap 4, Urbana IL 61801; 217-344-5489) is having a 'Tolkien Party' early in September at the Holy Name Cathedral in downtown Chicago. Despite the designation of party it will feature some formal talks. Write or call Jan for details.

TOLKIEN NOTES FROM ALL OVER

Henry Regnery & Co of Chicago has published The Tolkien Relation by William Ready [184 + vi pp, \$3.95, May 1, 1968]. I have read the book thru rather quickly and without taking notes. It is a biography of Tolkien with a discussion of his works, especially LotR. The book is rather interesting but unfortunately I noticed, without even looking for them, at least a half dozen errors, some major.

Also, the TSA has received a letter from Professor Tolkien denouncing the book. He wrote: It has come to my notice that a man called W R Ready has published... a biography of myself. I do not wish to present him with the advertisement of any public protest, but you would do me a considerable service if you would circulate to the Society and its branches the information that this book is bogus. It is published in spite of my strong disapproval. Mr. Ready has neither the authority nor the knowledge to write such a book. He visited me recently for about an hour and talked mostly about himself. We had some correspondence in the early 1950s when he was at Marquette University and negotiating the sale of the typescript of The Lord of the Rings to their library. My agents have read the proofs and report it is a piece of word-spinning, inaccurate even in many points among the little information that it provides. ¶ With best wishes to the Society and all its members, Yours sincerely, J R R Tolkien.

In an article about the Tolkien Explosion in the March 2 '68 [Toronto] Globe Magazine Ready was quoted as saying that Tolkien would disapprove of his book. It is a rather interesting article and the TSA has acquired copies to be distributed to interested members. Any current member can have a copy free by sending a large stamped, self addressed envelope. (Not required for foreign members.)

Next year Ballantine Books will also be bringing out a book about Tolkien, by Lin Carter. However, if it isn't researched any more carefully than his column about fantasy fans in IF magazine, I fear for the worst.

I have made arrangements with ACE BOOKS so that completist collectors can get their edition of LotR direct and not have to pay postage. Only a few complete sets are left, I'm told. Send 75c per volume desired to Ace Books, Dept TSA, 1120 Ave of the Americas, NY NY 10036. Remember that Ace has settled its differences with Professor Tolkien and has agreed not to print any more copies without permission, and to pay royalties on all copies sold. Therefore members who want this edition need not feel guilty about buying it.

Ballantine has produced a THIRD different box for its LotR. The first was a plain one with no design, the second had a black & white re-drawing of the three covers, and the third is the covers in color.

Early next year Ernst Klett Verlag of Stuttgart (7000 Stuttgart 1, Postfach 809, Rotebulstraße 77) will publish a German translation of LotR. More details, such as price and exact date, will be given as they become available.

Ballantine will publish this fall a paperback edition of The Road Goes Ever On in the original two colors and full size, but it will cost only \$1 less than the hard cover edition's \$3.95.

In view of the past controversy regarding the appropriateness of trying to read meanings into LotR I would like to quote from

C S Lewis' Letters:

Creation as applied to human authorship seems to me to be an entirely misleading term. We re-arrange elements He has provided. This is not a vestige of real creativity *de novo* in us. Try to imagine a new primary colour, a third sex, a fourth dimension, or even a monster which does not consist of bits of existing animals stuck together. Nothing happens. And that surely is why our words never mean to others quite what we intended; because we are re-combining elements made by Him and already containing His meanings. Because of these divine meanings in our materials it is impossible that we should ever know the whole meaning of our own works, and the meaning we never intended may be the best and truest one. Writing a book is much less like creation than it is like planting a garden or begetting a child; in all these cases we are only entering as one cause into a causal stream which works, so to speak, in its own way. I would not wish it to be otherwise. If one could really create in the strict sense, would not one find that one has created a sort of Hell?

This quote is found in Clyde S Kilby's excellent book, A Mind Awake: An Anthology of C S Lewis published this year by Geoffrey Bles of London. The book consists of hundreds of short, pertinent excerpts of Lewis, mostly on religious topics, arranged by subject. [1968, 25 shillings]

The current British hardcover Hobbit has 5 color pictures by Tolkien himself. These had been in the first British edition, and 4 of them, plus a 6th, in the first American. (The one peculiar to the British edition, Bilbo as Barrel-rider, is better than the one in the first American edition, the Eagles' eyrie.) Unwin cannot legally sell to American customers but they can order the book from a reputable dealer like Blackwells (Oxford, England) or Fantast Ltd (75 Norfolk St, Wisbech Cambs UK: a specialist in fantasy). A comparison of all the British & American editions of Tolkien is scheduled for a future TJ.

Several other publications about Tolkien should be of interest to members. The first is The Tolkien Papers published this year by the English Dept at Mankato State College, Mankato MN 56001 for \$1.25 a copy. These are the proceedings of their Tolkien Festival held two years ago.

This spring the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee held a conference on 'The Secondary Universe' which included several papers on Tolkien & related writers. Proceedings will be published some time next year in a special issue of Arts In Society. Copies can be ordered in advance for \$1.50 from Arts In Society, U of W, Extension Building, 432 N Lake St, Madison WS 53706.

Of the many Tolkien fanzines received, the best by far is ORCRIST #1 from Richard West, 614 Langdon St, Madison WS 53703. It has an excellent 30+ page annotated bibliography of material by and about Tolkien, including his scholarly writings. Cost is \$1 + 25c for postage.

Other fanzines received include ILMARIN (Scott Smith, 9533 Pentland, Temple City CA 91780), TOLKIEN TRIBUNE (Tolkien Fan Club of St Louis, 30 Country Fair Ln, Creve Coser MO 63141), MINAS TIRITH EVENING STAR (Philip Helm, 217 So 2nd, Monmouth IL), I BARAD (San Fernando Valley Chapter, 7657 Orion Av, Van Nuys CA 91406) & UNICORN (Karen Rockow, 1153 E 26 St, Brooklyn NY 11210). Content & quality vary markedly, & few are 100% about Tolkien. If interested, inquire as to cost & schedule, including a postcard for reply, and send for a single copy. If you like it, then you can subscribe. I should also mention RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY (50c, Leland Sapiro, Box 40, University sta, Regina Canada). Tho it is a SF fanzine, the current issue has an excellent article about Tolkien and another by the same writer is scheduled for a future issue.

Several members have written asking the whereabouts of Greg Shaw. I'm sorry, but I don't know. The last time I tried writing, a year or so back, the letter bounced stamped Moved--No Forwarding Address. He has not published ENTMOOT for several years.

Countless items about Tolkien are published in fanzines and researchers will have a hard time finding these. Since the Marquette University library already has the manuscripts I think they would make a good depository for all related fanzines. If you publish anything about Tolkien please send a copy to the Marquette University Library, Tolkien Collection, 1415 W Wisconsin Av, Milwaukee WS 53233.

I would like to recommend a novel by Peter S Beagle, THE LAST UNICORN [Viking, 1968, \$4.95]. This is a very peculiar
[cont pg 10]

The Rise of the Lord of the Rings

A Synopsis of the Ancient Annals

Christine Jones

This is a synopsis of the history of Middle-earth prior to the year 3001 of the Third Age, as it has been revealed by Professor Tolkien. It brings together information given in the Appendices, in the body of The Lord of the Rings, and in a few other places such as a published interview with Professor Tolkien, and the professor's comments in Donald Swann's songbook, The Road Goes Ever On. This information is presented here in abbreviated, but (I hope) coherent form, and in chronological order.

The Guardians of Middle-earth are the Valar, angelic beings, sons of Eru, the One who rules the world. He keeps a watch on their doings, and aids them when they call upon him, but in the history of the Second and Third Ages as we know it this happened only once. Greatest of the Valar are Manwe and his wife Varda, also called Elbereth. The home of the Valar is in Valinor, a land far to the west of Middle-earth.

Early in the First Age, the Eldar came to Valinor and the nearby island, Eressea. They were of the Elven-folk, who had originated in Middle-earth, but had become divided into two groups: the Eldar or West-elves, and the Silvan or East-elves. Later the Eldar themselves became divided, when one group, the Noldor, left Middle-earth and sailed to Valinor, and the other, the Sindar or Grey-elves, remained on the west coasts of Middle-earth.

Chief of the Noldor was Feanor. He created the Silmarilli, three jewels filled with the light of the Two Trees that illuminated Valinor. But the Silmarilli were stolen and the Trees destroyed by Morgoth, the Great Enemy, an evil Vala. He took the jewels to his fortress Thangorodrim, in Angband in the north of Middle-earth. Feanor resolved to regain the Jewels by force. The Valar opposed this, but many of the Noldor supported him, and he led them in exile back to Middle-earth to make war on Morgoth. The Edain, the Fathers of Men, aided the Noldor, as did their cousins the Grey-elves, but in the war that followed, the elves and the Edain were utterly defeated.

At this time, Beren, a man, and Luthien, daughter of the king of the Sindar, met and fell in love. Together they entered Thangorodrim and seized one of the Jewels from the Iron Crown of Morgoth. Luthien later bore Beren a son, Dior. Then Beren was slain and Luthien gave up her immortality to follow him. But Dior became the father of Elwing, who wedded Earendil, another child of an Elf-human marriage. Elwing gave her husband the Silmaril, and by its light he sailed to Valinor, seeking the aid of the Valar in the war with Morgoth. That aid was given and Morgoth was destroyed, along with a large part of Middle-earth, in a cataclysm that marked the end of the First Age.

