

AN OR

ISSUE 17

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Editorial

Hi again, and welcome to the new look **Anor**. The striking new cover is the work of Lynne Elison (of Oxford) and is, I think, an excellent piece of work. Just so the 'averagely literate **Anor** reader' (to quote Susan Foord last issue) can tell it's an **Anor**, it includes Per Ahlberg's distinctive sword as part of the design. Thanks, Lynne.

Second part of the new look is a change in the typeface for most of the main body of **Anor** from Times Roman (which that was) to the clearer and more readable New Century Schoolbook, which is what I wanted to use all along. [The nice man from Amazon has just fixed/ upgraded our LaserWriter at work so I can now use all the pretty fonts I've been moaning about not having over the last two issues.]

The third part is a large quantity of filler art and borders from Susan Foord - - thanks very much, Susan. Much as I like Susan's art, it would be nice if a few other people put pen/brush/whatever to paper and did something — Susan and Lynne can't be the only talented people in the CTS ... can they?

Apart from that, the main feature of this issue is a discourse by my learned predecessor on the subject of the Maiar, coupled with *pitifully few* other articles.

We print upwards of 80 copies of each issue. Most of them get read by people with a genuine interest in J.R.R.Tolkien who surely have an opinion they can share with the rest of us on *some* aspect of his works. Come on you lot, get your skates on — this is your newsletter, so please please please, write me something — even a few letters and comments would be nice. The next issue's deadline is September 1st and it's the Oxonmoot issue, so it would be nice if it was a well-filled issue.

I'm working in Cambridge all summer (heck, all year!) so material *will* get to me. What are you waiting for?



Barter in the Shire

In much of the work since the debate over the economics of Middle-earth started, passing comment has been made on the existence of money within the Shire but no-one as yet has tackled this problem head-on. This I hope to conclusively do in this short article. I hope to finally put this argument to rest by showing that a monetary system had to exist within the Shire at the time of the WotR.

Firstly a few old points have to be restated. The hobbit population probably had bounds of thirty and three hundred thousand, if you accept the higher figure as Ted Crawford does then you only increase the validity of the argument that I set out below. This population was of course divided up into households, the number of them which existed probably has a lower bound of three thousand (this is probably too low but again increasing this number just increases the validity of my argument.)

Now each of these households is going to have different tastes and preferences, these will be dependent upon things like number of children, age of adults, the type of work the adults do etc.. Whilst it may be possible to make some generalisations about these tastes you are still going to be left with a large number of possibilities for each household. No household can produce everything it needs, not even farms, although they can be fairly self sufficient, so internal trade has to occur to meet these needs. This is going to be especially true of the hobbits living in the villages and the richer hobbits (who were quite likely to be mostly farmers.)

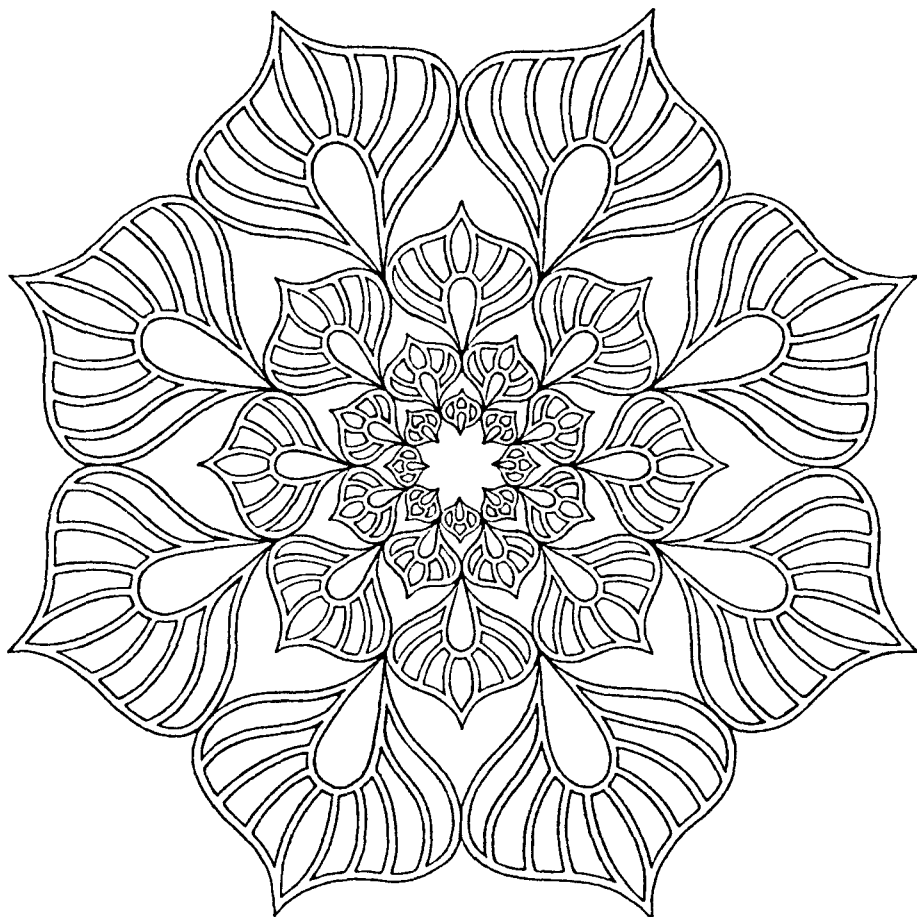
If people are forced to barter for what they want then a number of points should be considered. Firstly you need to know the information about who has what you want and whether they are willing to barter for it. Secondly when you find what you want you may not have anything the owner needs. So then you will need to barter with someone who has something that person wants and wants what you have. Thirdly, and finally, when you have an acceptable item of barter you need to haggle an acceptable price, but the result may be unusable i.e. half a chicken when you wanted the chicken for egg production. This will lead to more haggling and possibly no barter finally taking place! A barter process can be a very long drawn out process which incurs a cost due to this time. You do not want to spend half the day bartering for a good when you should be out working in the fields. An economic theory does exist to explain how a barter economy would operate, this is called 'Core' theory and is explained in any good micro- economics textbook. The assumptions needed to provide an acceptable result with this theory make its practical application very hard.

