

Marquette University

e-Publications@Marquette

Philosophy Faculty Research and Publications

Philosophy, Department of

1987

Preface to Preface [to *J.R.R. Tolkien: "The Hobbit" : Drawings, Watercolors, and Manuscripts*]

Curtis Carter

Marquette University, curtis.carter@marquette.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://epublications.marquette.edu/phil_fac



Part of the [Philosophy Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Carter, Curtis, "Preface to Preface [to *J.R.R. Tolkien: "The Hobbit" : Drawings, Watercolors, and Manuscripts*]" (1987). *Philosophy Faculty Research and Publications*. 357.

https://epublications.marquette.edu/phil_fac/357

Preface

This exhibition brings together for the first time in a public display important selections from the pictures *and* the original manuscripts of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*.

Twenty of the drawings and watercolor paintings are on loan from the Bodleian Library at Oxford University, and the manuscripts are from the Tolkien Collection at Marquette University's Memorial Library. Without the generosity of these two institutions, together with the full cooperation of Christopher Tolkien and F.R. Williamson, executors of the Tolkien estate, this exhibition would not have been possible. The Pierpont Morgan Library graciously made available an original Tolkien letter to his Oxford friend Selby, commenting on *The Hobbit* at the time of its publication in 1937, and a private collector has loaned a drawing of *The Lonely Mountain*.

Both of the principal lenders have mounted complementary exhibitions on Tolkien during 1987. The Bodleian exhibited the original drawings and paintings for *The Hobbit* from February 27 to May 23, 1987 at Oxford. The Marquette University Department of Special Collections and University Archives, home of the J.R.R. Tolkien manuscript collection, will exhibit at Memorial Library illustrations and manuscripts from three other books in the collection: *The Lord of the Rings*, *Farmer Giles of Ham*, and *Mr. Bliss*, running concurrently with the Haggerty Museum exhibition.

Mulcahy & Wherry S.C., a Wisconsin law firm and the principal sponsor for the Haggerty exhibition, has brought unusual educational vision and leadership to the project, under the guiding force of Charles C. Mulcahy, extending the educational outreach throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest.

Initially the idea for this exhibition was proposed by representatives of Marquette's Department of Special Collections and the Mythopoeic Society, Conference XVIII, most notably Taum Santoski. The eighteenth annual conference of the Society will take place at Marquette University, July 24-27, 1987. The Mythopoeic Society, founded in 1967, is a not-for-profit literary and educational organization dedicated to the study of the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and of general fantasy and mythic literature. The Society publishes *Mythlore*, a quarterly journal. We are most appreciative of the Marquette Library's and the Conference's encouragement and support.

This exhibition marks the fiftieth anniversary of the first publication of *The Hobbit*, in England by Allen & Unwin (now Unwin Hyman) and Houghton Mifflin in the United States.

We are grateful for the cooperation of Mr. Rayner Unwin, president of Unwin Hyman, who, at the age of ten, first recommended to his father the publication of *The Hobbit*. Both publishers released their anniversary editions in 1987.

Many others, beyond those already noted, have contributed to the success of this project. The Haggerty Museum Friends have provided hospitality for the opening reception and arranged for flowers contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mulcahy. Bruce Barker-Benfield, assistant librarian at the Bodleian Library, and Charles Elston, director of Special Collections and University Archives at Marquette University have each devoted substantial effort in making their respective collections available. Taum Santoski, treasurer of the Mythopoeic Conference, advised on the selection of manuscripts, provided transcriptions of holograph texts, and assisted with research. His expertise was invaluable in these aspects. Richard Schindler of the University of Connecticut provided a guest essay for the catalogue. J. Lewis Perlson, Nancy Orenstein, and Barbara Otto of Mulcahy & Wherry provided substantial assistance with the development and coordination of this project. Sandy Hintz and Colleen Fitzgerald offered valuable assistance with promotional and media relations.

The Haggerty Museum staff and other departments at Marquette assisted in various aspects. Gary Wolfe designed the installation, Leigh Albritton coordinated catalogue production, Mark Spencer coordinated special events and educational tours, and Fay Graetz and Marilyn Meissner typed the manuscript. From the Public Relations department, Paul McNerny coordinated printing, and Jan Nowak assisted with publicity. The Instructional Media Center's Joan Holcomb designed the catalogue and graphics, and Nick Schroeder set the type.

For all of these efforts we are grateful.

Curtis L. Carter
Director

A Statement from Exhibition Sponsors Mulcahy & Wherry, S.C., Attorneys at Law

This exclusive showing of *J.R.R. Tolkien: Drawings, Watercolors and Manuscripts from "The Hobbit"* is made possible by the sponsorship of Mulcahy & Wherry, S.C. in conjunction with the Haggerty Museum of Art and Marquette University.

Mulcahy & Wherry invites the viewer to journey through the imagery of a literary masterpiece. By combining visual and written components, this exhibition reveals Tolkien's creative genius, encouraging his audience to take the journey into imagination with him. It is this invitation to explore the creative process that captivated the firm's imagination and prompted an enduring interest in this project.

Mulcahy & Wherry demonstrates its commitment to community service by becoming involved in a variety of civic projects. This service extends state-wide through the firm's branch office network, encompassing the major artistic disciplines.

It is the sincere hope of Mulcahy & Wherry that by this exhibition, you will experience the creative process of J.R.R. Tolkien and take from it a memorable experience of your own.

Lenders to the Exhibition

Bodleian Library, Oxford, England

Marquette University Memorial Library,

Department of Special Collections and University Archives

The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York

Anonymous