

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS With comments still by Steve ((...))

JOHN B. ABBOTT of "Rowans", 18, Eden Avenue, Dewsbury Road, Wakefield, Yorkshire, writes:

Mallorn continues to improve, May its Twigs Never Mildew! Mallorn 3 has another arresting cover by A.R.Fallone. (I thought at first it was one of those anti-smoking ads.) He is a first-rate artist. "Some Comparisons" by J.D.Collins was a suitably light and lively article to kick off with. Ian Shaw's honey beer sounds delicious, but far too much trouble for lazy beggars like me to make.

"The Religion of a Hobbit" and "Hippy versus Hobbit" by B. Took were quite polished. "Some thoughts on Hippies and Hobbits" was also well written : however "The Adventures of Tom Bombadil" does refer to the wedding of Bombadil and Goldberry.. (Mere Bucklandish heresy?) I fear that my interest in the hippie/hobbit business is now waning somewhat. Aren't the combatants ready to call it a day? ((Yes, they are, partly because there wo'n't be much more on it in Mallorn...))

"Belladonna's Postbag" made pleasant reading (I find her kindly comments rather like a drug...) are there were one or two interesting comments on our Father-in-Lore (Sorry) himself. Could James Ead be persuaded to write a bit more on J.R.R.T.?

Enclosed is a hallmarked silver brooch from the Shetlands, showing an elven-style ship - actually a Viking vessel. Could you offer it as a prize in some competition in Mallorn? ((We've broached the subject later on in the magazine... I suppose we should disqualify you from winning? Of course if you were the only entrant I'd have no choice but to keep it!))

"Lotho learned in lore? Junk!" there! An anagram for "John Ronald Reuel Tolkien". One can pick out words like The Nine, Lothlorien, Rohan etc., but something always goes wrong! e.g. "Elrond a junkie? Not he!" leaves "Roll" surplus... does "Elrond roll a junkie? Not he!" make sense?

Finally a holiday season note:- The Nine are abroad. They're touring France again this year."

ARTHUR CRUTTENDEN of Idiocy Couchant, 11, Heath Lodge Site, Welwyn, Herts., plays Mah-Jong fairly well, (Brilliantly by my standards) and also writes, at various dates:- "Firstly, please accept my sincere thanks for the beautiful illoe of 'me' on the front cover of Mallorn 2. Egotism aside, Tony's rendering is excellent. "The Dragon" . Interesting article tho' it ignores two of the best known dragons, the Chinese and the Welsh. The latter does not matter, but the former could have had a paragraph or two devoted to it(Them?)

And now a LoC on 3. I am, in general, in agreement with J.D. Collins' conclusions, tho' I don't hold the "Narnia's" in such high regard. In the unlikely event of my wishing to read about Christianity I do possess a Bible for this purpose. Lewis' stories are just allegories, a form of proselytizing ((Look that one up)) I do not like.

"The Religion of a Hobbit" provoked a certain amount of thought with the conclusion that their religirious beliefs - as expressed in "The Hobbit" - are best summed up as "Eat, drink, and be merry - for tomorrow we will do it again!" ((I could be a very religious Hobbit according to your idea! I go to "church" as often as possible!)) Hippies again. In Mallorn 2 I found myself agreeing with much Belladonna said, only to turn around on Tony Fallone's reply. I did disagree with Belladonna over her interpretation of the Palantins - that was a bit extreme. In Mallorn 3 - more concise ,well-thought out articles. Please continue publishing

these. Now to skim through the illoes. The front cover - before seeing the title I had thought "Rohan", tho' ~~that King was not~~, of course so emaciated. The Dead King, who he? A good piece of work but a trifle offputting. The lino-cut awes too dark and the figure did not stand out enough ((This was a bit of an experiment - we didn't know if it would print well or not. The first copies were better than the others - you may have had a bad copy.)) Bryan T's other three are much better, P. 20 in particular. That would make a marvellous stead for a Nazgul. John Abbott's efforts got some appreciative laughs here.

From the letters, Hartley is right you know. In the Hobbit they have dug a hole and pulled it in after them. Thus they are completely unprepared for the arrival of Saruman and Wormtongue. Could this be a warning?