What could happen instead? The evolutionary process I will outline now is just one possibility, many solutions to the problem can be thought of but the problem does have to be solved. A barter process could occur at the free fair and in the inns at other times. But if it occurs in the inns the easiest way would be for some form of credit slip to be issued as you entered the inn and then for the haggling to take place. If the actual goods were taken, into the inns the noise etc. would be unbelievable. There is no evidence for this approach in LotR; inns just play the normal social function which is associated with village based communities. Over the thousand odd years the hobbits had been living in the Shire this system of

credit slips could have evolved. To keep inns social these credit slips would be issued by respectable innkeepers and they would ensure that people did not cheat with them. Here the slips would already be providing the most important role of money, that of a method of exchange. From here it could easily evolve into a coinage based system if the innkeepers were willing to accept coins in exchange for credit slips (the coins would need to have an intrinsic value for this i.e. gold, silver etc..) So money could replace credit slips with innkeepers purchasing the goods and acting as shop keepers.

This possible evolutionary process is not that unbelievable, and as I said this is just a suggestion of how the problems associated with barter are solved. So it seems fairly sensible to believe that money existed, and was used, in the Shire.

Ian Alexander



...Comment...

Not a lot of it this issue - thanks heavens (or rather, thank Susan) for filler artwork!

Our noble chairhobbit wishes to make a point, which I shall reproduce as it landed in my in tray.

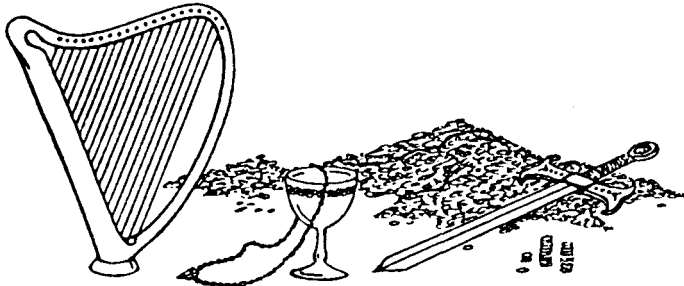
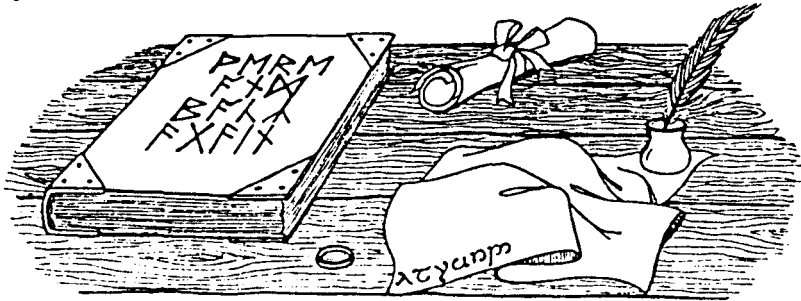
I would like to object in the strongest possible terms to being described as (I quote) "a hobbit from the North". Since I was born and bred within five miles of Sandyman's Mill, I think I may claim with perfect veracity to stem from the very middle of Middle-Earth. While I am aware that certain elements in the Society believe that anything north of the Morannon might as well be in the Nothern waste, I would be obliged if they would get their facts right in future.

I have the honour to remain

Yours deeply,

Monica 'ProudFEET' Gale

Up - think you're for it there, Ian. Does anyone know where the Morannon is, by the way?





Of The Maiar

The Maiar are one of the most enigmatic of all the peoples of Tolkien's world. The little that is known of them as a group is given in "Of the Maiar" in the Valaquenta, but even here we are left with enigma and much scope for speculation: "Their number is not known to the Elves, and few have names in any of the tongues of the Children of Iluvatar; for though it is otherwise in Aman, in Middle-earth the Maiar have seldom appeared in form visible to Elves and Men." In this paper I intend to discuss first the state of our present knowledge about the Maiar, and then to speculate about various other characters in Middle-earth who may be Maiar.

Fourteen Maiar are named in the works, and are described in greater or lesser detail. They are, in no particular order, Osse, Uinen, Ilmare, Eonwe, Melian, Arien, Tilion, Sauron, Gothmog, Curumo, Alatar, Aiwendil, Pallando, and (probably) Olorin. I say 'probably Olorin' because of a note in Unfinished Tales (p 395): "in later days it was believed...that 'Gandalf' was the last appearance of Manwe himself, before his final withdrawal to the watchtower of Taniquetil". However Tolkien goes on to say, and I must say I agree with him, "But I think it was not so", explaining that if Manwe only sent his herald, Eonwe, to the overthrow of Morgoth, then it is hardly likely that he would have gone himself to oppose Sauron. Thus the groundwork of any discussion of the Maiar must be laid in our knowledge of those fourteen, and their interaction with the Valar and the Children of Iluvatar. However it is important to note that not all Maiar were by any means equal in their power and importance. Just as those of the Ainur who chose to "Enter into the World at the beginning of time" were divided by the Elves into the "greater spirits", or Valar, and the rest, the Maiar, and the Valar were then subdivided again, with the nine (eight after the removal of Morgoth) of chief power and reverence being named the Aratar, the High Ones of Arda, so it seems useful to subdivide the Maiar, although it must be emphasised that any such division is totally arbitrary, and of no real significance, just as the division between Valar and Maiar is essentially arbitrary, and is drawn where it is simply because the Elves felt that Seven/Fourteen were significant numbers. As an example of this, compare Tulkas and Eonwe. Tulkas is described as "Greatest in strength and deeds of prowess", delighting in wrestling and contests of strength, and he came to Arda to aid the Valar in the first battles with Melkor. On the other hand, it is said of Eonwe that his "might in arms is surpassed by none in Arda." Why is Tulkas a Vala and Eonwe a Maia? The answer - simply because in a "ranking list" drawn up by the Elves Tulkas was at number seven, and Eonwe at number eight, and the line came at seven.

