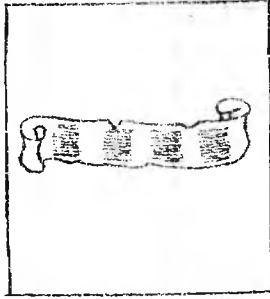
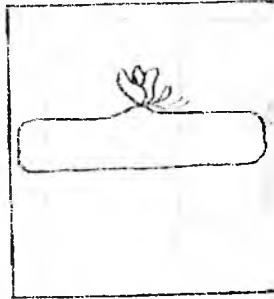


BELLADONNA'S POSTBAG

GREETINGS. During the past quarter I have had visits from several of you - J.D.Collins (who tumbled in on washing-day), Steve Thomson, Kieth Bridges, or Béorn, with all the Béornings, Graham ("of Wells, and many live-calls. I am to see any climb up Flet - but first if 01-387- had some Miss Hill, Officer of Unwin, and confirm



Belladonna's
Broadsheet



Belladonna's
Postbag

Graham") others. Also ly 'phone always glad one who will to my lofty do 'phone me you can, at 2588. I have contact with The Press Allen and I am able to that the

SIIMARILLION is, in effect, finished; but our author keeps on repolishing it. There is however NO truth in the persistent rumour that in the event of his death all unpublished Mss are to be destroyed. This is without any foundation, and all anxiety on that score can be set aside.

J.D.COLLINS. of C.F.Mott College of Education, Prescott, Lancs., writes:

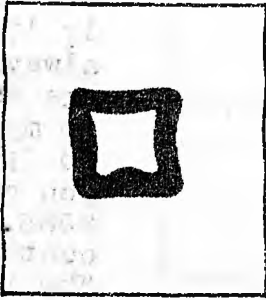
On page 789 of the paperback LotR Gandalf says to Denethor: "For I also am a Steward. Did you not know?" Who then is King or heir to his Stewardship? I can't think of anyone in the book. Help! ((Look up Corinthians, chapter 4, verse 1. That will tell you. BT))

In an 'SF' book entitled "Four-for-the-Future", James Blish wrote a short story called "Skysign". The main character, hardly the hero, is an American - who believe it or not is a member of a Hobbit Society. This point is raised once or twice over. Unfortunately, his actions concerning a certain lady, and other features of the plot, make it quite plain that his concern with Hobbits does not extend to an adoption of their morals or humble ambitions... I got a bit of a shock, that a Hobbitomane could behave like that character did. Obviously, we are no ANGLES (as some will no doubt say if they see this in print) or even ANGELS, however, it did seem to me that 'the Rings' is so full of virtue that it couldn't help rubbing off onto its readers. I can quite plainly see that this need not be so, but I thought I'd rage appropriately. Rage! Rage! ((Your rage is shared, though I haven't read the story. Although there is never any suggestion of the odious taste of "a story with a moral", none the less the trilogy has a very firm moral substructure, and like the three Rings of the Elf-Lords, it "Will not suffer evil". BT))

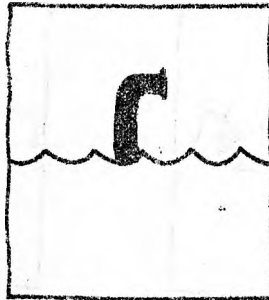
MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN 12, Inverlieth Gardens, Edinburgh, EH3 5PS, Scotland, writes:

Have you noticed correspondence between Wagner and Tolkien? I quote - from memory - one example from "Das Rheingold" - Alberich (who is something like an Orcish Gollum): "So long as he lives, may the Lord of the Ring waste away as the Slave of the Ring" ((Yes, there are many correspondences, and I think, an unconscious background of the Wagnerian type of music. It is quite possible to sing "Ah, Elbereth Gilthoniel" to the tune of "Oh Star of Eve" from "Tannhauser". It might even fit it better than Donald Swann's tune. BT))

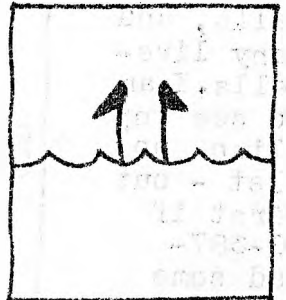
((The next letter, from James Ead, is particularly interesting and important.))



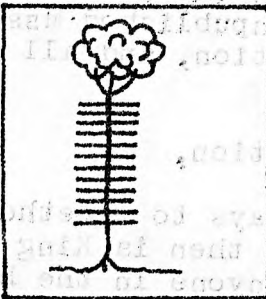
Ring of Power
(an early essay
in the art).



River-woman
Looking for
Goldberry.



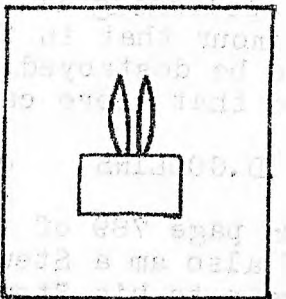
Goldberry looking
for river-woman.



