Tolkien Fandom Review
from its beginnings to 1964

by
Sumner Gary Hunnewell
(Hildifons Took)

2010
A Short Overview of Tolkien Fandom up to 1964

Although serious admirers and fans of Tolkien existed soon after the publication of *The Fellowship of the Ring*, an organized Tolkien fandom as “The Fellowship of the Ring” sprung forth in a 49-minute meeting during the Pittsburgh Worldcon on September 4, 1960.

A group of dedicated Los Angeles science fiction fans had been kicking around the idea of a Tolkien only club as early as 1959. As Ken Cheslin, the British agent of The Fellowship of the Ring, aptly put it “I would say that the Tolkein [sic] society [meaning The Fellowship of the Ring] wasn’t an offshoot… it consisted of fans who regarded JRR as, I think, a little something extra, a little area of interest IN ADDITION [sic] to the then fandom, not an alternative or a replacement, substitute, etc.”

The first controversy was what to call the group as some thought *The Fellowship of the Ring* was a bit ostentatious. Moreover, of course, there were rules. The people who formed the club would allow ‘Counsels’ created if there were five or more members in an area. Those people who provided accepted research papers would become members. Non-members could purchase the magazine. Although there was enthusiasm by Ted Johnstone (editor) and Bruce Pelz (publisher) of the group’s fanzine, *I Palantir*, for this level of scholarship and membership, no councils formed. However, subsequent accepted articles and fiction were of high quality. As Worldcon art shows started (due to the efforts of Bjo Trimble), The Fellowship of the Ring provided prizes for Tolkien-inspired artwork.

England’s first Tolkien fanzine was *Nagul’s Bane*, produced by Ken Cheslin. It was a newszine for those British members of *The Fellowship of the Ring*.

Since most of the contributors to fanzines at the time came out of science fiction fandom, speculative articles and articles of fiction often took off in the direction of science fact. The drowning of Beleriand, the creation of the orcs, the evolution of the elves, the chemical composition of hithlain, or the make-up of the morgul-blade was all open to some scientific explanation. Attempts to add a flavor of lofty writing style in many pieces resulted in stilted phrasing. The major article on Tolkien’s literary sources appeared through multiple issues of *Xero*. Lin Carter later used this as a basis for his 1969 book, *Tolkien: A Look Behind The Lord of the Rings*.

Notably, perhaps the most erudite and insightful writer who championed and defended Tolkien was Marion Zimmer Bradley. Her 1962 “Men, Halflings, and Hero Worship” appearing in *Astra’s Tower*, holds up very well even some 50 years later. She also wrote two Tolkien pastiches and one crossover story with Aragorn entering her own created world of Darkover. She published what would be a single issue of her own Tolkien fanzine, *Andúril*.

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*J.R.R. Tolkien had been discussed in various fanzines and apazines, usually as on-going discussions (Robert Lichtman’s *Psi Phi* had a running discussion on a film adaptation for five issues) or one-shot articles (such as Weir’s “No Monroe In Lothlorien!” originally printed in Eric Bentcliffe’s *Triode*). Tolkien inspired costumes were worn at Worldcons as early as 1958. Also in 1958, Rhona Beare, a student in England, wrote Tolkien to ask questions for a group of enthusiasts at school.*
The Lord of the Rings had its detractors as well. Some felt that Tolkien’s scene setting was far superior to his character development. Others felt that Tolkien fans were taking things too far (there were two attempts to complete glossaries of Tolkien’s world during this time). These voices were rare. Most of those who were not fond of Tolkien’s books had not completed them or struggled to get through them.

During this time, there were apazines and other fanzines that had minimal Tolkien content but Tolkien inspired names: Ancalagon, Glamdring, Lefnui, Mathom, Perian, Ringwraith, Shadowfax, Silmé, and certainly others.

Other publications had more Tolkien content. Ed Meskys’s apazine Niekas blossomed into a full-blown fanzine during this time, splitting its time between fannish activities, Gilbert & Sullivan, and Tolkien. Pete Mansfield’s Sword & Sorcery fanzine, Eldritch Dream Quest, included many Tolkien items. An established science fiction fandom produced high quality in their writing and publication of their fanzines during these years.

Lest anyone think there is anything new under the sun, these are Tolkien fandom firsts published during this time:

- A film treatment of The Lord of the Rings
- The Silmarillion is almost ready to be published
- Possible homosexual overtones in The Lord of the Rings
- Tolkien based filksong, story, and poetry
- Tolkien and racism
- Human-elf interbreeding
- Origin of the orcs
- Tolkien’s literary predecessors/sources (Beowulf, The Elder Edda, Kalevala)
- The Lord of the Rings is not a trilogy

Soon after the publication of The Lord of the Rings in America, Donald A. Wollheim realized that the American editions carried no copyright notice. Although he admitted he was no devotee of Tolkien, he was a businessman and what he would do in 1965 would change the face of Tolkien fandom…

A Few Comments about the Fanzines Covered

Most fanzines were created in limited quantities and are difficult to track down, so this (by no means) is a complete list of fanzines that contain Tolkien content (in some cases I have only a photocopy of a page or two). Much of the discussion appears in clubzines or apas, which were a common vehicle for distribution. However, some of these zines (for example, Niekas) could certainly stand on their own. Later in the 1960s, as science fiction fandom became less of an influence within Tolkien fandom, apazines had smaller impact. Here is a list of those fanzines covered and any affiliation (see the Glossary for details).

A Concordance to The Lord of the Rings, Part I. Published in Los Angeles, California, by Edwin Joseph Baker for SAPS.

A Plea To All Tolkien Enthusiasts. Published in Slough, Bucks., England, by Peter Mansfield, independent.

All Mimsy. Published in Minneapolis, Minnesota, by Eleanor Arnason, Ruth Berman, and Ron Whyte, independent.

Amra. Published in New York, New York, by G. H. Schithers, independent.


Andúril. Published in Rochester, Texas, by Marion Zimmer Bradley, independent.

Angmar. Published in California by Bruce Pelz for The Cult.

Astra's Tower. Published in Rochester, Texas, by Marion Zimmer Bradley for FAPA. [Baker SAPS]. Published in Los Angeles, California, by Edwin Joseph Baker for SAPS.

