

Old Dominion University Model United Nations Society

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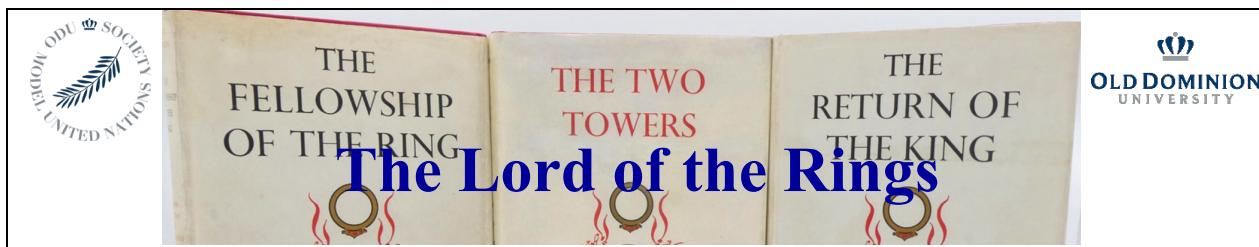
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Introduction: Lord of the Rings

The Lord of the Rings is a fantasy epic by J. R. R. Tolkien, a scholar of ancient Germanic languages at Oxford University. Set in Middle-earth, the story began as a sequel to Tolkien's 1937 children's book *The Hobbit*. It developed into a much larger work, written between 1937

and 1949. Published in a limited first edition in 1954-55, *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the most popular and influential novels ever, with over 150 million copies sold. The movie version, directed by Peter Jackson, released in 2001-03, globalized the audience.

The *Lord of the Rings* is the story's principal antagonist, Sauron, who created the One Ring,



allowing him to rule the other Rings of Power given to Dwarves, Elves, Hobbits and Men, in his campaign to conquer all of Middle-earth.

Free Peoples, or fall to betrayal, division, and using the Ring for evil?



Original drawing of Orthanc by J.R.R. Tolkien. In Allison Flood, 'JRR Tolkien's own illustrations appear in Lord of the Rings for the first time', *Guardian*, 25 March 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/mar/25/jrr-tolkien-s-own-illustrations-appear-in-lord-of-the-rings-for-the-first-time>

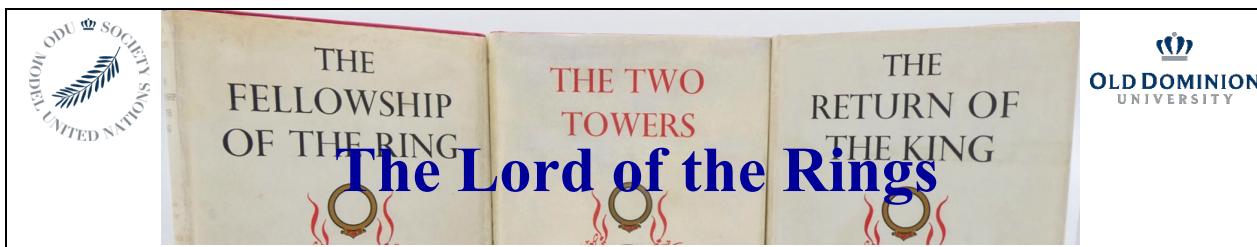
This ODUMUNC crisis simulation beings with Middle-earth on the edge of ruin. The One Ring, the most powerful of all Rings, finds its way to the Shire, home of Hobbits, and with it, the shadow Sauron grows once more. With rising tension, fear, and dark forces in Mordor, Dwarves, Elves, Hobbits and Men gather in Rivendell to finalize the fate of the Ring, along with the future of their world. Will the fate of the Ring lead to destruction and unity among the

Major Characters at ODUMUNC

Aragorn (Strider) is the traditional hero of *The Lord of the Rings*—the noble warrior who, through valiant martial acts, wins back his crown and marries the fair maiden in the end. Tolkien's choice to make hobbits (the everyday people) the protagonists of his story forces Aragorn into a subordinate position in the narrative, but the reader's response to Aragorn remains what it would be for a conventional medieval epic or romance hero—a King Arthur, a Roland, or a Beowulf.

Aragorn leads the Company of the Ring following the loss of Gandalf in the Mines of Moria. When the Fellowship is broken, he tracks the hobbits Meriadoc Brandybuck and Peregrin Took with the help of Legolas the elf and Gimli the dwarf to Fangorn Forest. He fights in the battle at Helm's Deep and the Battle of the Pelennor Fields. After defeating Sauron's forces in Gondor, he leads the armies of Gondor and Rohan against the Black Gate of Mordor, distracting Sauron's attention and enabling Frodo Baggins and Samwise Gamgee to destroy the One Ring. Aragorn is proclaimed King by the people of Gondor and crowned King of both Gondor and Arnor. He marries Arwen and rules for 122 years.

Tolkien developed the character of Aragorn over a long period, beginning with a hobbit nicknamed Trotter and trying out many names before arriving at a Man named Aragorn. Commentators have proposed historical figures such as King Oswald of Northumbria and King Alfred the Great as sources of inspiration for Aragorn, noting parallels such as spending time



in exile and raising armies to retake their kingdoms. Aragorn has been compared to the figure of Christ as King, complete with the use of prophecy paralleling the Old Testament's foretelling of the Messiah. Others have evaluated his literary status using Northrop Frye's classification, suggesting that while the hobbits are in "Low Mimetic" mode and characters such as Éomer are in "High Mimetic" mode, Aragorn reaches the level of "Romantic" hero as he is superior in ability and lifespan to those around him.



