

TOLKIEN SYMPOSIUM

1. Compare in quality the covers on the two paperback editions.
2. How important to the story do you consider the poetry?
3. What is your conception of the importance of the elves in the framework of middle-earth?
4. What do you think the effect on man would be of living with immortals of the LOTR type?
5. Which of the three books do you consider the best in point of pace, characterization, and plot?
6. Did you find the appendix useful or not?
7. Do you have any theories about the physical location of middle-earth?
8. How well are the various characters handled?
9. Where would you place middle-earth temporally; in Earth's past, future, another dimension? Explain.
10. How important are the languages to the story?
11. What do you like most about the LOTR and why?
12. Is such a world, with its various intelligent groups, possible? If not, why not?
13. Do you consider the story to be one of fate or of free will among the characters involved?
14. Is the third age stagnant? Explain.
15. What can be deduced about the economic system in the LOTR? How effective would this system be?
16. How effective would the political systems as shown in the books be?
17. Give reasons for the evident underpopulation of western middle-earth.
18. How important to the story are ideas of racial supremacy?
19. Where does the LOTR stand in relation to the field of heroic fantasy? Are there any books which you consider better? If so, why?
20. What are your criticisms of Tolkien's writing?
21. What are your views on the paperback editions of the LOTR and the Ace controversy?

Instructions: Don't feel you need to answer all of these questions. Pick out a few that you are interested in and discuss them at whatever length you feel you need, on a separate sheet, identifying by number which question(s) you are answering. Send answers as soon as possible; by the end of February 1966 at the latest, to 2615 Shannon Dr., South San Francisco, Calif. 94081.

TO BE MADE INTO AN ARTICLE FOR "ENTMOOT"

CLINT BIGGLESTONE