Bastion. Published in Stockport, Ches., England by Norman Shorrock for the Liverpool Group.

Catch Trap. Published in Rochester, Texas, by Marion Zimmer Bradley for FAPA.

Cry. Published in Seattle, Washington, by Elinor Busby, independent.

Day*Star. Published in Rochester, Texas, by Marion Zimmer Bradley for FAPA.

Efanescent. Published by Lee Thorin.

Eldritch Dream Quest. Published in Slough, Bucks., England, by Peter “Pete” Mansfield, independent.

Feedback. Published in California by Jack Harness for The Cult.

Gaul. Published in Monterey Park, California, by Steve Tolliver, independent.

Glamdring. Published in Los Angeles, California, by Bruce Pelz, independent.

I Palantir. Published in Los Angeles, California, by Bruce Pelz for The Fellowship of the Ring.

Mathom. Published in Crystal City, Missouri, by David Hall, independent.

[Meskys FAPA]. Published in Brooklyn, New York, by Ed Meskys for FAPA.

Miscellany. Published in Slough, Bucks., England, by Peter Mansfield, independent.


Niekas. Published in Livermore and Berkeley, California, by Ed Meskys for N'APA.

Nifflheim. Published in Northridge, California, by Dave Hulan for SAPS.

Perian. Published by Jane Ellern for SAPS, FAPA, and N'APA.

Rhodomagnetic Digest. Published by Al haLevy, independent.

Ringwraith. Published in Charlotte, North Carolina, by Len Bailes for OMPA.

Running, Jumping, and Standing Still Magazine. Published in Eccleshill, Bradford, England, by Mal Ashworth for FAPA.

Sex in Science Fiction. Rochester, Texas, by Marion Zimmer Bradley probably for FAPA.

Shadowfax. Published in Seattle, Washington, by Gordon Eklund for OMPA.

Silmé. Published in Los Angeles and Long Beach, California, by Bjo Trimble for Project Art Show.

Spectrum. Published in New York, New York, by Lin Carter, independent.


Triode. Published in England by Eric Bentcliffe.

Xero. Published in New York, New York, by Pat and Dick Lupoff, independent.
Marquette University of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, received all referenced fanzines from my collection in 2009.

A Simple Dedication

This is dedicated to those early fans, who met 50 years ago to start The Fellowship of the Ring. It is also dedicated those fans 50 years from now, who will have this record to help them glimpse into the past.

Special thanks to Ruth Berman and Ed Meskys, who reviewed this prior to publication. Also, thanks to Edith Crowe with her suggestions on the art index.
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Fanzines

1959

All Mimsy 5 (November 1959)

1960

Triode 17 (January 1960)
Weir, Arthur R. “No Monroe in Lothlorien!” 31-33. Discussion of a film treatment of LR, paying close attention to casting of parts and possible locations, while discussing music to some extent.

Glamdring 1 (April 1960)
Pelz, Bruce. Untitled, 1. Review of Cry of the Nameless 138, which discusses club name The Fellowship of the Ring.
Pelz, Bruce. Untitled, 2. Review of Psi-Phi 5, which contains a discussion of a film treatment of LR.
Pelz, Bruce. Untitled, 1. Review of Triode 17, which includes Weir’s article on a film treatment of LR.

Glamdring 2 (May 1960)
Pelz, Bruce. Untitled, 4. Review of Neolithic 5, which contains Tolkien content.
Pelz, Bruce. Untitled, 6-7. Review of Cry 139, which discusses fantasy literature (including Tolkien). Pelz describes his encounter with LR. More discussion on the naming of the club (The Fellowship of the Ring).

Triode 18 (May 1960)
Tolkien, Professor J.R.R. “Fan Dance.” 27. LoC. Tolkien replies to Weir’s article and his experience with story lines and scripts.

A Few Words About Bilbo Bentcliffe (June 1960)
Ashworth, Mal. Untitled, 1-2. Laments that Eric Bentcliffe has won TAFF for 1960, which has kept him from finishing LR.

Feedback 1 (August? 1960)
Harness, Jack. Untitled, 1. A comment on Spack’s Tolkien article in Critique.

Glamdring 3 (August 1960)
Pelz, Bruce. Untitled, 2. Review of Quelquechose 1 that speculates on an animated film of Farmer Giles of Ham.
Halevy, Al. “Follow-up Department.” 10. LoC. Comments on the club name The Fellowship of the Ring and his glossary of Middle-earth.
Pelz, Bruce. “Follow-up Department.” 11-12. Editorial comments about the timeline to publish the first issue of I Palantir.
Pelz, Bruce. “Follow-up Department.” 12. Editorial comments on the wrangling over the club name The Fellowship of the Ring.

I Palantir 1 (August 1960)
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Lynch, Hal. “A Faithful Servant Named Sam.” 15-17. Comparison between Dickens’s Sam Weller and Tolkien’s Sam Gamgee, concentrating on their allegiance to their masters.

Pelz, Bruce. “Thank Goodness!” 17. An announcement of an art show prize to be given at the 18th Worldcon.

Eldritch Dream Quest 1 (November 1960)
Mansfield, Peter. “Middengeard.” 3-6. Editorial comments about the use of “Middle-earth” and other settings for a variety of fantasy books, including Tolkien, which the editor esteems highly.


Eldritch Dream Quest 2 (March 1961)

Day*Star 13 (February 1961)
Bradley, Marion Zimmer. “And Goblins Too.” 2. Tells how she hates books referred to her, but she finds that while reading FR and TT that she cannot put them down.

Ancalagon 1 (March 1961)
Heap, George R. “On Fantasy-Adventure.” 2-6. Essay on the definition fantasy-adventure stories followed by a bibliography of author’s specific works, which the essay feels meets the criteria. These include Anderson, de Camp, Eddison, Howard, Kuttner, Leiber, Merritt, Pratt, Tolkien and Vance.

Ancalagon 2 (April 1961)
Deindorfer, Gary. “The Reverberatory.” 2-5. LoC. Feels that Heap’s definition of fantasy-adventure is not well defined, expounding that pre-gunpowder societies would excluded Tolkien from Heap’s definition. Disagrees with Heap and describes hobbits as truly empathetic characters. Wonders if a hobbit slice of life story (no adventure) could be classified as fantasy-adventure.


