J.R.R. TOLKIEN: THE MAKING OF A LEGEND

Colin Duriez
1. “I am in fact a Hobbit…”

1. Through J.R.R. Tolkien’s childhood and youth to his coming-of-age, I simply call him “Ronald”, and “Tolkien” thereafter. He was called a variety of names at different times by various people – John, John Ronald, Tolkien, or even Tollers.


3. *Ibid*.


6. Now called “Fern Cottage”.


2. Edith


2. Quoted by Mr Gerard Tracey on http://www.birmingham-oratory.org.uk/TheOratory/Tolkien/tabid/76/Default.aspx

3. Peter Jackson’s *The Two Towers* comes down on the side of the towers being Orthanc and Barad-dûr, a possibility considered by Tolkien. In the story itself, there is no clear indication of this.

12. The hotel no longer exists, and the building is in poor state of repair. See: www.savethe3cups.info
13. The Index of Wills and Administration for 1891 contains the following entry for Alfred Frederick Warrillow (Personal Estate £8,724 15s. 2d.): “23 April. The Will of Alfred Frederick Warrillow late of Hudson House Strechford in the Parish of Yardley in the County of Worcester and of 101 Great-Hampton-street in the City of Birmingham Paper Dealer who died 12 March 1891 at Hudson House was proved at Worcester by Frances Bratt of Hudson House Spinster the sole Executrix.”

### 3. Schooldays and the T.C.B.S.


1. After the First World War, his future friend C.S. Lewis would start his studies in the same school of Literae Humaniores. Lewis was six years Tolkien’s junior.
2. These authors can be enjoyed in contemporary translation in the Penguin Classics series. Tolkien may have become, or already been, aware of Plato’s creation account, *Timaeus*, at this time. It provides useful background reading for Tolkien’s beautiful depiction of the creation of the universe and Middle-earth in the first section of his *The Silmarillion* – his body of tales about, and accounts of, the early ages of Middle-earth that forms the rich background of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.


9. Bodleian Library, Tolkien Special Collection, A21/1.


11. The historic West Midlands region includes the counties of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire, as well as the more recent West Midlands conurbation or metropolitan county, formed in 1974.

12. Not Victoria Road, as stated in *The Tolkien Family Album*, Scull and Hammond, and elsewhere.

5. *Tolkien and the shadow of war*

1. From time to time the Bodleian Library in Oxford displays some of his drawings and paintings, from its large archives.
8. Humphrey Carpenter, *ibid*, p. 79.

### 6. War and loss

2. In Thiepval Wood on the Somme (the scene of some of the fiercest fighting in the Battle of the Somme later that year), according to Garth, *ibid*, p. 117.

3. Quoted in Garth, *ibid*, p. 117.


8. For more on Lanky, see http://www.paulsalveson.org.uk/northern-voices-dialect-writing-of-lancashire-and-yorkshire/


14. See http://history-world.org/world_war_one.htm


17. Quoted in Gilbert, *ibid*, p. 201.

### 7. *Recovery, “W”, and a half a million words (Pages 00 – 00)*

8. Leeds and dragons


3. John Lucas, “Auden’s politics: power, authority and the


10. Ibid, p. 159.


10. Of Hobbits and Inklings


11. Tolkien’s second war

1. It is likely that by this date Tolkien’s duties as an air-raid warden had begun, following the London Blitz (heavy bombing), which started in September 1940.


3. C.S. Lewis, *Arthurian Torso: Containing the Posthumous Fragment of “The Figure of Arthur” by Charles Williams and a Commentary on the Arthurian Poems of Charles Williams by C.S. Lewis* (London: Oxford

### 12. The struggle to publish

2. See the BBC television coverage of the occasion at http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/princesselizabeth/6621.shtml
7. Clyde S. Kilby and Marjorie Lamp Mead (eds.), *Brothers and Friends: The Diaries of Major Warren Hamilton Lewis* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1988), pp. 233234. There’s no Pring Rd in Malvern; it may be an error for “Spring Lane”.

**13. The Tolkien phenomenon, and farewell**


Duriez, Colin, *Tolkien and The Lord of the Rings: A Guide to Middle-
earth (Stroud: The History Press, 2004)

Fimi, Dimitra, Tolkien, Race and Cultural History (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010).


Kilby, Clyde S., Tolkien and the Silmarillion (Wheaton, Ill.: Harold Shaw, 1976).