The next part of this article will be concerned with an attempt to reproduce that "Ranking List", or at least the positions in it of the Valar with whom we are familiar. Maggie Percival has proposed a division into five classes, and although this seems a rather large number to place fourteen Maiar in, especially since most of the Maiar we know about are those who play a major part in the history,

and therefore are the more "powerful" ones, I shall stick to it, not least because it provides plenty of scope, and the lower classes will be useful in the more speculative part of this work. From what we have seen above, Eonwe must clearly be put into class I, and similarly Ilmare, the handmaid of Varda, who is described as "chief among the Maiar of Valinor" must be class I. Beyond this, the ranking becomes somewhat more subjective, but I hope to provide some evidence for my classifications. Sauron, as chief lieutenant of Morgoth, and who played a part in all the deeds of Morgoth upon Arda, must clearly have been of a high order, and given that "Many of the Maiar were drawn to his [Morgoth's] splendour" it seems appropriate to place Sauron in Class I. Also in Class I I would place Osse and Uinen, the master of the shores of Middle-earth and the Lady of the Seas. They alone of all the Maiar described in the works have a sort of "regency" over part of the realm of one of the Valar, allowing their master to get on with the things he enjoys more. Arien and Tilion, the helmsmen of the Sun and the Moon, were clearly also Maiar of some significance, but they were not left entirely without guidance, being subject to the constraints of time, even if Tilion did his best to break away from it. Thus I don't feel that they would be of the same class as Osse and Uinen, and I place Arien in class II and Tilion ("Arien...was mightier than he") in class III. Returning for a moment to the "Enemies", the only named Maiar besides Sauron was Gothmog, Lord of the Balrogs. These were described as "dreadful" among the spirits that took allegiance to Morgoth, and so their Lord must have been of considerable power, and yet junior to Sauron. Thus I would place Gothmog in Class II, with the remaining Balrogs in Class III.

The remaining named Maiar present something of a problem, as they are those who took on the body of one of the Children of Iluvatar in a permanent (or at least semi-permanent) way. The first of these was Melian of Doriath, wife of Thingol Greycloak. She must once again have been a Maia of some significance, since she was "Akin before the World was made to Yavanna herself". The ease with which she enchants Elwe, who was himself great among the Eldar (and remember that we have well documented examples of Elves overcoming Maiar, e.g. Ecthelion, who slew Gothmog, Lord of Balrogs, although he died in the act) gives some measure of her power. Assuming that she suffered some constraints when she took on the body of an Elf following her joining with Elwe (which I assume she must have done in order to have children), then the fact that she was still able to weave a maze of enchantments around a realm measuring roughly 250 miles square which remained unbreached for most of the First Age implies that she must originally have been amongst the most powerful of the Maiar, certainly in Class I.

The Istari present more of a problem, since we are told in Unfinished Tales ("The Istari") that they were Maiar "in bodies as of Men, real and not feigned, but subject to the fears and pains and weariness of earth", "forbidden to reveal themselves in forms of majesty, or to seek to rule the wills of Men or Elves by open display of power...". Thus we can conclude that their level of power was considerably greater than that which we see, which is probably just as well, since in the case of Gandalf the only manifestations of power reported prior to his reincarnation are a few examples of minor pyrotechnics, hardly the "mighty, peers of Sauron" which the Valar decided they should send. It seems unlikely that the Istari were really peers of Sauron, as that would place them among the most powerful Maiar. Certainly Olorin considered himself "too weak for the task," and he "feared Sauron". On the other hand Gandalf, while under the constraints of the Istari, was able to defeat the Balrog of Moria, even though he was himself 'killed' in the act. Thus if we consider Olorin to be less powerful than Sauron and more powerful than a "run of the mill" Balrog, we must place him in

Class II. From Unfinished Tales, it is clear that Curumo (Saruman) was very much on a par with Olorin. On their arrival in Middle-earth Saruman was generally acknowledged to be their leader, but even at this stage he may have been cheating the rules slightly, and seeking leadership through appearance of power. However several important observers realised that Olorin/Gandalf was the most important, most notably Cirdan, who gave Gandalf his ring, Narya the Great. And at an even earlier stage Varda said of Olorin, after Manwe had commanded him to go as the third of the emissaries, "Not as the Third", a fact which Curumo remembered, and may have been the start of the 'rivalry' between them, even before Saruman discovered Cirdan's gift to Gandalf. Thus we must place Curumo with Olorin in class II.

