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The Morgan Presents J. R. R. Tolkien's Adventurous Tales and Original Illustrations

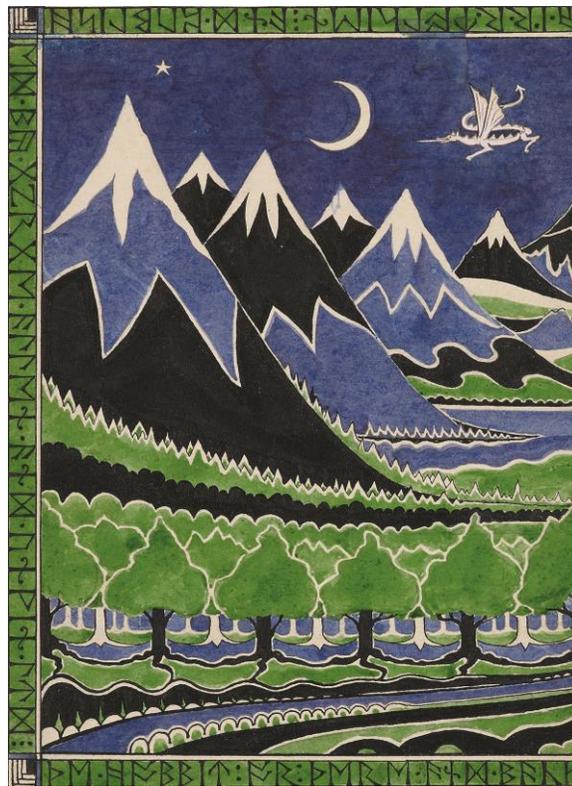
Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth

January 25, 2019 to May 12, 2019

Press Preview: January 24, 9:00-10:30 AM

RSVP: media@themorgan.org

New York, NY, Thursday, December 13, 2018 — This winter, the Morgan Library & Museum offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to see a remarkable collection of materials related to one of the world's most beloved authors, John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (1892–1973). Tolkien's adventurous tales ignited a fervid spark in generations of readers. From the children's classic *The Hobbit* to the epic *The Lord of the Rings*, Tolkien's stories of hobbits and elves, dwarves and wizards have introduced millions to the rich history of Middle-earth. Opening January 25, *Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth*—a new exhibition at the Morgan organized in collaboration with the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford—celebrates the man and his creation.



J. R. R. Tolkien (1892–1973), *Dust jacket design for The Hobbit*, April 1937, pencil, black ink, watercolor, gouache. Bodleian Libraries, MS. Tolkien Drawings 32. © The Tolkien Estate Limited 1937.

This exhibition provides the largest collection of Tolkien material ever assembled in the United States. First presented at the Bodleian Libraries in 2018, the 117 objects on view include family

photographs and memorabilia, Tolkien's original illustrations, maps, draft manuscripts, artefacts, and designs related to *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The Silmarillion*. The exhibition guides visitors through Tolkien's development as a writer and artist, from his childhood and student days, through his career as a scholar of medieval languages and literature, to his family life as a husband and father. It presents a unique opportunity to understand the intensely visual imagination, the dedicated scholarship, and the aspects of daily life that shaped Tolkien's most treasured works.

Notable objects in the exhibition include draft manuscripts of *The Hobbit* and the original manuscripts of *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion*, displayed alongside striking watercolors, dust jacket designs, and drawings. Other highlights are the photographs and letters from Tolkien's childhood and student days. Drawn from the collections of the Tolkien Archive at the Bodleian Libraries (Oxford), Marquette University Libraries (Milwaukee), the Morgan, and private lenders, the objects on display introduce visitors to Tolkien's creative process from his early abstract paintings in *The Book of Ishness* and the letters written and illustrated for his children to his epic fantasy novels.

The exhibition also offers a rare look at Tolkien's artistic output, which was wide-ranging and experimental, naturalistic and abstract. In his landscapes of Middle-earth and intricate designs, visitors can catch a glimpse of Tolkien world-building and working out his ideas on paper.

"Since the publication of his novels, Tolkien has amassed a variety of admirers including poet W.H. Auden and singer Joni Mitchell," said Colin B. Bailey, director of the museum. "This exhibition helps us see what was so extraordinary and universally appealing about his gifts as a storyteller and his ability to combine the scholarly with the artistic. The show presents an intimate look at Tolkien's world through his handwritten and drawn works. We are grateful to the Bodleian Libraries, The Tolkien Estate and The Tolkien Trust for this landmark collaboration."

"It is exciting to see so much material in Tolkien's own hand," said John McQuillen, Associate Curator of the Printed Books and Bindings Department. "It's as if we are looking over his shoulder while he composes and illustrates his vision of Middle-earth. We get to glimpse moments in the creation of the narrative, such as when he changes the wizard's name to Gandalf or suddenly comes up with the idea of the One Ring. It is almost voyeuristic: we have

the opportunity to see the creative process that brought us the books with which we are so familiar.”