Ancalagon 3 (May 1961)

Bradley, Marion Zimmer. “Preface.” 2. Preface to the author’s work, where she discusses how the modern literary sensibilities require obtuse sexual content to make them relevant.

Bradley, Marion Zimmer. “Of Men, Halflings and Hero Worship.” 2. An inquiry into the relationships developed in LR with various speculations about the passing of the Heroic Age in society, in literature and in the individual. Denounces Edmund Wilson’s take on LR and posits that an adolescent hero worship is the main concept in close relationships between characters in the LR; the exception is the relationship between Frodo and Sam.
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Day*Star 14 (May 1961)
Bradley, Marion Zimmer. Untitled, 1. Describes who will receive this issue and the Astra's Tower with "Men, Halflings and Hero Worship."

Eldritch Dream Quest 2 (May 1961)
Mansfield, Pete. “Meanderings.” 31-34. Review of the Science Fiction Book Club's (Readers Union's) edition of LR. News of the abridged reading of The Hobbit on the BBC.
Mansfield, Pete. “On ‘Tyrfing’ and -er - Other Fings.” 36-41. In a preface to an article on changelings, considers LR the best fantasy. Later in the article, draws similarities between Moorcock, Tolkien, and Anderson.
Weir, Arthur R. “No Monroe in Lothlorien!” 47-52. Discussion of a film treatment of LR, paying close attention to casting of parts and possible locations, while discussing music to some extent.

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Running, Jumping, and Standing Still Magazine 1 (May 1961)
Ashworth, Mal. “Flipping through FAPA.” 12-14. Comments on Astra's Tower 5. Discusses readers' reactions to LR, comparison to modern writers, and Tolkien's use of poetry in LR.

Nickas 5 (June 15, 1961)

Speculative Review v. 3:1 (June 1961)
Keller, David H. “Peake's First….” 5-8. Footnote references Tolkien, White, and Eddison were contemporaries.

Day*Star 15 (August 1961)

I Palantir 2 (August 1961)
Johnstone, Ted. “From the Hobbit Hole.” 3. Begs forgiveness for lateness of the issue, requests material, and states that Tolkien has not responded to the first issue.
Bradley, Marion Z. “The Jewel of Arwen.” 4-17. Faux history and analysis of the stone given by Arwen to Frodo after the War of the Ring.
Pelz, Bruce. “Corrections to I Palantir 1.” 17. Errata.
Johnstone, Ted, and others. “High Fly the Nazgul, Oh!” 20-21. Filksong to the tune of “Green Grow the Rushes, Oh!”

Catch Trap 96 (November? 1961)

Xero 7 (November 1961)
Carter, Lin. “Notes on Tolkien, part I: theme and form.” 18-24. Gives background of Epic Fantasy's roots and its decay into Romance. Touts Morris and Eddison as those who brought back the literary form (borrowing some Romance features) and how the form flowered into perfection with Tolkien's LR.
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Silmé 1 (December 1961)
Trimble, Bjo. “Editorial.” 3-4. Explains that the fanzine's name is Quenyan.
Ellison, Harlan. “Selections at an Exhibition.” 13-17. States that there were no serious contenders for The Fellowship of the Ring art award at the 19th Worldcon in Seattle.
Eney, Dick. “Untitled Manuscript Found in a Paper Envelope.” 18-19. States that there were no serious contenders for The Fellowship of the Ring art award at the 19th Worldcon in Seattle but provides more information than the Ellison article.
Carr, G.M. “Judges Report - Project Art Show #2.” 23. States that there were no serious contenders for The Fellowship of the Ring art award at the 19th Worldcon in Seattle.

Miscellany (1961)
Mansfield, Pete. Untitled, 1-3. Fanzine reviews include one for I Palantir 1.

Nazgul's Bane 1 (1961)

Nazgul's Bane 2 (1961)
Cheslin, Ken. Untitled, 1. Information for British members of The Fellowship of the Ring.
Pelz, Bruce. Untitled, 1-2. Discusses membership cards of and prizes for Worldcon artwork given by The Fellowship of the Ring.

Nazgul's Bane 3 (1961)
Cheslin, Ken. Untitled, 1. List of British members of The Fellowship of the Ring.
Cheslin, Ken. Untitled, 2. Discusses I Palantir 2, rumors about The Silmarillion, and Bradley's “Men, Halflings, and Hero Worship.”

Sex in Science Fiction (1961)
Bradley, Marion Zimmer. “Sex in Science Fiction.” 1-8. Tackles relative success of some science fiction authors inserting sex within their writing. Tolkien provides a sexless example with Aragorn's rejection of Éowyn. She also refutes homosexuality in the relationship of Frodo and Sam.

1962

Cry 156 (January 1962)
Bradley, Marion Zimmer. “A Report on the Psychology and Physiology of Homo Elvis (or Elfridis)”, 4-7. Scientific speculation on the biological origins of elvenkind. Other subjects covered are anatomy (eyesight, size), maturation, and reproduction (with elf or man).

Gaul v. 2:1 (January 1962)
Mayhew, Hanna, and Larry McCombs. “A Hard Look Through the 'Ring'”, 44-46. A critical review of the LR. Tolkien's backgrounds are well developed but his characters are 'cardboard' (with few exceptions). Evil characters are dispatched with ease but without interference from the main 'good' characters. Tolkien's "allegory" fails to show that power corrupts but places that influence on the Ring only.

Day*Star 17 (February 1962)
Bradley, Marion Zimmer. Untitled, 1. Writes that Andúril's distribution is outside of FAPA and only to those people who want it.

Gaul v. 2:2 (March 1962)
Breen, Walter. “The Ring Is Looked Through Again.” 32. LoC. Disputes the idea that Tolkien's characters are static, and provides (to the contrary) examples of the hobbits in The Fellowship.
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Bradley, Marion Zimmer. “The Ring Is Looked Through Again.” 32-33. LoC. Disagrees that Gandalf, Aragorn, and Sam are the only approachable characters. Merry and Pippin are very distinct in their characterization and interaction with other characters.

