

published by the Tolkien Society of America, Belknap College Center Harbor NH 03226. Free to members; otherwise 10c. Thain: Ed Meskys Mayor Dick Plotz

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLICATION

is twofold -- to give the current members of the Tolkien Society of America the latest news of the society and related matters, and to answer the inquiries of non-members about the society.

THE TOLKIEN SOCIETY OF AMERICA

is, in the words of the founding Thain Dick Plotz, an organization devoted to J R R Tolkien: the man, his works, his influence. Its object is primarily to further the enjoyment of Middle-earth and other creations of high imagination. It is this enjoyment which the TSA holds to be the most important part of Middle-earth. As Middle-earth is, first, the product of a brilliantly creative imagination, and only then everything else it means to people, the TSA tries to increase the perspective of Tolkien's world among enthusiasts everywhere. Membership might well be considered a course in the varieties of Tolkien Experience.

The TSA publishes The Tolkien Journal (TJ) and Green Dragon (GrD) on an irregular schedule. The TJ contains an extremely variable selection of items of interest to Tolkien people: news, articles, poems, stories, features, artwork and letters. Contributions of material are unabashedly solicited although there can be no guarantee of when a contribution will be published. The Green Dragon contains brief news notes, especially of the activities of local TSA chapters (aka smials) and independent clubs. The GrD is two pages, mimeographed, while the TJ is printed by offset lithography (photo offset) and is usually 24 pages long.

The primary function of the TSA is to act as a medium for members to keep abreast of events of interest and contact each other to form local discussion groups, and to serve as a clearing house for studies of Middle-earth. To these ends it issues its two publications. Also, it offers for sale to members certain supplies which they might have difficulty in obtaining outside of major metropolitan areas and the Ballantine Tolkien books at a discount price.

Membership in the TSA costs \$2 in North America, £1 (British) or equivalent elsewhere. Membership lasts as long as it takes to publish 4 issues of the TJ (hopefully only a little over a year) and includes said 4 issues plus any GrDs, special notices, etc published between issues.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

I succeeded to the Thainship from Dick Plotz at the September 2, 1967 meeting of the NY smial. As he said in the last TJ, the society has grown beyond his wildest expectations and the work associated with it has become impossible for him to handle along with his schoolwork.

I hope to keep the TSA operating more or less as it had been but must simplify or eliminate some procedures. First of all, Dick had received 10,000 pieces of mail pertinent to the TSA during the last 10 months alone. At one time he was averaging 40 letters a day and simply had to dispose of all inquiries about the society without even trying to answer them. When the avalanche abated he typed one address label for each new inquiry and has turned over to me over 1000 such labels. They will be used to mail out this GrD.

This represents a staggering load of mail and I will have to request that you not write unless it is with some definite business in mind -- news of your smial for GrD, an article or artwork for TJ, a letter of comment on TJ, a complaint, a new membership or membership renewal, an order for our sales dept, etc. Please mark on the outside of the envelope the nature of its contents and put each separate piece of business on a separate piece of paper with your complete name and address on each sheet. I hope to answer most questions you might have via these publications so that they will not require personal replies.

In addition to TJ I will continue to publish a personal magazine, NIEKAS. NIEKAS #19 is now about half finished and I hope to have enough mss on hand for TJ by when NIE-

KAS is done. I have accepted a kind offer of help from NY member Claire Howard so once work has started it should go rather quickly. Also, TJ will be commercially printed while NIEKAS is hand printed at home, so TJ might actually be mailed out earlier. I plan to alternate issues of TJ & NIEKAS

I should warn that I have not learned the available Sindarin words, nor have I learned how to write in the Tengwar or Certar modes, so communications addressed to me in this form would have to be forwarded to someone else for interpretation. I do realize that many of you ARE interested in such matters and plan to continue publishing them. For instance, I have asked Cory Seidman to revise her excellent but out of print Sindarin dictionary for TJ. I will also publish poems, either in Sindarin or transliterated English. These will, of course, be first read and judged by someone like Bob Foster who does understand such things.

I will hold several general meetings in NYC and Boston during the coming year. I expect to be in Chicago for a physics convention in late January and hope that a meeting can be held there at that time. Finally, I hope to have a meeting in conjunction with the 26th World Science Fiction Convention in Oakland California next Labor Day weekend. [To join the convention and receive progress reports and advance information on the convention and be eligible to vote for the annual Hugo awards send \$3 to BAYCON, PO Box 261, Piedmont Station, El Cerrito Calif 94530.]

I plan to sponsor a formal Tolkien conference here at Belknap College, perhaps a year from now. I originally wanted to do it in the spring of 1968 but there just isn't time to set everything up. The conference theme would include both Tolkien and related writers, and I would like to hear from people who could present papers at such a conference.