It has been suggested that Tolkien based Aragorn on the saint and king *Oswald of Northumbria*. Max Adams, *The King in the North: The Life and Times of Oswald of Northumbria*, 2014.

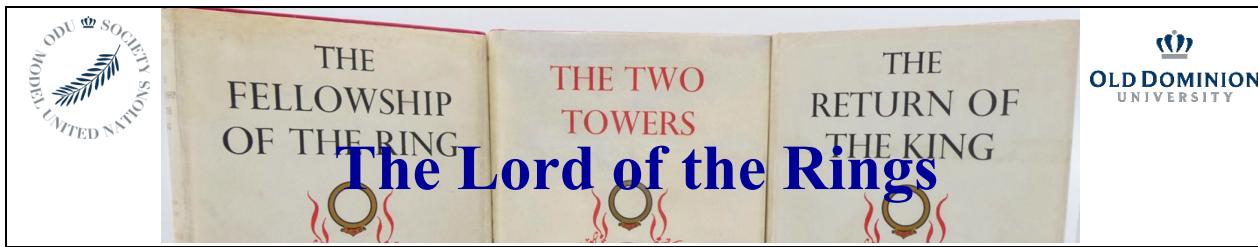
Boromir a nobleman of Gondor who joins the company in Rivendell. A valiant, powerful warrior, he nevertheless is unable to resist the corrupting force of the Ring, which he wants to use as a weapon against Sauron. Boromir's attempt to take the Ring from Frodo by force leads to the splitting of the fellowship.

Boromir is portrayed as a noble character who believed passionately in the greatness of his kingdom and fought indomitably for it. His great stamina and physical strength, together with a forceful and commanding personality, made him a widely admired commander in Gondor's army and the favourite of his father Denethor. As a member of the Fellowship, his desperation to save his country ultimately drove him to betray his companions and attempt to seize the Ring, but he was redeemed by his repentance and brave last stand.

Commentators have remarked on Boromir's vainglory and desire for the Ring. They have compared him both to other proud Tolkien characters such as Fëanor and Túrin Turambar, and to medieval heroes like Roland, who also blew a horn in battle and was killed in the wilderness. His boat-funeral, too, has been likened to Scyld Scefing's ship-burial in *Beowulf*.

Éomer, Théoden's nephew, who becomes king of Rohan after Théoden's death. A mighty warrior, he becomes Aragorn's friend and steadfast ally. He appears in *The Lord of the Rings* as a leader of the Riders of Rohan who serve as cavalry to the army of Rohan, fighting against Mordor.

The name Éomer, meaning "Horse-famous" in Old English, is from *Beowulf*, a work that Tolkien had studied extensively. Despite the evident Old English connection, Tolkien denied that Éomer and the Riders of Rohan directly represented the Anglo-Saxons. Scholars have noted that while in a book the imagery remains ambiguous, and can combine suggestions of Gothic as well as Anglo-Saxon origins, film such as Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy inevitably has to choose. When Éomer appears in a helmet recalling the Sutton Hoo helmet, he is plainly Anglo-Saxon.



Forlong also known as Forlong the Fat and Forlong the Old, was a Man of Gondor from the province of Lossarnach, south of the White Mountains. Forlong was the Lord of the lands of Lossarnach, and was famed for his enormous girth (hence the name 'Forlong the Fat'). Though he was well aged by the time of the War of the Ring, he came to the aid of Minas Tirith with two hundred of his men. He was unhorsed and killed by axes at the Battle of the Pelennor Fields, and buried before the gate alongside Hirluin as was told in the song of the Mounds of Mundburg.



Original drawing of The Forest of Lothlórien in Spring by JRR Tolkien. In Allison Flood, 'JRR Tolkien's own illustrations appear in Lord of the Rings for the first time', *Guardian*, 25 March 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/mar/25/jrr-tolkien-s-own-illustrations-appear-in-lord-of-the-rings-for-the-first-time>

Ruling from the town of Arnach near Imloth Melui, Forlong is the husband of Vanyalos, the sister of Steward Denethor. He was originally promised to his other sister, Terenis, but after laying his eyes upon Vanyalos he asked the Steward for her heart instead and Denethor granted him his wish. This caused a lifelong strife between the sisters, with Terenis never getting over the broken promise. During his youth Forlong fought in the battle upon the