Many, though not all, of the Noldor returned to Valinor as the Second Age began, and many of the Sindar went with them. But the Valar forbade one of the Noldor to return. This was Galadriel, a great queen, the only survivor of the Elf-princes and queens who had led the Noldor to Middle-earth--against the will of the Valar, it will be remembered. Galadriel said proudly that she did not wish to return, and with her Sindarin husband Celeborn went to dwell in Eregion, west of the Misty Mountains. Later they crossed the Mountains and became the rulers of the enchanted forest Laureldorinan, or Lothlorien. The Elves whom they ruled were mostly of the Silvan folk. (At the end of the Third Age, both the Valar and Galadriel changed their minds, and the great Elf-queen returned from her long exile to Valinor.)

The Valinor had another problem to solve after the downfall of Morgoth. Earendil and Elwing left two sons, Elros and Elrond, who were half-elf, half-human. The Valar offered them a choice: they could be mortal like their human ancestors, or immortal like the Elves, and with the privilege of sailing to Valinor when they wearied of Middle-earth. Elrond chose the fate of the elves, but

remained in Middle-earth. Elros chose the fate of men. As a reward for their courage in the wars with Morgoth, he and the Edain were given a land safe from the dangers of Middle-earth: the Isle of Elessar, not far from Valinor and Eressea. There was founded the kingdom of Numenor.

For many generations the Numenoreans dwelt in peace and in friendship with the Eldar and the Valar. Their kingdom increased in greatness and glory among the realms of the world. They were great mariners, and came often to Middle-earth to trade with its people and to aid the Elves who had remained there. From the Eldar they learned many things, including the Elven languages. But one ban had been placed on them: they were forbidden to sail west out of sight of Numenor, or to set foot upon the Undying Lands. And one thing they lacked: immortality. Yet for many years the Numenoreans were content.

Meanwhile the Valar's apprehension that Middle-earth would not be a safe dwelling-place for Elros and his people was being amply borne out. Though Morgoth was destroyed, some of his servants survived. Among them was Sauron, a being of enigmatic nature, immortal and utterly evil. He did not, unfortunately, look evil at this time, so his true nature was not apparent to all of the Elves of Middle-earth, whom Sauron tried to make allies of. There is no record that Galardiel or Elrond were ever deceived, nor was Gil-galad, heir to the kings of the Noldor, and High-king of all the Elves of the West. But Celebrimbor, ruler of the Elven-smiths of Eregion, was won over. His people were great craftsmen--Celebrimbor was, in fact, descended from Feanor-- and Sauron promised to increase their knowledge and skill. He kept the promise, and under his teaching and guidance the Elven-smiths, in the year 1500 of the Second Age, began to forge the fateful Rings of Power.

Twenty in all of these rings were made: nineteen by the Elves, and one by Sauron alone. With it he hoped to control the wearers of all the others, and to that end he put a great deal of his power into his Ring-- so much that its destruction would render him permanently powerless. This risk seemed small, for the Ring could be destroyed in only one place: Orodruin, the Flaming Mountain of Mordor, Sauron's stronghold in the south-east of Middle-earth. (He had taken this land for his own realm in 1000 SA, alarmed by the growing power of the Numenoreans.)

However, Sauron was only partly successful in his aim with the Rings. Nine of them were given to human beings of Middle-earth; with these rings, which he helped make, Sauron utterly enslaved their nine possessors. They became invisible and almost invulnerable, creatures of nightmare, Sauron's most faithful and terrible servants. Seven rings were given to the Dwarves: these rings too were evil, since Sauron had aided in their making, but they failed to control their wearers. The Dwarves were a sturdy and stubborn people; all that the rings did to them was to increase their greed for gold and other precious things. So this attempt was unsuccessful. Three of these rings Sauron regained, after many centuries; the rest, being more vulnerable than Sauron's own Ring were destroyed by dragons.

Finally, the Elves, working alone, made three rings for themselves. Undoubtedly Sauron intended to put his evil power on them, but he never got the chance. For when he first put on the Ring that he had forged in the fires of Orodruin, Celebrimbor perceived his from afar, and heard him speak the words that he had engraved on the Ring:

"One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to bind them,
One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness
bind them."

Then Celebrimbor knew that he and his people had been betrayed, and they seized the Three Rings and fled. So the Three remained unsullied, though dependent for their power on the existence of the One Ring. But this power was in works of making, healing, and preserving, not in war or conquest. Such power was soon needed, for war broke out between the Elves and Sauron. Eregion was laid waste, and Celebrimbor died. Elrond, who had been sent to the aid of the Elven-smiths by Gil-galad, retreated north and founded the refuge of Imladris, or Rivendell. Eriador was overrun, and Gil-galad might have been defeated, had not aid been sent by the Numenoreans in 1700. Sauron was driven back, and the West had peace for a long while. But the Dark Lord extended his dominion eastwards, and his power remained so great that these years were called in Middle-earth the Dark Years.

In Numenor, there were years of increasing glory, but of growing evil. For the Numenoreans had begun to long for immortality and, though some remained loyal to the immortal ones, most came to envy and then to hate the Eldar and the Valar. Tar-Atanamir, who took the sceptre in 2251, was the first king to state openly that eternal life was his by right. His successors abandoned the use of the Elven-tongues, and in 1899 Ar-Adunakhor, who called himself Lord of the West (a title formerly given only to Manwe himself) began to persecute the Faithful and to punish those who used the Elven-tongues.

At last, in 3175 there came a king, Tar-Palantir the Farsighted, who repented of the ways of his predecessors and attempted to renew the friendship with the immortals. But his people would not permit this and civil war broke out. The leader of the rebellion was Tar-Palantir's nephew, who usurped the sceptre from the king's daughter and rightful heir. As king he took the name of Ar-Pharazon the Golden. He was the proudest of all the Kings of Numenor, and his desire was the kingship of the world. In 3261 he set sail to Middle-earth, resolving to conquer Sauron. So great was the glory and power of the Numenorean King that none dared to fight him. The servants of Sauron fled, and the Dark Lord humbled himself before the king, doing homage. Then Ar-Pharazon committed a great folly, the greatest ever done by a Numenorean save one. He took Sauron back to Numenor as a prisoner.

As a prisoner; but soon this prisoner was master of the king's counsel. He told Ar-Pharazon that eternal life was his by right, and would belong to him and his people if he conquered the Valar and took possession of the Undying Lands. As the king grew old he listened more and more to these words, and so did his people except for the Faithful. So at last the king committed the greatest folly of all, he built a mighty fleet--it took nine years--and in 3319 he sailed to the West, breaking the ban, and strove to conquer Valinor. The Valar laid down their Guardianship and called upon the One; the fleet was utterly destroyed, and Valinor and Eressea were removed to safety beyond the circle of the world.

Sauron had remained on Numenor, instead of going with the fleet. But he did not escape the catastrophe. For Numenor itself was plunged beneath the Sea, and all its people were destroyed, save only nine ships of the Faithful. Led by Elendil and his sons Isildur and Anarion, they fled to Middle-earth, grieving for Numenor yet also glad, for they believed that Sauron was dead.

But, to their sorrow, they found they were wrong. Their Enemy had indeed been destroyed in body, but an evil spirit of hatred survived and returned to Mordor. For more than a hundred years he lurked there in silence, regaining strength, and taking physical shape once more-- a hideous shape, for never again could he appear fair to

men. Then, enraged at Elendil's survival and at his attempt to found a kingdom on the very borders of Mordor, Sauron attacked. The war that followed was long and bitter. Gil-galad of the Elves came to the aid of Elendil, who had become king of the realm of Arnor in the north of Middle-earth; and together with Elrond of Rivendell they led an army of Elves and men to the Kingdom of Gondor, the one near Mordor, which was ruled by Elendil's sons. Isildur also called upon the men of the White Mountains, whose king had sworn allegiance to him at the founding of Gondor, to aid in the war. But they refused for they had worshipped Sauron in the days of his power. Isildur in great wrath laid upon them a curse, that they should die but never rest until they fulfilled their oath to aid Gondor against Sauron. "For this war shall last through years uncounted," he said, and you shall be summoned once again before the end." The men of the mountains fled and hid themselves, and when they died their lands became haunted lands, shunned by the living.

But the aid of the men of the mountains was not called for again in this age of Middle-earth, for the power of Gil-galad had increased in Sauron's absence. Barad-dur, the Enemy's fortress, was besieged; there Anarion fell, slain by a stone thrown from the Dark Tower. A year later the final battle was fought on the slopes of Orodruin, which the people of Gondor called Mount Doom. There Gil-galad was struck down by the black hand of the Enemy, and Elendil also fell, his sword breaking beneath him. Then Isildur threw down his foe and with the hilt-shard of his father's sword cut from Sauron's hand the Ruling Ring, and in memory of his father and his brother claimed it for his own.

Had he cast it into the flames of Mount Doom where it was made, and where alone it could be unmade, Sauron's power would have been forever destroyed. Elrond indeed advised this very course, but Isildur would not listen to him. He returned to Gondor and left there a description of the Ring as he had taken it, with a copy of the letters that glowed on it, but were fading, away from the burning heat of the maker's hand. This record was later forgotten in Gondor. Then, leaving Anarion's son to rule the South-kingdom, Isildur went north, intending to take his father's place as king of Arnor. But in the Gladden Fields, not far from the great forest Greenwood, he was attacked by a band of orcs, evil man-like creatures. Isildur put on the Ring and was made invisible by its magic power; then he leaped into the Anduin River, thinking to escape. But the Ring betrayed him; it slipped from his finger and revealed him to the orcs, who killed him with their arrows. All those who were with him were also killed, save one man, who escaped and brought back to Arnor and to Isildur's young son the broken sword of Elendil. It was not mended but was treasured as an heirloom by the kings. The Ring, it was believed, was lost for good.

