

Merton College  
Oxford  
September 30th  
1947

Dear Rosemary

I am sorry I have not answered your letter before. I have been very busy. So busy that I have still not managed to finish my book about the later adventures of Bilbo Baggins (and his nephews). And when it is finished, I do not know when they will find paper for it. It is rather long. I wrote another quite short story ages ago, and that is still waiting for paper and covers. I am afraid it is not about Hobbits, though it has another dragon.

I am very glad you like The Hobbit. I hope you will like the next one. I will remember you when it appears. I shall keep your picture and your address in my own copy of the book.

Bilbo Baggins comes into it, but he is too old (~~young~~) to have any

+ 'eleventy-one' as he would say.

I have a god-daughter called Rosemary but she has gone far away to New Zealand. My own daughter is called Priscilla  
Sissy. 1957

more great adventures. But the magic ring that he found turns out to be far more important than he thought. And his nephews and Sam Gamgee (his gardener), and Gandalf - being a wizard still not much altered - and very many other people have very much danger and trouble with it, and they have a very long long journey over the Mountains and down the Great River of Wilderland to the far South, and many battles and adventures before all is settled. Gollum gets loose, looking for the Ring; and there are lots of dwarfs and Elves, but no Dragon. Still there are Ents, a hitherto unknown people, and when one day you meet Treebeard the eldest of all people, I hope you will like him.

Now I must fly and write a lot more much less nice letters about much less interesting things (to me).

I hope you had a nice holiday somewhere in this lovely summer which reminds me over the summer when I walked over the Misty Mountains long ago (1911). I could not do anything of the kind this year

Yours truly  
Ronald Tolkien



MERTON COLLEGE,  
TELE. 2259. OXFORD.

January 18<sup>th</sup>  
1948

Dear Rosemary,

Thank you very much for your Christmas letter. I have not answered before, because you did not put your address, and I have been looking for your letter of last year. Now I have found it.

I am so sorry that another book about Hobbits is not yet ready. It is a long book, and I have been both unwell and too busy (with much less interesting things) to finish the last chapters. And when I do (this year, I hope) there will probably be not enough paper. I wrote and finished another little book, about a dragon but not Hobbits, a long while ago, but so far only a page of it has been

printed, and though advertised it missed this Christmas — because they could not find paper or stuff to bind it. It is called "Former Giles of Ham". It should come out this year.

I hope you had a nice Christmas. We did — though I spent two days in bed. Not from eating too much! I think your idea of Gollum is much more like mine than most people's. A man in Sweden (where they call a Hobbit a Hompe) has drawn some dreadful pictures which make Gollum look simply huge. But he was not much bigger than Bilbo, only thin and very wiry, and he had of course large flebby-sticky hands and feet.

Love and best wishes for 1948.  
from

J.R.R. Tolkien