Scholarly Studies of J. R. R. Tolkien and His Works
(in English): 1984–2000

By Michael D.C. Drout, Hilary Wynne, and Melissa Higgins

This bibliography is intended to augment two previously published bibliographies of Tolkien scholarship, Richard C. West’s Tolkien Criticism: An Annotated Checklist and Judith Johnson’s J. R. R. Tolkien: Six Decades of Criticism, which between them collect Tolkien scholarship from its origins until 1984. We believe we have collected citations for all Tolkien criticism from 1984 through the end of 2000, although it is quite possible that we have missed items (corrections and additions can be sent to: tolkienstudies@wheatoncollege.edu). This bibliography is, of course, intended to be complete, but there are different sorts of “completeness,” and for the purposes of this printed bibliography the editors have decided to omit articles found in newsletter-type publications, newspapers, and non-scholarly periodicals. We therefore have left out works appearing in Amon Hen, The Minas Tirit Evening Star, Lembas Extra and Beyond Bree, although we have made a few exceptions for newsletter articles that are of exceptional scholarly interest (in particular a few articles in The Tolkien Collector that provide essential addenda and corrigenda to important research tools). A bibliography of all the Tolkien-related newsletter publications is being developed, as well as a list of all theses and dissertations on Tolkien, and this list will (soon, we hope) be available at the on-line bibliography site: http://jrrtolkien.wheatoncollege.edu, where we will post corrections or additions to this bibliography. We have also decided to exclude material from the journals of Elvish linguistics, Vinyar Tengwar and Parma Eldalamberon, as being beyond both our expertise and the scope of this bibliography.

We have also had to make the very difficult decision of what to do with material published in Mallorn, the journal of the Tolkien Society, and Mythlore, the journal of the Mythopoeic Society. Both Mallorn and Mythlore contain excellent scholarship, but there is also much material in the older volumes of these journals, interesting though it may be, that is more in the realm of fan appreciation or newsletter journalism than real scholarship. One of the goals of this bibliography is to allow critics to find
easily the best and most relevant work in Tolkien studies, and to this end we wanted to separate out the scholarly from the non-scholarly. Unfortunately, there is no easy way to do this. While it does not appear that Mallorn is a refereed journal, and while Mythlore, at least since its recent format change, is, using this distinction to separate Mallorn from Mythlore on purely formal terms was unsatisfactory, since there are articles in Mallorn that are easily of as high quality as the best in Mythlore (and likewise the earlier issues of Mythlore are just as full of non-scholarly work as is Mallorn). Including in the main bibliography all the non-scholarly material in the earlier issues was likewise not reasonable, since such inclusion would merely create anew the problem of finding the fruit amidst much chaff. Including or excluding each article on a case-by-case basis was also an unsatisfactory approach: While we do not shy away from making judgments, we are also aware that other scholars need to be able to check our evaluations for themselves. Excluding material to whose virtues we had been blind would not serve the interests of scholarship (let alone fairness). Our compromise has been to include in the main bibliography all the Tolkien-focused articles published in Mythlore since its change to a more scholarly format, and then to print a separate section of the bibliography containing the earlier articles from both Mallorn and Mythlore. Researchers can judge for themselves to what depth they wish to plumb Tolkien criticism, but those who ignore Mallorn and Mythlore entirely do so at their peril. While this approach does force some scholars to double-search the bibliography, we saw no way of avoiding this particular annoyance while still achieving our other goals.

It is our hope that when the bibliographic portion of Wheaton College’s Fantasy and Cultural Transmission Project is complete, a comprehensive annotated and evaluative bibliography of Tolkien studies will be available on line or on CD-ROM in searchable electronic form. When this project is finished, scholars should be able to search the complete corpus of Tolkien criticism at varying levels of depth, and since all articles will be rated, scholars can use their own criteria for their searches and not be at the mercy (or, at least, be less at the mercy) of editor-compilers.

In compiling this bibliography we have discovered that there are many minor errors in bibliographic materials (such as the MLA database) and in the citations of works in other scholarship. We have silently
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corrected these errors (mostly misspellings of character names), and we
have also silently corrected the many misspellings of “Middle-earth,”
since it was not always clear if these errors came from an original source
or had arisen in subsequent bibliographic references. In fact, in several
cases “Middle-earth” was spelled differently in the title of an article and
in that article’s appearance in the table of contents in the journal in which
it was published, and in another case it was misspelled in the title but not
the body of the article. Authors using this bibliography for Interlibrary
Loan requests or for on-line searches should try the various permutations
of “Middle-earth” (that is, “Middle Earth,” “Middle-Earth”). We have
likewise silently corrected accent marks. Thus when electronically
searching for articles that might included Tolkienian proper-names,
scholars should search for both accented and unaccented forms (for
example, “Lorien” and “Lórien”).

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**Citations from *Mallorn* and *Mythlore***

N.B.: Although *Mythlore* is organized by volume and issue, it is paginated by whole number issue. We therefore print both the whole number and the volume: 60, 16.2 is whole number 60, volume 16, issue 2. Note also that the volume *Proceedings of the J. R. R. Tolkien Centenary Conference*, the contents of which are listed in the main bibliography, is also simultaneously *Mallorn* 53 and *Mythlore* 80.


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