So, in the year of Sauron's defeat, the Third Age of Middle-earth began. The Dark Lord had vanished, and all went well, as the two Numenorean kingdoms-in-exile grew and flourished. The Numenoreans had saved from the downfall of Numenor seven stones, the palantiri, gifts of the Elves to Elendil's family. These stones could be used to see events in the past and the present, and to communicate with each other. With them the Dunedain, as the Numenoreans were called in Middle-earth, united and guarded their kingdoms. Four were in Gondor; one in Osgiliath, the capital; one in Minas Ithil on the west borders of Mordor; one in Minas Anor in the White Mountains; and one in the Tower of Orthanc in that valley on the northern border of Gondor called Isengard. The other three were in Arnor: at the capital Annuminas, at the watch-tower on the hill, Weathertop, and in the Tower

Hills near the Gulf of Lune. This last one was unlike the others, for it could look only to Eressea.

It was in Arnor that serious trouble first threatened the Dunedain, and the palantiri were in part the cause. In 861, due to dissension among the sons of the king who died that year, the realm was divided into three parts, Arthedain, Rhudaur, and Cardolen. Arthedain possessed two of the palantiri; the third, the one at Weathertop, was a cause of strife among the three kingdoms. This seriously weakened the Dunedain of the North.

Gondor remained united, but it had enemies on its borders. In 490 wild men from the East, the Easterlings, attacked, but were defeated without too much trouble. Gondor thus won much territory in the East. The Ship-kings, who ruled from 830 to 1149, extended the nation's borders along the coasts west and south of the delta of Anduin. Hyarmendacil in 1050 conquered Umbar, a great southern cape. It had been ruled by Numenor before the island's fall, and was inhabited now by descendants of Numenorean settlers who had been corrupted by Sauron. They were known as the Black Numenoreans, and they hated Elendil and his people. They were never reconciled to Gondor's rule, but for a time they were subdued. During Hyarmandacil's reign Gondor reached the height of its power, ruling all the lands north to the Celebrant River, west to the Greyflood, east to the Sea of Rhun, and south to Umbar. Mordor, where evil things still lurked, was never settled by the Dunedain but was guarded.

About this time a shadow of evil fell on the northern forest, Greenwood the Great, and it became known as Mirkwood. The hobbit-folk who lived near the forest began to wander west and south in search of other lands. Some settled near the Gladden Fields. At this time also the Istari, the wizards, came to Middle-earth. There were five of them, three of whom never became important as individuals. The other two were Saruman the White, said to be the greatest of the five in wisdom, who made a special study of the Great Rings; and Gandalf the Grey, called Mithrandir by the Elves, to whom he was closer than any other wizard. When the wizards and the chief Elves, who were collectively called the Wise, learned of the trouble in Mirkwood, they investigated and found that some evil being, later known as the Necromancer, had made a stronghold in Dol Goldur, a tower near the south edge of the forest. They thought it might be one of the Nazgul, the Ringwraiths enslaved by the nine rings Sauron had given to men.

The Wise were mistaken in this matter; it was not one of the Nazgul who dwelt at Dol Goldur. But the nine were indeed arising again. One of them, in 1300 or thereabouts, became king of the land of Angmar, northeast of Arnor. He gathered evil men and orcs, and made war on the Dunedain. Rhudaur, a part of Arnor where the Dunedain were few, allied itself with the enemy. Arthedain and Cardolan held Angmar back for a time with the aid of Elrond of Rivendell and Cirdan of the Grey Havens. The latter was now the greatest of the Elves of the West. Then in 1409 a great army came out of Angmar and defeated the Dunedain. Rhudaur was occupied and Cardolan ravaged. Again the Elves came to Arthedain's aid, and the enemy was driven back. Greatly weakened, Arnor nevertheless survived.

Meanwhile, Gondor too was in great danger. The kings of Gondor had shown favor to the Northmen, giving them lands east of Anduin, between Mirkwood and Mordor, to live in. The Northmen thus helped protect Gondor from the invasions of the Easterlings. In order to cement the alliance, Romendacil the regent of Gondor took many of the Northmen into his service, and in 1250 he sent his son Valacar as an ambassador to the King of Rhovanion, most powerful of the rulers of the Northmen. Valacar was to live with the Northmen and learn their ways and lang-

uage. This he did, and more; he married the king's daughter. This shocked the people of Gondor, for the descendents of the Numenoreans were the greatest and longest-lived men in Middle-earth, and it was not thought fitting that an heir to the throne should marry a woman of a lesser race, lest the line of the kings fall from glory. Nevertheless Valacar was accepted by his people as King.

When he died, in 1432, civil war broke out in Gondor, for his wife had proved short-lived, and it was feared that their son would be likewise. Eldacar, however, was not willing to give up his crown. So began the Kin-strife, one of the worst evils that ever came upon Gondor. The king was besieged in Osgiliath, and finally had to flee, leaving the city in flames; its palantir was lost in the river. Eldacar then returned to his birthplace in the north, where he gathered his mother's kin and many men of Gondor who supported him over the usurper, Castamir. However, he did not have the strength to attack for ten years, during which time Castamir proved a cruel king; among other things, he had Eldacar's son murdered. In 1447 Eldacar attacked, killed Castamir, and regained the crown. The sons of Castamir and other rebels fled south to Umbar, joining the Black Numenoreans, and that land remained at war with Gondor (on and off) till the end of the Third Age. This was held a sad loss in Gondor, for it was at Umbar the the last King of Numenor had landed and humbled the might of Sauron. Folly, evil and tragedy had followed, but even Elendil's descendents remembered that event with pride, and they had set a monument commemorating it at the top of a hill on the coast. It was later destroyed by the rebels.

In the north, the hobbits continued to move westwards. A large group of them, led by Marcho and Blanco of the Fallohide branch, obtained permission from King Argeleb II of Arnor in 1601 to cross the Baranduin River and settle in the pleasant lands between the river and the Far Downs to the west. They named their new home the Shire, and reckoned time from the first year of their settlement in it, so that Shire-reckoning was always 1600 years behind that of the Dunedain. They were officially under the King's rule, but actually managed their own affairs, being required only to keep the roads and bridges in repair, and to speed the king's messengers. They took no part in the great affairs of the world, and had no desire to do so.

Shortly after the settlement of the Shire, a great plague swept out of the east, affecting both Arnor and Gondor. The last of the Dunedain of Cardolan died, but Arthedain was not much affected. In Gondor the results were much worse. The king, all his children, and many of the people died. Osgiliath was partly deserted and began to fall in ruin. Mordor was left unguarded, and the fortresses at the Black Gate, Morannon, and at the pass of Cirith Ungol above Minas Ithil were left unmanned. The king's nephew, who succeeded him, moved the capital to Minas Anor in 1640.

Gondor's enemies also suffered during the plague, and no attack was made for more than two hundred years. Gondor was even able to re-take Umbar in 1810. But in 1856 an eastern people or group of peoples called the Wainriders made a sudden attack on Gondor, having been stirred up against the Dunedain by the Necromancer of Mirkwood. The people of Rhovanion were enslaved, and Gondor had to withdraw its boundaries to the Anduin. The Rhovanions eventually revolted against their conquerors, and were aided by Gondor, so that a great victory was won over the Wainriders in 1899, the eastern territories were regained, and the threat was lessened for a while. But while Gondor's boundaries were shortened the watch on Mordor had been completely abandoned; and, unknown to Gondor, the Ringwraiths, with the exception of the King of Angmar, had re-entered the Black Land.

Forty years later, Arnor and Gondor at last realized that the persistent attacks on Elendil's descendents and their people were not happening by chance or coincidence; a single will was behind them all. It is not recorded whether or not they guessed whose will it was, but they realized that they must fight it together, and, breaking the long silence between them, they formed an alliance. Arvedui, the heir to the sceptre of Arnor, married the daughter of the king of Gondor. However, Gondor was attacked by the Wainriders and the Men of Harad at the same time as Arnor was attacked by Angmar, so that neither could aid the other. The attack on Arnor was not serious, but Gondor was nearly conquered. The king and both of his sons were killed, but Earnil, Captain of the Southern Army of Gondor won the day and drove the enemy out of the lands it had captured.

When peace had been restored, the question arose: who should be king of Gondor? Arvedui of Arnor claimed the crown, as a descendent of Elendil and the husband of the late king's only surviving child. The Council of Gondor refused the claim, supported by the Steward of the late king, Pelendur, who was first of the hereditary line of stewards (though not the first steward; the office had been established in 1621, with Hurin as the first. All the stewards had been chosen from his descendents, and, at this time, 1944, the office began to be passed on from father to son.) Earnil, the victorious captain, claimed the crown, and the Dunedain of Gondor willingly granted it to him, for he was a cousin of the dead king. Arvedui did not press his claim, for he did not wish to dispute the decision of the people of Gondor, nor did he have the power to do so. But his descendents did not forget it.

Soon, however, the ruler of Arnor was deprived of even his own throne. In 1974 Angmar attacked again, and this time won overwhelmingly. The king and some of his guard fled north to the Cape of Forochel, where they were taken in by the men of that icy region. The rest of the surviving Dunedain, including the king's sons, went west over the Lune to the Grey Havens where Cirdan dwelt, and Arnanth, the king's heir, told the Elf-lord that his father had gone north. Cirdan sent a ship to search for Arvedui and he was found, but the ship was wrecked by a storm before it had left the Vay of Forochel. Arvedui drowned, and two of the palantiri of the north were lost in the sea. Cirdan had the third but it looked only to Eressea.

Angmar did not long rule the lands it had conquered. Earnil of Gondor had heard of the danger Arnor was in, and he sent his son Earmur north with a great fleet. It came too late to save Arnor, but not too late to avenge it. Cirdan's people and an army from Rivendell under Glorfindel the Elf-lord joined with Earmur's men, and when the fighting was over not a man nor an orc of Angmar remained west of the Misty Mountains.