Publication

Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth, written by Tolkien Archivist Catherine McIlwaine, is a richly illustrated hardback that brings together the largest collection of original Tolkien material ever assembled in a single volume. Lavishly illustrated with over 300 images of his manuscripts, drawings, maps and letters, the book traces the creative process behind his most famous literary works – *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion* – and reproduces personal photographs and private papers (some of which have never been seen before in print).

Author: Catherine McIlwaine
Publisher: Bodleian Library Publishing
416 pages.

Public Programs

LECTURE Tolkien and the Visual Image Wayne G. Hammond & Christina Scull

J.R.R. Tolkien's paintings and drawings offer important insights into the "matter of Middle-earth" and the life of its creator. Join leading Tolkien scholars Wayne G. Hammond, Chapin Librarian at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, and Christina Scull, former Librarian of Sir John Soane's Museum, London, as they examine how Tolkien's writings and art influenced each other, and how other artists have interpreted Tolkien's works, especially his favorite illustrator, Pauline Baynes.

Thursday, January 31, 6:30 PM*

Tickets: \$15; \$10 for members; and free for students with a valid ID.

*The exhibition *Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth* will open at 5:30 pm for program attendees.

SYMPOSIUM Tolkien and Inspiration: A Multidisciplinary Symposium

Join us as we explore multiple facets of Tolkien's inspirations in his writing as well as how his work impacts readers in personal and unexpected ways today. Presented in partnership with the NY Tolkien Conference & Fellowship, speakers include Nicholas Birns, Adjunct Instructor at New York University; Leslie Donovan, Chair, Honors College, University of New Mexico; Kristine Larsen, Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the Central Connecticut State University; and Chris Vaccaro, Senior Lecturer in English Language and Literature at The University of Vermont with a keynote presentation by John Garth, Tolkien scholar and author of *Tolkien and the Great War: The Threshold of Middle-earth*. For more information visit themorgan.org/programs/symposium.

Saturday, March 16, 2:00 PM*

Tickets: \$15; free for members and students with a valid ID.

*The exhibition *Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth* will be open at 1 PM for program attendees.

GALLERY TALKS *Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth* John T. McQuillen, Associate Curator of Printed Books & Bindings

Friday, February 1, 6 PM

Friday, April 12, 1 PM

WORKSHOP Fantasy Watercolor Landscapes

Explore J.R.R. Tolkien's landscapes in the exhibition *Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth* and then create a fantastic landscape for a world of your imagination. New York City based surrealist artist Max Greis will guide participants in using watercolor techniques and materials. Advance tickets are required, as space is limited.

Friday, April 26, 6-8 PM

Tickets: \$45; \$35 for members.

**FAMILY
PROGRAMS**

Living Landscapes: Map Your Own Fantasy World

In this miniseries, children will first become apprentice cartographers, then watercolorists as they discover the historic techniques of mapmaking and then watercolor technique based on works in the exhibition *Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth*.

Part One, "Ink Into Existence"

J.R.R. Tolkien once said "I wisely started with a map and made the story fit." Maps have always played an essential role in our understanding of both the known and unknown world. Take a page from Tolkien and, with artist Simon Levenson, map out your very own fantasy realm using ink and paper.

Saturday, February 9, 2019 11 AM–1 PM

Tickets: \$20; \$15 for members. Each ticket is valid for one child and up to two adults; Program consists of a thirty minute exhibition experience followed by a ninety minute art-making activity. Materials included. **Appropriate for ages 8-14.**

Part Two "Watercolor Your World"

Surrealist artist Max Greis will guide participants using watercolor techniques and explore creating a fantasy landscape using trees and the flora and fauna to establish their own universe. If you have attended Part One of this miniseries, "Ink Into Existence," you may bring your map back to use as inspiration to watercolor a landscape from your newly created world.

Saturday, April 13, 2019 11 AM–1 PM

Tickets: \$20; \$15 for Morgan Members. Each ticket is valid for one child and up to two adults; Program consists of a thirty minute exhibition experience followed by a ninety minute art-making activity. Materials included. **Appropriate for ages 8-14.**

Organization and Sponsorship

Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth is organized by the Morgan Library & Museum in collaboration with the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, and with the support of The Tolkien Estate, The Tolkien Trust, and members of the Tolkien family. The curator of the Morgan exhibition is John T. McQuillen, Associate Curator of Printed Books and Bindings.

The exhibition is made possible through the generosity of Fay and Geoffrey Elliott.

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The programs of the Morgan Library & Museum are made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



**Council on
the Arts**

The Morgan Library & Museum

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, the Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today it is a museum, independent research library, music venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. A century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its newly renovated campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, and the 2010 refurbishment of the original library, the Morgan reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

The Morgan Library & Museum | 225 Madison Avenue | 212.685.0008 | themorgan.org