

MR. MICHAEL TOLKIEN

We feel that our members would like to see part of the correspondence that passed between our Secretary and Mr. Michael Tolkien, as follows :-

On 15th December 1974, in reply to our invitation to the Annual Dinner, Mr. Tolkien wrote :

"I have been pleased to read the two journals that have been sent to me since I was unanimously elected as a member of the Society on that happy occasion in my sister's house early last September - it is certainly wonderful to know what really tremendous enthusiasm for my father's work exists and how so much of it is both intelligent and perceptive, which is more than can be said of his critics! His very sudden passing last September year was a very great personal blow to me, especially as it occurred less than five years after the death of my mother in 1971 - I had begun to think that both my parents were indestructible and had, in a sense, taken them too much for granted : that evening in September was both an eye-opener and a comfort, an eye-opener to the quality of enthusiasm he had created among intelligent young people, and a comfort in making me realise that my father lives on and is truly one of the immortals in the English language".

And on 7th January 1975, he wrote :

"I should, of course, be very pleased indeed for my comments about the Society to be quoted in a future issue of the Bulletin, as, in these gloomy times, people who feel a common bond in something as "un-gloomy" in the "world" created by my father, need all the encouragement they can be given, especially by those for whom this "world" was to a large extent, originally created. I was singularly impressed by what I saw of the Society in September - it was, as I may have said before, an example of the kind of intelligent enthusiasm in which my father himself would have delighted.

I will let you know nearer the time how things stand for a trip to London on 22nd February for the annual dinner, and if I can "make it", I will certainly try to say something which would interest members and perhaps answer their questions in so far as I am able to. The real authority, of course, is my younger brother, Christopher, who is at present working very hard on "The Silmarillion".

I have today received a complimentary copy of a French translation of some of my father's minor works, entitled "Faerie" - it takes in "Farmer Giles", "Smith of Wooton Major" and "Tree and Leaf". Like all previous French translations, it seems well done, as were the Italian versions of "The Hobbit" and "Lord of the Rings", all of which I have enjoyed".

THE LAMENT OF LEGOLAS/LIR LEGOLAS

:Sí ilyë alcarlyo avánië
vemalta Eldaron isilië
valiëtinco pellallo anëare
elyë armyë certamimbe
sí ambar undulanta minnamornië

Inentië vanallo andonya
nusilmë lassiyenion caitar
lissëlasselantion inencala
Namárië oialë mardë armar
tindomë hiruvanyë vanwa:

Gone is the glory once of old
That wrung and shone like Elven gold
Sought and wrought beyond the Sea,
Now parted even we must be
As darkness spreads and takes its hold.

From my door a long path steers
Steeped in starlit leaves of years
Whose sweet autumns I recall.
Farewell forever home and hall
Dawnlight will not find me here.

(Literally) Now all your-glory has-passed-away
Like-(the)-gold of-(the)-Elves it-shone
Angelic-metal from-beyond (the)-great-sea
Even-thou and-I are-cleft-between
Now (the)-world is-falling-down into-darkness

In-(the)-path going-from my-door
Under-starlight (the)-leaves-of-'years' lie
Of-sweet-autumns in-light
Farewell forever hall and-home
Dawn will-find-me gone.

BY NEIL McLEOD