But in the hour of his defeat, the Nazgul-king of Angmar appeared on the battlefield, riding a black horse, and in rage rode upon Earmur. The latter would have faced him, but his terrified mount fled beyond control. Glorfindel then rode up, and as night fell the Nazgul vanished. Earmur, returning, heard the Elf-lord say, "Do not pursue him! He will not return to this land. Far off yet is his doom, and not by the hand of man will he fall." These words many heard and remembered, but Earmur was angry and wished only to avenge his shame.

Though Angmar was destroyed, Arnor was not restored, for the Dunedain of the North were now few. They became a wandering folk, guarding all the people of Eriador against evil creatures from across the mountains. Their past glory was forgotten by nearly all in the north, save the Elves of Rivendell, with whom the Dune-

dain maintained their friendship. Nevertheless, the line of the kings of Arnor, which had never been broken, was preserved, and the heirlooms of the house, including the shards of Elendil's sword, were passed on from father to son.

Gondor stood, but the line of its kings soon ended forever. In 2000, the Nazgul--including the former king of Angmar, who had joined his fellows in Mordor--laid siege to Minas Ithil. The city was taken after two years, and was henceforward known as Minas Morgul, the Tower of Sorcery. The palantir of that city was captured, and the rulers of Gondor ceased to use the stone of Minas Arnor, or Minas Tirith, the Tower of Guard, as it was renamed. Earnur became king in 2043, and the Nazgul-lord sent him a taunting message, challenging him to single combat. Mardil, Earnur's steward, for a time restrained the king's wrath, but when the challenge was renewed in 2050, the king took a small troop of men and rode off to Minas Morgul. He never came back.

He was the last king of Gondor of the line of Anarion, for he had left no child, and there was no one of pure blood left whom all would support. Fearing a return of the Kin-strife, the people of Gondor gave the governing of the nation to the Stewards and for nearly a thousand years Mardil and his descendants sat in a chair at the foot of the empty throne, holding the white rod of the Stewards, and ruling Gondor "in the name of the King, until he shall return."

Meanwhile, the power in Dol Guldur had continued to grow and increase in evil. The Wise began to fear that it was Sauron taking shape once more. In 2063, Gandalf went to Dol Guldur, and the Necromancer retreated into the east. For nearly four hundred years there was peace--the Watchful Peace it was called. Then the Necromancer returned to Dol Guldur with increased power, and orc-raids resumed in the Misty Mountains and Eriador. Gondor was left alone for a few more years. Galadriel, the Elf-queen, then called the five wizards together, and the White Council was formed with Saruman at its head. The Elf-queen was not pleased with this arrangement, for she had intended Gandalf to be the head.

At this time, 2463, an event of the greatest importance occurred, one that the Wise were to know nothing of for nearly five hundred years. The Ring, the One Ring of Sauron, was found. The finder was one of the hobbit-fold who lived on the banks of the Anduin, near the Gladden Fields. He found it while fishing in the river, and it proved his doom as it had been Isildur's, for his companion, who was named Smeagol but later nicknamed Gollum, murdered him for it. The murder was never found out, but Gollum nevertheless soon left his home. The Ring made him invisible, but it also made him evil, and he was driven away by the other hobbits. He fled to the Misty Mountains and hid himself in the deep caves beneath them, where he lived for many centuries, the Ring gave him long life. But, being basically a weak-willed creature, he never discovered or made use of its greater powers.

A few years later, orcs came out of Mordor and captured Osgiliath. It was soon retaken by Gondor, but the bridge across the Anduin was broken, and the city was finally left deserted. Then, in 2510, new danger struck from two sources. Men of the East attacked Rhovanion, which was not inhabited by a fierce people dominated by Dol Guldur; and, at the same time, orcs from over the Mountains attacked. Cirion, the ruling Steward sent for help to his allies, the Men of Eothood who dwelt in the northern vale of Anduin; but, it seemed, too late. On the Field of Celebrant, between the Rivers Silverlode and Limlight, the northern army of Gondor was about to be destroyed, when out of the North came Eorl the Young with a great host of riders, and

attacked the enemy from the rear. The battle was soon over, and once more Gondor was saved. In gratitude Cirion gave to Eorl and his people the land of Calenard-hon, north of the White Mountains, to be their own; few of the Dunedain had lived there since the plague. Its new owners called it the Riddermark, and themselves the Eorlingas; but in Gondor it was called Rohan, and its people the Rohirrim, the Horse Lords. They were a proud and spirited people, unlearned but wise, great lovers of horses, desiring above all else freedom. Gondor did not govern them but Eorl and Cirion swore an oath of perpetual friendship and alliance.

The oath was fulfilled nearly two hundred and fifty years later, when in 2758 men from the East and the Dunlendings from the west attacked Rohan and overran the land. Gondor could not send help for many months, for it was attacked by three fleets of Corsairs of Umbar and Harad. The Rohirrim took refuge in the White Mountains, defending the fortress of the Hornburg, and there endured a long and terrible winter. Many died of cold and hunger, including Helm, the king, and his sons. But when spring came and Gondor was at last able to defeat its own enemies, the Steward sent aid to Rohan. The invaders were driven out and the land was freed. But the Rohirrim had lost many men, cattle, and horses, and it was long before they recovered their strength. For this reason, when Saruman the White came to the crowning of King Frealaf of Rohan offering friendship and aid, both Frealaf and Beren the Steward welcomed him. He asked permission to dwell in the Tower of Orthanc at Isengard, which Gondor owned though it was north of Rohan, and Beren granted it. For many years the great wizard seemed a friend to both lands, but unknown to them his ambition was growing together with his knowledge.

And then, at last, in 2850 came verification of what the Wise had long feared. Gandalf the Grey once more entered Dol Guldur, and learned beyond a doubt that the evil inhabitant was Sauron. His power was so great by this time that Gandalf was in grave danger, and barely escaped. When he left the tower, he had with him two gifts, a key and a map, which had been given to him by a prisoner of Sauron, a dwarf named Thrain, who had been the unfortunate possessor of the last of the Seven Dwarf-rings.

The history of the Dwarves is a story in itself, which can only be told briefly here. From earliest times til 1980 T.A. they had dwelt in the great halls of Khazad-dum, called Moria by the Elves, deep under the Misty Mountains. They were never allied to, or much influenced by, Sauron; they were too tough to be mastered by the Great Rings, and their deep halls were unconquerable--from without. But in 1980 there came from the depths of Moria a Balrog, a terrible creature of fire and shadow, that had fled there from the ruin of Thangoridrim and lain hidden ever since. Durin VI, the King of Khazad-dum, was slain by it, with his son. The Dwarves fled Moria, and most of them went north.

Some went to Erebor, the Lonely Mountain, northeast of Mirkwood, and remained there for a time before going on to the Grey Mountains further north. Then dragons came upon them, and they retreated. Many went to the Iron Hills in the east, but some, led by Thrór, returned to Erebor, where they lived in peace and great prosperity until 2770. Then Smaug the Dragon attacked and drove them out again. Most of the survivors joined the Dwarves of the Iron Hills, but Thrór, his son Thrain, and his grandson Thorin went south with some kinsfold and followers. Thrór and Thrain had escaped from Erebor by a secret door known only to themselves. Thrór had a map and a key to that door--and the last of the Seven.

Twenty years after Smaug's attack--twenty bitter years of homeless wandering--Thror gave his son the map, the key, and the ring, and with one companion set out for Moria, hoping it was safe now. It was not; orcs had taken it over, and they killed Thror. His companion escaped and brought word to Thrain. The latter gathered dwarves from all parts of Middle-earth and made war on the orcs, a war that culminated in 2799 in the terrible battle of Azanulbizar, where the Dwarves won a costly victory. They drove the orcs out of Moria, but they could not reclaim their ancient home, for the Balrog, Durin's Bane, was still there. So the allies returned to their lands, and Thror's fold, now led by Thrain, journeyed to the Ered Luin in the west, where they settled for a while.

But Thrain, remembering the lost gold of Erebor, became discontented, and in 2841 he set out for the Lonely Mountain, taking with him a few friends, the key, the map, and the ring. For four years he struggled on, but the Necromancer knew of his journey; orcs, and wolves, and other evil creatures pursued him; at last he was captured.

Five years later Gandalf found him in Dol Guldur. The ring had been taken from him, and he had been tortured. He was dying, and remembered neither his own name nor his son's. But he remembered the key and the map, which, for some reason, Sauron had not taken, and he gave them to Gandalf. The wizard then made his escape. A year later when the White Council met, he urged an attack on Dol Guldur, but Saruman overruled him. The White Wizard had begun to search the Gladden Fields for the Ruling Ring, and hoped it might reveal itself, seeking its master in nearby Dol Guldur, if Sauron were left alone. He did not, of course, have any suspicion that it had already been found. In his search for information about the Rings of Power, he went, at some unknown time, to Minas Tirith, and there found the forgotten record which Isildur had left, describing the Ring.

Thorin and his people remained in the Ered Luin, no more content than Thrain had been. They longed to return to Erebor. By chance one day, early in 2941, Thorin and Gandalf met for the first time at Bree, a town just east of the Shire. Gandalf was worried about the danger in which the north lay from the ambitions of Sauron. He feared that the Enemy might gain control of Smaug the Dragon, who still guarded the treasure of Erebor, and make terrible use of him. When Thorin introduced himself to Gandalf, the wizard realized that the Dwarves would eagerly help him destroy Smaug. He realized also that here was the rightful owner of the key and the map.

So, soon after that meeting, Gandalf and thirteen Dwarves met at the home of a hobbit named Bilbo Baggins, whom Gandalf, apparently by sheer intuition, had chosen to join them in the adventure. Bilbo, being more adventurous than most hobbits, astonished himself by agreeing to go to the Lonely Mountain. They went, and through many dangers came at last to Erebor; as is told in *THE HOBBIT*, Smaug was slain, the Battle of Five Armies was fought, and the Dwarves regained their treasure. Thorin, however, was killed in the battle, and his cousin Dain of the Iron Hills became King under the Mountain.