McCombs, Jinx. “The Ring Is Looked Through Again.” 33. LoC. The deaths of Boromir and Gollum were due to their giving into temptation, while others (who use the Ring but did not succumb) suffered punishment. The characters seem flat because they are not individuals but represent human traits.

Arnason, Eleanor. “The Ring Is Looked Through Again.” 33-34. LoC. Tolkien's characters are more symbolic than real (e.g., Sauron and Mordor are too evil to be realistic so fall flat). Tolkien's mythic influences show no depth so he is following that pattern.

Mercer, Archie. “The Ring Is Looked Through Again.” 34. LoC. Agrees that Tolkien's backgrounds are extraordinary with a few characters that were outstanding (Bombadil and Ioreth). Found Gandalf boring.

Bennie, Chris. “The Ring Is Looked Through Again.” 34. LoC. The kingdoms of Middle-earth continue to decline. Boromir cannot see beyond his immediate needs when he tries to seize the Ring. Disagrees that LR is “black and white” pointing to the failures of Boromir, Frodo, and Gollum.


Carter, Lin. “Notes on Tolkien, part ii: names and places.” 40-44. Tolkien shows great care in languages and names in LR. Tolkien's Quenya was a springboard to the creation of his tales. The Dwarves' names are in The Elder Edda. Points out West-East relationship in LR (but Russia in the East, not Germany). Discusses parallels between the elves/Tuatha de Danaan, Númenor/Atlantis, and Valinor/Fairyland.


Davidson, Avram. “Epistolary Intercourse.” 60-62. LoC. Appreciates Carter's work. Wonders if the LR's feigned history takes place during with the time of the Lake Dwellers.

Meskys, Ed. Untitled, 2-4. Apa responses to Ankus 3 & Pantopon. Unsatisfied with Gandalf’s fall and resurrection, heroes in LR, and that LR is not a trilogy.


Sneary, Rick. “Two Views: Of Elves and Men: The World Well Lost.” 8-9. Posits that Arwen’s choice of mortality may have been caused by renouncing her elvish powers or skills.

Busby, Elinor. “Two Views: Of Elves and Men: The Mystery of Choice.” 9-11. Thoughts of Elf-Man intermarriage and traits of children of union. Discussion on other races interbreeding. Feels that elves were far less brave than other races of Middle-earth during the Third Age.

Zimmer, Paul. “The Worm Ouroboros.” 12-13. Dubs Eddison’s work as 'supernatural romance' and feels that other authors (including Tolkien) may have been influenced by Eddison.


Sneary, Rick. Untitled, 10-12. LoC. Tolkien has broad appeal and his races have real-world counterparts: hobbits (middle-class British), Elves (French), Dwarves (German), and Orcs (Saracens). LR is a retelling of the Third Crusade.

Alderson, Dan. “The Meaning of Hobbits”, insert. A psychological “semantic differential” test that evaluates concepts (e.g., Hobbit) against adjective pairs (e.g., dirty/clean).
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**Niekas** 1 (June 1962)
Meskys, Ed. Untitled, 6. Apa responses to *Sadistic Sphinx*. 2. States New York City library had 10-15 circulation copies of LR.

**Silmé** 2 (August 1962)

**Rhodomagnetic Digest** v. 5:2 (October 1962)
Halevy, Al. “A Glossary of Middle-Earth.” 40-60. Glossary of all hobbits found in The Hobbit and LR.
Tolkien's work will survive in spite of the immaturity of its fans.

**Perian** 1 (1962)
Ellern, Jane. “Palantir.” 1-2. Initial thoughts after successfully reading LR.

**Rhodomagnetic Digest** v. 5:2 (October 1962)
Halevy, Al. “A Glossary of Middle-Earth.” 40-60. Glossary of all hobbits found in The Hobbit and LR.
Tolkien's work will survive in spite of the immaturity of its fans.

**Xero** 9 (1962)
Coulson, Buck. “Epistolary Intercourse.” 89-90. LoC. An author using character names from earlier sources (e.g., Tolkien and The Elder Edda) does not make them better imaginative writers.
Warner, Harry. “Epistolary Intercourse.” 90-92. LoC. Admits not to have read LR.
Raeburn, Boyd. “Epistolary Intercourse.” 92-93. LoC. Finds Peake’s works far superior to Tolkien’s. Takes umbrage of people’s use of “dwarves.”

**Xero** 10 (March 1963)
Sneary, Rick. “Epistolary Intercourse.” 82-83. LoC. No interest in either Tolkien research or fiction writing.
Boardman, John. “Epistolary Intercourse.” 96-97. LoC. Tolkien has underlying racist assumptions. Most races are believable except for the elves and orcs, who are too much to the extreme. Tolkien advocates a technologically medieval romantic ideal in his works.

**Eldritch Dream Quest** 3 (April 1963)
Anderson, Poul. “Musings.” 59-61. LoC. We read epic fantasy for different reasons (but not necessarily for sexual elements), longing for a better world, physical danger, or exotic vistas.

**Amra** v. 2:27 (November 16, 1963)
Scithers, G.H. “The Key to Mulligan.” 3-6. Dissection of the filksong “Young Man Mulligan,” which includes references to Tolkien’s characters.

1963

**Spectrum** 2 (January-February 1963)
Wollheim, Donald A. “Letters.” 22-23. LoC. Suggests the works of Gaskell and Norton are Tolkien-like.

**Xero** 10 (March 1963)
Sneary, Rick. “Epistolary Intercourse.” 82-83. LoC. No interest in either Tolkien research or fiction writing.
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Niekas 7 (December 15, 1963)
Meskys, Ed. Untitled, 23. Comments on a letter Meskys wrote to C.S. Lewis about connections between Tolkien's and Lewis's fantasy works.

Nasgul’s Bane 4 (years end 1963)
Cheslin, Ken. Untitled, 1. News about the delay of I Palantir 3’s publication.
Cheslin, Ken. Untitled, 1. News that a typewritten draft of The Silmarillion had reached Tolkien’s publishers.