Of Alatar and Pallando, the Blue Wizards, little is known, save that they were sent by Orome. Originally Alatar was chosen, so it seems safe to assume that he was of the same order as Curumo and Olorin, though probably not quite as powerful as the other two, making him class III. Of Pallando even less is known, save that he was a friend of Alatar, and went with him to Middle-earth. For no good reason, except that it appears that Alatar was the "boss" of this pair, I put Pallando in class IV. Finally in this review I come to Aiwendil, who became Radagast in Middle-earth, and again we are faced with problems. In the note concerning the "Council of the Valar" Curumo agrees to take Aiwendil with him because Yavanna begs him to, yet in all the accounts of the arrival of the Istari in Middle-earth Saruman arrives first and alone. It is, however, certain that even from the first Saruman looked down on Radagast, and by the time of the War of the Ring he no longer bothered to hide his scorn. Aiwendil himself shows no evidence of power beyond a love of Animals and Plants, and an affinity with them which is only to be expected of a follower of Yavanna. Thus I consider him to be the least of the "chosen" Istari, and place him in class IV.

Concluding this ranking of the named Maiar, I give a summary of the groupings:-

- Class I: Osse, Uinen, Ilmare, Eonwe, Melian, Sauron.
- Class II: Olorin, Curumo, Arien, Gothmog.
- Class III: Alatar, Tilion, Balrogs.
- Class IV: Aiwendil, Pallando.
- Class V: None.

At this stage it seems appropriate to discuss the nature of the constraints applied to the power of those Maiar who became the Istari. We are told that they "must forego might and clothe themselves in flesh", but what is not clear is whether these restrictions are self imposed (i.e. they were simply told "you must not change your body or use your power"), or whether the restriction was imposed by an external power, either the Valar or Eru himself, in which case they would require intervention from that authority in order to use any of their power. The truth of the matter appears to be a mixture of the two. It was with the Consent of Eru that the Istari were sent "clad in bodies as of Men, real and not feigned...able to hunger and thirst and be slain" and when Gandalf was 'slain' by the Balrog, he went "beyond the confines of the World", being sent back in a 'turbocharged' form by Eru. Thus it is clear that their bodies, and the restrictions these imposed on them, were provided by Eru, and the restrictions could only be lifted by him.

Having said this, the Istari were nonetheless "forbidden to reveal themselves in forms of majesty, or to seek to rule the wills of Men and Elves by open display of Power, but coming in shapes weak and humble were bidden to advise and persuade Men and Elves to good..." by the Valar. The clear implication of this is that they were still capable of attempting to dominate Men and Elves, and indeed this is borne out by later events. Saruman appeared "noble of mien and bearing" on his first appearance in Middle-earth, already at odds with the "weak and humble" form he was supposed to adopt, and by the time of his final corruption, he was clearly attempting to dominate his followers. In his confrontation with Gandalf reported at the Council of Elrond Saruman obviously intends to seek domination through power, both his own power and that of the Ring, if he could lay his hands on it, and even without the Ring he manages to inspire a remarkable degree of loyalty in his Orcs. Thus it is plain that Saruman was able to disregard the 'rules' by which he was forbidden to seek domination, though he was not able to overcome the restrictions imposed by the body into which he had been 'locked' by Eru.

I have described Gandalf on his return from 'death' as 'turbocharged', and by this I mean that his powers had been enhanced, presumably by the relaxation of some of the constraints placed on him. One question we might ask is whether Gandalf is once again incarnated in a 'real' body, or whether he is given 'permission' to complete his task in Middle-earth in his normal Maia form, taking on the appearance of a Man's body. Personally I prefer the latter idea; certainly many of the restrictions on his use of power are lifted, and although he is still supposed to conceal his power and lead through wise council rather than domination, he is now permitted to use real power in extreme circumstances- for example his treatment of Theoden and Saruman, where he "commands attention" when he speaks, or when he rescues Faramir from the darts of the Nazgul, or when he denies entry to Minas Tirith to the Lord of the Nazgul. One other piece of evidence to support this option is his comment to Gwaihir when they are about to rescue Frodo and Sam, that he would not find him much more of a burden than when he was taken to Lothlorien following his battle with the Balrog. This certainly implies that he did not have a substantial "real" body.

I conclude this section on our knowledge of the Maiar with a summary. The Maiar cover a huge range, from those who are close to the Valar in power and significance, to the lowly spirits who were concerned with the ordering and day to day management of minor features of Arda. Some had physical powers, for example Osse's ability to raise storms, while others had powers more concentrated in the mind, such as Olorin's ability to place fair promptings in the minds of the Elves in the gardens of Lorien. Their power was restricted by the bodies they took on. On entering into Arda they became enmeshed in the laws which govern the World, and this was particularly true of those who took on 'real' bodies, rather than merely the appearance of bodies.

I shall now go on to discuss several other characters from Middle-earth who may or may not be Maiar. The first of these is perhaps the most famous enigma of Middle-earth.

Tom Bombadil

The nature of Tom Bombadil has been widely discussed in many places, most recently by Carol Jeffs in Mallorn 24. Various proposals have been put forward, for example that he may be a Maiar, of an "Earth Force"; possibly he was a manifestation of one of the Valar, perhaps Aule or Orome, or even an earthly

manifestation of Iluvatar himself. It is not my purpose to discuss here all the possibilities, but I will consider the proposal that Bombadil might be a Maia.

Bombadil's relationship with his "country" can be seen to be rather similar to Radagast's relationship with the birds and the beasts; like Radagast he has become so involved with his little bit of Arda that he lost touch with what was going on around him, except that Bombadil fell even further down this hill than Radagast - perhaps because Radagast, as a member of the White Council, was forced to pay some attention to the rise of Sauron. This would seem to suggest that Bombadil might be a minor Maia, who remained in Middle-earth when the Valar removed themselves to Valinor, and became one with his little bit of country. This view is supported by Bombadil's description of himself as "eldest", and his claim to have been there when the Elves passed westward. The only inhabitants of the World before the awakening of the Elves were the Valar and the Maiar.

