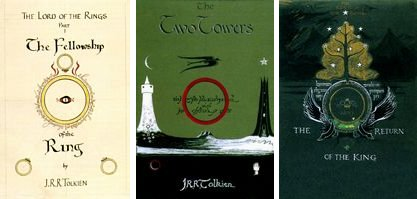
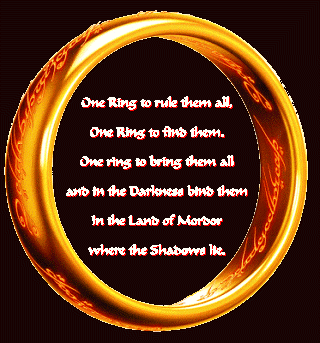
**The Lord of the Rings**

[**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\_Lord\_of\_the\_Rings**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings)



Tolkien's own cover designs for the three volumes of the first edition

***The Lord of the Rings*** is an [epic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epic_poetry) [high fantasy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_fantasy) novel written by the English [philologist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philology) [J. R. R. Tolkien](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._R._R._Tolkien). The story began as a sequel to Tolkien's earlier, less complex children's fantasy novel [*The Hobbit*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hobbit) (1937), but eventually developed into a much larger work. It was written in stages between 1937 and 1949, much of it during World War II.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-0) Although intended as a single-volume work, it was originally published in three volumes in 1954 and 1955, due to post-war paper shortages, and it is in this three-volume form that it is popularly known. It has since been reprinted numerous times and [translated](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Translations_of_the_Lord_of_the_Rings) into many different languages,[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings" \l "cite_note-1" \o ") becoming one of the most popular and influential works in 20th-century literature.

The title of the book refers to the story's main antagonist, the [Dark Lord](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_Lord) [Sauron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sauron), who had in an earlier age created the [One Ring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Ring) that rules the other [Rings of Power](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rings_of_Power), as the ultimate weapon in his campaign to conquer and rule all of Middle-earth. From quiet beginnings in the [Shire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shire_%28Middle-earth%29), a hobbit land not unlike the English countryside, the story ranges across Middle-earth following the course of the [War of the Ring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Ring) through the eyes of its characters, most notably the hobbits, [Frodo Baggins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frodo_Baggins), [Samwise Gamgee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samwise_Gamgee) (Sam), [Meriadoc Brandybuck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meriadoc_Brandybuck) (Merry) and [Peregrin Took](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peregrin_Took) (Pippin). The lands of Middle-earth are populated by [Men](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Man_%28Middle-earth%29) (humans) and other [humanoid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanoid) races ([Hobbits](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hobbit), [Elves](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elf_%28Middle-earth%29), [Dwarves](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwarf_%28Middle-earth%29), and [Orcs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orc_%28Middle-earth%29)), as well as many other creatures, both real and fantastic ([Ents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ent" \o "Ent), [Wargs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warg), [Balrogs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balrog), [Trolls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troll_%28Middle-earth%29), etc.).

Along with Tolkien's other works, *The Lord of the Rings* has been subjected to [extensive analysis of its themes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Themes_in_%22The_Lord_of_the_Rings%22) and origins. Although a major work in itself, the story was only the last movement of a larger work Tolkien had worked on since 1917, that he described as a [*mythopoeia*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mythopoeia_%28genre%29).[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-2) Influences on this earlier work, and on the story of *The Lord of the Rings*, include [philology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philology), mythology, religion and the author's distaste for the effects of [industrialization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrialization), as well as earlier fantasy works and Tolkien's experiences in [World War I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I).[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-nationalgeographic1-3) *The Lord of the Rings* in its turn is considered to have had a great effect on modern fantasy; the impact of Tolkien's works is such that the use of the words "Tolkienian" and "Tolkienesque" has been recorded in the *Oxford English Dictionary*.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-4)

The enduring popularity of *The Lord of the Rings* has led to numerous references in popular culture, the founding of many societies by [fans of Tolkien's works](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tolkien_fandom),[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings" \l "cite_note-5" \o ") and the publication of many books about Tolkien and his works. *The Lord of the Rings* has [inspired, and continues to inspire,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Works_inspired_by_J._R._R._Tolkien) artwork, music, films and television, [video games](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle-earth_in_video_games), and subsequent literature. [Adaptations of *The Lord of the Rings*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adaptations_of_The_Lord_of_the_Rings) have been made for radio, theatre, and film.

