

telle, *v.* to tell, relate, 26, 31, 272, 480, 643, &c. ; recite, 2188 ; speak of (it), 291, 2130, 2501 ; say to, tell, 279, 380, &c. ; *t. of*, tell, speak of, 165, 1514, 1656, &c. ; *telleþ*, tells them of it, 2494 ; tolde, *pa. t.* 1951. [OE. *tellan* ; *tálde*.]

## J.R.R. Tolkien, Scholar.

*A journey through the world of Middle English*

# Introduction

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* was a 'poem to fire [Tolkien's] imagination: the medieval tale of an Arthurian knight and his search for the mysterious giant who is to deal him a terrible axe-blow. Tolkien was delighted by the poem and also by its language, for he realised that its dialect was approximately that which had been spoken by his mother's West Midland ancestors'.

Humphrey Carpenter. *Tolkien: A Biography* (London, 1977), p. 35.

While J.R.R. Tolkien is best known today for his genre-defining novel *The Hobbit* (1937) and the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy (1954-1955), his literary imagination was first sparked by the history of the English language. When he was still a schoolboy, Tolkien discovered his passion for Old and Middle English, Old Norse, and Gothic – a passion so undeniable that, soon after matriculating for classics at Exeter College, Oxford in 1911, he changed courses in order to dedicate himself fully to the study of the English language.

Upon graduating in 1915, as World War I was raging, Tolkien's army service interrupted his quest for philological knowledge. Nevertheless, after being invalided back home from France in 1916, he utilised his convalescence to start writing what would eventually become *The Silmarillion* (1977). Throughout his life, Tolkien held the conviction that 'just as early works of literature illuminated the history of the language, so the history of language was a vital part of literature' (ODNB).

Only once the war had ended was Tolkien able to forge a scholarly career devoted to the Middle English language, literature, and imagination. The earliest works in this list – Tolkien's *Middle English Vocabulary* (1922) and the widely acknowledged standard edition of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (1925) – were conceived and written during his years at the University of Leeds, where he

became an authority in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English as well as ‘buil[ding] up the language side of the English department until it rivalled literature in popularity with undergraduates’ (ODNB).

Following his election to the Rawlinson and Bosworth chair of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford in 1925, Tolkien produced an elegant, ‘ground-breaking article on the early Middle English work *Ancrene wisse*’ (ODNB) and the homily *Hali Meidh* (1929), providing the seeds for further studies on these subjects throughout his academic career.

Tolkien’s years at Oxford and engagement with the Inklings concentrated his focus on the creation of the numerous languages and tales of middle-earth. The final item in this list – *The Adventures of Tom Bombadil and Other Verses from The Red Book* (1962) – is a cluster of poems from the Lord of the Rings’ ‘Red Book’. As a fictional mythology, they reflect the realms occupied by the Middle English sagas that had captivated him as a youth, bringing the story of Tolkien, language, and literature full circle.

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**Bibliography:** Wayne G. Hammond and Douglas A. Anderson. J.R.R. Tolkien. *A Descriptive Bibliography* (Winchester and New Castle, DE, 1993).



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A  
MIDDLE ENGLISH  
VOCABULARY

BY

J. R. R. TOLKIEN

*Designed for use with*  
SISAM'S Fourteenth Century Verse & Prose

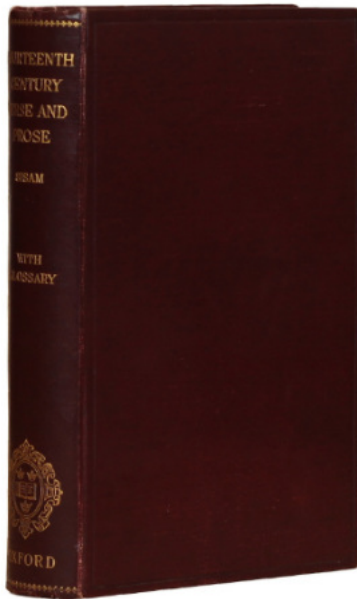


OXFORD  
AT THE CLARENDON PRESS  
M DCCCC XXII

Printed in England



FIRST EDITION OF TOLKIEN'S MIDDLE ENGLISH VOCABULARY, HIS FIRST PUBLISHED BOOK,  
IN A VARIANT FORM NOT NOTED BY HIS BIBLIOGRAPHERS



**1. TOLKIEN, John Ronald Reuel – Kenneth SISAM.** *Fourteenth Century Verse & Prose*. Oxford: Oxford University Press for Clarendon Press, 1923. [Bound with:] **J.R.R. TOLKIEN.** *A Middle English Vocabulary. Designed for Use with Sisam's Fourteenth Century Verse & Prose*. Oxford: Oxford University Press for Clarendon Press, 1922.