SU ADLER & HELEN KERLEY of 27 Towers Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middx. and of 34 Durley Ave., Pinner, Middlesex, start off writing as Su :- Thanks a bunch for Mallorn 3 and attached literature, and now an ORGANISED comment. I care not what you say about the cover's artistic merits, I think it's 'orrible. Gave me quite a turn it did! I especially liked the first page. Perchance the list of illustrations was most pleasing to the eye, and John Abbot's spacefiller was equally pleasing. ((I was just going to mention that, after the comment about the quality of the lino-cut above. This filler only appeared on some contents pages. Other people - including me! - didn't get one on their page.))

J.D.Collins' thingummy is very nice, if you happen to agree with him (I'll tell you if I do after further contemplation) Has anyone pointed out to him that there are four Garner books? The Wierdstone of Brisinghamen, The Moon of Gomrath, Elidor, and The Owl Service.

Concerning the Kilroy was here whatsit, (I can't do runes on a typewriter)((Neither can I -ST)) I dimly remember reading an SF story about this Martian who was sent to observe Earthlings' habits. He was told to leave no trace of himself on Earth. He was successful in his mission and gathered lots of useful information, but on the last day of his sojourn on Earth, he felt that he couldn't leave Earth to continue just as before his arrival, so he took a piece of chalk and wrote on a wall, "Kilroy(His name) was here". The he left this planet for ever.

No, I don't think I'll try making honey beer, it's not the large quantities involved or the price... it's just that there's not a warm place in the vicinity in which I could store the elixir for 36 hours plus...

And then there was Belladonna's philosophical soliloquy, on which I shan't comment (She won't comment cos she can't understand them - they're above her. Nell Kerley) I shall treat that remark with the contempt it deserves, and the major Hippy Controversy, on which I shan't commit myself.

So never say you don't get enough letters again - you might get another like this - you have been warned!

DAVE WELDRAKE of 9, South View Terrace, Hill Head, Halifax Road, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, writes:- Thanks for Mallorn 3, a few comments then... Firstly I resent the implications that my name has anything to do with firebrakes or dragons or anything of that sort. I'm a gentle sort of person, hardly likely to breath fire at anyone... But for the benefit of Messrs. Archie Mercer and A.R.Fallone I will explain where the name came from. You see long ago in the prehistoric past I had an ancestor whose job was to fix the heads of garden implements onto the handles. For this operation, being a very advanced and intelligent caveman, he used an arc-welder. Naturally enough the other cavemen thought this

strange and used to taunt him with cries of WELD-RAKE, WELD-RAKE. And that is how the family got it's name...

All of which is almost as bad as your ent puns (rather malevol-ent, I thought) but I shall try a few, (h)int-ent on them being published. I don't know about Treebeard being import-ent, but I would have thought that, since there were no Entwives around to ent-ice the males with flirtatious ent-erprises, bothe Quickbeam and Treebeard would soon have become impot-ent. (Sorry!)((And so you should be, I hope you are now very penit-ent.ST))

And now for something completely different...

The various criticisms/praises (especially the latter) of my article are appreciated. I take Archie Mercer's point that parts of it did sound like "Man, Myth and Magic". There are no excuses for this, except to say that MMM was one of the major sources. The others, for those interested in the subject were "Englist Legends" by Henry Bëtt, and "Unnatural History" by Colin Clair, plus a few other bits and pieces.

Anyway the encouragement induces me to try my hand at writing another article, but not a sequel to 'Dragons' which some people would appear to like. ((It is this article which appear in this issue - with a list of books consulted at the end of the article.ST))

I liked the last cover. Repulsively brilliant it was... John Abbott's doodles are fun too...

Honey Beer? Sounds delicious! Immediately I read the recipe I rushed out and bought all the ingredients. I've known Ian Shaw for years and he's never even once offered me any honey beer ((That's 'cos he's got more sense than to offer the stuff around...))

HAL BROOME (Mithrandir of Istar
Smial) writes:--

AR. Fallone mentioned an idea about a theme song for the Tolkien Society, so I humbly submit my idea of the music to "Far Over The Misty Mountains Cold" ((This is the same music mentioned in Belladonna's Postbag, and is copied on the right. It is very faint since it was drawn in pencil, but should be all right. ST)) The melody is in the treble line, and the chords in

The image shows a handwritten musical score for the song "Far Over The Misty Mountains Cold". The score is written on ten staves. The top staff is the treble clef, containing the melody. The lower staves contain chords, with some marked with "Bm" and "F#". The tempo is marked "Moderato Tempo". The score is written in pencil and is quite faint. There are some annotations in the margins, including "OH" and "INTRO".