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## Synopsis

### The Fellowship of the Ring

*Main article:* [*The Fellowship of the Ring*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Fellowship_of_the_Ring)

The Dark Lord [Sauron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sauron), forges the "Ruling Ring of Power" in [Mordor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mordor). In battle, [Isildur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isildur) cuts it off and takes it for his own, but is later killed by Orcs and the Ring falls into a river. [Gollum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gollum) finds the Ring while fishing, and keeps it for a very long time before losing it, when it is found by [Bilbo Baggins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilbo_Baggins). Unaware of its origins, [Frodo Baggins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frodo_Baggins) inherits the ring from [Bilbo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilbo). Gollum eventually wanders into Mordor while looking for the Ring and is captured and interrogated by Sauron's minions who sends the [Ringwraiths](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ringwraiths) to find it.

[Gandalf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gandalf) learns some of this history and advises Frodo to take the Ring away. Frodo takes his loyal gardener [Samwise "Sam" Gamgee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samwise_Gamgee), and two cousins [Meriadoc "Merry" Brandybuck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meriadoc_Brandybuck) and [Peregrin "Pippin" Took](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peregrin_Took) to help him. On their dangerous journey, they run into many difficulties and are pursued by the Ringwraiths. Various characters give aid along the way, including guidance from a disguised [Aragorn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aragorn), Isildur's heir and rightful king of [Gondor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gondor). At Weathertop, Frodo is wounded by the Ringwraiths but eventually the company defeat them at the Ford of [Bruinen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruinen), aided by [Elrond](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elrond) master of Rivendell.

Frodo recovers under the care of Elrond. [The Council of Elrond](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Council_of_Elrond) reveals much significant information about Sauron and the Ring, including the corruption of [Saruman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saruman), and decides that the only course of action is to destroy the Ring in Mordor. Frodo volunteers to take the Ring, and a "[Fellowship of the Ring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fellowship_of_the_Ring_%28characters%29)" is chosen to accompany him.

The company is forced to travel through the [Mines of Moria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moria_%28Middle-earth%29) where they are attacked by [Orcs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orcs_%28Middle-earth%29). Gandalf fights a [Balrog](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balrog) and falls into a deep chasm. The others escape and take refuge in [Lothlórien](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lothl%C3%B3rien). With boats and gifts from the Lady [Galadriel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galadriel), the company then travel down the great River [Anduin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anduin) to the Amon Hen. There, [Boromir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boromir), heir to the current rulers of Gondor, attempts to take the ring from Frodo who then breaks from the Fellowship and continues the trek to Mordor accompanied only by Sam.

### [] The Two Towers

*Main article:* [*The Two Towers*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Two_Towers)

Boromir is killed and Merry and Pippin are kidnapped by Saruman's Orcs. Aragorn and the others pursue the Orcs and meet Gandalf, who is now "Gandalf the White". Merry and Pippin escape when the Orcs are slain by the Rohirrim and find themselves in [Fangorn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fangorn) where they befriend the tree-like [Ents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ent). Gandalf travels with the others to rouse [Theoden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theoden) King of the [Rohirrim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rohirrim) to take a stand against Saruman's armies at [Helm's Deep](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helm%27s_Deep). At the subsequent [Battle of Hornburg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Hornburg), Saruman's armies are defeated.

Merry and Pippin motivate the Ents to destroy the remaining forces at Isengard. Gandalf, Theoden and the others head to Isengard. Saruman refuses to see his error and Gandalf strips Saruman of his rank and most of his power. Pippin looks into a [seeing-stone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palant%C3%ADr) Sauron used to communicate with Saruman - alerting him to the presence of the hobbit. Gandalf takes Pippin to [Gondor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gondor).

Frodo and Sam capture Gollum and convince him to guide them to Mordor. They travel a long and hard road, briefly aided by Boromir's brother [Faramir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faramir). Gollum betrays Frodo by leading him to the great spider [Shelob](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shelob) in the caves above [Minas Morgul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minas_Morgul). Frodo is left unconcious by Shelob's bite, but Sam fights her off using [Sting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sting_%28Middle-earth%29) and the vial of [Ëarendil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%8Barendil)'s star - one of [Galadriels](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galadriel) gifts. Sam takes the Ring and Frodo is carried to [Cirith Ungol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cirith_Ungol) by Orcs.

Sauron begins his military assault upon Gondor, with the [Witch-king of Angmar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witch-king_of_Angmar), greatest of the Ringwraiths, leading a huge army into battle against [Gondor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gondor).