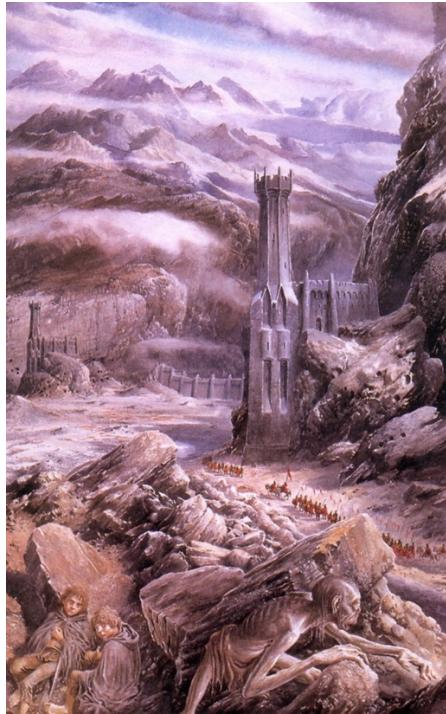
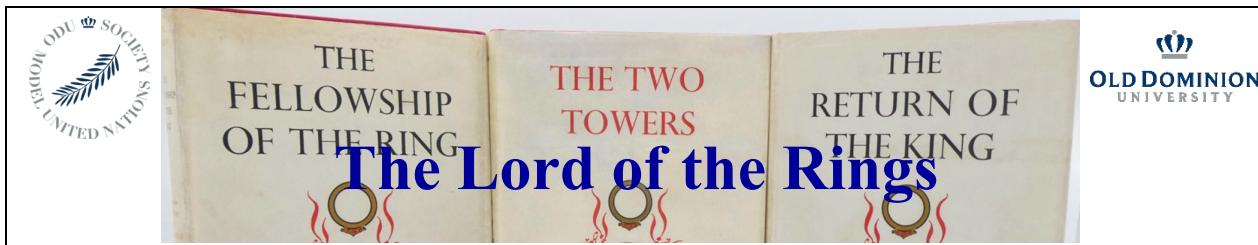
quays alongside Hirluin and Thorongil and gained a great deal of respect for the latter.

Forlong is first found in Minas Tirith before the battle in the "Merry Swan" tavern on the third level of the city, reminiscing on their youth with his friends Hirluin and Neldir. Later, both Forlong and Hirluin fight in the defence of the White City on the walls of the First Circle. After the Rohirrim army arrives, both of them rush outside the city gates and faces their foes together before Hirluin is slain in view of his friend. Forlong himself is gravely wounded and after the battle is over is found by the player on the field. He shares that he saw the visage of Thorongil on the field of battle but believes it to be his dying fever until Aragorn comes to his side.

Fredegar (Fatty) Bolger, is a Hobbit of the Shire. He was one of the close friends of Frodo who knew that he had the Ring and helped him with his mission to leave the Shire.

Fatty was a descendant of Hildibrand Took, one of the many sons of the Old Took. He was the son of Odovacar Bolger and Rosamunda Took. Fatty was born in T.A. 2980 and his family was from Budgeford in Bridgefields of the Eastfarthing. He also had a younger sister, Estella Bolger who would eventually marry Meriadoc Brandybuck.

Fatty was one of the Conspirators, the friends of Frodo who knew that he was in an important mission to leave the Shire, and they assisted him without his knowledge. Fatty, along with Folco Boffin and Frodo's close circle, in September T.A. 3018 helped him pack and send his things to Crickhollow, and stayed to celebrate his last birthday before his departure from Hobbiton; Fatty and Merry left the next morning for the house that Frodo had bought, in order to prepare it to be ready and habitable for his arrival.



The Black Gate, imagined and painted by Alan Lee, in *Lord of the Rings*, Harper Collins, 1991 edition.

Gimil, a Dwarf, one of a race of short, tough people expert in mining and metalwork and noted for their use of axes in battle. Gimli is one of the nine members of the company that sets out from Rivendell on the quest to destroy the Ring.

A dwarf warrior, he is the son of Glóin, a member of Thorin's company in Tolkien's earlier book *The Hobbit*. He represents the race of Dwarves as a member of the Fellowship of the Ring. As such, he is one of the primary characters in the story. In the course of the adventure, Gimli aids the Ring-bearer Frodo Baggins, participates in the War of the Ring, and becomes close friends with Legolas, overcoming an ancient enmity of Dwarves and Elves.

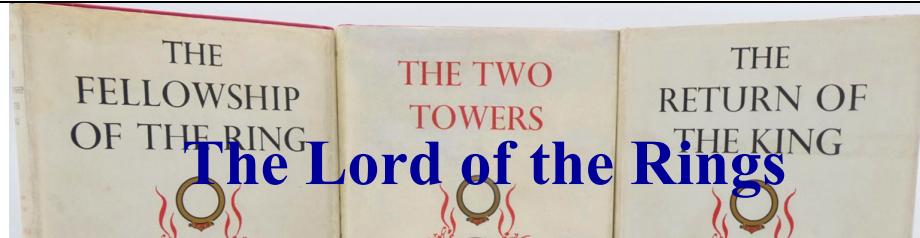
Scholars have commented that Gimli is unlike other dwarves in being free from their characteristic greed for gold. They note, too, that he is unique in being granted the gift of Galadriel's hair, something that she had refused to Fëanor. The events recall the Norse legend *Njáls saga*, where a gift of hair is refused, with fateful consequences.

Legolas, an Elf, a member of an ancient race of tall, beautiful, and supremely talented people who live in near-perfect harmony with nature. An expert Bowman, he is another member of the company. He is a Sindar Elf of the Woodland Realm and son of its king, Thranduil, becoming one of the nine members of the Fellowship who set out to destroy the One Ring. Though Dwarves and Elves are traditionally rivals, he and the Dwarf Gimli form a close friendship during their travels together.