But during this adventure, two events of great portent occurred. Gandalf left the group for a time, before they reached Erebor, and went south to a meeting of the White Council. The wizards had agreed to drive Sauron out of Mirkwood. Saruman gave in mostly because Sauron's servants had begun to search the Gladden Fields for the Ring, and the wizard did not care for that sort of competition to his own search. So the Council, at last in agreement, was able by the Wisdom of Saruman to drive the Enemy from Dol Guldur. At least, they thought it

had been done by the wisdom of Saruman, but actually Sauron had not attempted to resist them. He had made his plans, and from Mirkwood he went to Mordor, where the Nazgul awaited him. For ten years he was quiet, gathering his strength, then he proclaimed himself openly, and began rebuilding all that had been destroyed in his absence, including Barad-dur. No one opposed him.

Still, this was not the more important of the two events. The other one, in the long run, had even more dramatic results. As told in *THE HOBBIT*, Bilbo Baggins, on his way to Erebor, found and kept the Ring, which, instead of killing him as it had Isildur, saved his life by hiding him from the enraged Gollum. The invisibility it conferred was useful to Bilbo and his friends in their later adventures, but Bilbo, oddly, did not tell the Dwarves the true story of how he obtained it. Gandalf, however, insisted on the truth, and Bilbo finally told it to him.

From the first, Gandalf wondered about the nature of this ring. He even tried to find Gollum, who had left his dark caves to look for Bilbo and the Ring. However, in 2953 the White Council met again, and Saruman told the other wizards that the One Ring had been carried down the Anduin to the Sea. Gandalf believed him and stopped tracking Gollum, having found that the latter had turned aside from Bilbo's trail and was making his way south, drawn no doubt by the evil in Mordor.

Three years later, Gandalf met Aragorn, the young heir of the Kings of Arnor, Chieftain of the Dunedain of the North. He had been raised in Rivendell, and had fallen in love with Arwen, daughter of Elrond; now, hoping to defeat Sauron and restore the two kingdoms, he was beginning his journeys and adventures, helping Gondor and Rohan in their wars. He learned much wisdom from Gandalf, and they became the closest of friends. In disguise and under another name, he served King Thengel of Rohan, then went to Gondor where he aided Ecthelion the Steward. He was loved by all in Gondor, with the exception of Ecthelion's son Denethor. Possibly Denethor guessed who this stranger was, and feared that someday he would claim the crown of Gondor, and the rule of the Stewards would end. Denethor wanted no king to supplant him.

In 2980, Aragorn went to Lothlorien, and there met Arwen again. She was visiting her grandmother, Galadriel. Now she returned his love, and they plighted their troth. Arwen pledged to give up her immortality even as Luthien had done. This was a grief to Elrond for it meant that he would be parted from his daughter forever. He loved Aragorn like a son, but he decreed that Arwen could not marry him until he became king of both Gondor and Arnor.

In this same eventful year, Gollum came to the borders of Mordor and met Shelob, the monstrous spider-creature that guarded the pass above Minas Morgul. And in Rohan, Thengel died and was succeeded by his son Theoden. Rohan was by this time endangered by the wizard Saruman, though the king did not come to know it yet. For Saruman had begun to fortify Isengard, and to call to his service orcs and evil men.

Four years later Denethor became Steward of Gondor. He was a wise and valiant man, a masterful ruler, and subtle in mind. He married a woman of Dol Amroth, the coastal fief of Gondor, but she died young in 2988, leaving Denethor two sons, Boromir and Faramir. Her death grieved Denethor deeply. It seems to have been after this that the Steward first dared to use the palantir of Minas Tirith. No one had done this since 2002, when the Nazgul took Minas Ithil and its palantir. With the stone, Denethor gained much knowledge of what went on in other lands, but the use of it aged him greatly, for to make the stone obey him, he had to pit his will

against the will of Sauron, who held the palantir of Minas Morgul. He was less successful than he realized. Sauron could not make the palantir lie, but he could make it show only part of the truth. So he showed Denethor the growing power of Mordor, and the Steward came to think of Gondor -- and himself -- as the only protection for the West against the might of the Dark Lord. Of those who opposed Sauron, he trusted only those who served Gondor and its Steward -- and this did not include Gandalf and Aragorn.

In 2989, a group of Dwarves from Erebor, led by Balin, went to Moria to try to retake their ancient realm. For five years they seemed to be succeeding. They drove the orcs out, and were not troubled by the Balrog. Balin became Lord of Moria, and his folk prospered. Then orcs, and probably the Balrog too, attacked in force, and the colony was destroyed.

In this year also, Bilbo Baggins of the Shire adopted young Frodo Baggins, "his first and second cousin, once removed either way," to be his heir. Frodo was part Took and part Brandybuck -- two unusual and (compara-

fantasy set in this century (motor cars were once mentioned in passing) which really defies description. It is about a unicorn who suddenly realizes she is probably the last one in the world and sets out on a search for others that might have survived. The closing chapters have the bitter-sweet feeling of eucatastrophe that Tolkien has spoken of. It is, I think, a very powerful story and is to be strongly recommended. I also read his short story, 'Come Lady Death in Terry Carr's anthology New Worlds of Fantasy [Ace book A-12, 1967, 75c] which I liked even more than Unicorn.

SMIAL DIGGINGS & SUCH

I have decided to confine Smial lists to the GREEN DRAGON for they, too, change frequently. But I do want to mention now a very active independent group, The Middle Earth Universal Foundation located at 4601 Noyes St, Charlestown WV 25304.

Tho the TSA has only a few members outside of the US & Canada there are three foreign Smials. . . and all are in Australia! Addresses are, Miss E Westwater, 36 Stanburry St, Gladesville NSW 2111, Paul Novitski, 50 Jensen St, Hughes, Canberra, ACT 2605 and Sydney University Tolkien Society, Box 140, The Union, U of Sydney, NSW.

Another organization of interest, but which isn't directly related to Tolkien, is the Society for Creative Anachronism. The main organization is at 1585 Arch St, Berkeley CA 94708, while the NY chapter is care of Mrs Marion Breen, 15 Urbana St, Staten Island NY 1030. There is also an LA chapter but I do not have its address. The Anachronists have the Middle Ages as a hobby and like to dress up in costumes. . . They hold Medieval Revels, Feasts & Tournaments several times a year at which a costume of any culture or era before 1650 is necessary for admission. (Middle-earth costumes do count.) There is singing, dancing, fighting, food, etc at these events. The Berkeley group holds frequent lessons in Medieval dance and fighting, and I suppose that if there is sufficient interest the NY chapter might do likewise. The Berkeley group now has well over a hundred members (this is one reason the TSA has no Berkeley Smial. . . those who would organize one are busy with the Anachronists!) some of whom are professors or graduate students with a professional interest in the Middle Ages.

DEPARTMENT OF ETERNAL CONFUSION

Turning the TSA mailing list over to professionals has helped me considerably by giving me more time to get other things done, but has had its complications. They made two kinds of goofs in preparing the addressograph stencils. In many cases they ignored the number on the file card and stencilled TSA 9, which means that the membership is to expire with the 9th (current) TJ. I will try to catch as many of these as possible, but if you feel you have more issues coming than indicated on the label please drop me a post card to be SURE that I caught it. Also, I will almost definitely catch the error when I process your renewal. (If you want a reply, please include an addressed postal card.)

Also, I do not keep Mr., Mrs or Miss on my file cards and they added them to the stencil guessing in some arbitrary fashion which should be used. This has led to several major blunders. For example, both Leslie Turek & Cory Seidman were listed as Mr! At least we are fortunate that the error was made for both of them as they are room-mates! Anyhow, if there is such an error in your stencil please let it stand unless you find it absolutely intolerable. Mention the fact when you renew your dues and I will have the correction made then.

One member misunderstood the meaning of Address Correction Requested on the Conference flyer. If you move the PO will destroy your third class mail, but will send me your new one and charge me a dime. If I put Return Requested they will return it too, and charge 16c. Then I have to pay Lee Letter Service 25c to change your stencil. If something goes astray because you didn't notify me, I will NOT send you a replacement copy. This is getting to be such a nuisance that I am thinking of also reducing your membership by one issue.

tively) adventurous families among the hobbits. He was at that time twenty-one.

About the year 3000, Saruman of Isengard began to use the palantir of the Tower of Orthanc, and found himself in communication with Sauron. The Wizard, alternately persuaded and intimidated by the Dark Lord, became a traitor to Sauron; his ambition was to find the Ring and rule Middle-earth himself. Whether Sauron knew this but was contemptuous of Saruman's power, or whether he actually trusted the wizard as an ally was never clearly known; but he seemed to have no fear of Saruman. The reverse, for a time at least, was also true; and for several years Saruman, the double traitor, was able to keep the trust of the West and the alliance of the East, while increasing his personal power by gathering armies in Isengard, and poisoning the minds of Theoden and Denethor against Gandalf, whom he hated. Meanwhile, he continued to search for the Ring -- as did Sauron, of course.

And meanwhile, in 3001, Bilbo Baggins, the holder of the Ring, gave his last birthday party and said farewell to the Shire.

REPORT FROM QUEENS COLLEGE

For some time the student & faculty dining halls at Queens College, Flushing NY, have been tempting palates by offering once a week a menu from a different foreign country. In line with this practice, and in observance of Frodo's & Bilbo's birthday, the Queens College Dining Halls presented last Sept 21 the following: Hobbit Mushroom soup, Sam's Fish & Chips, Coney Stew (beef & rabbit), Troll's Roast Breast of Mutton, Bacon & Mushrooms of the Shire, Prancing Pony Plate (cold meat, ripe cheese & mushrooms), Gandalf's Platter (cold chicken, eggs & pickle), Steak Uruk-hai (steak tartare), Gollum's Delight (pickled herrings), Carrotses, Parsnips, Lambas (shortbread), buttered scones & raspberry jam, Seed Cake Balin, Apple Tart Bifur, Pippins White Cake, Beorn's Honey Cake (Baclava), Apples, Cheeses & Ent Draught (a fruit punch).