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parentheses are for the guitar. I trust you can pick out the right note for each syllable - it may have to be "warped" in some verses to fit the words.

Now "Mallorn III". First of all, the cover was fantastic, but it did give me rather a turn when I first saw it. (My guess is that it's a member of the Tolkien Soc. looking in the contents page and finding another "Hippy vs. Hobbit" article!)

One word of criticism! Discretion should be shown in the inclusion of word puns such as "was Treebeard important?", or you might find people sending in thousands of puns in that line! (To prove a point and also because I can't resist, "Why was Gandalf such an 'Istari-cal figure?" "Why are Tolkien's works so Hobbit-forming?") A joke page for such things could be included in the Mallorn ((Oh no it couldn't! Humour will probably be limited to the letters pages and to the Competition, as far as puns and jokes go. Of course, humorous articles as such are not excluded...ST)) but the only jokes I see with joke pages are the ones my nine year old brother brings home.

The book review I've sent is of "Lud-in-the-Mist", which is in the Ballantine Fantasy Series. One book in this series I would like to review is "Deryni Rising" by Katherine Kurtz. It promises to be great when it's finished (the first book came out last August (1970) with two more proposed ones to carry it on) and I think it has many Tolkien influences in it. ((This is the book reviewed by Tony Fallone this issue, and it promises to be a rather good book.))

By the way, anyone interested in a war-game of LotR please contact me ((Hal Broome - address in Belladonna's Postbag)) Three other friends and myself are working on a wargame of Middle-earth, which is now in the rule-forming stage. We have already made the game board, (A large map of Middle-earth) and the rules will take into account every factor in LotR. ((Enclosed with this Mallorn is Midgard V, a flyer from Hartley Patterson, whose own war game is coming on fine. Also based on Sword-and-Sorcery, any number may play. His board is very impressive, and seems well organised.))

I will be looking forward to Mallorn 4, whenever it comes out. One suggestion for the Mallorn: since membership is spread out so far, and members rarely see each other (if at all) why not turn over some space in the Mallorn for individual Smials to list their member's names, hobbies, descriptions, and other items about themselves? This could be done on the basis of one Smial per Mallorn. As A.R. Fallone says, who knows who is in charge of the Ts? Also, if any member writes an article, have him give some info on himself. (Maybe I'm nosey, but I would like to find out more about the other members)((This is a good idea, especially for article-writers to give descriptions of themselves. Of course, to give the lead, we should start with one on one Hal Broome, of the Istari Smial...))

BRYAN TALBOT of 104, Scot Lane, Newtown, Wigan, Lancs., wrote a short note on the content of his illustrations: In case anybody is wondering what the 'Stormbringer' pic.((p16)) is all about, I'll explain it thusly:-

The face in the cloud is Elric's patron god, Arioch. The figure and sword are, of course, Elric and Stormbringer (Respectively!) He stands amidst the ruins of his city of Melnibone. The drips (obviously) represent the spilt blood of Stormbringer's victims, and the uncertain, confused stuff between the skyline and the drips is Chaos matter. Simple enough, eh? The cover picture is nobody in particular, or anybody you want, (if you are so inclined).

A.R. FALLONE of 7, Broxburn Road, Broadway Estate, Warminster, Wilts., writes:-

I am overwhelmed! Staggered and rendered extremely plumptious by all this praise and that. My ego is now so large I have to carry it around in a little cart behind me. Seriously, though I was very happy with the comments on my stuff, both for and against, and the anti ones gave me good constructive criticism.

Comments on Mallorn III: Archie Mercer's letter - the cover was not meant to be Strider but at the time I drew it ('66) I was utterly steeped in LotR almost to the exclusion of any other literature and my pen could hardly fail to follow the outlines of the forms from Tolkien that floated at the back of my mind. I have drawn Strider many times since, and a blonde Aryan is not how I see him either. Gaunt, dark of skin and hair, hawklike with lines of care and trouble.