Commentators have noted that Legolas serves as a typical Elf in the story, demonstrating more-than-human abilities such as seeing farther than anyone else in Rohan and sensing the memory of a long-lost Elvish civilisation in the stones of Hollin.

Radagast (Adûnaic: Tender of Beasts) the Brown was one of five Wizards sent to Middle-earth to contest the will of Sauron. Originally a Maia of Yavanna, Radagast mainly concerned himself with the well-being of the plant and animal worlds, and thus did not participate heavily in the War of the Ring. Originally named Aiwendil (Quenya: "Friend to birds"), Radagast was a Maia created before Time who descended into Arda to serve the Valar. Aiwendil served the Valië Yavanna, Queen of the earth.

When the Undying Lands were separated from Arda after the Downfall of Númenor, Manwë was still concerned for the fate of the peoples of



Middle-earth. Though Sauron had been overthrown, he had not been permanently vanquished. In time, his shadow began to emerge again. A council of the Valar was summoned, and it was decided that they would send emissaries to Middle-earth. These messengers should be "mighty peers of Sauron, yet forgo might, and clothe themselves in flesh," as they were intended to help Men and Elves unite against Sauron. These emissaries themselves, the wizards, did not match the Dark Lord in power. Aulë chose Curumo (Saruman), Oromë chose Alatar and Pallando (the Blue Wizards), and Manwë chose Olórin (Gandalf). Yavanna subsequently begged Curumo to take Aiwendil with him.

By the War of the Ring, Radagast no longer dwelt in Rhosgobel. Saruman told Radagast that he was willing to help Gandalf and sent the Brown Wizard to seek Gandalf at once. Radagast knew little of Eriador but sought for the Shire, knowing that he would find Gandalf nearby.

Samwise (Sam) Gamgee, Frodo's faithful servant and companion, who accompanies him for the duration of the quest. Like Frodo, Sam begins the story as a cheerful but simple character and unlikely hero; he too gains in dignity and stature over the course of the tale. Although he leaves the Shire as a working-class gardener's son, he returns vastly broadened by his adventures. He becomes the mayor of Hobbiton, the Shire's principal community.

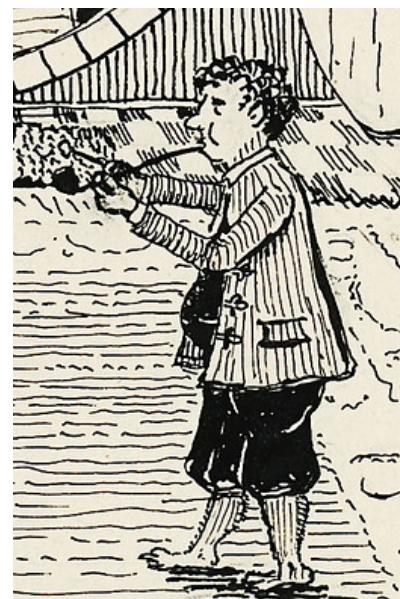
Théoden, the elderly king of Rohan, a broad realm of grassy plains to the north of Gondor. His transformation from being manipulated by Saruman to leading his people in the war is vital to the military campaign against Sauron. Rohan, renowned for its horses and its cavalry, is Gondor's traditional ally. In his dotage, however, Théoden has fallen under the sway of

Wormtongue, an evil counselor in the pay of the treacherous wizard Saruman. When war threatens, therefore, Théoden at first seeks to remain neutral.

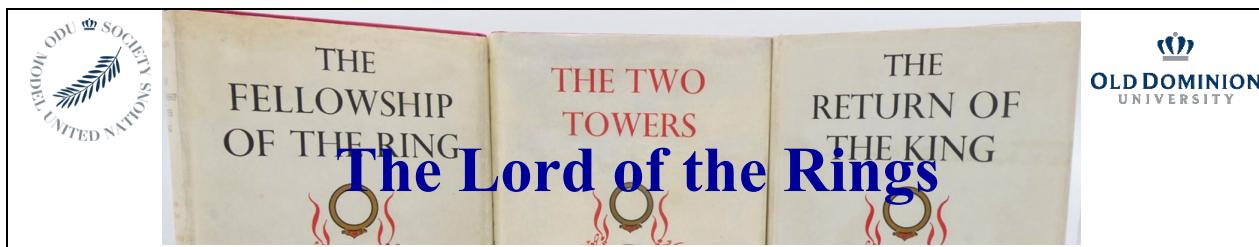
Once roused by the wizard Gandalf, however, he becomes an instrumental ally in the war against Saruman and Sauron, leading the Rohirrim into the Battle of the Pelennor Fields.

Scholars have compared Théoden to Theodoric, King of the Visigoths, and Théoden's death in the battle to Theodoric's in the Battle of the Catalaunian Fields. He has been contrasted, too, with another protagonist in *The Lord of the Rings*, Denethor Steward of Gondor; where Denethor is harsh, Théoden is open and welcoming.