A Concordance to The Lord of the Rings, Part I (1963)

Shadowfax 2 (1963)
Eklund, Gordon. Untitled, 3. In Apa comments to Enjoy, tells why the editor chose the fanzine name.

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[Baker SAPS] 2 (January 15, 1964)
Baker, Edwin Joseph. Untitled, 2. Comments on his concordance to LR.

Niekas 8 (March 15, 1964)

I Palantir 3 (April 1964)
Spacks, Patricia Meyer. “Ethical Patterns in The Lord of the Rings.” 6-13. LR is not a Christian work but a tale of Good against Evil pagan ethical systems. However, unlike the Northern worldview of Beowulf, LR aligns closely with a Christian universe, which includes free will and ordered fate. In LR, the Good is in tune with nature; Evil uses harmful technology. Tolkien's characters emphasize responsibility and, as they make the choices for good, they grow spiritually. Those who choose evil become slaves to evil and find it hard (or are incapable) to choose good. LR “must assume….a central position in the canon of serious supernatural literature.” Reprinted from Critique 3:1 (Spring-Fall 1959).
Bisenieks, Dainis. “The Watcher in the Water and Others.” 14-16. Article warning readers not to delve deeply into the things of evil. The Watcher of the Water and Balrog were ancient but not in league with Sauron. Uses H.P. Lovecraft’s works to describe some of the ‘nameless things’ of which Gandalf speaks.
Weir, Arthur R. “No Monroe in Lothlorien!” 17-19. Discussion of a film treatment of LR, paying close attention to casting of parts and possible locations, while discussing music to some extent. Includes Tolkien’s comments on the article.

Niekas 8.9 (June 1964)

Niekas 9 (September 1964)
Thewlis, D. “Tree and Leaf.” 44. Review of Tree and Leaf.
Wright, James. “Laiskai.” 67-68. LoC. Wright provides an additional stanza to the “Orcs Marching Song.”

Niflheim 9 (October 1964)
Hulan, Dave. “You Can’t Tell the Mailing Comments from the Artwork without an Editorial…” 1. Thinks that the LR’s plot is boring and unsustainable in such a long novel. Compares to the Lensman series, which provides resolution at the end of each book.

Day*Star 24 (November 1964)
Bradley, Marion Zimmer. Untitled, 12. Apa responses to The Persian Slipper 4. Reiterates that “Gilraen” is in King In Yellow.

Niekas 10 (December 15, 1964)
Zelazny, Roger. “Song of the Ring.” 10. Poem from the Ring’s point of view as Frodo stands at the Cracks of Doom.
Halevy, Al. “A Glossary of Middle Earth.” 11-17. Glossary of all dwarves found in The Hobbit and LR.
Evers, Earl E. “Gincas.” 32. LoC. Comments on de Maiffe’s art in Niekas 9 (the death of Boromir).
Warner, Jr, Harry. “Laiskai.” 37-38. LoC. Does not feel that Tolkien’s work is worth all of Halevy’s research and that the review of Tree and Leaf was facile.
Jacob, Piers. “Laiskai.” 40. LoC. Discusses reading and feelings toward LR.
Walsted, Mark. “Laiskai.” 42. LoC. Rumor of Tolkien’s death before he had started The Silmarillion.
Wollheim, Donald A. “Laiskai.” 42-43. LoC. Does not see a need for the Glossary and is not a devotee of Tolkien.
Evers, Pvt Earl E. “Laiskai.” 43. LoC. Appreciates the Tolkien Glossary.
Brooks, Rick. “Laiskai.” 44. LoC. Feels that Tree and Leaf read like something akin to C.S. Lewis’s writings.

Mathom 1 (1964)

Ringwraith 1 (1964)
Bailes, Len. “Editorial.” 2-3. Names the fanzine after reading LR, which is better than Eddison and “will be regarded as one of THE books of the mid twentieth century.”
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Author index

Alderson, Dan
“The Meaning of Hobbits.” Gaul v. 2:3 (June 1962): insert. A psychological "semantic differential" test that evaluates concepts (e.g., Hobbit) against adjective pairs (e.g., dirty/clean).

Anderson, Poul
“Musings.” Eldritch Dream Quest 3 (April 1963): 59-61. LoC. We read epic fantasy for different reasons (but not necessarily for sexual elements), longing for a better world, physical danger, or exotic vistas.

Arnason, Eleanor
“The Ring Is Looked Through Again.” Gaul v. 2:2 (March 1962): 33-34. LoC. Tolkien's characters are more symbolic than real (e.g., Sauron and Mordor are too evil to be realistic so fall flat). Tolkien's mythic influences show no depth so he is following that pattern.

Ashworth, Mal

Untitled. A Few Words About Bilbo Bentcliffe (June 1960): 1-2. Laments that Eric Bentcliffe has won TAFF for 1960, which has kept him from finishing LR.

Bailes, Len

“Editorial.” Ringwraith 1 (1964): 2-3. Names the fanzine after reading LR, which is better than Eddison and “will be regarded as one of THE books of the mid twentieth century.”

Baker, Edwin Joseph

Bennie, Chris
“The Ring Is Looked Through Again.” Gaul v. 2:2 (March 1962): 34. LoC. The kingdoms of Middle-earth continue to decline. Boromir cannot see beyond his immediate needs when he tries to seize the Ring. Disagrees that LR is "black and white" pointing to the failures of Boromir, Frodo, and Gollum.

Bentcliffe, Eric

Berman, Ruth


Bisenieks, Dainis
“The Watcher in the Water and Others.” I Palantir 3 (April 1964): 14-16. Article warning readers not to delve deeply into the things of evil. The Watcher of the Water and Balrog were ancient but not in league with Sauron. Uses H.P. Lovecraft's works to describe some of the 'nameless things' of which Gandalf speaks.

Boardman, John
“Epistolary Intercourse.” Xero 10 (March 1963): 96-97. LoC. Tolkien has underlying racist assumptions. Most races are believable except for the elves and orcs, who are too much to the extreme. Tolkien advocates a technologically medieval romantic ideal in his works.

Bradley, David. See Bradley, Marion Zimmer
“The Beginning of the Orcs.” Andúril 1 (Summer 1962): 6. Speculation that orcs were mutated elven children, who became outcasts.

