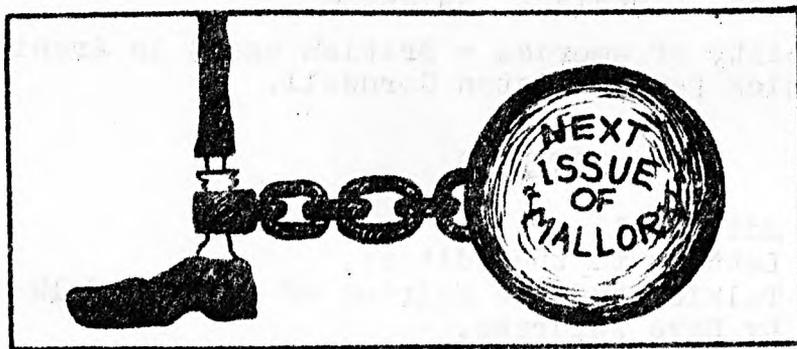


THE EDITORS' THING for Mallorn 4 starts with stuff from Matthew:-  
Well, it's yet another Mallorn, this time post A's and pre-University. Laurelindorenan splits up into fragments dispersed to York, Leeds, Sussex, East Anglia, Nottingham etc. The next Mallorn will be edited by Steve from East Anglia. Perhaps Laurelindorenan will spread its influence and found mini-smials wherever it spreads; anyway it's only 12 weeks (ONLY!) 'till we meet again for Christmas.

Which brings us onto the question of membership, currently at about 65, because there are still those who haven't sent this year's but are going to. On my travels over the last six weeks (shows how much I've done on this issue) I've met plenty of people who are keen on LotR, but none of them had heard of the Ts. Without having been heard of it's hard to sell subscriptions even to one's friend's. I consider a membership of several hundreds to be tolerable, or even essential, and it should be possible to achieve this with ease, considering the hundreds of thousands of people who have read LotR. So, please try and persuade all those you know who had subscripitions last year to resubscribe, and get all your salesmanship to work for more subs. Also the society should advertise at a national level:- suggestions have ranged from the Telegraph and New Statesman to Private Eye and International Times, but for Bilbo's sake, somebody do something!

If nothing is done to boost subs over 200 soon, the Mallorn will only be able to remain at the present standard even with difficulty if it is to appear frequently, let alone improve.



An Editor (detail). 48A.

After that sympathetic comment from John B Abbott, and Matthew's crusading zeal, we will return to the lazier style of Steven.

This present issue is another step on the way to the Mallorn being a "Learned Journal". Seriously, there are more interesting articles in this than previously, and more relating to LotR itself, instead of the trials and tribulations of the Society itself. It is really pleasing to have so many book reviews - keep it up! - and the longer articles are both very good. Apologies to Tony Fallone fans for the lack of his artwork in this issue, but the cover we had lined up will appear next issue. Apologies also to Charles Noad, who sent a large addition to the Bibliography, but there wasn't time or space to include it this issue. As you see, we had to put in two extra pages - 8b and 8c - to fit in all the letters we wanted. There were already many more pages than previously. And the final apology to Bob Borsley. His last article in the last paragraph should have read, "There is one further comment" not "There is no further comment". No comment.