However, counter to this evidence is Bombadil's relationship to the Ring. It is quite obvious that the Ring has no influence whatsoever over Bombadil, even though he actually wears it. Compare this with Gandalf's fear of even touching the Ring, and the fact that Saruman was corrupted by desire for the Ring even though he was never within 150 miles of it. The only solution to this paradox that I can think of is that the Ring only had influence over those Maiar inferior in the ranking order to its maker. This would allow it to affect Gandalf and Saruman, but would imply that Bombadil was an extremely powerful class I Maia. Now although Bombadil is clearly Lord of his "Patch", and is able to deal with malevolent trees and the ghost of a long-dead man, it seems somewhat unlikely that a Maia of such significance, and who was certainly known to the Elves, should be omitted from the Valaquenta. Thus I prefer one of the other options, and discount the suggestion that Bombadil be numbered among the Maiar.

Ungoliant

Another enigma of Middle-earth is Ungoliant. Her origin is not known to the Eldar, and therefore is not recorded in the works, but their belief was that she was one of the Maiar who Melkor corrupted to his service before he first came to Arda. Later, she had disowned her master, desiring to be "mistress of her own lust". Fleeing South, she escaped the wrath of the Valar, who concentrated their attention on Melkor, and so was waiting in the mountains to the South of Valinor when Melkor needed her assistance. This explanation seems entirely reasonable and it is not contradicted by later events. Ungoliant must clearly have been an extremely powerful being; first, she disguises the approach of Melkor and herself to Valinor, and then she destroys the most potent of the works of the Valar with no apparent effort. Having gained power from this she is able to terrorise Melkor himself. She prevents him from escaping her and returning to Angband, and then she forces him to hand over the jewels he has stolen from Formenos. It is only with the help of the Balrogs and their whips of flame that he is able to escape from her webs. From all this it is clear that Ungoliant had a great deal of power of her own, and that, having drunk the power from the Trees of Valinor she was almost of Valar status. It must be remembered here that Melkor had given up a great deal of his power in his search for domination, but even so Ungoliant must have been a class I Maia of the highest order. Had she remained in Melkor's service, she would surely have supplanted Sauron as his most powerful lieutenant, though whether he would have trusted her to the extent that he trusted Sauron is not so certain. Of her fate "no tale tells". Some say that she ended long ago, but then there's always The New Shadow...

Shelob

Shelob is the "last Child of Ungoliant to trouble the unhappy world." She originally dwelt in the Ered Gorgoroth, the Mountains of Terror in Beleriand, from where she fled when Beleriand was submerged at the time of the fall of Morgoth. Her characteristics are very similar to Ungoliant herself, in particular the webs of shadow and vomit of darkness, though Shelob seems to prefer blood to eat, rather than light! Shelob appears to be an incestuous lass, populating the dark places of Middle-earth with her children, her offspring following mating with (and subsequently eating) said children, etc. But what exactly was Shelob? She is described as "an evil thing in spider-form", implying that she wasn't actually a spider. Is this what we would expect of a "child" of Ungoliant? Presuming that this means the offspring of Ungoliant and a 'normal' spider (presumably by artificial insemination- I can't imagine them getting it together any other way!), the answer must be no. The only recorded case of offspring of a Maia and another race is Luthien, daughter of Melian and Thingol, and she is an Elf. It seems that in order to have children, a Maia must take on the body of the race they wish to mate with, and that the child will be of that race. Thus Shelob cannot be a 'Child' of Ungoliant. Perhaps the term 'Child' really means 'follower', and Shelob is a Maia corrupted to Ungoliant's service in the same way as Melkor corrupted many Maia to his service. This might at first sight seem unlikely, but remember that Ungoliant was probably the second most powerful evil creature on Arda. If Shelob is a class IV or V Maia, then the difference in power between Ungoliant and Shelob would be considerably greater than that between Melkor and Sauron. It seems quite reasonable that, having taken up residence close to Thangorodrim, Ungoliant should draw a few of Melkor's less powerful Maia to herself, to help make her life a little more comfortable, and also, perhaps, out of spite, remembering that Melkor had kept the Silmarils from her.

Thorondor

It is well documented that Melkor had many Maiar in his service, and all the Maiar of whom we have knowledge have allegiance to one or more of the Valar. Following the return of Melkor to Middle-earth, Manwe still had pity for the exiled Elves, so he sent Eagles to dwell in the crags of the North, to keep watch on Melkor and bear news to Manwe. The King of Eagles was Thorondor, "mightiest of all birds that have ever flown". But was Thorondor really a bird at all? He is the only creature ever to wound Melkor, though I suppose that that could be put down to timing and opportunism rather than real power, except that the fact that Melkor had the scar for the rest of his days implies that Thorondor had, at the very least, poisoned claws. Also he can talk, not a feature one associates with your common or garden Eagle. The final evidence is that of his longevity. He leads the Eagles of Manwe to Middle-earth at the time of the rebellion of the Noldor, and joins with Earendil in the battle with the winged dragons in the overthrow of Melkor, thus living for at least the duration of the First Age. I would argue that all this suggests only one conclusion. Manwe did not entrust the leadership of the watch over Melkor to an eagle, but to a Maia, who took on the form of an eagle, and led a group of true eagles to eyries in the Encircling Mountains. One further observation that this would explain is that of communication. Manwe sent the eagles to keep watch because, although farsighted, he couldn't see into the mists around Melkor's fortresses. But how did they get information back to Manwe? I find it hard to imagine a steady train of "messenger eagles" flying back and forth across the ocean to Valinor- and certainly some more rapid means of communication would be needed in case of emergency- it would take an eagle at least a day to fly across the ocean even at a cruising speed of 100 mph. Perhaps

Thorondor stood on top of a tall mountain and signalled in semaphore to Manwe, flapping his wings in some prearranged signal? No, I don't think so either! But if Thorondor was a Maia, the problems would be solved, since it seems quite reasonable that fellow Ainur could communicate in a way that we would describe as "telepathy".