Bradley, Marion Z. See also Bradley, Marion Zimmer; Rivers, Elfrida

Bradley, Marion Zimmer. See also Bradley, Marion Z.; Rivers, Elfrida
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“A Report on the Psychology and Physiology of Homo Elvis (or Elfridis).” Cry 156 (January 1962): 4-7. Scientific speculation on the biological origins of elvenkind. Other subjects covered are anatomy (eyesight, size), maturation, and reproduction (with elf or man).

“And Goblins Too.” Day*Star 13 (February 1961): 2. Tells how she hates books referred to her, but she finds that while reading FR and TT that she cannot put them down.

“Of Men, Halflings and Hero Worship.” Astra’s Tower 5 (May 1961): 2. An inquiry into the relationships developed in LR with various speculations about the passing of the Heroic Age in society, in literature and in the individual. Denounces Edmund Wilson’s take on LR and posits that an adolescent hero worship is the main concept in close relationships between characters in the LR; the exception is the relationship between Frodo and Sam.


“Preface.” Astra’s Tower 5 (May 1961): 2. Preface to the author’s work, where she discusses how the modern literary sensibilities require obtuse sexual content to make them relevant.

“Sex in Science Fiction.” Sex in Science Fiction (1961): 1-8. Tackles relative success of some science fiction authors inserting sex within their writing. Tolkien provides a sexless example with Aragorn’s rejection of Éowyn. She also refutes homosexuality in the relationship of Frodo and Sam.


“The Ring Is Looked Through Again.” Gaul v. 2:2 (March 1962): 32-33. LoC. Disagrees that Gandalf, Aragorn, and Sam are the only approachable characters. Merry and Pippin are very distinct in their characterization and interaction with other characters.

Bradley, Marion Zimmer, David Bradley, Paul Zimmer
Untitled. Day*Star 14 (May 1961): 1. Describes who will receive this issue and the Astra’s Tower with “Men, Halflings and Hero Worship.”

Brooks, C.W. Ned. See also Brooks, Jr, C.W.

Busby, Elinor
“Two Views: Of Elves and Men: The Mystery of Choice.” Andúril 1 (Summer 1962): 9-11. Thoughts of Elf-Man intermarriage and traits of children of the union. Discussion on other races interbreeding. Feels that elves were far less brave than other races of Middle-earth during the Third Age.

Carr, G.M.
“Judges Report - Project Art Show #2.” Silmé 1 (December 1961): 23. States that there were no serious contenders for The Fellowship of the Ring art award at the 19th Worldcon in Seattle.

Carter, Lin
“Notes on Tolkien, part I: theme and form.” Xero 7 (November 1961): 18-24. Gives background of Epic Fantasy’s roots and its decay into Romance. Touts Morris and Eddison as those who brought back the literary form (borrowing some Romance features) and how the form flowered into perfection with Tolkien’s LR.
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“Notes on Tolkien, part ii: names and places.” Xero 8 (April 15 1962): 40-44. Tolkien shows great care in languages and names in LR. Tolkien's Quenya was a springboard to the creation of his tales. The Dwarves' names are in The Elder Edda. Points out West-East relationship in LR (but Russia in the East, not Germany). Draws parallels between the elves/Tuatha de Danaan, Númenor/Atlantis, and Valinor/Fairyland.


Cawthorn, Jim


Cheslin, Ken


Untitled. Nazgul's Bane 4 (years end 1963): 1. News that a typewritten draft of The Silmarillion had reached Tolkien's publishers.

Coulson, Buck
“Epistolary Intercourse.” Xero 9 (1962): 89-90. LoC. An author using character names from earlier sources (e.g., Tolkien and The Elder Edda) does not make them better imaginative writers.

Curtis, Anthony

Davidson, Avram

Deindorfer, Gary
“The Reverberatory.” Ancalagon 2 (April 1961): 2-5. LoC. Feels that Heap's definition of fantasy-adventure is not well defined, expounding that pre-gunpowder societies would excluded Tolkien from Heap's definition. Disagrees with Heap and describes hobbits as truly empathetic characters. Wonders if a hobbit slice of life story (no adventure) could be classified as fantasy-adventure.

Eklund, Gordon

Elkin, Sheila

Ellern, Jane

“Palantir.” Perian 1 (1962): 1-2. Initial thoughts after successfully reading LR.

Ellington, Dick & Pat
Ellison, Harlan
“Selections at an Exhibition.” Silmé 1 (December 1961): 13-17. States that there were no serious contenders for The Fellowship of the Ring art award at the 19th Worldcon in Seattle.

Eney, Dick
“Untitled Manuscript Found in a Paper Envelope.” Silmé 1 (December 1961): 18-19. States that there were no serious contenders for The Fellowship of the Ring art award at the 19th Worldcon in Seattle but provides more information than the Ellison article.

Evers, Earl E. See also Evers, Pvt Earl E.

Evers, Pvt Earl E. See also Evers, Earl E.

Halevy, Al
“A Glossary of Middle Earth.” Niekas 10 (December 15, 1964): 11-17. Glossary of all dwarves found in The Hobbit and LR.
“A Glossary of Middle-Earth.” Rhodomagnetic Digest v. 5:2 (October 1962): 40-60. Glossary of all hobbits found in The Hobbit and LR.
“Follow-up Department.” Glamdring 3 (August 1960): 10. LoC. Comments on the club name The Fellowship of the Ring and his glossary of Middle-earth.

Hall, David

Harness, Jack

Heap, George. See also Heap, George R.

Heap, George R. See also Heap, George

“On Fantasy-Adventure.” Ancalagon 1 (March 1961): 2-6. Essay on the definition fantasy-adventure stories followed by a bibliography of author’s specific works, which the essay feels meets the criteria. These include Anderson, de Camp, Eddison, Howard, Kuttner, Leiber, Merritt, Pratt, Tolkien and Vance.

Heap, George. See also Heap, George R.

Heap, George R. See also Heap, George R.

“On Fantasy-Adventure.” Ancalagon 1 (March 1961): 2-6. Essay on the definition fantasy-adventure stories followed by a bibliography of author’s specific works, which the essay feels meets the criteria. These include Anderson, de Camp, Eddison, Howard, Kuttner, Leiber, Merritt, Pratt, Tolkien and Vance.