### [] The Return of the King

*Main article:* [*The Return of the King*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Return_of_the_King)

Gandalf arrives at [Minas Tirith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minas_Tirith) in Gondor with Pippin to alert the city of the impending attack. Merry joins the army of Rohan. Aragorn, takes the others through the 'Paths of the Dead' and raise an undead army. Gandalf, Aragorn and the rest of the Fellowship then assist in the battles against the armies of Sauron, including the [siege of Minas Tirith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Pelennor_Fields), [Denethor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denethor) current ruler of Gondor, believing both his sons are dead loses hope and commits suicide. With the timely aid of Rohan's cavalry and Aragorn's legion of undead a significant portion of Sauron's army is defeated. The Witch King of Angmar is slain by Theodens daughter [Eowyn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eowyn) and Merry.

Sauron retains innumerable forces in Mordor, and the main characters head to a climactic battle at the [Black Gate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Gate_%28Middle-earth%29), where the alliance of Gondor and Rohan fight desperately against Sauron's armies hoping to gain time for Frodo to destroy the Ring.

Sam rescues Frodo from captivity. They make their way through Mordor and reach Mount Doom. At the edge of the [Cracks of Doom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cracks_of_Doom), the Ring proves too great for Frodo; and he claims it for himself. Gollum struggles with Frodo for the Ring, biting off Frodo's finger and accidently falls into the fire. The Ring is destroyed. Sauron is banished from the world, his armies lose all morale, the Ringwraiths disintegrate, the war ends.

Aragorn is crowned king of Gondor and marries Arwen, the daughter of Elrond. [Saruman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saruman) escapes his captivity in [Orthanc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthanc) and enslaves the Shire. The returning Hobbits overthrow him and Sam helps to restore order and beautify the land, using his gifts from Galadriel. Frodo remains wounded in body and spirit and, accompanied by Bilbo and Gandalf, sails west over the Sea to the Undying Lands, where he can find peace. The three other Hobbits return home.

### [] Appendices

The main story is followed by six appendices that provide a wealth of additional material,[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-6) which further extend the story, including a [timeline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Arda) of the events, family trees, calendars and information on the peoples and Tolkien's invented languages.

## [] Concept and creation

### [] Background

*The Lord of the Rings* started as a sequel to J. R. R. Tolkien's earlier work, [*The Hobbit*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hobbit)*,* that had been published in 1937.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-genesis-7) The popularity of *The Hobbit* led to George Allen & Unwin, the publishers, to request a sequel. Tolkien warned them that he wrote quite slowly, and responded with several stories he had already developed. Having rejected his contemporary drafts for the [Silmarillion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silmarillion), putting on-hold [*Roverandom*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roverandom) and accepting [Farmer Giles of Ham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farmer_Giles_of_Ham), Allen & Unwin thought more stories about hobbits would be popular.[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-8) So at the age of 45, Tolkien began writing the story that would become *The Lord of the Rings.* The story would not be finished until 12 years later, in 1949, and it would not be fully published until 1955, by which time Tolkien was 63 years old.

### [] Writing

Persuaded by his publishers, he started 'a new Hobbit' in December 1937.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-genesis-7) After several false starts, the story of the One Ring soon emerged. The idea of the first chapter ("A Long-Expected Party") arrived fully-formed, although the reasons behind Bilbo's disappearance, the significance of the Ring, and the title *The Lord of the Rings* did not arrive until the spring of 1938.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-genesis-7) Originally, he planned to write a story in which Bilbo had used up all his treasure and was looking for another adventure to gain more; however, he remembered the Ring and its powers and decided to write about it instead.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-genesis-7)

Writing was slow due to Tolkien having a full-time academic position, and needing to earn more money as an [examiner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Examinations) [[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-9) Tolkien abandoned *The Lord of the Rings* during most of 1943 and only re-started it in April 1944.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-genesis-7) This effort was written as a serial for [Christopher Tolkien](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Tolkien), who was sent chapters as they were written while he was serving in South Africa with the [Royal Air Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Air_Force). Tolkien made another concerted effort in 1946, and showed the manuscript to his publishers in 1947.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-genesis-7) The story was effectively finished the next year, but Tolkien did not finish revising earlier parts of the work until 1949.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-genesis-7)

### [] Influences

*Main article:* [*J. R. R. Tolkien's influences*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._R._R._Tolkien%27s_influences)