Hard to follow - yes! I am sure it was. Unlike Belladonna I have not got a clear logical mind - my thoughts tend to come out in one great disorganised gush and not in an intelligible sequence. ((Just like me - that's why this page is no 8b!)) I envy her tis ability, which may be one fostered by an academic training.

I thoroughly enjoyed John Abbott's drawings, heraldic and otherwise, and the daisy in the claws of the dead dragon was a fine touch.

Re. analysis of Tolkien as commented on in David Pearson's letter - it seems to me that when writing a book in this branch of Fantasy, i.e. the invented world category, the more care taken over detail, artificial history, character background, etc, in other words the richer the tapestry the author weaves, the more convincing the finished product, and to do this the author needs time. Fourteen years is a long time, but considering the result of that work only just long enough. I have high hopes of the Silmarillion, as it has been so many years in the borning and must be intricate and rich indeed. Polish away, Professor Tolkien, and more power to your elbow! ((I agree; I think that the only point where the background to LotR wears thin is in the appendix on the translation of the names used - this could well have been left out))

As r.e. James Ead's letter - I am sure he is right when he speculates that Professor Tolkien's religious beliefs and ideals colour his writing, whether he will or no. Belladonna later on in the Mallorn says much the same thing. I think it is impossible for someone to be apersonal (without taint of personlity) in their creations, in literature or art or music. When that someone has a creed that subtly or overtly rules the greater part of their life, as Roman Catholicism does, then the taint is even harder to avoid. The fact that Tolkien has succeeded to the extent that he has is to my mind a marvel.

Now, J.D. Collins's 'Comparisons'. First of all he says 'the three Garner books'. Has he not heard of "The Owl Service", best of the lot? His rather cavalier dismissal of Garner as being up the shute seems very harsh. Mr. Collins, read "The Owl Service" - then read it again to understand it properly and only then make your pronouncement of Alan Garner's ability as a strong fantasy writer! I agree with the rest of what he says about Narnia and Middle-earth. As for me, I find the Narnia sceries almost unreadable. Regards books on an equal standing with Tolkien - well, bearing in mind what I said about length of time in writing and care in construction, the only book I know of in this class is Lin Carter's "Khymerium" which has been some years in the making and will not be finished, according to the author, for another ten. While waiting for this great tome to errupt onto the scene (and what excerpts I have read seem very, very interesting) Mr Collins would do well

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to get hold of books like "Deryni Rising" by Katherine Kurtz, which I regard as being every bit as good as LotR. "Wizard of Earthsea" by Ursula K. LeGuin published by Ace is another which is absolutely enthralling, really brilliant. Going further into the SF area is "Dune" by Frank Herbert published by NEL - another great fat volume complete with maps and appendix and real depth of detail. Seek and ye shall find. These books really do exist.

Honey Beer: and here I was, trying to kick the Hobbit... what do you want, a whole Soc. smashed out of its skull?

Hobbit Religion : I think that Belladonna may be guilty of trying to project her own ideas onto Tolkien here; just because the Hobbit life so resembled an English country village and its inhabitants does not mean that it was, in all respects.

Bob Borsley's article : I agree with it all. He says in cool, clinical and studied tones wh't I tried to say in my outpourings but did not make clear. But he was a little dull about it.

All I will say about the cover is that it is bound to put someone off their bacon and eggs in the morning... ((Finally from Tony, a poem for which he has a "fond affection, if nobody else does"))

GHOST OF LOVE

White, O White, my lady, pale and languid,
Waiting by the Windleside and weeping.
No breezes bring good news or bad -
The sky is blue and sleeping.

The river is a silent mirror, swollen
By your aching tears, taking years
To fall and fall and stain the page
That fulfilled your fears.

Do you see me waiting ,too, and sad,
Just by your shoulder, no older,
The lad you saw an age ago
When he was a pretty soldier.

You have changed, O you have grown
Wintered and with loveless lips
Dry as is my heart and blood
And withered as my fingertips.

White, O white, my lady pale and languid,
Sleeping by the Windleside and grieving...
Nightjars croak my message to you
As I listen to your breathing.

Stars sing songs of bygone longings,
Moonlight shadows limn your length...
I yearn only to touch your lashes,
But my bones have not the strength.

Every time you think of me
I will draw to your side,
Stand by your shoulder, no older,
As though I had never died...