Heap, George R. See also Heap, George R.
“The Reverberatory.” Ancalagon 2 (April 1961): 5-6. Response to Deindorfer. Justifies his definition of fantasy-adventure and then wonders why gunpowder was not used by Sauron during the siege of Minas Tirith.

Holmberg, John-Henri

Hulan, Dave
“Can’t Tell the Mailing Comments from the Artwork without an Editorial…” Niflheim 9 (October 1964): 1. Thinks that the LR’s plot is boring and unsustainable in such a long novel. Compares to the Lensman series, which provides resolution at the end of each book.

Jacob, Piers
“Laiskai.” Niekas 10 (December 15, 1964): 40. LoC. Discusses reading and feelings toward LR.

Johnstone, Ted. See Studebaker, Don
“From the Hobbit Hole.” I Palantir 2 (August 1961): 3. begs forgiveness for lateness of the issue, requests material, and states that Tolkien has not responded to the first issue.


Johnstone, Ted, and others


Johnstone, Ted, Studebaker, Don, and others


Keller, David H.

“Peake's First…” *Speculative Review* v. 3:1 (June 1961): 5-8. Footnote references Tolkien, White, and Eddison were contemporaries.

Lewis, C.S.


Locke, Dave


Lynch, Hal. See also Lynch, Harold V.


Lynch, Harold V. See also Lynch, Hal

“----, Organize!” *Ancalagon* 1 (March 1961): 7. Includes comments from Ted Johnstone for material for the next issue of *I Palantir*.

Mansfield, Pete. See also Mansfield, Peter


“On 'Tyrfing' and -er - Other Fings.” *Eldritch Dream Quest* 2 (May 1961): 36-41. In a preface to an article on changelings, considers *LR* the best fantasy. Later in the article, draws similarities between Moorcock, Tolkien, and Anderson.


Mansfield, Peter. See also Mansfield, Pete

“Middengeard.” *Eldritch Dream Quest* 1 (November 1960): 3-6. Editorial comments about the use of “Middle-earth” and other settings for a variety of fantasy books, including Tolkien, which the editor esteems highly.


Mayhew, Hanna, and Larry McCombs

“A Hard Look Through the 'Ring'.” *Gaul* v. 2:1 (January 1962): 44-46. A critical review of the *LR*. Tolkien's backgrounds are well developed but his characters are 'cardboard' (with few exceptions). Evil characters are dispatched with ease but without interference from the main 'good' characters. Tolkien's “allegory” fails to show that power corrupts but places that influence on the Ring only.

McCombs, Jinx

“The Ring Is Looked Through Again.” *Gaul* v. 2:2 (March 1962): 33. LoC. The deaths of Boromir and Gollum were due to their giving into temptation, while others (who use the Ring but did not succumb) suffered punishment. The characters seem flat because they are not individuals but represent human traits.

McCombs, Larry. See Mayhew, Hanna

Mercer, Archie


“The Ring Is Looked Through Again.” *Gaul* v. 2:2 (March 1962): 34. LoC. Agrees that Tolkien's backgrounds are extraordinary with a few characters that were outstanding (Bombadil and Ioreth). Found Gandalf boring.

Meskys, Ed

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More, Anthony

“Review and Comment.” Rhodomagnetic Digest v. 5:2 (October 1962): 61-62. Tolkien fandom is shallow in its criticism of Tolkien and his world. Tolkien’s work will survive in spite of the immaturity of its fans.

Parkinson, Bob


Pelz, Bruce


“Follow-up Department.” Glamdring 3 (August 1960): 11-12. Editorial comments about the timeline to publish the first issue of I Palantir.


“Thank Goodness!” I Palantir 1 (August 1960): 17. An announcement of an art show prize to be given at the 18th Worldcon.


Untitled. Glamdring 1 (April 1960): 1. Review of Triode 17, which includes Wein’s article on a film treatment of LR.


Pelz describes his encounter with LR. More discussion on the naming of the club (The Fellowship of the Ring).


Raeburn, Boyd


Rivers, Elfrida [pseudonym, Marion Zimmer Bradley]. See also Bradley, Marion Z.; Bradley, Marion Zimmer


Scithers?, G.H.


Baker, Edwin Joseph

Untitled. [Baker SAPS] 2 (January 15, 1964): 2. Comments on his concordance to LR.

Smith, Robert


Sneary, Rick

“Epistolary Intercourse.” Xero 10 (March 1963): 82-83. LoC. No interest in either Tolkien research or fiction writing.

“Two Views: Of Elves and Men: The World Well Lost.” Andúril 1 (Summer 1962): 8-9. Posits that Arwen’s choice of mortality may have been caused by renouncing her elvish powers or skills.
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Untitled. Gaul v. 2:3 (June 1962): 10-12. LoC. Tolkien has broad appeal and his races have real-world counterparts: hobbits (middle-class British), Elves (French), Dwarves (German), and Orcs (Saracens). LR is a retelling of the Third Crusade.

Spacks, Patricia Meyer

"Ethical Patterns in The Lord of the Rings." I Palantir 3 (April 1964): 6-13. LR is not a Christian work but a tale of Good against Evil based on ethical systems. However, unlike the Northern worldview of Beowulf, LR aligns closely with a Christian universe, which includes free will and ordered fate. In LR, the Good is in tune with nature; Evil uses harmful technology. Tolkien's characters emphasize responsibility and, as they make the choices for good, they grow spiritually. Those who choose evil become slaves to evil and find it hard (or are incapable) to choose good. LR "must assume...a central position in the canon of serious supernatural literature." Reprinted from Critique 3:1 (Spring-Fall 1959).

Studebaker, Don, Ted Johnstone, and others. See Johnstone, Ted

Thewlis, D.
"Tree and Leaf." Niekas 9 (September 1964): 44. Review of Tree and Leaf.

Tolkien, Professor J.R.R.
"Fan Dance." Triode 18 (May 1960): 27. LoC. Tolkien replies to Weir's article and his experience with story lines and scripts.