Gwaihir

There is no evidence that Gwaihir is anything other than a true descendent of Thorondor. He is a mighty eagle, but then there is Maia blood in his veins, and we know what this did to the descendents of Luthien Tinuviel. In particular the fact that he can talk can be put down to his ancestry, an explanation which wouldn't work if Thorondor was not a Maia.

Huan and Nahar

Just as Thorondor was the greatest of all birds, so Huan was the greatest of all hounds. However in this case there is less suggestion that he was other than he seemed. He is described as "not born in Middle-earth", but he "came from the Blessed Realm", where he had belonged to Orome. The clear implication of this sentence is that Huan was born in Valinor, although this isn't explicitly stated. It is, however, certain that Huan truly died, which makes it quite certain that he is not a Maia. The only Maiar who could die were those, in particular the Istari, who were bound into "real" bodies. The fact that Huan could talk cannot be used as evidence on this occasion. He is only able to talk on three occasions, and this is only by special permission. Who that permission came from is an interesting question, but not one I intend to tackle here.

Like Huan, Nahar belonged to Orome. Far less is known about the horse than the hound, as Nahar plays no part in the main part of the narrative. It seems certain that Nahar was simply the "father of horses", more powerful in the same way as the "Awakened Elves" were more powerful than Elves born on Arda, and that the Fathers of the Dwarves were the most important and became kings.

Dragons and Werewolves

To complete this discussion of possible Maia, I come last to the Enemies. In "Of the Maiar" we are told that many of the Maiar were drawn to Melkor's splendour in the days of his greatness, and that he corrupted others to his service with lies and treacherous gifts. Of these, the most terrible (not including particular lieutenants like Sauron) were the Balrogs. But clearly there were considerably more Maiar in Melkor's service than there were Balrogs. I can not believe that the rest took on administrative jobs in Thangorodrim; they were Melkor's most powerful servants, and so he would have arranged for them to take part in his wars in some way. I believe that they did this in the form of Dragons and Werewolves. The evidence is particularly powerful in the case of Werewolves. They are described as "fell beasts inhabited by dreadful spirits", and it seems clear that they were in fact minor Maiar which had taken over "real" wolf bodies, rather in the way the Istari inhabited Man bodies, except without the voluntary restrictions on their powers. They were Sauron's most dreadful servants in the same way that the Balrogs were Melkor's chief weapon, and as such they were probably class IV or V Maia.

The Dragons are rather more enigmatic. They are most frequently described as being "bred" by Morgoth, but we must remember that the knowledge of the Elves,

on which the Quenta Silmarillion is based, did not extend far beyond the gates of Thangorodrim. There were three kinds of Dragon; the Fire-Drakes (Uruloki), the Winged Dragons, and the Cold-Drakes. Our knowledge of the Cold-Drakes is very limited, while that of the Fire-Drakes is based on the behaviour of Glaurung, and the best known Winged Dragon was Smaug. The dragons were evidently powerful creatures, and not just in their fire-breathing characteristics. Perhaps the most significant power for us to consider here is their hypnotic ability. This is most obviously used by Glaurung, for example when he immobilises Turin during the Sack of Nargothrond, but Smaug also possesses it to a degree, for example when Bilbo feels "an unaccountable desire...to rush out and reveal himself". This ability implies a power of mind which is only observed in the Ainur and some few very important Elves and Men. I suppose it is possible that Melkor put some high ranking Elves into the mixing pot when the dragons were made, in order to provide the right genetic input, but it seems much more likely that the dragons were in fact Maiar who had taken on bodies of power and terror. We know from the example of Melkor and Sauron that Ainur who misuse their ability to take on various bodies for the purpose of power and domination became stuck in one body, and this may have happened to the dragons. Alternatively, and this seems more likely, as we know that dragons could be "killed", the dragon bodies could have been "bred" by Melkor in the same way as the dwarves were made by Aule, except that rather than being granted life by Iluvatar, the dragon bodies were then occupied by Maiar, who gave them the free will which they are observed to possess. This free will would not be possible in any creation of Melkor, and I can not think of any suitable starting materials for the breeding process (along the lines of Elves for Orcs, and Ents for Trolls) if they were in fact "bred".

Enough, enough, you are crying by now, if you have even read this far. I could spend more pages discussing such unlikely things as the Watcher in the Water, the Ravens in The Hobbit, Beorn, etc., but I think it's time I brought this to a conclusion, with a new table of Maiar.

- Class I: Osse, Uinen, Ilmare, Eonwe, Melian, Sauron, Ungoliant.
- Class II: Olorin, Curumo, Arien, Gothmog.
- Class III: Alatar, Tilion, Balrogs, Thorondor, Glaurung.
- Class IV: Aiwendil, Pallando, Shelob, Smaug, most Dragons, Drauglin, Carcharoth.
- Class V: Werewolves.

One final thought, harping back to my article in Anor 5. Was Father Christmas a Maia??

