

Another and final point, but the worst one. *The Adventures of Tom Bombadil* has also been translated by the same editor. As soon as I saw the book I bought it: £4.25. The first two pages were a delight, for the Tolkien family had kindly sent two manuscript pages of *The Lord of the Rings* written by Tolkien himself. If only they had known! The translation is awful. When you read that *Fíriel* ('The Last Ship') has become "*Fierette*", and that all the rest is as bad, or worse, you simply have to tear out the two pages of Tolkien's manuscript and put the book into the fire. The translator uses a pseudonym, but in fact is a pot-boiler writer of erotic thrilling detective stories.

After such disasters, I think that one of the purposes of the Tolkien Society should be not only to spread the knowledge of Tolkien's work in the world, but also to protect it from poor translations. So - what are we waiting for?

Bilbo le Hobbit is published by Stock, Hachette Bibliothèque Verte and J'aillu Editions.

Le Seigneur des Anneaux is published by Christian Bourgois and "Le Livre de Poche".

Faërie and *Les Aventures de Tom Bombadil*, are published by Christian Bourgois.



A Changeling's Words to Mrs. V. Chapman

*Belladonna Took,
fair enchantress of the quill,
your words run like a river
all pure and free,
May the Stars do your will,
May no cold wind blow,
may your spring be fair
with elanor aplenty to adorn your hair.
And may the mellyrn trees grow
where you wish them to go.
High grew the oaks in the Land of Song
But our people are gone, scattered and rare
Yet you reach us still, though exiles we be
And I, Amathaon the Changeling, bow to thee.*

Gordon MacLellan