

MALLORN

The magazine of the Tolkien Society

Editorial Comment

This is the first edition of The Mallorn to be produced under a totally new system. As Managing Editor, I have the over-all responsibility to the Society with regard to all aspects of publication. The job is that of co-ordinating article-writers, typists, artists and other contributors with the needs of the printers. For this edition and also Mallorn 9, I shall also be responsible for editing each magazine, that is, selecting which articles, artwork etc. go forward to be printed. However, next year (1975) I shall need other people to do this last job for me, since it should not be left in one pair of hands too long.

There is no strenuous work involved, merely collecting the contributions, possibly having them re-typed (depending on your time and ability) and sending them to me for printing. So, volunteers, please form an orderly queue and let me know.

The more astute of our readers will now have realised that this is no ordinary Mallorn, bashed out by a red-hot Gestetner. It is, in fact, Xeroxed, by the well-known firm of the same name. This means that line drawings can be reproduced effortlessly. It is not expensive and does, you will admit, look better. However, we cannot print blank paper. Whatever method of printing is used, we must have something to print. It is YOUR magazine, we need YOUR contributions.

Although an improvement on stencils, the Xerox process does have limitations when considering artwork. Pencilled stuff is out: unfortunately, lying in the Mallorn file at this moment is a superb pencil sketch of Bill Ferry, which cannot be reproduced yet.

If you have any drawings or diagrams to send, please can you ink them in - black preferably and although ball-point or fountain pens are acceptable, the ideal is the Rotring. John Abbot's cartoons, the crossword and Tony Pallone's Tygre have all been done this way - look at the results! When you ~~do~~ send pictures, DO NOT FOLD THEM - creases do not improve your work.

The bias of this edition is toward the scholarly/theoretical side - we have Part Two of Jim Allen's extrapolative article about The Silmarillion, and a very good piece by Peter Burley on the Dunadanic Empires. Peter has, in the past, produced some first-rate lectures to the University College London Hobbit Society on his speciality - historical, geographical and political interpretations. This new article continues his good work.

The Crossword represents a psychological warfare move by the Editorial Committee (i.e. me). The answers will be published in Mallorn 9 late this year. Thus we

keep you on tenterhooks and ensure a ready market for Mallorn 9 when it does appear.

Regarding The Silmarillion, much was said by Mr. Unwin at the A. G. M. dinner; an account of some of this is included as seen by Charles Load. However, it is certain that we should not expect publication for a minimum of three years, but very soon after that the issue of the work is reasonably definite. The problems facing Christopher Tolkien, who is consolidating his father's notes, are almost unbelievable. Notes dating back decades (literally!), bits and pieces scribbled on old newspaper crosswords, and even old envelopes all have to be examined. Verse and prose variations are also present - the early notes being verse in the High Manner. Imagine a table eight feet long stacked with bulging box-files. That is the present state of The Silmarillion. The book should be the size of one of the 3 hard-backed volumes (approx. Needless to say, we wish Christopher Tolkien well for his long task. Three years is a long time to wait on tenterhooks !

This edition also marks a sad occasion, that of the Professor's departure from Middle-earth. All we can offer are our sincere condolences to his family and friends: enough obituaries have been written. I have included, verbatim, that published by "The Times" since it says everything we could say.

At the A. G. M. it was put to the members that we should honour the Professor's memory by appointing him our Honourary President in perpetuo. This was acclaimed unanimously; having honoured us in his lifetime by accepting the position, we can now, in some way, return the gesture.

Grateful thanks are due to all contributors, and to my brother, Lester E. Simons, who typed every word of Mallorn 8.