*The Lord of the Rings* developed as a personal exploration by Tolkien of his interests in [philology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philology), [religion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion) (particularly [Roman Catholicism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church)[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-letters-10)), [fairy tales](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairy_tale) and [Norse mythology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norse_mythology) and related [Germanic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanic_mythology),[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-11)[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-12) [Celtic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtic_Mythology)[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-13) and [Finnish mythology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finnish_mythology).[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-Kalevala-14) Tolkien acknowledged, and external critics have verified the influences of [William Morris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Morris)[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-15) and the Anglo-Saxon poem [Beowulf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beowulf).[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-16)

Some locations and characters were inspired by Tolkien's childhood in [Sarehole](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarehole) and [Birmingham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birmingham).[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-17) It has also been suggested that [The Shire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shire_%28Middle-earth%29) and its surroundings were based on the countryside around [Stonyhurst College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonyhurst_College) in [Lancashire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lancashire) where Tolkien frequently stayed during the 1940s.[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-18) The work was influenced by the effects of his military service during [World War I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I).[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-nationalgeographic1-3)

## [] Publication history

A dispute with his publishers, [Allen & Unwin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allen_%26_Unwin), led to the book being offered to [Collins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collins) in 1950. He intended [*The Silmarillion*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Silmarillion) (itself largely unrevised at this point) to be published along with *The Lord of the Rings,* but A&U were unwilling to do this. After his contact at Collins, Milton Waldman, expressed the belief that *The Lord of the Rings* itself "urgently needed cutting", he eventually demanded that they publish the book in 1952.[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] They did not do so, and so Tolkien wrote to Allen and Unwin, saying, "I would gladly consider the publication of any part of the stuff."[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-genesis-7)

For publication, due largely to post-war paper shortages, but also to keep the price down, the book was divided into three volumes: [*The Fellowship of the Ring*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Fellowship_of_the_Ring) (Books I and II), [*The Two Towers*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Two_Towers) (Books III and IV), and [*The Return of the King*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Return_of_the_King) (Books V and VI plus six appendices). Delays in producing appendices, maps and especially indices led to the volumes being published later than originally hoped — on 21 July 1954, on 11 November 1954 and on 20 October 1955 respectively in the United Kingdom, and slightly later in the United States. *The Return of the King* was especially delayed. Tolkien, moreover, did not especially like the title *The Return of the King*, believing it gave away too much of the storyline. He had originally suggested [*The War of the Ring*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_War_of_the_Ring), which was dismissed by his publishers.[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-19)

The books were published under a 'profit-sharing' arrangement, whereby Tolkien would not receive an advance or royalties until the books had broken even, after which he would take a large share of the profits. An index to the entire three-volume set at the end of third volume was promised in the first volume. However, this proved impractical to compile in a reasonable timescale. Later, in 1966, four indices, not compiled by Tolkien, were added to *The Return of the King.* Because the three-volume binding is so widely familiar, the work is often referred to as the *Lord of the Rings* "[trilogy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trilogy)".

### [] Editions and revisions

In the early 1960s [Donald A. Wollheim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_A._Wollheim), [science fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_fiction) editor of the paperback publisher [Ace Books](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ace_Books), theorized that *The Lord of the Rings* was not protected in the United States under [American copyright law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_copyright_law) because the U.S. hardcover edition had been bound from pages printed in the United Kingdom, with the original intention being for them to be printed in the British edition.[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] Ace Books proceeded to publish an edition, unauthorized by Tolkien and without [royalties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royalties) to him. Tolkien took issue with this and quickly notified his fans of this objection.[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] [Grass-roots](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grass-roots) pressure from these fans became so great that Ace Books withdrew their edition and made a nominal payment to Tolkien, well below what he might have been due in an appropriate publication.[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] However, this poor beginning was overshadowed when an authorized edition followed from [Ballantine Books](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballantine_Books)[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-20) and [Houghton Mifflin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houghton_Mifflin)[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-21) to tremendous commercial success. By the mid-1960s the novel had become a cultural phenomenon. Tolkien undertook various textual revisions to produce a version of the book that would be published with his consent and establish an unquestioned US copyright. This text became the Second Edition of *The Lord of the Rings.*

Since the second edition many different printings of *The Lord of the Rings* have appeared.