Trimble, Bjo
"Editorial." Silmé 1 (December 1961): 3-4. Explains that the fanzine's name is Quenyan.

Unknown


Walsted, Mark
"Laikai." Niekas 10 (December 15, 1964): 42. LoC. Rumor of Tolkien's death before he had started The Silmarillion.

Warner, Harry. See also Warner, Jr, Harry
"Epistolary Intercourse." Xero 8 (April 15 1962): 58-59. LoC. Predicts backlash against Tolkien's books due to the attention they are receiving.
"Epistolary Intercourse." Xero 9 (1962): 90-92. LoC. Admits not to have read LR.
"Epistolary Intercourse." Xero 10 (March 1963): 80-82. LoC. Notes Wagner influences on Tolkien but different treatment of evil in their works.

Warner, Jr, Harry. See also Warner, Harry
"Laikai." Niekas 10 (December 15, 1964): 37-38. LoC. Does not feel that Tolkien's work is worth all of Halevy's research and that the review of Tree and Leaf was facile.

Weir, Arthur R.
"No Monroe in Lothlorien!" Triode 17 (January 1960): 31-33. Discussion of a film treatment of LR, paying close attention to casting of parts and possible locations, while discussing music to some extent.
"No Monroe in Lothlorien!" Eldritch Dream Quest 2 (May 1961): 47-52. Discussion of a film treatment of LR, paying close attention to casting of parts and possible locations, while discussing music to some extent. Includes Tolkien's comments on the article.
"Follow-up Department," Glamdring 3 (August 1960): 10-11. LoC. Dislikes the club name The Fellowship of the Ring.

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Wollheim, Donald A.
“Laiskai.” Niekas 10 (December 15, 1964): 42-43. LoC. Does not see a need for the Glossary and is not a devotee of Tolkien.


Wright, James
“Laiskai.” Niekas 9 (September 1964): 67-68. LoC. Wright provides an additional stanza to the “Orcs Marching Song.”

Zelazny, Roger

Zimmer, Paul. See Bradley, Marion Zimmer
“The Worm Ouroboros.” Andúril 1 (Summer 1962): 12-13. Dubs Eddison’s work as ‘supernatural romance’ and feels that other authors (including Tolkien) may have been influenced by Eddison.
Artist index

Barr, George
Bowen, Marv
Tutorial. Rhodomagnetic Digest v. 5:2 (October 1962): 47. Nazgûl
Bradley, Marion Zimmer
Tutorial. Andúril 1 (Summer 1962): cover. Andúril
Cawthorn, Jim
“Beyond the Last Bridge.” Bastion 3 (Spring 1962): 35. Bill the Pony, Frodo Baggins, Meriadoc Brandybuck, Peregrin Took, Samwise Gamgee
“Ride to the Ford!” Bastion 3 (Spring 1962): 36. Asfaloth, Frodo Baggins, Nazgûl
Cheslin, Ken
“And please make them hurry up and publish ‘The Simarillian’.” Nazgul’s Bane 3 (1961). 4. Eye of Sauron
Coulson, Juanita
de Maiffe, Ken
de Maiffe, Ken, and Dave Thewlis
“Leaf by Niggle.” Niekas 9 (September 1964): 44. Leaf by Niggle
Dickensheet, Dean, and Jack Harness
Harness, Jack. See Dickensheet, Dean
“Say, just when did he get into the Cult?” Angmar 1 (August 1960): cover. Eye of Sauron, Nazgûl
Tutorial. I Palantir 1 (August 1960): cover. palantír, Saruman
Heap, George R.
Simpson, Don
Thewlis, Dave. See de Maiffe, Ken
Trimble, Bjo
Tutorial. I Palantir 1 (August 1960): 8. hithlain
Unknown
Tutorial. Rhodomagnetic Digest v. 5:2 (October 1962): 40. Smial
Zimmer, Kerry
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Zimmer, Paul

Art index by subject

Ancalagon

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Brandybuck, Meriadoc

Celeborn

Elrond

Emblem of Durin

Emblem of Gondor

Éowyn

Eye of Sauron
[Harness, Jack], “Say, just when did he get into the Cult?” Angmar 1 (August 1960): cover.

Galadriel
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Gamgee, Samwise

Gandalf

Gimli

Glamdring

Haldir

Hithlain

Hobbit

Horn of Boromir

Leaf by Niggle
de Maiffe, Ken, and Thewlis, Dave. “Leaf by Niggle.” Niekas 9 (September 1964): 44.

Legolas

Lord of the Nazgûl. See also Nazgûl

Mount Doom

Nazgûl. See also Lord of the Nazgûl
[Harness, Jack], “Say, just when did he get into the Cult?” Angmar 1 (August 1960): cover.

Nazgûl’s flying beast

Orc

Palantír

Saruman

Sauron

Smial

Took, Peregrin
Glossary

Apa (Amateur press association): A group of people who publish fanzines, and instead of mailing them individually, sends them to an Official Editor, who distributes them to members in identical bundles.

The Cult: North American apa, which only allowed 13 members
FAPA: Fantasy Amateur Press Association
N'APA: Neffer Amateur Press Association, a part of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (NFFF or N3F)
OMPA: Offtrail Magazine Publishers’ Association
SAPS: Spectator Amateur Press Society
LoC: Letter of comment, on an issue of a fanzine, sometimes in lieu of subscription or trade.
S&S (Sword & Sorcery): genre of fiction; a Conan the Barbarian story would be S&S.
TAFF: Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, to finance trips by British fans to American conventions and vice-versa; candidates are voted on by the general body of fandom.

Worldcon (World Science Fiction Convention): annual sf convention held over Labor Day weekend.
1958: 16th in South Gate, California “Solacon”
1959: 17th in Detroit “Detention”
1960: 18th in Pittsburgh “Pittcon”
1961: 19th in Seattle “Seacon”
1962: 20th in Chicago “Chicon III”
1964: 22nd in Oakland “Pacificon II”

Bibliography

The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien, letter 211.
Letter of comment from Ken Cheslin, evidently published in a later issue of Triode.
All fanzines referenced above.
Personal correspondence with Robert Lichtman.
http://fanac.org/Fannish_Reference_Works/FandBook/FandBook.html