Other Major Characters



J. R. R. Tolkien's illustration of Bilbo in his hobbit-hole, *Bag End*.



Bilbo Baggins. In *The Lord of the Rings*, his importance lies chiefly in his relationship with his cousin Frodo. He passes on the One Ring to Frodo, and thereby inadvertently ensures that Frodo must be the Ringbearer, taking on the task of destroying the ring to keep it from the hands of Sauron. Bilbo, having never married, adopts the orphaned Frodo as his heir.

Bilbo's way of life in the Shire, defined by features like the availability of tobacco and postal service, recalls that of the English middle class during the Victorian to Edwardian eras. This is not compatible with the much older world of Dwarves and Elves. Tolkien appears to have based Bilbo on the designer William Morris's travels in Iceland; Morris liked his home comforts but grew through his adventurous journeying. Bilbo's quest has been interpreted as a pilgrimage of grace, in which he grows in both wisdom and virtue, and as a psychological journey towards wholeness.

Elrond is introduced in *The Hobbit*, where he plays a supporting role, as he does in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion*. Scholars have commented on Elrond's archaic style of speech, noting that this uses genuinely archaic grammar, not just a sprinkling of old words. The effect is to make his speech distinctive, befitting his age and status, while remaining clear, and avoiding quaintness.

He has been called a guide or wisdom figure, a wise person able to provide useful counsel to the protagonists. It has been noted that just as Elrond prevented his daughter Arwen from marrying until conditions were met, so Tolkien's guardian, Father Francis Xavier Morgan, prevented Tolkien from becoming engaged or marrying until he came of age.

Éowyn. A key figure in the Battle of the Pelennor Fields, where she defeats the Witch-

king of Angmar, fulfilling the prophecy that "no man" would kill him.

With the hobbit Merry Brandybuck, she rides into battle and kills the Witch-King of Angmar, Lord of the Nazgûl, in the Battle of the Pelennor Fields. This fulfills the Macbeth-like prophecy that he would not be killed by a man.

Éowyn's brief courtship by Faramir has been seen by scholars as influenced by Tolkien's experience of war brides from the First World War. She has been seen, too, as one of the few strong female characters in the story, especially as interpreted in Peter Jackson's film trilogy, where her role, played by Miranda Otto, is far more romantic than Tolkien made her.

Faramir. Boromir's brother and a captain of Gondor who provides a different perspective on the Ring and human nature, crucial to the defense of Gondor and his own character arc.

Tolkien wrote that of all his characters, Faramir was the most like him: Tolkien had fought in the First World War and had similarly had a vision of darkness. Scholars have likened Faramir's courage to that in the Old English poem The Battle of Maldon, and his hunting green-clad in Ithilien to the English folk hero and outlaw Robin Hood. The Tolkien scholar Jane Chance sees Faramir as central to a complex web of Germanic allegiance-relationships.

Frodo Baggins. The primary protagonist and Ring-bearer, whose quest to destroy the One Ring is the central plot of the story. Frodo Baggins, the principal protagonist.

Frodo is a hobbit, a member of a diminutive, peace-loving race that inhabits the Shire, a rural area in the northwest of Middle-earth. From his



The Lord of the Rings

Uncle Bilbo, Frodo inherits a magic ring that confers the power of invisibility upon its wearer.

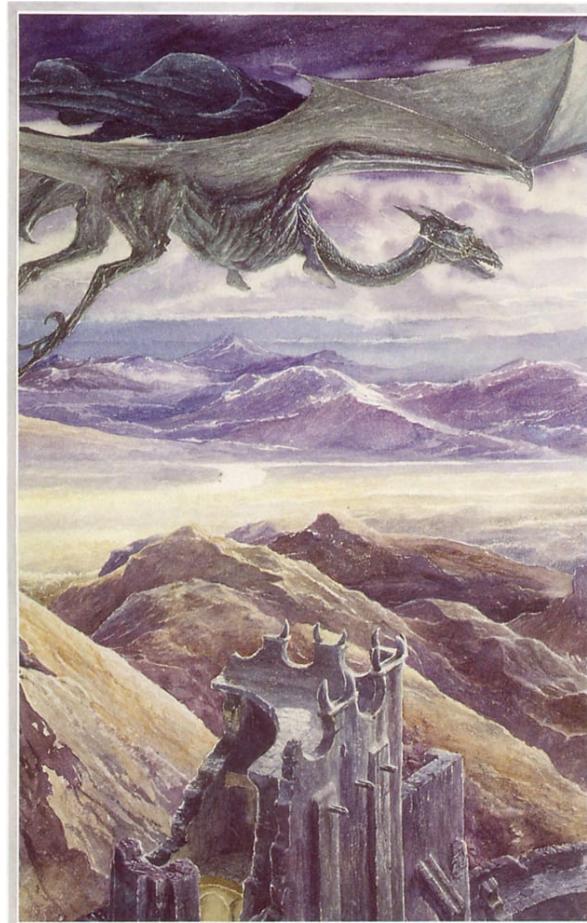
Although he at first regards it as merely a useful toy, he comes to learn that it is in fact the Ruling Ring, an enormously powerful talisman created and lost by Sauron, the malevolent Dark Lord, ages before. Should Sauron recover the Ring, he will become powerful enough to plunge Middle-earth into an age of darkness. The Ring is a potent weapon that enables its wearer to control the wills of others, but it is inherently evil, inevitably corrupting its possessors.