Mike Percival.

'The Layman's Guide': A Note on the Text:1 - Steve Linley

On the second page of this work (Anor 16, p.3.), four lines from the bottom, we find the curious phrase "an alliterative poem in aromatic form". Clearly the text is corrupt at this point; indeed, anyone who considers this to be a correct reading must have a pumpkin for a brain. Not only is the expression "aromatic form" or "aromatic poem" unparalleled, it is also quite preposterous. The fault, I believe, lies in the word 'aromatic', and I propose the restoration of the word 'dramatic' as the only possible emendation. Not only does this restore perfect sense, but it is also easily defended on palaeographic grounds. In the first place, the initial 'd' could possibly be misread as an 'a' if the ascender were short in the archetype, or had been erased over the passage of time. Similarly, if the following 'a' had been badly formed, it could easily be misinterpreted by a scribe as an 'o' especially if he already had the corruption of the initial 'd' before him, thus turning the nonsensical word '*aramatic' into the recognisable English word 'aromatic'. This change from a thoroughly intelligible expression to something ludicrously nonsensical clearly demonstrates that, at some point in the tradition one (or more) transcriber had a very poor knowledge of the English language indeed - and that an earlier scribe had very poor handwriting!

Bibliography

- Norman A. Boring "Textual Criticism for Amateurs"
Brown University Press, 1942
Snorri E. Ketilbjarnarson "The English Language"
Reykjavik, 1986

'The Layman's Guide': A Note on the Text:2 - Palantir

My thanks to the editor for permitting me to reply to Mr. Linley's analysis of the mysterious reference to 'aromatic form' (Gale, 1988). His explanation, while plausible, is, I feel, not necessarily the only correct one. It is widely believed by many scholars, myself among them, that the original form of the works which come under the collective title of 'The Layman's Guide...' was the spoken word, originating from a desire on the part of less advanced students to question their more scholarly colleagues as to precisely what point there was in perusing a given text. The answers they were given probably became ritualised due to frequent (and wearied) repetition: eventually some enterprising student (perhaps Gale, maybe a predecessor) set them down for future students to read.

The drift of a purely oral tradition is well-known, especially if the material is not well understood. (An excellent example of this is corruption of the Lord's Prayer by children too young to know its meaning - *exempli gratia*: heard in a North London school (Rundle, 1986) "Old Father Witch-heart in Heaven, hallo Beehive Lane"). With this in mind, we can imagine a learned Jewish elder of the Society referring to the work as being in 'Aramaic' form (that is to say in a style similar to a Hebrew verse). The drift from 'Aramaic' to '*aromaic' is trivial compared to the example above. If at that point, the tradition was committed to paper, containing the nonsense word '*aromaic', what more likely than some enterprising but uncomprehending scribe should attempt to correct this by the insertion of a 't' to the present 'aromatic'?

MOUNT CARADHRAS

- a snowstorm prevents the travellers from crossing the pass

$\text{♩} = 56$

half-pedal throughout mp

The first system of music is in 2/2 time. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a few notes, including a half note and a quarter note. Dynamics include *p* and *mp*.

The second system continues the eighth-note pattern in the right hand and adds more notes in the left hand, including a half note and a quarter note.

mf

The third system continues the eighth-note pattern in the right hand and adds more notes in the left hand, including a half note and a quarter note. The dynamic is *mf*.

f

The fourth system continues the eighth-note pattern in the right hand and adds more notes in the left hand, including a half note and a quarter note. The dynamic is *f*.

The fifth system continues the eighth-note pattern in the right hand and adds more notes in the left hand, including a half note and a quarter note. The dynamic is *f*.



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DOCUMENT TYPE TEXT FORMAT RECORD-STRUCTURED
DOCUMENT TITLE "Uncle Mike's Book Corner"
DOCUMENT VERSION "9"
FILE CONTAINS 7 RECORDS,
6 OF TYPE "BOOK", 1 OF TYPE "FILM"

HEADER TEXT

Yes I know this is silly, but you've got to have SOMETHING light after umpteen pages of learned discourse on the Mair and Economical Lots of sequels for you this time round, plus a film (which by whoever's law it is will either a) never come to Cambridge or b) will have been and gone before you read this. Never mind!

Sorry about the lack of data on some of the books, but they are variously out on loan or not immediately to hand so being done from memory.

***** RECORD 1 *****

TYPE "BOOK"
TITLE "Exile's Gate"
AUTHOR "Cherryh, Carolyn J."
PUBLISHER ---data unavailable---
PAGES ---data unavailable---
PRICE ---data unavailable---

REVIEW TEXT

I've been waiting for this since the 1987 World SF Convention which had the cover art displayed prominently in the art exhibition.

Finally caught up with it in Forbidden Planet a couple of months ago. It is the sequel to the 'Morgaine' books, and was well worth waiting for. It's longer than any of the individual parts of the trilogy, and well worth the wait. The trilogy tied up a complete plot thread, but the very nature of Morgaine's quest means that Cherryh can write more whenever it suits her (although she'll have to write a block-buster finale sometime). 'Exile's Gate' has a good plot but the real beauty lies in the unfolding of Morgaine's relationship with her side-kick (for want of a better term), Uanye. This is beautifully done - my only reservation is that by the end of the book she has made a fundamental change in her two characters. This of itself is fine (all the best one-off novels do this) but she has also left a huge unresolved plot thread at the end. I worry (but only a little) whether she can sustain the tension between the characters for another book.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Buy it!

