

Knockers, ect., ect., and as to the German Kellergeist, he sounds like the offspring of a Dwarf and a Wood-elf! But that raises the question of female Dwarves —

PHILIP HOWARD, of 22 Eyton Road, Dawley, Telford, Salop, writes: "No doubt there were notable Dwarf-women, but it would be difficult to get to know them - for one thing, you would never know if the dwarf was a woman. We are told that the two sexes were so alike that the 'eyes and ears of other peoples cannot tell them apart.' This is all very well - but what about the beards? Do Dwarf-women have beards as well?

Yes, as I read it, the Dwarf-women did have beards. Unattractive, but there's no accounting for Dwarves! They don't seem to have been a very sexy lot, do they? But I suppose male Dwarves found them congenial. I wonder what Dan, the mother of Fili and Kili looked like?

ROSIE TURNER (Rosie Cotton) of 6 Masefield Gardens, East Ham, London, E.6. Writes: "I wonder if anybody else who owns a paperback LotR has had the same trouble as I have! I picked up my well thumbed copy, and the middle pages promptly fell out. I stuck them back (with the aid of the sellotape) and all seemed well. I picked it up a few weeks later, and the complete cover fell off, and pages were wildly flying about the room. I've now had to put them in order, (all 1082 pages of it) stamp holes in it, and mount it in 2 'Ring Binders'! This means, of course, that I cannot possibly lend it to anybody now, and will have to buy myself a new copy (NOT in one paperback!) I think it was a rather a silly idea of Allen and Unwin's, to mount such a large story in one paperback, as it cannot possibly stand up to frequent handling (my copy was only three months old!)

Yes, I feel this must be brought to the notice of Allen & Unwins. The paperbacks of the separate parts (as published by Ballantyne, the only American edition authorised by JRRT himself) are much handier, and are really pocket size.

JAMES EAD of 29 Uttoxeter Road, Little Stoke, near Stone, Staffs, writes: "Have you heard any music by a folk group by the name of 'Magna Carter'? On their latest album called 'Seasons' is a very Tolkien influenced song called 'Ring of Stone', which appears to be the ruined tower on Weathertop. (I haven't, as I don't usually listen to pop music, but this sounds so promising that I will give it a fair hearing as soon as possible. He continues:)

"The other day, looking through an old file in which I keep bits of poetry I write, I discovered one which I had forgotten that I had written. It has no title and it seems now that a couple of the lines have come from LotR though not deliberately so.

I saw them, lying deep
Grim faces and evil,
Noble faces and sad,
Many faces proud and fair,
With weeds entwined
In their silver hair.
Deep, deep they lie,
Beneath the shadow in the sky.
Long have they lain
Since that fell day.
And a thousand leaves
Have fallen since then
In the lost land of Lorien,
That lies below the Sundering Sea.

Long have they lain, and deep
From that day, when the vigil kept
The weary men of war awake.
Spears and swords shone bright.
There were cries of battle
In the fading light.

But the passing years have flown since then
And gone are the Fair to the West at last.