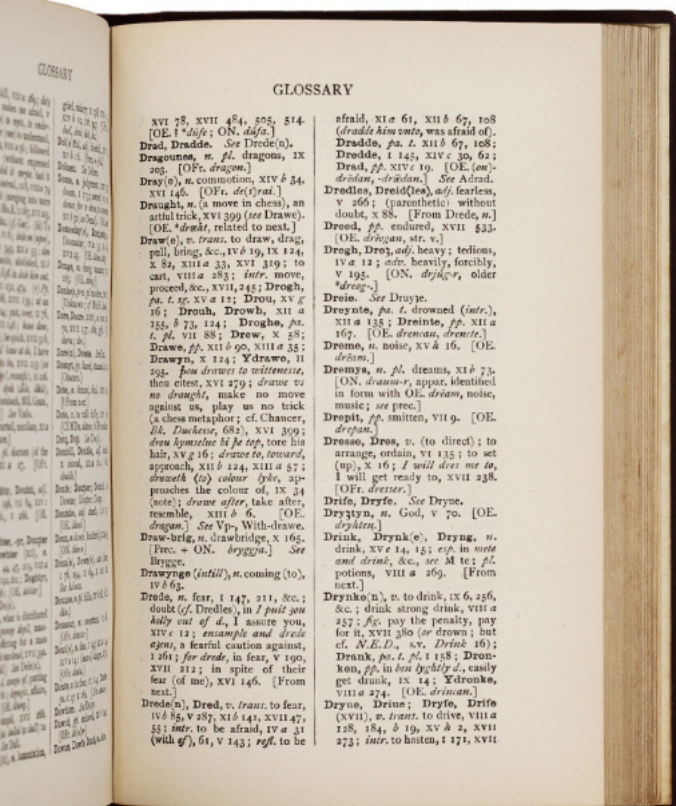
2 works bound in one volume (as issued by the publisher), octavo (182 x 122mm), pp. xlvii, [1 (blank)], 292; [4 (title, abbreviations, note, 'Principal Variations of Form or Spelling')], [164]. Title for Sisam with publisher's device and double-ruled frame; title for Tolkien with ruled frame surrounded by ornaments (*vide infra*), three-ornament rule before imprint. Original dark wine-red cloth, spine lettered and with publisher's device and ornamental rules in gilt, boards with blind-ruled frame. (Extremities lightly rubbed and bumped, light offsetting from pastedowns onto first and final ll.)

£295

**First edition, early issue of Tolkien's *A Middle English Vocabulary***, bound with Sisam's *Fourteenth Century Verse and Prose* as issued by the publisher. Before starting work on his edition and glossary of *Sir Gawain & the Green Knight* (1925), Tolkien compiled this Middle English vocabulary – his first substantial, stand-alone publication in the field. Aiming neither at completeness, nor to provide 'primarily a glossary of rare or "hard" words', Tolkien explains his rationale thus: 'A good working knowledge of Middle English depends less on the possession of an abstruse vocabulary than on familiarity with the ordinary machinery of expression [...]. So in making a glossary for use with a book itself designed to be a preparation for the reading of complete texts, I have given exceptionally full treatment to what may rightly be called the backbone of the language' ('Note', *A Middle English Vocabulary*, p. [3]).

The 'book' which this vocabulary was to accompany is a selection of texts for 'newcomers to the fourteenth century' (*Fourteenth Century Verse & Prose*, p. xliii) edited by Tolkien's former Oxford tutor Kenneth Sisam (1887-1971), one of the most renowned scholars of Old and Middle English of the twentieth century. A few years later, however, in 1925 'Tolkien was elected to the Rawlinson and Bosworth chair of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford, defeating his former tutor Kenneth Sisam in a close vote' (ODNB).