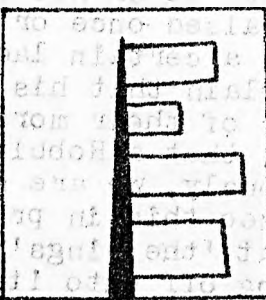
Block of flets



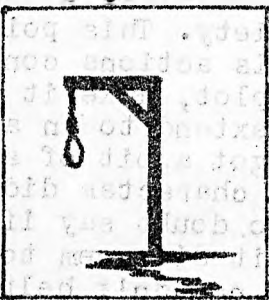
Sauron with grit
in his eye.



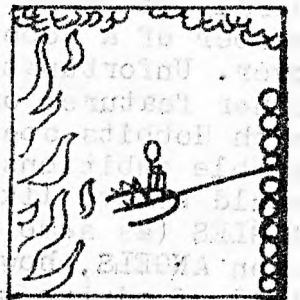
Sam's stewed
rabbit.



Washing-day at
Orthanc.



Barad-dûr
incentive scheme.



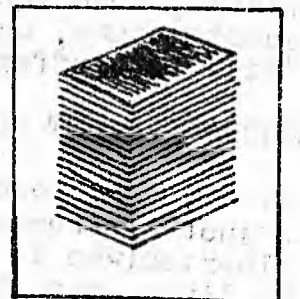
Orcs toasting
a guest.



Shelob & Sons, Ltd.



Shelob on Ice.



Tolkien Society
Constitution
(latest draft).

JAMES (MITHRANDIR) EAD 29, Uttoxeter Road., Little Stoke,
nr Stone, Staffs., writes:

It can now be said that there is one good reason for living in the Midlands, close to that 'blackened area' the Potteries. In fact it appears that a 'light' has appeared amongst the 'Darkness'. We have met none other than Father Tolkien, Professor Tolkien's eldest son, who is a priest in Stoke.

He proved to be a most interesting informant on the Tolkien Scene. Did you know that a film of LotR is under preparation at the moment in America. (A cartoon film!) The Americans it seems pestered the Professor for many years until finally to get some peace... (The reason why he now lives in a secret residence along the Bournemouth coast)

He gave a most interesting talk on Tom Bombadil and the stories which the Professor told to them as children of this strange character. In fact he (Tom Bombadil) was a dutch doll which the Tolkien children possessed- the only reason he was included in the book (for he certainly does not belong) is that the children pestered their father to include him. We are looking forward to meeting Father Tolkien again so that we may further discuss his father and his works.

Has anyone thought of holding the A.G.M. and other important meetings in Birmingham? This seems a better proposition for those members who live in the North. Surely Birmingham is more central and more members could afford to be present. London is such a long way off and the cost of the train fare is beyond the means of many of us.

((The encounter with Father Tolkien is splendid news, as I am sure we will all agree, and I am writing to him forthwith. Regarding the idea of holding the A.G.M. in Birmingham; you have a point there, but unfortunately it cuts both ways! That's the difficulty of being so widely spread. But I do agree that we should do something about it.

That's about all now; The postal strike did of course reduce the postbag a great deal, but now we can circulate again.

Belladonna Took.

A LATE ENTRY from Steve Thomson, concerning Heather Ale.

Actually, the secret of Heather Ale is still with us. In an old book of my brother's, "Moldy Warp the Mole" by Alison Uttley (Collins, 1940), Moldy Warp visits the Badger while on a treasure hunt. I quote: "'Come and have some supper,' said the Badger jovially. He drew a jug of Heather Ale from a cask in the corner, and cut a hunch of sweet herb bread... 'Your health, Badger, sir' said the Mole, sipping the Heather Ale. 'My! this is good' He smacked his lips."

"'Made from a long-forgotten recipe,' said the Badger. 'It is brewed from the heath and gorse flowers round here, picked when the honey is in the blossoms. Nobody knows how to make it, but the Badger. Even Man has forgotten. I'll give you a pitcher of it to carry home.'" All you have to do is ask a badger...

-----BELLADONNA in RIVENDELL-----

It felt like Rivendell to me - anyhow it was the "House of Elrond" in a sense, though the world would call it the C.F.Mott College of Education. Having been invited by the "Council of Elrond" smial to give a talk as a part of their Arts Week, I journeyed down on May 5th, and finally found myself in a lovely place of large windows, grass and trees and friendly faces.

About 25 Hobbit-friends came and listened to my talk with gratifying interest, and discussion afterwards was very lively. J.D.Collins, Paul Coard and Graham Lamb were the moving spirits but there were also Janet and Jane and many others, who will forgive me if I haven't remembered their names. We had a very long talk afterwards, 'till the academic locking of doors drove us to our own quarters. A very enjoyable time indeed.