#### [] Publication of Drafts

From 1988 to 1992 Christopher Tolkien published the surviving drafts of the *Lord of The Rings* chronicling and illuminating with commentary the development of the text, in his [History of Middle-earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Middle-earth) series. The four volumes, 6 to 9 in the larger series carry the titles [*The Return of the Shadow*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Return_of_the_Shadow), [*The Treason of Isengard*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Treason_of_Isengard), [*The War of the Ring*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_War_of_the_Ring), and [*The End of the Third Age*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_End_of_the_Third_Age) the last three being alternative titles suggested by Tolkien for the original divisions.

### [] Translations

*Main article:* [*Translations of The Lord of the Rings*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Translations_of_The_Lord_of_the_Rings)

The novel has been translated, with various degrees of success, into at least 38 other languages.[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-22) Tolkien, an expert in [philology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philology), examined many of these translations, and had comments on each that reflect both the translation process and his work. Because he was unhappy with some choices made by early translators such as the [Swedish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swedish_language) translation by Åke Ohlmarks,[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-23) Tolkien wrote a "[Guide to the Names in The Lord of the Rings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guide_to_the_Names_in_The_Lord_of_the_Rings)" (1967). Because *The Lord of the Rings* purports to be a translation of the [*Red Book of Westmarch*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Book_of_Westmarch), with the English language representing the [Westron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westron) of the original, Tolkien suggests translators attempt to capture the interplay between English and invented nomenclature in the translated version, and gives several examples along with general guidance.

## [] Reception

*Main article:* [*Reception of J. R. R. Tolkien*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reception_of_J._R._R._Tolkien)

*The Lord of the Rings* has received mixed reviews since its inception, ranging from terrible to excellent. Recent reviews in various media have been, in a majority, highly positive and Tolkien's literary achievement is slowly being acknowledged as a significant one. On its initial review the [*Sunday Telegraph*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunday_Telegraph) felt it was "among the greatest works of imaginative fiction of the twentieth century."[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] The [*Sunday Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sunday_Times_%28UK%29) seemed to echo these sentiments when in its review it was stated that "the English-speaking world is divided into those who have read *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* and those who are going to read them."[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] The [*New York Herald Tribune*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Herald_Tribune) also seemed to have an idea of how popular the books would become, writing in its review that they were "destined to outlast our time."[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-24) W. H. Auden, a huge admirer of Tolkien's writings, regarded 'The Lord of the Rings' as a 'masterpiece,' furthermore stating that in some cases it outdid the achievement of Milton's [Paradise Lost](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradise_Lost).[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] Other supporters of the book from the literary world included [Iris Murdoch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_Murdoch), [Naomi Mitchison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naomi_Mitchison), [Richard Hughes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Hughes) and [C. S. Lewis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._S._Lewis).[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

Not all original reviews, however, were so kind. [*New York Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Times) reviewer Judith Shulevitz criticized the "pedantry" of Tolkien's literary style, saying that he "formulated a high-minded belief in the importance of his mission as a literary preservationist, which turns out to be death to literature itself."[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-25) Critic Richard Jenkyns, writing in [*The New Republic*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_Republic), criticized a perceived lack of psychological depth. Both the characters and the work itself are, according to Jenkyns, "anemic, and lacking in fiber."[[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-26) Even within Tolkien's literary group, [The Inklings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Inklings), reviews were mixed. [Hugo Dyson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugo_Dyson) complained loudly at its readings, and [Christopher Tolkien](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Tolkien) records Dyson as "lying on the couch, and lolling and shouting and saying, 'Oh God, no more Elves.'"[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-27) However, another Inkling, C. S. Lewis, had very different feelings, writing, "here are beauties which pierce like swords or burn like cold iron. Here is a book which will break your heart." Despite these reviews and its lack of paperback printing until the 1960s, *The Lord of the Rings* initially sold well in hardback.[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-28)

Several other authors in the genre, however, seemed to agree more with Dyson than Lewis. Science-fiction author [David Brin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Brin) criticized the book for what he perceived to be its unquestioning devotion to a traditional [elitist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elitism) social structure, its positive depiction of the slaughter of the opposing forces, and its [romantic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanticism) backward-looking worldview.[[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-29) [Michael Moorcock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Moorcock), another famous science fiction and fantasy author, is also critical of *The Lord of the Rings.* In his essay, "[Epic Pooh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epic_Pooh)", he equates Tolkien's work to [*Winnie-the-Pooh*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winnie-the-Pooh) and criticizes it for its deeply conservative world-view and infantilism.[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-30) Moorcock met both Tolkien and C. S. Lewis in his teens and claims to have liked them personally, even though he does not admire their works.