Sisam had finished *Fourteenth Century Verse & Prose* before Tolkien's *A Middle English Vocabulary* was ready, and therefore Sisam's work was first published in October 1921 without *A Middle English Vocabulary*. Tolkien's work was completed some months later, and *A Middle English Vocabulary* was published on 11 May 1922 in an edition of 2,000 copies, priced at 4s. 6d. Some of the 2,000 sets of the sheets of *A Middle English Vocabulary* were bound in wrappers and sold separately, and others were bound with Sisam's *Fourteenth Century Verse & Prose* (as originally intended), first appearing in this form on 8 June 1922. The remaining sets of sheets from this first printing were kept, as was customary, 'in sheets until there was demand for the binding' (Hammond and Anderson p. 1) and issued as required over the following months.



Hammond and Anderson identify different states of sheets of the first separate issue of *A Middle English Vocabulary* based on the title page and the final page of the text (which they mis-identify as p. [168], rather than p. [164]). Like a copy they identify as a 'later impression' (p. 1), this copy has the words 'Printed in England' printed from type at the foot of the title page, below the frame, and does not have 'corrigenda to Sisam's Fourteenth Century Verse & Prose' printed beneath the index on p. [164]. Interestingly, although Hammond and Anderson describe a frame of 186 type-ornaments (i.e. 57 at left and right, 36 at top and bottom) in most of the states of the title-page they record, in this copy of *A Middle English Vocabulary* the title-page, unusually, has a frame formed of 184 type-ornaments (i.e. only 56 at left and right) – an arrangement they note only in a copy offered by a Californian bookseller in 1980. Since this copy of *A Middle English Vocabulary* is bound with sheets of Sisam's *Fourteenth Century Verse & Prose* dated 1923 on the title page and without advertisements at the end, it seems likely that it is accompanied by a slightly later impression of Tolkien's glossary, but one with a permutation of issue-points not recorded by Hammond and Anderson.

The bibliographers do, however, note a similar copy of the combined volume with 'the title page [of *Fourteenth Century Verse & Prose*] dated 1923 and plain wove front and back endpapers' which is bound with 'apparently a first impression of the glossary' (p. 282).

W.G. Hammond and D.A. Anderson, *J.R.R. Tolkien*, B3a.

SIR GAWAIN  
&  
The Green Knight

Edited by

J. R. R. TOLKIEN

&

E. V. GORDON

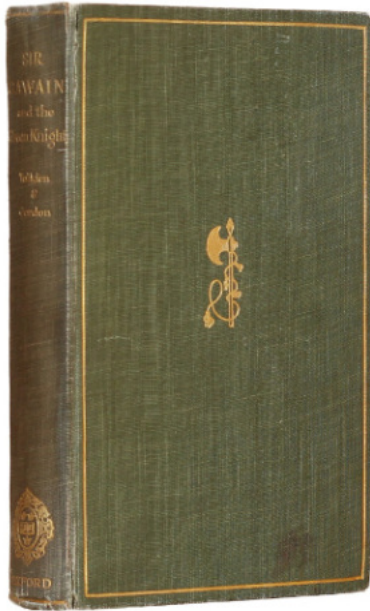


O X F O R D

At the Clarendon Press

1 9 2 5

**TOLKIEN'S WIDELY-LAUDED GAWAIN EDITION AND GLOSSARY  
WHICH 'OPENED NEW FIELDS OF STUDY AND [...]  
REMAINED STANDARD [...] THROUGHOUT THE TWENTIETH CENTURY'**



**2. TOLKIEN, John Ronald Reuel and Eric Valentine GORDON.** *Sir Gawain & the Green Knight*. Oxford: Oxford University Press for Clarendon Press, 1925.

