

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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This issue of the MALLORN has been a lot longer in the making than we had intended. We volunteered to produce it at the 1970 SF Convention in April, but we had no idea that it would take so long to get the finances of the Society into a sufficiently organized state that money was available to produce the magazine. Nobody seems to have been to blame for this - it was just a lot of red tape to cut through (such as the bank requiring a proper formal constitution before they would open an account for the Society). But the MALLORN is four or five months later than we had intended it to be. For this we apologize, and hope that it's worth the wait.

With various personal changes looming up, mainly that Ro wants to study for gone A-levels, our time will be more at a premium than previously, and we will thus have to give up the editorship of the MALLORN quite soon. We'll put out the second issue, around next January or February, but after that the future is uncertain. If anyone wants the editorship, would they please speak up - someone will have to be found to take over from us.

Phil Spencer put out a flyer of his own - GAMMA - which he agreed to turn into a Society bulletin. The arrangement is that the MALLORN will be what one might call the Society's theoretical journal, publishing articles and so on dealing with various aspects of Tolkieniana, whilst the bulletin will feature the information concerned with the running of the Society - new members, notices of meetings, and so forth. The British Science Fiction Association has a similar arrangement, which works quite successfully. One advantage is that a small bulletin can come out more frequently than the MALLORN and so news of Society activities can be up to date when it reaches the members: a quarterly MALLORN isn't frequent enough for such a purpose. More MALLORNS would be impossible, both by reason of expense and of the physical labour involved in their production (especially as we both have our own magazines to produce, apart from the MALLORN). So I think the Society is indebted to Phil for offering to fill in the gap in this way.

Thus, as I began this editorial, THE MALLORN. Read on; I hope you enjoy it!

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