One last point. I plan to make extensive use of inexpensive postal rates in order to preserve the TSA's meagre funds. The USPO will not accept bulk mail unless each piece has the zip code on it. I do NOT have the time to plow through the postal manual looking for several hundred zip codes, so any subscriptions which do not contain the zip code will be refunded. If you already have a subscription but I do not have your zip code on file I will send this to you first class and SUSPEND your subscription until you provide me with the number or request a refund of the remainder of your subscription. Obviously this applies only to members in the USA.

This is an expedient to save money and I hope to take several other steps in this direction. Currently the dues are not meeting the costs of the publications and these have been subsidized by profits from sales. However new time saving procedures in the latter have greatly cut the profits, and if these money saving expedients are not enough I will have to raise the dues.

NEWS OF J R R TOLKIEN

Pertinent excerpts from two press releases from Houghton Mifflin, Tolkien's American publishers, follow.

We will issue on Oct 30, 1967 The Road Goes Ever On: A Song Cycle (\$3.95) by J R R Tolkien with 7 songs by Donald Swann of Flanders & Swann. Six of the songs are based on Lord of the Rings and one on The Adventures of Tom Bombadil. Simultaneously Caedmon Records will bring out Poems and Songs of Middle Earth (\$5.95) with J R R Tolkien himself as star of the record. He will read in English and Sindarin (Elvish) poems from LotR and Tom Bombadil. On the reverse side of this record Donald Swann is heard in a song cycle based on Tolkien's poetry. Tolkien himself had a hand in composing one of the melodies. William Elvin sings the songs and W H Auden wrote the liner for the record. I sit by the Fire was sung at all performances of the Flanders & Swann hit, At the Drop of Another Hat, during its tour of the US and Canada. This was the first time Sindarin was ever sung or spoken publicly. It should be made clear that the record and book are not a package deal. Each may be purchased separately, but most Tolkien devotees will order both for their collections. There will be posters in Elvish and English for the stores.

Smith of Wootton Major, a fantasy of a master cook, a smith, and a star, by J R R Tolkien will be published November 24, 1967 for \$1.95. As every reader of Tolkien's Tree & Leaf knows, a fairy story that is worth reading at all

is worth reading by people of all ages. Smith of Wootton Major is such a story. ¶ The village of Wootton Major was remarkable chiefly for a festival held every 24 years, the Feast of Good Children, for which the Master Cook baked a very special cake, to be eaten by 24 specially good children. One year the Master Cook went away on a trip and brought back a new apprentice, a quiet boy called Alf. After Alf came to Wootton Major strange things began to happen. At the next Feast of Good Children, there was a star in the piece of cake that went to the smith's son. When that boy grew up and became a smith himself his work was stronger and more beautiful than any that had been seen before. And there were other perquisites that came with the star -- some beneficent and some frightening.

Dick Plotz wrote: Read Smith yesterday. It's sort of in the vein of Giles & Niggle, but with enough of Faery to appeal to Hobbit people.

Dick also visited Professor Tolkien last summer and reports slow progress, but still progress, on 3 Middle-earth works. Anyone who has studied the appendices of LotR knows that two are The Silmarillion and The Akallabeth. The third, A Man And His Wife, is a long narrative poem set in Númenor. It will be a long time before any of these are finished, and I will give further news as it becomes available.

SMIALS & OTHER LOCAL GROUPS

Starting with the next issue I will publish news of smial activities. Here I merely list those in the TSA files. They will not be listed again unless I hear from a representative. (Arizona State U) H Wheeler Jr, 1010 E Loma Vista Dr, Tempe Ariz 85281

P Boone, 1775 Landana Dr, Concord Cal 95420
A Alderson, 3250 Fairesta, 9-B, La Crescenta Cal 91014 (King JHS)
P Porter, 1013.5 Marlman Av, LA Cal 90026 (CalTech)
H Turtledove, Blacker House, Pasadena Cal 91109
M Boehm, 355 Silvergate Av, San Diego Cal 92106
S Smith, 9533 Pentland, Temple City Cal 91780
R Joyce, Pent Rd, Weston Conn (Stetson U)
D Emerson, Deland Flo (no address on file)
J Finder, 6022 S woodlawn Av, Chicago Ill 60637
J Post, 246 Park Dr, Glenwood Ill 60425
P Ford, 7738 Catalpa Av, Hammond Ind 46324
T Krug, Terre Hueta Ind (no address on file)
R Wurster, 3203 Purty Hill Av, Baltimore Md 21234:668-4770 (Abbot Academy)
E Gifford, Andover Mass 01810 (Brooks School)
N. Andover Mass (no address on file)
S Butterworth, 42 Longview Dr, Marblehead Mass 01949 (Brandeis U)
T. Konikow, Waltham Mass 02154
L Bryk, 2724 Boldt, Dearborn Mich 48124 (Michigan St. U)
G Phillips, 6459 Shadelawn, Dearborn Hts Mich 48127 (Roeper School)
D Lipson, 20422 Freeland, Detroit Mich 48235 (U of Mo)
B Kresge, 336 Donnelly Hall, Columbia Mo 65201 (Belknap College & area)
E Meskys, Center Harbor NH 03226; 253-6207
M Feltenstein, 124 Edgerstown Rd, Princeton NJ
C Frank, 10 New St, Jersey City NJ
L Marsland, 78 Genesee St, Greene NY 13778
D Brookmeyer, 170-20 130 Av, Jamaica NY 11434
M Lopez-Cepero, 1009 N. Ontario Av, Lindhurst NY 11757
J Stein, 55 Elizabeth Rd, New Rochelle NY 10804
J Bush, 48 Colony Lane, Roslyn Hts NY 11576 (SUNY)
S Kramer, SUNY, Stoney Brook LI NY (Syracuse U)
B Bullock, 907 Walnut Ave, Syracuse NY
G Crawford, Cleveland Ohio (no address on file)
L Henry, 264 Arden Rd, Pittsburgh Pa 15216 (George School)
S Klatzkin, 14 Beechwood Ln, Yardley Pa
W Ellis, 2402 Richelien Av, Roanoke Virginia 24014