Octavo (192 x 125mm), pp. xxvii, [1 (note on the text)], 211, [1 (imprint)]. Laid paper watermarked 'Abbey Mills'. Errata slip bound in facing p. vi. Monochrome frontispiece and one plate, both retaining tissue guards, ornamental cross device on title, one stemma and 2 diagrams in the text. (A few light marks in the text, short marginal tears at foot of frontispiece.) Original green cloth, upper board with central gilt axe device within gilt-ruled frame, spine lettered and decorated in gilt with publisher's device and rule, blind-ruled frame on lower board, uncut and retaining original deckles, wove endpapers. (Extremities lightly rubbed and bumped, superficial splitting on joints, ink stain on rear free endpaper.) *Provenance:* **Aaron Jenkins Perry**, University of Manitoba, 1926 (1875-1952, ownership inscription 'Aaron Jenkins Perry U. of Man. 1926' on upper pastedown and annotations and markings in the text).

**£950**

**First edition**, one of 2,500 copies. An early triumph of J.R.R. Tolkien's philological work, this Middle English edition of the famous medieval poem 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight' is remarkable for Tolkien's thoroughness; indeed, his extensive double-column glossary occupies as much space as the poem itself. Based on a manuscript written in c. 1400, British Library MS Cotton Nero A.x, the edition also includes an apparatus of notes for which Tolkien's junior colleague E.V. Gordon was primarily responsible.

Tolkien's linguistic diligence is likely indebted not only to his passion for the language, but also to his early professional experience at the *New English Dictionary* (later reissued as the *Oxford English Dictionary*). He worked on *Sir Gawain & the Green Knight* from 1922 – the year in which his classic *Middle English Vocabulary* was published – while he was reader and, from 1924, professor in English Language at the University of Leeds. In 1925, just a few months after *Sir Gawain & the Green Knight* appeared, he was appointed Rawlinson and Bosworth chair of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford. Tolkien would continue engaging



with *Sir Gawain* throughout his academic career; in 1953 he devoted his W.P. Ker Memorial Lecture at the University of Glasgow to the subject and he translated *Sir Gawain* into modern English (a translation which was only published posthumously).

*Sir Gawain & the Green Knight* was first published on 23 April 1925 in an edition of 2,500 copies priced at 7s. 6d., and an early review concluded that it was 'one of the best editions of a Middle English text that have yet appeared' (J.H.G. Grattan, 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight' [review], *The Review of English Studies* 1.4 (October 1925), pp. 484-487, at p. 487). Indeed, the edition 'opened new fields of study and [...] remained standard [...] throughout the twentieth century' (ODNB).

This copy was formerly in the library of the Yale-educated Canadian professor of English and Middle English scholar Aaron Jenkins Perry (1875-1952), whose edition of John Trevisa's translation of the *Dialogus inter Militem et Clericum* was published by the Early English Text Society also in 1925. Perry appears to have acquired this copy in 1926 and he has annotated the text throughout.

W.G. Hammond and D.A. Anderson, *J.R.R. Tolkien*, B7a.

## Glossary

tec-tok

tech, *n.* spot, stain, guilt, 2436, 2488.  
[OFr. *teche*.]

teche, *v.* to teach, 1527, 1533; inform, 407; show (the way), direct, 401, 1069, 1966, 2075; show, 1377; *taȝtte*, *pa. t.* 1485. [OE. *tæcan*.]

tel. See TIL.

telde, *n.* tent; dwelling, house, 11, 1775. [OE. *teld*.]

telde, *v.* to erect, set up, 795, 884, 1648.  
[OE. *teldian*, set up tent.]

telle, *v.* to tell, relate, 26, 31, 272, 480, 643, &c.; recite, 2188; speak of (it), 291, 2130, 2501; say to, tell, 279, 380, &c.; *t. of*, tell, speak of, 165, 1514, 1656, &c.; *telles*, tells them of it, 2494; *tolde*, *pa. t.* 1951. [OE. *tellan*; *tælde*.]

teme, *n.* theme, 1541. [OFr. *\*tème*.]

tender, *adj.* susceptible, liable, 2436.  
[OFr. *tendre*.]

tene, *n.* harm, trouble, 22, 547, 1008;

734, 1280; *til þat*, until, 697, 991;  
til, tel (1564), *conj.* until, 85, 532,  
1581, &c.; *with subj.* 449, 2287.  
[ON. *til*; OE. (rare Nth.) *til*.]