Rather than attempt to use it to defeat Sauron, therefore, Frodo seeks to destroy it. This, however, can be done only where the Ring was made: in the volcanic fires of Mount Doom, in the heart of Sauron's kingdom. Pursued by Sauron's emissaries—including monsters such as Orcs, Trolls, and the terrifying Ringwraiths—Frodo and a handful of companions undertake the apparently hopeless quest of carrying the Ring to Mount Doom.

Along the way, Frodo bears the colossal burden of the Ring, which exerts an inexorable pressure upon his mind and spirit. He yields to its temptation only when he is on the point of accomplishing his quest, claiming the Ring for himself as he stands by the fiery fissures of Mount Doom. He is saved at the last moment by Gollum, who bites the Ring—and a finger—from Frodo's hand and falls into the abyss, destroying the Ring and vanquishing Sauron.

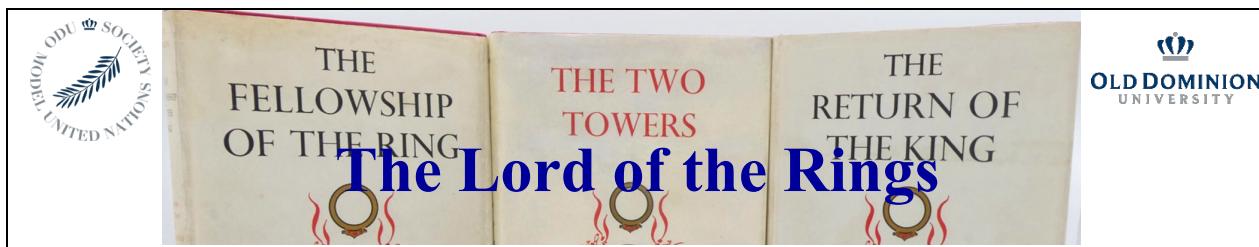
A small, unassuming member of an obscure race, Frodo is outwardly ordinary, an unlikely hero in a titanic struggle for world supremacy, yet his simplicity and essential goodness give him the ability to resist the Ring's pull far longer than a seemingly more powerful character could. Although he is terribly worn, Frodo is ennobled by his long ordeal. A somewhat bourgeois and

self-interested country squire at the story's beginning, he becomes a saintlike figure by its conclusion.



Nazgul painting by Alan Lee, in *Lord of the Rings*, Harper Collins, 1991 edition.

Galadriel is a powerful Elven leader whose foresight, guidance, and aid (such as the gifts given to the Fellowship) are essential for the quest's success. The Tolkien scholar Tom Shippey has written that Galadriel represented Tolkien's attempt to re-create the kind of elf hinted at by surviving references in Old English.



He has compared his elves also to those in a Christian Middle English source, *The Early South English Legendary*, where the elves were angels. Sarah Downey likens Galadriel to a celestial lady of medieval allegory, a guide-figure such as Dante's Beatrice and the pearl-maiden in the 14th-century English poem *Pearl*. Another scholar, Marjorie Burns, compares Galadriel in multiple details to Rider Haggard's heroine Ayesha, and to Tennyson's *The Lady of Shalott*, both being reworked figures of Arthurian legend.

Galadriel, lady of light, assisting Frodo on his quest to destroy the One Ring, opposed to Shelob, the giant and evil female spider of darkness, have been compared to Homer's opposed female characters in the *Odyssey*: Circe and Calypso as Odysseus's powerful and wise benefactors on his quest, against the perils of the attractive Sirens, and the deadly Scylla and Charybdis.

Gandalf. The wise wizard and mastermind who guides the Fellowship, orchestrates the resistance to Sauron, and plays a critical role in major events across Middle-earth. Also known as Mithrandir, a wizard, an old-looking but seemingly ageless man with various magical skills, notably a control over fires and lights.

Accompanying Frodo and the others, he is pulled into an abyss by a powerful demon and apparently killed. He returns from death with heightened powers, and it becomes clear that he is in fact an angelic emissary sent to Middle-earth to oppose the forces of darkness. The leader of the resistance to Sauron, Gandalf is the principal architect of the allied victory in the War of the Ring.

Gollum (Sméagol). His role in the ultimate destruction of the Ring at Mount Doom is

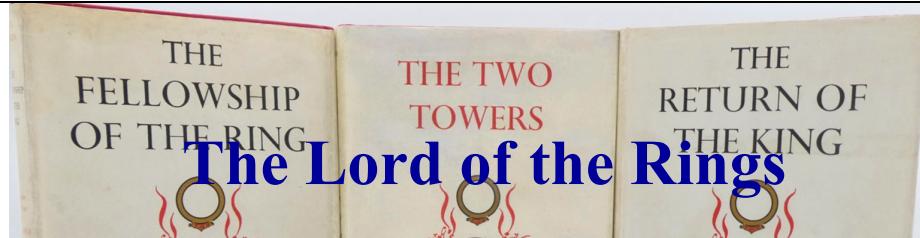
divinely intended and pivotal to the story's resolution.