SALES DEPT & PLUGS

The TSA has a number of items for sale, including these back issues of TJ: I:2 (25c), II:1 (50c), III:1 (\$1), III:2 (60c)
POSTERS & MAPS: The Ballantine map & "Come to Middle Earth" poster are available at \$1.50 each, plus 35c per package to cover the cost of the mailing tube.
BOOKS: All 5 Ballantine books are available TO MEMBERS ONLY at the special discount price of 75c each.

The items listed above should be ordered from society headquarters. Books, posters & maps are offered for sale only in North America.

BUTTONS: The following lapel buttons are available thru John Closson (who did the lettering), 179 E Houston St, NY NY 10002 for 10c per package + 25c per button (add 10c per button for overseas orders): Frodo Lives (both Roman & Tengwar), Go Go Gandalf, Come to Middle Earth & Support Your Local Hobbit. Note that Gandalf for President is NO LONGER AVAILABLE. Old button orders sent to the TSA headquarters are slowly being sorted out and will eventually be filled.

You can get subscriptions to NIEKAS and buy sets of dust jackets for the paperback Hobbit & LotR at the Society address but these are NOT published or sold by the society. NIEKAS appears about 3 times a year, runs about 75 pages an issue, and costs 50c, 5 for \$2. Most back issues are sold out and the few remaining copies are going for ridiculously high prices. NIEKAS is basically a personal magazine about those things which interest me: Tolkien, fantasy, science fiction, Gilbert & Sullivan, Georgette Heyer, and a number of other random topics.

Since many fans did not like the covers on either the Ballantine or Ace Tolkien, Diana L Paxson drew up a set of 4 dust-jackets which would fit either. These are printed in black & white and sell for \$1 the set + 10c for the mailing tube.

Two other posters, another map, and several other buttons have been published, and two other records based on Tolkien have been released. I do not have details on these now but hope to include them in the next issue. I would like to publish a complete list of Tolkien buttons soon and would like information from readers who know of any others.

At the September TSA meeting in NY a number of works of related interest by such people as Alan Garner & E R Eddison were mentioned and some attendees asked that a list be published. An annotated bibliography will appear in a future TJ.

Tolkien fans might be interested in Eliot Porter's In Wilderness is the Preservation of the World, Ballantine BOOK # U9800, \$3.95. This quality paperback illustrates quotations from Thoreau with almost 100 magnificent nature photographs in color. Two of these photos are published separately as posters at \$2.50 each.

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING

will be held in NY on Friday December 29 1967 at the Piccadilly Hotel, 227 W 45 St., at 8 PM. Check hotel bulletin board for room. Program is still a bit indefinite in that thus far I have gotten a favorable response from only one potential speaker. There will be a slide show of Tolkien inspired costumes at past World Science Fiction conventions and of Tolkien inspired paintings at art shows. The whole program should be varied and interesting, and if time permits I will send out another notice giving more details. But whether or not this notice goes out, the meeting will definitely be held.

There will also be a meeting in Boston on March 23-4.

PROFESSOR CLYDE S KILBY WRITES

You may be interested to know that I spoke to over 300 students & teachers at the Univ. of Wisconsin in Sept, an enthusiastic group, on Prof. Tolkien -- a sort of Tolkien-up-to-date speech discussing recent publications, my experience with Tolkien in the summer of 1966 & briefly in 64, why I think people are reading him, old & young alike, etc. The next night I spoke to some 40-45 people in Chicago, again a really enthusiastic group. I expect to spend almost a week at Gordon College, near Boston, in February talking Tolkien.

AND FINALLY

If you see Tolkien or the TSA mentioned anywhere please send details or (better) a clipping. Lists will be compiled in GrD. When joining or renewing please give a permanent address & have a relative forward; it is difficult to keep changing records back & forth. Complaints have been received from Dr. Tolkien's publishers about a large number of requests he has been getting to autograph his books. Handling these puts a great strain on him and this further delays The Silmarillion. Thank you.

CRMeskye