Being published in the 1950s led to the speculation[*[who?](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Avoid_weasel_words" \o "Wikipedia:Avoid weasel words)*] that the One Ring was an [allegory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allegory) for the [nuclear bomb](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_bomb).[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-31) Tolkien, however, repeatedly insisted that his works were not a strict allegory of any kind, but were open to interpretation as the reader saw fit.[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-32)[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-33)

Critics have described elements of racism in *The Lord of the Rings*, based upon the imagery depicting good and evil, characters' race (e.g. Elf, Dwarf, Hobbit, Southron, Númenórean, Orc) and that race determines characters behavior.[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-34)[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-35) Counter arguments have been made noting that often arguments citing racism omit relevant textural evidence and cite the influence of imagery from adaptations rather than the work itself, alongside the absence of evidence of racist attitudes or events in the author's personal life.[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-36) Critics also see [social class](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_class) rather than race as being the determinant factor, with the portrayal of evil as a reflection of the prejudices of European middle-classes during the inter-war years towards the industrial working class.[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-37)

In 1957, it was awarded the [International Fantasy Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Fantasy_Award). Despite its numerous detractors, the publication of the [Ace Books](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ace_Books) and [Ballantine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballantine_Books) paperbacks helped *The Lord of the Rings* become immensely popular in the 1960s. The book has remained so ever since, ranking as one of the most popular works of fiction of the twentieth century, judged by both sales and reader surveys.[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-38) In the 2003 "[Big Read](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Read)" survey conducted by the [BBC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC), *The Lord of the Rings* was found to be the "Nation's best-loved book." In similar 2004 polls both Germany[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings" \l "cite_note-39" \o ") and Australia[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-40) also found *The Lord of the Rings* to be their favourite book. In a 1999 poll of [Amazon.com](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon.com) customers, *The Lord of the Rings* was judged to be their favourite "book of the millennium."[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-41)

Ethan Gilsdorf, writing for [*The Boston Globe*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Boston_Globe) commented that while there are movements within academia to approach *the Lord of the Rings* as a serious literary work, the 2001-2003 film trilogy has contributed to a [dumbing down](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dumbing_down) of the reception of the novel by the forces of mass-commercialisation.[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-surge-42)

## [] Adaptations

*Main article:* [*Adaptations of The Lord of the Rings*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adaptations_of_The_Lord_of_the_Rings)

*The Lord of the Rings* has been adapted for film, radio and stage multiple times.

The book has been adapted for radio four times. In 1955 and 1956, the [BBC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Broadcasting_Corporation) broadcast [*The Lord of the Rings*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings_%281955_radio_series%29), a 12-part radio adaptation of the story. In the 1960s radio station [WBAI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WBAI) produced a short [radio adaptation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adaptations_of_The_Lord_of_the_Rings#Audio). A 1979 dramatization of [*The Lord of the Rings*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings_%281979_radio_series%29) was broadcast in the United States and subsequently issued on tape and CD. In 1981, the BBC broadcast [*The Lord of the Rings*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings_%281981_radio_series%29), a new dramatization in 26 half-hour installments. This dramatization of *The Lord of the Rings* has subsequently been made available on both tape and CD both by the BBC and other publishers. For this purpose it is generally edited into 13 one hour episodes.

Three film adaptations have been made. The first was [*J. R. R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings_%281978_film%29) (1978), by animator [Ralph Bakshi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_Bakshi), the first part of what was originally intended to be a two-part adaptation of the story, it covers *The Fellowship of the Ring* and part of *The Two Towers*. The second, [*The Return of the King*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Return_of_the_King_%281980_movie%29) (1980), was an animated television special by [Rankin-Bass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rankin-Bass), who had produced a similar version of [*The Hobbit*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hobbit_%28film%29) (1977). The third was director [Peter Jackson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Jackson)'s live action [*The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings_film_trilogy), produced by [New Line Cinema](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Line_Cinema) and released in three instalments as [*The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings:_The_Fellowship_of_the_Ring_%28film%29) (2001), [*The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings:_The_Two_Towers_%28film%29) (2002), and [*The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings:_The_Return_of_the_King_%28film%29) (2003). The final instalment of this trilogy was the second film to break the one-billion-dollar barrier and won a total of 11 Oscars, including 'best motion picture' and 'best director'.

