

EDITORIAL

by Rosemary Pardoe

I intend in this editorial to explain what exactly we're going to print in future issues of this magazine. I feel we owe it to the members of the Society to print everything we receive unless:

- a) it's so badly written that it would be impossible to print without insulting the intelligence of the membership.
- b) it's obviously plagiarised
- c) it's so pornographic that it offends the G.P.O. regulations.
- and d) it bears no connection to Tolkien or related subjects.

Apart from those we'll print everything regardless of whether we personally find it interesting or not (for instance the languages of Middle Earth aren't my 'thing' but I know that many people will find Bob Borsley's article on the subject in this issue interesting.)

Mainly this magazine intends to follow the third 'aim' of the Society, that being:

"To enjoy the fantasy of 'Middle Earth' and express it according to the individual talents and tastes of the members". We do not intend to follow the second aim of the Society:

"To endeavour to maintain the image of 'Middle Earth' uncontaminated by anyway contrary to the intention of the author". This aim seems nonsense to me because if we followed it to the letter the only people who would be allowed to contribute to the magazine would be the people who (like JRRT, and as it happens us) believe that LotR is a fairy tale and nothing else. As far as I'm concerned this magazine is open to anyone to write anything about LotR whether they think it's a fairy tale, an allegory or even any of the hippy ideas.

This is a rather more liberal idea than has been associated with the Society so far. I regret that the Society has an unfortunate reputation for narrow-mindedness and fanaticism. We want to change all that, and although we'll no doubt make a few enemies in the process we'll also attract many more new members than we have so far.

All forms of contributions are welcome: articles, poems, fiction, artwork (especially artwork) and anything else. Also I'd like to receive contributions on other fantasy authors such as C.S. Lewis (of course), Alan Garner, Lord Dunsany, and the heroic fantasy works of such people as Clark Ashton Smith, H.P. Lovecraft, Fritz Leiber, Mike Moorcock and Jack Vance. Of course contributions on Tolkien himself will receive priority. Of necessity the 'editorial presence' in this issue is large, but really we want to fade into the background once the contributions start flowing in (she said hopefully).

To help us discover what you want to appear in this magazine

we've composed a questionnaire which you'll find included with this magazine. We hope that everyone will answer it and send it back to us, as this is the only way we'll be able to judge what to do with the zine.

One final thing: we're hoping that in future issue there'll be at least ten pages of letters. We feel that the prime purpose of this magazine is to put people in touch with each other in print. So please everybody, we want to hear from YOU (whether you write on the zine itself or on any other aspect of Tolkienology is entirely up to you.)

Another thing you'll find enclosed with the magazine is a copy of the constitution. We especially want your views on this. Personally I feel that it is far too long. Quite unnecessarily so. The Offtrails Magazine Publishers' Association, with which we are closely associated since my fanzine SEAGULL and Darroll's SPINGE are both distributed through it, (sorry, no spare copies of either) is a far more complex set-up but makes do with a two page constitution without many problems, all things considered. Now admittedly OMPA doesn't have to satisfy a bank manager, and obviously if it did the constitution would have to be lengthened a bit, but even so I do feel that the Tolkien Society constitution is quite stupidly complex. A lot of it is just a waste of time and will harm the Society more than it helps it. This is just my opinion though.....it remains to be seen what everyone else thinks.

SECOND EDITORIAL ... by Darroll Pardoe

Thus, THE MALLORN, the journal of the Tolkien Society. We know that not everyone will be pleased by everything that they find in this issue, but we hope that there will be something at least which is of interest. Trying to please all the people all the time has never been a successful task, in any occupation. We don't think this MALLORN is up to the standards of THE TOLKIEN JOURNAL put out by the Tolkien Society of America yet, but given time and a certain enthusiasm on the part of the membership that could easily be achieved.

Apart from the TJ there have been other Tolkien publications in the past, most of which many members will not have heard of. The original one was I-PALANTIR, the magazine of the Fellowship of the Ring, which never got off the ground. IP ran to four issues, with a long gap between the third and fourth, and published some interesting material. We have a set of this magazine and may reprint some things from it, if of course the necessary permissions are forthcoming. Other magazines were more what Ro and some others have in mind in talking about an expanded interest beyond tLotR.. ELDRITCH DREAMQUEST for example, or ANDURIL.

My own view is that for the most part the MALLORN should stick to Tolkien oriented literature, but with the occasional excursion into other pastures. The danger there is that the purpose of the magazine and the society would be forgotten, so it would have to be carefully controlled by the magazine editor. But a little will do no harm, surely.

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