Both student & faculty dining halls were decorated with facsimiles of LotR book jackets, maps, Middle-earth posters and replicas of newspaper and magazine reviews of LotR, all of which were supplied by Ballantine Books. In addition, there were hand-lettered posters bearing such legends as 'Happy Birthday Bilbo & Frodo, Frodo Lives and Go Gandalf Go. All members of the dining room staff wore Middle-earth buttons (and bemused expressions).

Credit for the event goes to Mr. George Bineth, Lecturer in English at the College, and Mrs Kay Kuipers, Director of the College dining halls. They researched LotR thoroughly, along with The Hobbit & Tolkien Reader, for every possible mention of food.

Food-wise, the birthday celebration was a success, at least in the faculty dining hall. A very cursory examination of greasy paper plates on the tables in the student cafeteria revealed more remains of burgers & fries than of anything else. Interestingly, more of the faculty seemed to know what was going on than did the students, most of whose reaction to the novel cuisine was a thumping Hus? It was unfortunate that the Middle-earth menu was offered on the first day of the semester, thus precluding any opportunity to publicize it in advance.

Claire Howard.

WRITING IN TENGWAR

I get many request, especially from younger members, for information on how to write in Tengwar (the script-like form, as opposed to the Runic Cereth). The information IS in the appendices of LotR but is confusing because there is more than one way of using it and none are perfectly suited for English. It is like an Egyptian asking how to write his language in Roman letters. How should he use the J for instance? To represent an H sound (as in Spanish), a Y sound (as in German), or a DZ sound (as in English)? Tengwar was used for Sindarin & Quenya, different languages containing different sounds, and the characters had different values in these languages. . . just like J. Also, there were two modes . . . systems for placing vowel marks. [Tengwar, like Hebrew, is not a true alphabet for it has no vowel characters. See Diringer's Book, The Alphabet, Philosophical Library] In one the letter (vowel marks) are placed over the preceding consonant, in the other over the following. One or the other can be used, but they should NEVER be mixed the way they were on some bad buttons originating on the West Coast.

Thus it takes a lot of determination to write, successfully, using Tengwar. A lot of arbitrary decisions must first be made, and even then one can't just use a chart and say that (always) C goes to T. Among other things, the Tengwar is phonetic while English spelling isn't.

John Closson, who designed the good buttons, is working on the problem of what system would be best for English, and comparing the countless systems that have been proposed. He will eventually write an article for TJ suggesting one uniform system for interested members to use in communicating with one another. (But please don't write to me in Tengwar for I cannot read it & must send it to Bob Foster or Cory Seidman for translation.)

ed. Massey

The Singular Incompetence of the Valar

Burt Randolph

No Middle-earth enthusiast can fail to be intrigued by the Valar, the Guardians of the World. They are inextricably mingled with the history of the First Age and of most of the Second Age of Middle-earth. Admittedly, Valar-associated passages in The Lord of the Rings are fragmentary and some of them curiously phrased. Yet there is good reason not to let the paucity or peculiarity of the Valar information dissuade us from trying to put it together. Professor Tolkien is a scholar of the English language and its antecedents and has been intimately concerned with the historical development of words and their meaning throughout his distinguished professional career. It is unreasonable to suggest that his choice of style is inadvertent or purposeless. Moreover, by any interpretation, the Valar seriously influence Middle-earth history and this provides another reason to be confident that the author was well aware of what he wrote, how he wrote it, and why he wrote it. The totality of The Lord of the Rings is a tribute to Tolkien's ability to handle enormous scope with meticulous attention to detail. It would be less than generous or logical to assume that he was careless about this important aspect of the First Age of Middle-earth. Therefore, this article proceeds from the viewpoint that all of the Valar-associated passages mean what they say or allow some sensible interpretation.

The three questions examined in this article are (1) What kind of role did the Valar play as Guardians of the World? (2) What significant events occurred during the period of their guardianship? And (3) What can we conclude about their performance in the light of these events?

THE ROLE OF THE VALAR AS GUARDIANS OF THE WORLD

The identity of the Valar is not clear. Miller¹ takes the position that the Valar were simply those Elves who together with the Noldor constituted the two high Kindreds of the Elves who came to the Undying West at the beginning of days. This position does not seem to be supported by the available evidence. In those few places where Tolkien refers to the Valar as other than the Guardians of the World, he calls them "Lords of the West" (III, 392), "Powers" (III, 384), and "Angelic Powers" (III, 500). Since the emphasis of this article is on what the Valar did, the matter of identity is left an open question. We turn now to an inquiry concerning the nature of the role of the Valar as Guardians of the World.

A "guardian," in contrast with the simpler term "guard," is one who keeps safe or secures in the sense of a custodian. From law there comes the definition that a guardian is one who has the care and management of the person or property (or both) of another, as of a minor or of a person incapable of managing his own affairs.

Now consider the phrase "of the World." It is enlightening to note that Tolkien did not choose either "Guardians of the Uttermost West" or "Guardians of the Immortals." The former choice would have implied concern only with those living in the Undying Lands, the Valar and the Elves who were there or who came back there during the period of Guardianship. The latter choice would have implied concern both with those in the Far West and with a few Valar, such as Oromë the Hunter, who visited Middle-earth, with the "exiled" Elves, who left Eressëa under Fëanor, and with other Elves in Middle-earth, all of whom would come again to Aman the Blessed (save Lúthien and Arwen), if they survived to make the voyage. We are therefore led to the conclusion that the "World" of whom the Valar were the Guardians included the Elves and Men of Middle-earth. In view of Tolkien's repeated emphasis on the four speaking peoples of Middle-earth, we shall assume provisionally that the "World" also included Dwarves and Hobbits.

In identifying the four speaking peoples of Middle-earth, we see an example of the difficulties we will be facing. In speaking of Lúthien Tinúviel, Tolkien says (III, 388), "... but her mother was Melian of the people of the Valar." (Underlines mine.) If the "people of the Valar" were Valar themselves, and not the Elves of Eressëa who were certainly under the dominion of the Valar, we wonder whether there were not five speaking peoples in the World if not in Middle-earth. Indeed, the story of Eärendil, as we can sift it out of the haunting verse of Bilbo (I, 310), seems to indicate that the Valar spoke in words. A second scintilla of evidence pointing in this direction is the statement of the herb-master (III, 172) who was about to speak "of the Valinorean" tongue when Elessar cut him off. One could conclude that the "noble tongue" meant Sindarin and that the "Valinorean" meant Quenya, as Elessar's answer seems to indicate. Indeed, Quenya was (III, 506) "an ancient tongue of Eldamar beyond the Sea" and the Valar, living in Valinor west of Eldamar which was on the coast of Aman the Blessed, might also have spoken Valinorean and taught it to the Eldar when they arrived. We note in passing that this "correct" number of speaking peoples of Middle-earth is further confounded by Tolkien's initial description of the Ents in Appendix F (III, 510). Surely the animals and vegetation of Middle-earth cannot be said to qualify for "Guardianship" and the land itself, in particular Beleriand (III,

¹ Miller, D. M., Mankato State College Studies, Vol II #1, Feb 1967, Tolkien Papers

² References to The Lord of the Rings are indicated parenthetically by volume and page number of the Ballantine paperback edition and to The Hobbit in the Houghton-Mifflin hard cover edition.

507), was not safe against the power of Morgoth even when he was at last defeated through help from the Valar obtained by Eärendil (III,389). So we restrict the "World" to Elves, Men, Dwarves and Hobbits living in Middle-earth during the period of Guardianship.

Let us now consider the Valar in the Guardian role more closely. As protectors in the sense of guards, the Valar would seem to have some responsibility to protect the World from that which can bring severe harm to it. Certainly, Morgoth and Sauron qualify as major threats to the World. Therefore, as Guardians of the World, the Valar ought to be responsible for protecting the World from the evil influences of these two entities, at least.

The question might be raised as to whether the Valar had the capability to serve as Guardians of the World. There appears to be ample evidence that they were capable of actions which far transcended even the powers of the Elves. Among other things they destroyed the mightiest fleet the world had ever known (III,392), tore Elenka (III,392) asunder so that it sank and thus destroyed the rest of the Númenoreans save Elenil and his group of the faithful, granted the option of Immortality to the Half-Elven and their children, not to mention eventually giving the aid to Men and Elves by which Morgoth was cast down. So we conclude that the Valar had the fire-power. Whether they had the judgement or the inclination to use it is a matter which merits further examination.

