

Call for Papers

Humour in and around the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien

Tolkien has until recently been seen primarily as a writer of epic fantasy, a genre usually not associated with humour. If humour had been the subject of academic inquiry at all, then the authors focused mostly on the shorter works (e.g. Schneidewind on *Farmer Giles of Ham*) or the treatment of humour was incidental or part of a larger argument (e.g. Tom Shippey's discussion of orcish humour in *LotR* in his paper on the nature of evil). The proposed collection of essays therefore aims at a critical re-examination as well as an expanded view of the use of humour in and around Tolkien's works. In order to study the diversity of these texts, we would encourage contributors to apply contemporary approaches towards humour (as found in the publications by e.g. Salvatore Attardo, Victor Raskin, Keith Cameron, J. Bremmer and H. Roodenberg, and Jonathan Wilcox) and also take into account, where appropriate (e.g. *humour* in parodies), recent publications in adaptation studies (e.g. Linda Hutcheon, Julie Sanders, or Thomas Leitch).

We invite contributions including – but not limited to – the following topics:

- What are the humorous elements and their function within the various textual genres (i.e. literary, poetic, academic, and epistolary texts)?
- Tolkien's understanding of *humour* and related phenomena such as *irony* or *satire* and their conceptual relevance for his works.
- Concepts and relevance of *humour* in the context of a mythology written by a modern author.
- Adaptation and transformation of Tolkien's *humour* in Tolkienian fan-fiction.
- Adaptation and transformation of *humour* in interpretations of Tolkien's works in other media (comic/graphic novel, drawings/paintings, film etc.)
- Strategies of *humour* in parodies of Tolkien's work.

With this outline for possible fields of examination, we hope to encourage a diversity of topics and theoretical/methodological approaches, highlighting the complexity of Tolkien's works and their poetics. Please pass on this call for papers to anyone who may be interested.

~ • ~

If you would like to contribute to this volume, to be published by *Walking Tree Publishers* in 2014, please submit an abstract (200-300 words) outlining your proposed article by August 31, 2013. Upon acceptance, full essays are due by March 1, 2014. All contributions should be submitted in English. Please send your abstracts, inquiries and suggestions by email to:

Dr. Maureen F. Mann

Email:

babeltower[at]sympatico.ca

or

Dr. Thomas Honegger

Email: [Tm.honegger\[at\]uni-jena.de](mailto:Tm.honegger[at]uni-jena.de)

Please visit the *Walking Tree* website to learn more about the publishers:
<http://www.walking-tree.org/>