Commentators have treated Gollum as a monster: the Tolkien scholar Verlyn Flieger suggests that Gollum is Tolkien's central monster-figure. Others have described Gollum as a psychological shadow figure for Frodo, and as an evil guide in contrast to the wizard Gandalf, the good guide. They have noted, too, that Gollum is not wholly evil, and that he has a part to play in the will of Eru Iluvatar, the omnipotent god of Middle-earth, necessary to the destruction of the Ring. For Gollum's literary origins, scholars have compared Gollum to the shrivelled hag Gagool in Rider Haggard's 1885 novel *King Solomon's Mines* and to the subterranean Morlocks in H. G. Wells's 1895 novel *The Time Machine*.

Meriadoc (Merry) Brandybuck and Peregrin (Pippin) Took. The other two hobbits of the Fellowship, who grow significantly in importance, with Merry helping defeat the Witch-king and Pippin rousing the Ents and playing a role in Gondor's defense. the two are together during most of the story.

Pippin and Merry are introduced as a pair of young hobbits of the Shire who become ensnared in their friend Frodo Baggins's quest to destroy the One Ring. Pippin joins the Company of the Ring. He and Merry become separated from the rest of the group at the breaking of the Fellowship and spend much of *The Two Towers* with their own storyline.

Impetuous and curious, Pippin enlists as a soldier in the army of Gondor and fights in the Battle of the Morannon. With the other hobbits, he returns home, helps to lead the Scouring of the Shire, and becomes Thain, or hereditary leader of the land.



Commentators have noted that the actions of Merry and Pippin serve to throw light on the characters of the good and bad lords Théoden of Rohan and Denethor of Gondor, while their simple humour acts as a foil for the higher romance involving kings and the heroic Aragorn.

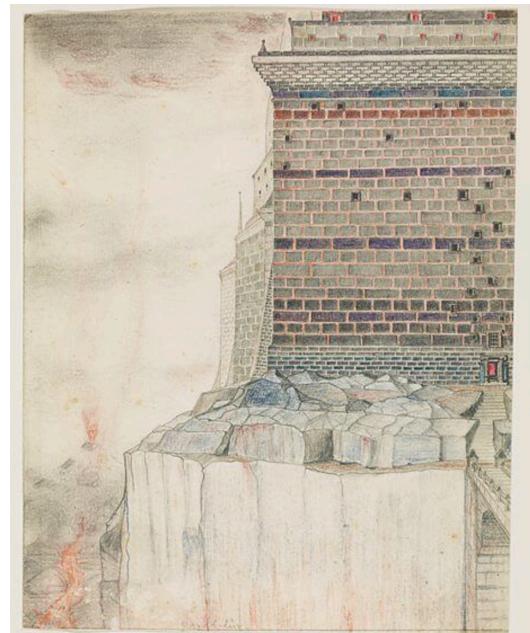


Orcs, imagined and painted by Alan Lee, in *Lord of the Rings*, Harper Collins, 1991 edition.

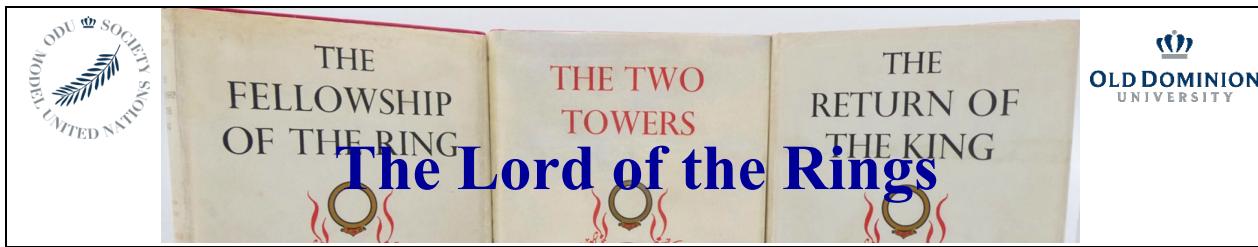
Saruman. A primary antagonist alongside Sauron, whose machinations affect the plot from the beginning, particularly concerning Rohan and the Ents. He is the leader of the Istari, wizards sent to Middle-earth in human form by the godlike Valar to challenge Sauron, the main antagonist of the novel. He comes to desire Sauron's power for himself, so he betrays the Istari and tries to take over Middle-earth by force from his base at Isengard. His schemes feature prominently in the second volume, The

Two Towers; he appears briefly at the end of the third volume, The Return of the King. His earlier history is summarized in the posthumously published The Silmarillion and Unfinished Tales.

Saruman is one of several characters in the book who illustrate the corruption of power. His desire for knowledge and order leads to his fall, and he rejects the chance of redemption when it is offered. The name Saruman means "man of skill or cunning" in the Mercian dialect of Anglo-Saxon. He serves as an example of technology and modernity being overthrown by forces more in tune with nature.