EVENTS PERTINENT TO THE ROLE OF THE VALAR

In addition to citing events of the First Age, we must set the "prehistorical" perspective. In particular, we seek a starting point at which Men, Elves and Dwarves existed, and possibly Hobbits (although their role was of less moment in earliest days) and we seek a time point when there existed enough possibility of threat to the World to make the Guardian role relevant. There is evidence that there were points in time before the stars existed (I,117), before the Sun and Moon existed (Hobbit 178; I,182; III,519), before there were rivers and trees (I,182) and before there was any evil at all in Middle-earth (I,182). We direct our attention to a time after these celestial and terrestrial details had been taken care of, after two of the three High Kindreds of the Elves had made it to Eressëa (III,519), after Men had come into existence, and after Aulë, the Smith (probably one of the Valar) had created (III,518) the Naugrim, the ancestors of the Dwarves. At this point, of course, both Tom Bombadil and Fangorn and other Ents had been around quite a while. We require also the first signs of evil and these would seem to be the arrival and starting to breed of the Nazgûl steeds (III,140), the emergence of black-hearted trees older than Fangorn (II,89) such as the Great Willow (I,181), the coming into being of the Watcher in the Water (I,403), and possibly (the spirit of) Caradhras the Cruel (I,378). By this time Oromë the Great, huntsman of the Valar, had long since hunted in Middle-earth (III,395). Although Oromë may have been the "only" Valar who came "often" to Middle-earth, it is

³ The author of this article has in preparation an in-depth treatment of ancient Middle-earth history provisionally entitled A Chronology of Events Before and During the First Age of Middle-earth.

clear that Melian of the people of the Valar came (at least once) to the city-state of Doriath in Beleriand to wed King Thingol Greycloak and thus become the mother of Lúthien (III,388). And by this time Durin the Deathless, earliest descendant of the Naugrim, had awakened (I,411) to become (Hobbit 64) the eldest of the Seven (III,438) Fathers of the two races of Dwarves, and the named Father of the Longbeard race, that of Gimli, Glóin, Thorin Oakenshield, etc.

We now cite in narrative fashion the events that seem relevant to the performance of the Valar as Guardians of the World. In each case the event should be viewed as being allowed to happen as well as just an occurrence of the Elder Days.

Morgoth, the (first) Great Enemy, Dark Power of the North, arrives "from Outside" and establishes Angband (iron-place) (I,182). Morgoth creates trolls (hill-trolls, cave trolls), Ungoliant (sire of Shelob), Balrogs and Orcs (II,113; III,511; I,461; II,423). Morgoth builds the fortress of Thangorodrim in Angband, later Angmar (iron-home) and corrupts Sauron to become his servant; whatever creature Sauron was, he was not evil in the beginning (I,351; II,452). Evil things come to the hidden vales of Neldoreth (I,421; II,423). Morgoth creates Ancalagon, the Black, Scatha and other dragons (I,94) and Shelob is born and goes into the Mountains of Terror in Neldoreth of Beleriand (II,422).

It is now well into the First Age and in Eressëa Fëanor has wrought the three silmarilli and the seven palantiri. Morgoth somehow learns (see Elrond; I,347) of the Great Jewels and covets them. Morgoth assails (!) Valinor (I,317; I,328; I,347), poisons the two Trees, steals the silmarilli and flees (?) back across the Sea to Thangorodrim where he mounts the Jewels in his iron crown. The Valar refuse to approve of Fëanor's announced intent to recover the Jewels "by force" and consider Fëanor and the other Noldor who leave with him to be exiles. "Thereafter followed the hopeless war of the Eldar and the Edain against [the fortress of] Thangorodrim, in which they [the Elves and the Edain] were at last utterly defeated." (III,388; underlines mine) Dragons and orcs destroy the hidden city of Gondolin (Hobbit 43), Nogrod and Belegost in the Blue Mountains are ruined (III,439), and the greater part of Beleriand is destroyed and sinks into the sea (II,90) including Doriath and Nargothrond. Sometime during this strife Beren and Lúthien manage to steal one silmaril from Morgoth's iron crown and "cast him down [!]" (III,389) but two generations must pass before Eärendil, "speaking as ambassador of both Elves and Men," obtains the "help" by which Morgoth is overthrown (permanently) although Sauron survives and goes into hiding (III,389). For their valiant aid to the Elves in the war against Morgoth, the Valar "grant" the Isle of Elenka to the Edain and the Edain establish Númenor there. But the Valar forbid them to sail out of sight of Elenka towards Aman the Blessed and forbid them ever to set foot upon Aman, even though far-sighted men can from Númenor's highest point "see" Eressëa in Eldamar near Valinor on Aman (III,390).

During the Second Age Sauron arises again, forges the One Ring of Power in Mount Orodruin in Mordor, makes war on the Elves, destroys Eregion and

overruns Eriador. The Númenoreans (Men, not Elves or Valar) come back with a great fleet and defeat Sauron who survives and flees. The nine ring-wraiths (the Nazgûl) appear and Sauron regroups but is forced to surrender by Ar-Pharazôn, who takes him back to Númenor where Sauron corrupts the Númenoreans and causes them after some sixty years to assail Valinor in the "hope" that possession of the Undying Lands will bring immortality. So the Valar, the "Lords of the West" (III,392), "laid down their Guardianship and called upon the One, and the World was changed. Númenor was thrown down and swallowed in the Sea," (III,392) but Sauron "survives" and returns to Middle-earth as an evil spirit who can never again assume a form fair to men. Not that this was much of a handicap since later Sauron twice comes close to enslaving Middle-earth.

THE TALLY SHEET

Well, there you have it. Morgoth is allowed to come, establish his realm and create evil of all sorts. He is then allowed to steal the Jewels and equally important, to poison the Two Trees, which "gave light" to the land of the Valar. He is allowed to decimate the Elves and Edain in a "hopeless war" and to destroy, possibly with the aid of Sauron, virtually all of Beleriand. When two generations later, Eärendil does get the help needed to defeat Morgoth, Eärendil never gets home and Sauron escapes the breaking of Thangorodrim and the destruction of Morgoth. Sauron is allowed to run rampant and later to corrupt the Númenoreans to the point where they break the Ban. At this point the Valar cause many thousands of Númenorean men, women and children to die while destroying their fleet and their homeland, but the Valar fail to take care of Sauron.

It is interesting that the Valar are against the use of force by Eärendil to recover the Silmarilli. They are even willing to let Valinor be unlighted. Yet when Eärendil finally gets the help (unspecified) to defeat Morgoth, he is removed from the land of the living and Thangorodrim is broken. The "breaking" of a fortress is not a gentle undertaking.

Other passages pertinent to this point are: "...in the battle of the Valar when the world was young." (III,138), "And yet not so many, not so fair, as when Thangorodrim was broken." (I,319), and finally, "The First Age ended with the Great Battle, in which the Host of Valinor broke Thangorodrim and overthrew Morgoth." (III,452, underlines mine) The first quote makes it certain that the Val-

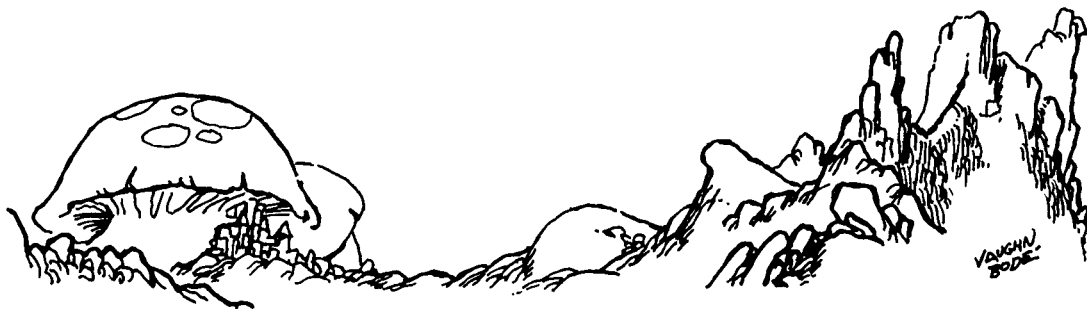
ar did use force occasionally. The last two quotes refer to a victory made possible by help from the Valar, so, even if the "Host of Valinor" was composed of Elves, who survived the earlier hopeless war, the use of force was enabled if not used by the Valar themselves to secure the victory. And what a fantastic price the descendants of the valiant Edain had to pay because Sauron was allowed to escape Morgoth's destruction. What a price the Noldor had to pay for Morgoth's actions for as Tolkien says (III, 519), "...but the history of those that returned to Middle-earth in exile was grievous..." Does this sound as if we have competent Guardians with a consistent policy to protect their charges?

Finally, we admit that the Valar were not their own final authority. They were responsible to "the One" (III,392) or to (and possibly the same) "the Elder King" (I,310; I,392), the latter of whom at least appears not to have been one of the Valar himself. We find, for example, that "the Valar were not permitted to take from them [Númenoreans] the Gift of Men..." (III,390; underlines mine).

Even so, we must conclude that the Valar themselves bear a heavy share of the responsibility for being Guardians of the World.

How well did they perform as Guardians of the World? It is hard to imagine how they could have done more poorly. If one accepts the responsibility of being a guardian, that responsibility includes protecting his ward from harm by whatever means are appropriate to divert or obviate that harm. They appear to have been grossly inconsistent about the use of force. They decided at long last, when their charges had been all but wiped out, to enable the use of force at the urging of a man who was able to obtain a hearing only because he had a talisman made by an Elf they had exiled. When that force was used, they omitted to deal also with Sauron who already had tortured the very hills (I,340). As Guardians of the World, the Valar were, to be specific, tragically incompetent.

Even if defensible, this conclusion in no way detracts from Tolkien's magnificent work. Rather we are led to wonder why Tolkien chose this kind of performance for his Guardians of the World, a much more difficult question. And if the answer to this question is not to be found in The Lord of the Rings we have yet another reason to be eager for the publishing of the Silmarillion for Tolkien tells us (III,389) that "of these things [in the First Age] the full tale, and much else concerning Elves and Men, is told in the Silmarillion."