In 1965, songwriter [Donald Swann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Swann), who was best known for his collaboration with [Michael Flanders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Flanders) as [Flanders & Swann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flanders_%26_Swann), set six poems from *The Lord of the Rings* and one from [*The Adventures of Tom Bombadil*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Adventures_of_Tom_Bombadil) ("Errantry") to music. When Swann met with Tolkien to play the songs for his approval, Tolkien suggested a different setting for "Namárië", which Swann accepted.[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-43) The songs were published in 1967 as [*The Road Goes Ever On: A Song Cycle*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Road_Goes_Ever_On),[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-44) and a recording of the songs performed by singer William Elvin with Swann on piano was issued that same year by [Caedmon Records](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caedmon_Records) as *Poems and Songs of Middle Earth*.[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-45) In 1990, Recorded Books published an [audio version](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audio_book) of *The Lord of the Rings*,[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings" \l "cite_note-46" \o ") with British actor Rob Inglis – who had previously starred in one-man stage productions of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* – reading. Inglis uses distinct voices for each character and reads the entire text, including performing the songs.[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-47) A large-scale [musical theatre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_theatre) adaptation, [*The Lord of the Rings*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings_%28musical%29) was first staged in [Toronto, Ontario](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toronto,_Ontario), Canada in 2006 and opened in [London](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London) in May 2007.

## [] Legacy

*Main article:* [*Works inspired by J. R. R. Tolkien*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Works_inspired_by_J._R._R._Tolkien)

### [] Influences on the fantasy genre

The enormous popularity of Tolkien's epic saga greatly expanded the demand for [fantasy fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fantasy_fiction). Largely thanks to *The Lord of the Rings,* the genre flowered throughout the 1960s. Many other books in a broadly similar vein were published, including the [*Earthsea*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthsea) books of [Ursula K. Le Guin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ursula_K._Le_Guin), [*The Riftwar Saga*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Riftwar_Saga) by [Raymond Feist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond_Feist), [*The Belgariad*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Belgariad) by [David Eddings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Eddings), [*The Sword of Shannara*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sword_of_Shannara) by [Terry Brooks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terry_Brooks), the [*Thomas Covenant*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Covenant) [novels](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novel) of [Stephen R. Donaldson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_R._Donaldson); the "[Wheel of Time](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheel_of_Time)" books of [Robert Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Jordan), and, in the case of the [*Gormenghast*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gormenghast_series) books by [Mervyn Peake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mervyn_Peake) and [*The Worm Ouroboros*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Worm_Ouroboros) by [E. R. Eddison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E._R._Eddison), rediscovered.

With a significant overlapping of their respective followings, there has been and still is extensive cross-pollination of influence between the fantasy and science fiction genres. In this way, the work also had an influence upon such [science fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_fiction) authors as [Frank Herbert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Herbert) and [Arthur C. Clarke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_C._Clarke)[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-48) and filmmakers such as [George Lucas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Lucas).[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-49)

It is often assumed[[*clarify*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Please_clarify)] to have strongly influenced the RPG industry which achieved popularity in the 1970s with [*Dungeons & Dragons*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dungeons_%26_Dragons), a game which features many races found in *The Lord of the Rings,* most notably [halflings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halfling) (another term for hobbits), elves, dwarves, [half-elves](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Half-elven), [orcs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orc_%28Dungeons_%26_Dragons%29), and dragons. However, [Gary Gygax](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_Gygax), lead designer of the game, maintained that he was influenced very little by *The Lord of the Rings*, stating that he included these elements as a marketing move to draw on the popularity the work enjoyed at the time he was developing the game.[[51]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-50) Many also believe[[*clarify*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Please_clarify)] that some popular video games have been influenced by the legacy of *The Lord of the Rings*, with titles such as [*Ultima*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ultima_%28video_game_series%29), [*EverQuest*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EverQuest), and the [*Warcraft*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warcraft) series, but moreover the '[Elder Scrolls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elder_Scrolls)" series of games[[52]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-51) as well as, quite naturally, [video games set in Middle-earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle-earth_in_video_games) itself.

As in all artistic fields, a great many lesser derivatives of the more prominent works appeared. The term "Tolkienesque" is used in the genre to refer to the oft-used and abused storyline of *The Lord of the Rings*: a group of adventurers embarking on a quest to save a magical fantasy world from the armies of an evil [dark lord](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_lord), and is a testament to how much the popularity of these books has increased, since many critics initially decried it as being "[Wagner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Wagner) for children" (a reference to [*Der Ring des Nibelungen*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Der_Ring_des_Nibelungen)) — an especially interesting commentary in light of a possible interpretation of the books as a Christian response to Wagner.[[53]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-52) The book also helped popularize alternative spellings for the plurals of *elf* and *dwarf* (using -*ves* instead of -*fs*).

