

[PDF] The Letters Of J. R. R. Tolkien

Humphrey Carpenter, J. R. R. Tolkien, Christopher Tolkien - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: The Letters of J. R. R. Tolki

Author: Humphrey Carpenter, J. R. R.

Released: 1981-10-15

Language:

Pages: 463

ISBN: 0395315557

ISBN13: 978-0395315552

ASIN: 0395315557



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Description:

Scholars and fans of the great mythologist will find a rich vein of information in Humphrey Carpenter's *The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien*. Tolkien was a prodigious letter writer all his life; the sheer mass of his correspondence would give pause to even the most stalwart archivist (one shudders to think what he would have done with e-mail). But with the able assistance of Tolkien's son Christopher and a healthy dose of determination, Carpenter manages find the cream of the crop--the letters that shed light on Tolkien's thoughts about his academic and literary work, as well as those that show his more private side, revealing a loving husband, a playful friend, and a doting father. The most fascinating letters are, of course, those in which he discusses Middle-Earth, and Carpenter offers plenty of those to choose from. Tolkien discussed the minutia of his legend--sometimes at great length--with friends, publishers, and even fans who wrote to him with questions. These letters

offer significant insights into how he went about creating the peoples and languages of Middle-Earth.

I have long ceased to *invent* (though even patronizing or sneering critics on the side praise my 'inventions'): I wait till I seem to know what really happened. Or till it writes itself. Thus, though I knew for years that Frodo would run into a tree-adventure somewhere far down the Great River, I had no recollection of inventing Ents. I came at last to the point, and wrote the 'Treebeard' chapter without any recollection of any previous thought: just as it is now. And then I saw that, of course, it had not happened to Frodo at all.

This new edition of letters has an extensive index, and Carpenter has included a brief blurb at the beginning of each letter to explain who the correspondent was and what was being discussed. Still, we strongly recommend buying the companion volume, , in order to better understand the place these correspondents had in Tolkien's life and get a better context for the letters. --*Perry M. Atterberry* --This text refers to the edition.

From Library Journal The old fellow's letters to friends, family, and fans offer insight into his life and writings. Fun but not essential.

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