***** RECORD 2 *****

TYPE "BOOK"
TITLES "The Magic of Krynn", "Kenders, Gnores & Gully Dwarves"
EDITORS "Meis, Margaret", "Hickman, Tracy R."
PUBLISHER "Penguin"
PAGES ---data unavailable---
PRICE ---data unavailable---

REVIEW TEXT

Yep, it's another pair of DragonLance books. I have to admit to

mixed feelings about these (and this from a confessed DragonLance fan, no less). It's obvious that TSR are milking the whole concept for all it's worth. Having said that, both anthologies (for that is what they are) contain some good short stories (they also contain some highly disposable stuff). Each book contains one novella length piece by Weis and Hickman (the authors of the original books) and several shorter works by a collection of various people (who look to my jaded eye to be principally TSR staff writers). A lot of "The Magic of Krynn" has been published in TSR's "Dragon" magazine so I skipped a lot of it - on reflection this may be why I wasn't that impressed with the remainder! "Kenders.." &c has some killingly funny moments (a critique of the "Canticle of the Dragon" (a long poem in the first trilogy) from a gnomish point of view springs to mind).

REVIEW SUMMARY

Good, but for completists (ugh, horrible word) only.

***** RECORD 3 *****

TYPE "BOOK"
TITLE "Black Wizards"
AUTHOR "Miles, Douglas"
PUBLISHER "TSR"
PAGES ---data unavailable---
PRICE ---data unavailable---

REVIEW TEXT

Mhmm. 'nother sequel. And it's going to be a trilogy if you believe the back cover blurb. It is, in fact, the sequel to Miles'

"Darkwalker on Moonehoe", featuring the same set of characters a year later on, facing yet more dangers, this time from the High King of the Moonehoe isles, who has some decidedly dodgy advisers (the above-named Black Wizards - surprised? no, we neither). Miles' prose style is beginning to grate in a few places, especially the habit he has of putting long italicised chunks at the end of each chapter saying 'meanwhile, <insert name of deity here> contemplated the actions of his loyal worshipper <name> and <insert plot-twisting deed here>'.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Best left unsaid, I think.

***** RECORD 4 *****

TYPE "BOOK"
TITLE "Dorkspell"
AUTHOR "Kerr, Katharine"
PUBLISHER "Grafton"
PAGES 370
PRICE £6.95

REVIEW TEXT

This is the sequel (I've just realised, they are ALL sequels this issue - sorry - will try to do better next time) to "Daggerspell" (those of you who remember my comments about that book will be glad to know they've sorted out the title!). The principal characters in the books are caught in a series of reincarnations until a wrong committed by one of them is resolved. In "Dorkspell", the author makes the mistake (I think) of adding three sets of flashbacks to earlier reincarnations (whereas in "Daggerspell" there was just the two (the original and the 'present-day')). The extra characters this

generates just odd to the confusion. Having said that, I enjoyed the book (with reservations about the price tag - large format again)

REVIEW SUMMARY

Worth it if you liked the first.

***** RECORD 5 *****

TYPE "BOOK"
TITLE "Talliesin"
AUTHOR "Lowhead, Stephen"
PUBLISHER "Lion"
PAGES 512
PRICES £2.99

REVIEW SUMMARY

Another retelling of Arthur - going to be a trilogy. I've seen better - fair's fair though, I have seen worse

***** RECORD 6 *****

TYPE "BOOK"
TITLE "The 'Witch World' series"
AUTHOR "Morton, André"
PUBLISHER "UGSF - (Golloncz)"
PAGES ---data unavailable---
PRICES £2.50 ea.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Not so much a review, more a note that these are now out in a UK edition and they're good fun (currently five in the series.)

***** RECORD 7 *****

TYPE "FILM"
TITLE "The Princess Bride"

REVIEW TEXT

This is a goodie! It is (despite what some of the reviewers in the papers may like you to think) a parody of a fairy-tale, and it is really very funny indeed. It includes cameo appearances by Mel Smith and Peter Cook (a very important cameo), a long and flashy rapier duel, a princess, a giant, an evil prince, a hero, and a happy ending. What more could you want?

REVIEW SUMMARY

See it - either that or rent the video.

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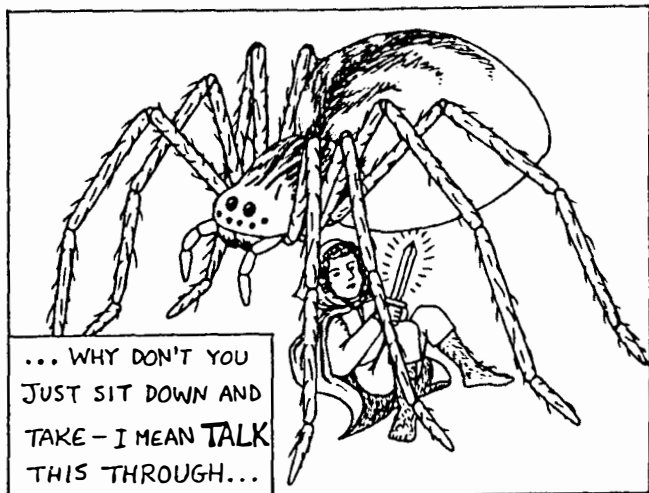
Ready
MAIL

READ

FROM: Anor Editor (NRUB @ UK.CAM.PHX)
TO: Uncle Mike (NRUB @ UK.CAM.PHX)
SUBJ: UMBC

If that ***** article is not on my desk inside FIVE minutes
YOU DIE!

/*
Ready



MIDDLE EARTH REVISITED

A far-sighted elf was inclined
To consider his vision refined.
As he scanned the horizon
He failed to set eyes on
The orc sneaking up from behind !

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