### [] Music

The Danish [Tolkien Ensemble](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tolkien_Ensemble) have released a number of albums that have set the complete poems and songs of *The Lord of the Rings* to music, with some featuring recitation by [Christopher Lee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Lee).

Beyond setting Tolkiens verse to music, the book has influenced many musicians. Rock bands of the 1970s were musically and lyrically inspired by the fantasy embracing counter-culture of the time; British 70s rock band [Led Zeppelin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Led_Zeppelin) are arguably the most well-known group to be directly inspired by Tolkien, and have several songs that contain explicit references to *The Lord of the Rings* ([Ramble On](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramble_On), [The Battle of Evermore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Battle_of_Evermore), [Over the Hills and Far Away](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Over_the_Hills_and_Far_Away_%28song%29), and [Misty Mountain Hop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misty_Mountain_Hop)). Later, from the 1980s to the present day, several (mostly Northern European) [metal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music) bands have drawn inspiration from Tolkien with several bands and musicians taking their names from Tolkien's story, for example: [Summoning](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summoning_%28band%29), [Burzum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burzum), [Gorgoroth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gorgoroth_%28band%29), [Amon Amarth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amon_Amarth_%28band%29) and [Count Grishnackh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Count_Grishnackh).

Outside of rock music, a number of [classical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_music) and [New Age music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Age_music) artists have also been influenced by Tolkien's work. The New Age artist [Enya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enya) wrote an instrumental piece called "Lothlórien" in 1991, and composed two songs for the film [*The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings:_The_Fellowship_of_the_Ring) - "May It Be" (sung in English and [Quenya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quenya)) and "Aníron" (sung in [Sindarin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindarin)). Swedish keyboardist [Bo Hansson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bo_Hansson) released an instrumental album entitled "Music Inspired by Lord of the Rings" in 1970.

### [] Impact on popular culture

*The Lord of the Rings* has had a profound and wide-ranging impact on [popular culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular_culture), from its publication in the 1950s, but especially throughout the 1960s and 1970s, where young people embraced it as a [countercultural](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counterculture) saga[[54]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-53) - "[Frodo Lives!](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frodo_Lives%21)" and "Gandalf for President" were two phrases popular among American [Tolkien fans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tolkien_fandom) during this time.[[55]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-54)

Parodies such as [*Bored of the Rings*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bored_of_the_Rings), [*Lord of the Beans*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_of_the_Beans), the [*South Park*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Park) episode [*The Return of the Fellowship of the Ring to the Two Towers*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Return_of_the_Fellowship_of_the_Ring_to_the_Two_Towers)*,* the [Mad Magazine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mad_Magazine) musical send-up titled "The Ring And I," and [The Very Secret Diaries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Very_Secret_Diaries) and [*The Flight of the Conchords*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Flight_of_the_Conchords) also has band members singing a spoof song entitled "Frodo" are testemony to it's continual presence in popular culture.

From the 1960s onwards there has been an ever wider variety of licensed merchandise, from posters and calendars from illustrators such as [Pauline Baynes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pauline_Baynes) and [Hildebrandt Brothers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hildebrandt_Brothers) to figurines from [Mithril Miniatures](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mithril_Miniatures&action=edit&redlink=1) and [Citadel Miniatures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citadel_Miniatures) to computer, board, war and role-playing games. Recent examples include *The Lord of the Rings*-themed editions of popular board games (e.g., [Risk: Lord of the Rings Trilogy Edition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Risk:_Lord_of_the_Rings_Trilogy_Edition), [chess](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess) and [Monopoly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monopoly_%28game%29));[[56]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings#cite_note-55) and the Massive Online Multiplayer Game, *Lord of the Rings Online*.

## [] See also

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/77/Arda.Tengwar.svg/18px-Arda.Tengwar.svg.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Arda.Tengwar.svg) | [***Middle-earth portal***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Middle-earth) |

* [*The History of The Lord of the Rings*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_History_of_The_Lord_of_the_Rings)
* [*The Lord of the Rings: A Reader's Companion*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings:_A_Reader%27s_Companion)

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