The Shire Post

JOHN C WOOTEN | Edgefield S C

I have an objection to make. Though I have one article in mind I have read others that attempted to do the same thing. That is to say that these writers have tried to take J. R. R. Tolkien's creation -- Middle-earth -- and write their own version of its history. The article I have in mind is Margaret M. Howes' "The Elder Ages and the Later Glaciations of the Pleistocene Epoch." (Tolkien Journal, Vol. III No. 2) In this article Mrs. Howes juxtaposes the history of Middle-earth to the glacial and interglacial periods of the Pleistocene Epoch in our geographical history. She has gone too far when she does this, but she goes even further to write her own ending to the story of Middle-earth. The only person with either the right or the ability to do this is John Ronald Reuel Tolkien and no one else. It reminds me of the Ace Books' Controversy in its flagrant non-recognition of the rights of Professor Tolkien. He alone has the right to add to his creation and I am sure he feels the same way. Peter Beagle says in the preface to the Tolkien Reader -- "Knowing that I didn't write it [LotR], I feel that I did." This speaks well for the power and fascination of the book itself but does not give any other person the right to add his (or her) own ideas to what is exclusively the property of J. R. R. Tolkien. It is well and good to talk and write of this fascinating work but it is neither well nor good when one tries to take control of what is not theirs and steer it on a course that should be chosen by J. R. R. Tolkien and no one else. [Of course no one is trying to impinge on Professor Tolkien's rights of authorship. But when a reader has become involved in the LotR to the extent that the secondary universe it creates interacts with his own personality, it is then impossible to avoid intellectual speculations and extrapolations like Margaret Howes. Although such speculative articles when published may in some aspects appear offensive, because of deviations from the facts or spirit of Tolkien's writing, most readers seem to find them amusing in themselves and often, if only through a negative procedure, productive of new interpretive insights.]

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I was rather intrigued by Margaret Howes' article in the latest number. This presents a correlation between the geography of Middle Earth and that of the present day which I had already noticed, but which I didn't have the scientific background to develop to the depth which she has done. Some of the Atlantean writings refer to a subsidence of land in the area of the North Sea, English Channel, Bay of Biscay, and areas off the coast of England, Ireland, and France. This led me to a NGS map showing the floor of the Atlantic Ocean, and I discovered, lo and behold, that the continental shelf at that point corresponds almost exactly to the western shoreline of Middle Earth. So, having made this independent discovery (for what it's worth) I was more than happy to read Miss (Mrs. ?) Howes' scholarly development.

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I have the afteryule 1966 issue. The article by Boardman on heredity, while entertaining, seems to be of doubtful scientific value. As far as I can tell, he assumes facts to be consistent with his theory, and then states the facts as evidence. Thus there is no textual evidence, as far as I know, for the thesis that Dior and Elwing are mortal. On

the contrary, we know that Dior was Thingol's heir (I 206), and it seems unlikely that a mortal would be king over an elven people. It also seems a little unlikely that a Silmaril would be in the care of a mortal.

The evidence on Earendil is ambiguous; some lines in Bilbo's poem ("by paths that seldom mortal goes," for instance, E247) suggest that he is a mortal. On the other hand, he's still up there. He went as the ambassador of both elves and men, which doesn't help.

The one inference we can legitimately make is that Elwing and Earendil are, if classified as elves or men (note that Arwen, for instance, is definitely described as an elf, in spite of her mixed parentage), both in the same classification. Otherwise they would be a fourth union of elves and men, and we are explicitly told that there were only three.

My conclusion is that we should accept the thesis stated in the primary source material, that the half-elves were given a choice between mortality and immortality, which choice was also given to the descendants of those who chose immortality. If we have to formulate a mendelian explanation, Mr. Boardman's should be reversed. Immortality is dominant, and the first known mortal to appear in the line was Elros, who got one recessive from each parent. This not only allows for Dior, Elwing, and Earendil being immortal, but also explains why the descendants of Elros never produced an immortal from inbreeding, as would have been predicted by Boardman's theory. The long life of the descendants of Elros cannot be explained in simple Mendelian terms, since it is stated to be something present to varying, and generally diminishing, degree, in all of the descendants near the main line. On Boardman's theory, it should have been an all or nothing effect, present in only half of the descendants of the first generation, a quarter of the second, and so on.



Today I received Vol. III, number 2 of the Tolkien Journal, with a reminder on the envelope to renew my membership dues. That, I am sorry to say, I do not intend to do. Unhappily, I have decided to resign from the T. S. A. This is not a hasty decision, but one to which I've given a great deal of thought. My reasons for doing this will be given, and I hope you can find it in your heart to forgive me.

Actually, I have been increasingly disgruntled with the Society for quite awhile. The articles printed in the Journal are either repetitive, or meaningless. And those meetings -- hobbit food? And buttons ?? In other words, I'm afraid I find such pursuits as detailed studies of Middle Earth's glacial histories simply a lot of horse manure. If such histories must be recorded, surely the master himself is most competent to do it!

I find myself sounding like a complete defector. However, I am a great admirer of Professor Tolkien and his work. That is why I resent seeing, on the cover of the latest issue of the Journal, a Frodo dressed as an American revolutionary, and a Sam with a facial expression only a bit more intelligent than Winnie-the-Pooh's. Likewise a conception of the Last Homely House as a Victorian mansion reminiscent of Newport in its heyday. Despite loud protests by nearly the whole Society, the world of Middle Earth exists only in the mind, which is why I feel that it, unlike some fantasies, can not be illustrated. In any case, Tolkien was never over-meticulous in describing dress and architecture. So why not set your archaeologists to work at unearthing artifacts of Mordor or even Hobbiton? Then you can really be documented!

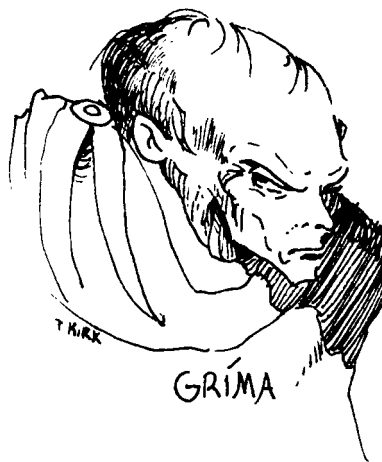
Karen Rockow | 153 E 26 Street | Brooklyn NY11210

In II:1, p. 2, Dick Plotz listed some of the many words used for "prince" in Beowulf -- beorn, brego, ceorl, eorl, thengel and theoden (I use the th instead of the OE thorn and eth for typing ease). I don't know where Dick got his information, but neither Franz Klaeber, whose authoritative edition of Beowulf was first published in 1922, nor J. R. Clark Hall in his Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary (Cambridge University Press, 1962) agree with several of his findings.

I have no possible quarrel with thengel and theoden, which most definitely mean "prince." Thengel appears only once in Beowulf, according to Klaeber. What is significant is that the phrase is hringa thengel, and, using Hall's additional meanings (ruler, lord, king), we can translate this as "lord of the rings." (The definite article is frequently omitted in OE.) Of course, the term obviously refers to Hrothgar here, and in the traditional sense. [I take it you mean in the sense of "giver of rings" ?]

Theoden also means "chief," "lord" and "king" and Clark Hall adds "ruler." "As far as I know, the term is most frequently used as "king," from which we might infer, that Tolkien possibly regarded his King of the Mark as the essence of kingship. It is interesting to note that there is also an OE verb, theodan or getheodan, meaning "to join, associate (with), attach or subject oneself to." However, the verb is not used in Beowulf. It would be interesting to know whether the verb or the noun came first. [The basic form is actually theod, a very ancient word for "people, tribe" with cognates occurring throughout the Germanic, Celtic, and Italic languages.]

Some of Dick's other words are more difficult to justify. I admit that OE words meaning "prince," "chief," "lord," or "king" often meant "prince" (just as the Anglo-Saxons rarely distinguished between man, hero and warrior.) [myself can see very little semantic difference between "prince" and "king" (except an age difference which the Anglo-Saxons apparently did not recognize), but Klaeber makes a definite distinction and, in common usage, there



certainly is one.

According to Klaeber, beorn means "man, hero, warrior." Beorn-cyning means (hero-) king. Hall adds that the simplex, to use Arthur Brodeur's term, may also mean noble, chief, or prince in a poetic context. (I wonder whether this masculine noun is related to the neuter beorn, "child, son.") [No. The latter is from beran "bear." The former is used outside of poetry only for the animal "bear" and is originally an euphemism meaning "the brown one."]

Brego, says Klaeber, means "chief, lord"; Hall adds "ruler" and "king" and indicates that the compound bregowearde, used in poetry, means "ruler, prince, lord."

Moving on to eorl and ceorl we are on less firm ground. Eorl means "man, warrior, or hero." Infrequently, it means "nobleman" or "chief." It does not mean "prince." Our own "earl" derives its meaning not from the OE eorl, but rather from the Old Norse jarl.

And Klaeber translates ceorl as "man (orig. freeman)." Hall also lists layman, "peasant, husbandman" and "freeman of the lowest class." Nevertheless, he says that the word was sometimes used poetically to mean "hero, or noble man," although he does not say whether it was so used in Beowulf. Ceorlboren means "low-born, not noble" according to Hall and the word later evolved into "churl." On the other hand, OE thegn, meaning "servant," "retainer," "vassal, freeman" and poetically "hero" and "warrior," had a similar compound, thegnboren, meaning "well-born." Curiouser and curiouser! [Not really. Ceorls were fairly low peasant types, although they fought in battles and are often found giving inspiring speeches in heroic poetry. Thegns on the other hand are the lower order of nobles, frequently depicted in descriptions of royal courts as serving as retainers to the king.]

I might add some other terms to Dick's list, although my additions are hardly exhaustive. The most common term is aetheling (noble, prince, hero, man). Others are frea and its compounds (lord, king). dryhten (lord, prince), wine (friend, (friendly) lord). [Isn't there a Goldwine in LotR?]

Naturally, Tolkien adopted many OE words. What follows is a very partial list. Ent (giant); maðmum (treasure, precious thing); orc (demon); feax /Shadowfax/ (hair); deagol (secret, hidden); smeagan (think out, seek (opportunity)); orthanc (ingenuity, skill); eored (troop, band, company). Of course, only Professor Tolkien can really tell us how he derived his names and I hope, at some time, he will. [Most words and names of the Rohirrim are good Anglo-Saxon derivatives.]

