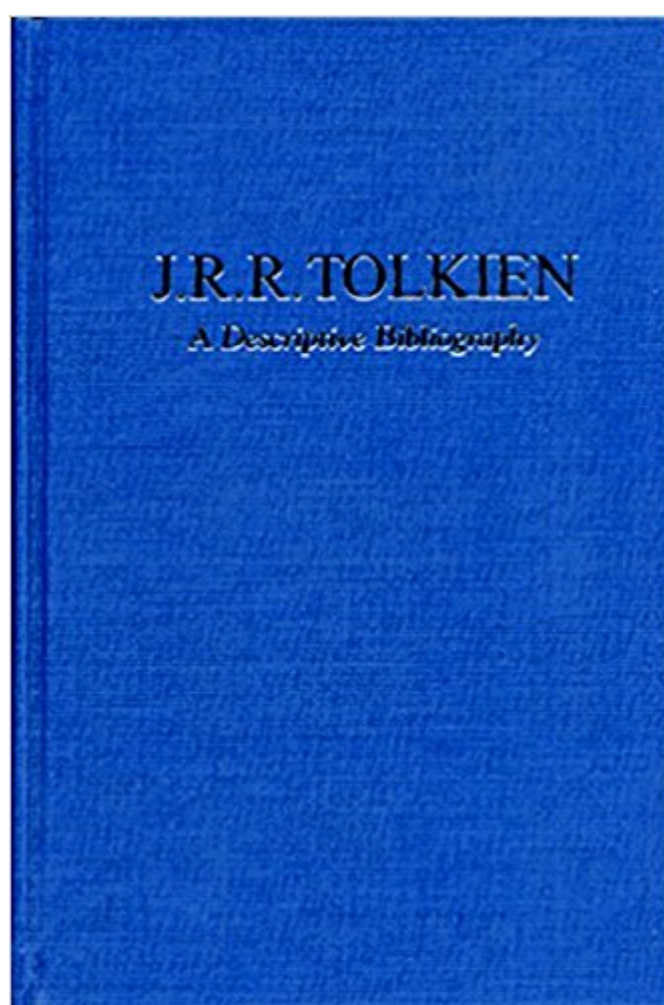


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# J.R.R. Tolkien: A Descriptive Bibliography (Winchester Bibliographies Of 20th Century Writers)



## Synopsis

First edition, second printing. The second volume in the Winchester Bibliographies of Twentieth Century Writers series. This is the most comprehensive descriptive bibliography of J.R.R. Tolkien, one of the most popular writers of the twentieth century. His children's book *The Hobbit*, his epic *The Lord of the Rings*, and his last triumph, *The Silmarillion*, have been read by millions and are at the core of modern fantasy fiction. A noted philologist, Tolkien also made significant contributions to Old and Middle English studies, including a landmark essay on *Beowulf* and standard editions of *Ancrene Wisse* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. This bibliography explores the full range of his imaginative and scholarly works, from juvenilia to the posthumous *The History of Middle-Earth*. Books written by Tolkien in whole or in part, his Contributions to Periodicals, Published Letters and Art Work, Interviews, Recordings, and translations of his writings are described. Special attention is paid to *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, whose many editions and complex textual changes are analyzed in detail. The publishing history of Tolkien's works is told at length, with notes drawn from publishers' archives and from Tolkien's correspondence. There are eight pages of plates, a chronology and an index. This bibliography will become a standard reference book for scholars, librarians, booksellers and collectors whose already keen interest in Tolkien continues to grow. xi, iii, 434 pages. hardcover. 6 x 9 inches.

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## Customer Reviews

First edition, second printing. The second volume in the Winchester Bibliographies of Twentieth Century Writers series. This is the most comprehensive descriptive bibliography of J.R.R. Tolkien, one of the most popular writers of the twentieth century. His children's book *The Hobbit*, his epic *The Lord of the Rings*, and his last triumph, *The Silmarillion*, have been read by millions and are at the core of modern fantasy fiction. A noted philologist, Tolkien also made significant contributions to Old and Middle English studies, including a landmark essay on *Beowulf* and standard editions of *Ancrene Wisse* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. This bibliography explores the full range of his imaginative and scholarly works, from juvenilia to the posthumous *The History of Middle-Earth*. Books written by Tolkien in whole or in part, his Contributions to Periodicals, Published Letters and Art Work, Interviews, Recordings, and translations of his writings are described. Special attention is paid to *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, whose many editions and complex textual changes are analyzed in detail. The publishing history of Tolkien's works is told at length, with notes drawn from publishers' archives and from Tolkien's correspondence. There are eight pages of plates, a chronology and an index. This bibliography will become a standard reference book for scholars, librarians, booksellers and collectors whose already keen interest in Tolkien continues to grow. xi, iii, 434 pages. hardcover. 6 x 9 inches.

Other reviewers don't apparently understand the purpose of this reference work. It contains all the minute details of the publication history of Tolkien's work. If you have an old edition of *The Hobbit* and have an interest in its rarity and presumed value then you need to look up the edition in this book. The odd thing about this bibliography is the adventure story it relates about the publication of these great works. It is an epic tale involving the incorrect spelling of the plural of Dwarf, exorcising demons from a tape recorder by reciting the Lord's Prayer in Gothic, and fighting pirates of copyright infringement. Parts of this bibliography are actually interesting to read because Tolkien had such a hard time with publishers and copy editors. Raynor Unwin's story of reviewing *The Hobbit* as a little boy and then *The Lord of the Rings* as a young man is a marvel. Everyone, including the author, underrated the eventual popularity of the stories. The publisher actually developed a plan to publish *The Lord of the Rings* as a trilogy. If Part 1 did not sell, then Parts 2 and 3 would not be published. As a result, readers bought and read Part 1 and then had to wait up to a year for Parts 2 and 3 to be published! Can you imagine reading the first part of this tale and having to wait so long for the ending? This bibliography tells the story. If you are a Tolkien collector, you get a great bibliography along with great stories.

This is a richly detailed bibliography of J.R.R. Tolkien's writings. (Keep that in mind-- this is not a bibliography of Tolkien criticism or scholarship-- only of Tolkien's own works). Each edition of each work is described in careful detail-- subtle distinctions in the cover, title page, etc. are noted as are variations in spelling, typography, errata and corrections. To be honest, I'm not sure how relevant this work is for the average Tolkien fan-- or even for the Tolkien scholar. It will certainly be useful for book collectors, used/rare booksellers, book appraisers, and others who are interested in the book itself as a physical object)-- but I think there's very little of interest here fans interested in broadening their understanding of Tolkien's fiction or for scholars interested in writing about it. Because of its very limited, very specific utility, I can't really justify a high rating for this. Don't get me wrong-- for what it is, it's thorough and quite excellent. But, I just don't think it's all that \*useful\* of a book to anyone but a small handful of bibliophiles

Although this rather pricey work is intended for booksellers, collectors, and librarians rather than for the general public, I believe that just about anyone who is interested in the writing and production of Tolkien's great works will find much here that is both informative and interesting.

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