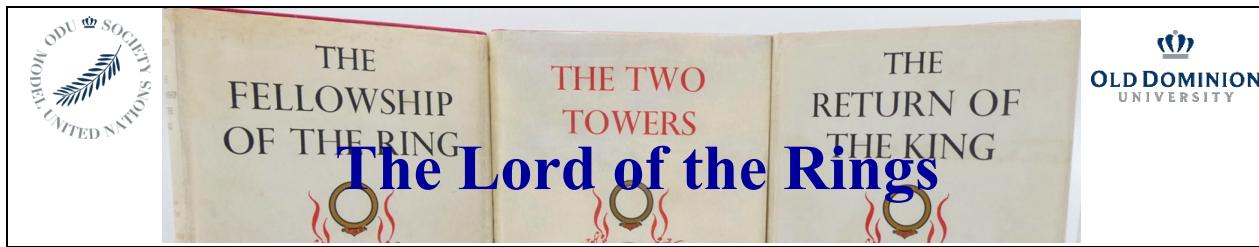


Original illustration of Barad-dûr: The Fortress of Sauron, by J.R.R. Tolkien. Giacomo Lee, 'The Lord of the Rings will be released with JRR Tolkien art for the first time ever', *Creative Bloq*, 26 March 2021, <https://www.creativebloq.com/news/lord-of-the-ring-jrr-tolkien-art>



Sauron. The titular "Lord of the Rings," the main antagonist whose desire for the One Ring drives the entire conflict. also known as The Dark Lord, an enormously powerful, malevolent spirit who rules over the desolate land of Mordor in the southeast of Middle-earth. He lost the Ring, which contains much of his power, in an epic battle ages earlier.

Having rebuilt his armies of Orcs and Trolls into a force of overwhelming strength, he initiates a frantic search for the Ring—the only weapon that could defeat him—before launching a campaign of conquest. Sauron personifies the ruthless will to power, but his strength is also his weakness: He cannot comprehend that anyone in possession of the Ring would not use it to dominate others. He is thus blind to the central point of the allied strategy and fails to defend against the Ring's destruction.



Primary bibliography



The first edition of Tolkien's *The Hobbit* was released in 1937. Raptis Rare Books, <https://www.raptisrarebooks.com/product/the-hobbit-or-there-and-back-again-j-r-r-tolkien-first-edition-signed/>

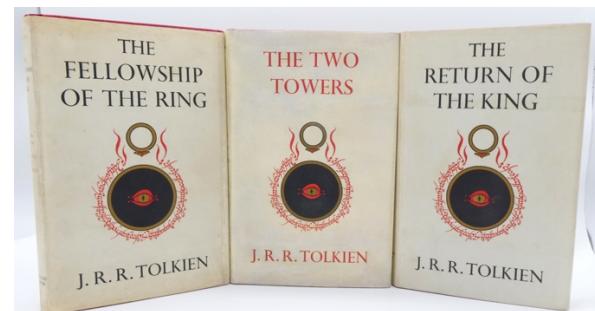
This example, from the first printing of 1,500 copies, shows the original dust jacket. It is signed by Tolkien, who dedicated it to 'Mr. & Mrs. Livesley & Edgar', owners of his rented summer holiday cottage in Devon, in the village of Sidmouth, which inspired The Shire and where Tolkien did much of his writing.

The seller is Raptis Rare Books of Palm Beach, Florida, two miles north of President Trump's mansion, Mar-a-Lago. Matthew Raptis fully appreciates both the book's scarcity and the power of Hobbit fanaticism. It can be yours for USD 975,000.

So what'll it be? This or a genuine ODUMUNC 49 T-shirt?

A free version of *The Hobbit* is available on-line at https://archive.org/details/bwb_W7-BSZ-467

A complete .pdf can be found at <https://primarysite-production.s3.amazonaws.com/gobowen-primary-school/UploadedDocument/db3a2424ab834ade94f16606d5567712/the-hobbit-1.pdf>

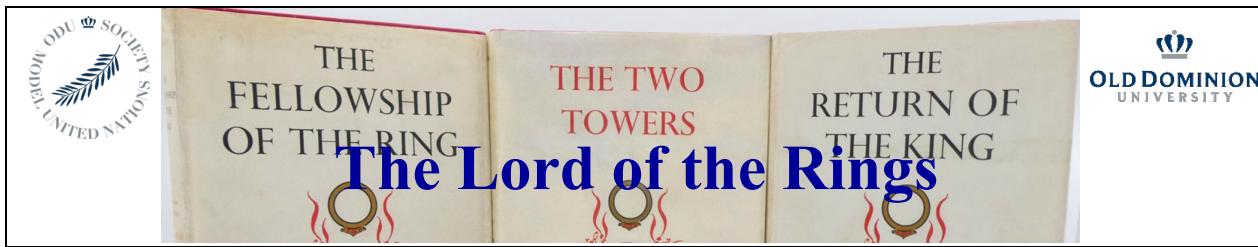


First edition set of *The Lord of the Rings*, 1954-55: *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*, Abe Books, <https://www.abebooks.de/erstausgabe/Lord-Rings-1954-Set-1st-Printings/31789597503/bd>

Because they benefited from the success of *The Hobbit*, the three volumes of *The Lord of the Rings* were printed in 1954-55 in greater numbers, and were more likely to be preserved.

The initial printing of Volumes One, Two and Three varied between 3,000 and 7,000 copies each. A set of all the three first edition copies of *The Lord of the Rings* can be found for as little as USD 4,000. Sets in superior condition cost USD up to USD 250,000.

Alternatively, the complete *Lord of the Rings* can be found for free on-line at <https://gosafir.com/mag/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Tolkien-J.-The-lord-of-the-rings-HarperCollins-ebooks-2010.pdf>



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