tyme, *n.* time, period, occasion, 22, 41,  
991, 1069, 1156, &c.; *at þis t.*, on this  
occasion, now, 1510, \*1810, 2091,  
&c.; *at þat t.*, then, 1409. [OE. *tīma*.]

tymed, *pp.* timed, 2241. [From prec.]

tyrue, *v.* to strip off, 1921. [See *N.E.D.*  
*s. v. Tirve*, v.<sup>1</sup> and v.<sup>2</sup>]

tit(e), *adv.* quickly, 299, 1596. [ON.  
*títt*.] See AS-TIT.

tytel, *n.* description, 480; *tytle*, sym-  
bolism, 626. [OFr. *title*.]

tytelet, *pp.* inscribed, 1515. [OFr.  
*titler*.]

titleres, *n. pl.* ticklers (the hounds press-  
ing him), 1726. [Cf. OE. *tinclian*,  
ON. *kítla*.]

tyxt, *n.* text, very words, 1515; romance,  
1541. [OFr. *texte*, *tixte*.]

# ANCRENE WISSE AND HALI MEIÐHAD

## I

THE *Ancrene Wisse* has already developed a 'literature', and it is very possible that nothing I can say about it will be either new or illuminating to the industrious or learned that have kept up with it. I have not. But my interest in this document is linguistic, and unless I am mistaken, a purely linguistic aspect of the problem will bear renewed attention, or repetition. I even believe that it may be of value to set forth a line of argument that is based on assertions of which the proper proof (or retraction) must wait for a later occasion.

I start with the conviction that very few Middle English texts represent in detail the real language (in accent, phonology, often even in choice of spellings) of any one time or place or person. It is not to be expected that they should, in a period of manuscript reproduction and linguistic decentralization; and most of them in fact do not. Their 'language' is, in varying degrees, the product of their textual history, and cannot be fully explained, sometimes cannot be understood at all, by reference to geography.

If this is not universally agreed, it cannot here be fully argued. At least it will be allowed, whether by those who prefer to find a place on the map for each variety of 'textual' English, or those that would find subtle phonetic significance in all the vagaries of careless texts, that there is a distinction between a pure and consistent form of language and a confused one, and that the distinction is important, however explained. This will still leave some force in my argument.

The mixed nonce-language produced by copying is something different, and something to a considerable extent distinguishable by analysis from the variations, the extraneous forms requiring special explanation, that appear in, say, the language of Orm or Dan Michel—where we may assume that

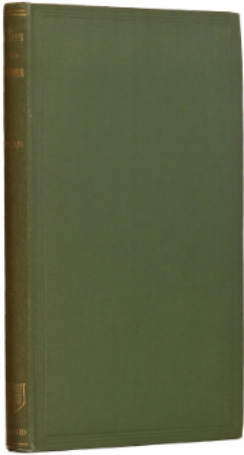
we have for practical purposes a representation of two kinds of 'geographical' English. For one thing these exceptions are mainly exceptions only to the general character of the language and the normal lines of its descent from older forms, not exceptions to the writer's usage. He uses them invariably, or in specific cases, or in circumstances capable of reasonable explanation. In fact they are comparable to the observed variations in the living speech of actual persons and places.

'Nonce-language' can, of course, be produced in two different ways. By partial substitution of a dialect or spelling-system more familiar than that of the copy; by unsuccessful assimilation of a natural speech to a written 'standard', more or less definite. But to distinguish these is probably not, at any rate in early Middle English, of linguistic importance. The result of both is an 'accidental' form of language, occurring in all its details only in one text, whose evidence thus requires careful handling if it is to be used in the history of spoken English. Attempted 'standardization' is not likely to concern a student of the thirteenth century; he is more likely to be faced with the alteration of the unfamiliar.<sup>1</sup>

But texts such as the *Ormulum* or the *Agenbite of Inwit*, where all may believe in the language as genuine and more or less 'geographical', are rare. We have not enough of them for the separating out of the different main types that are

<sup>1</sup> In the thirteenth century a westernizing tendency has been discerned, I think with probability. It does not, of course, amount to the existence of a West Midland literary standard. But many of the problems of thirteenth-century texts (e.g. *The Owl and Nightingale*) would become more intelligible on the assumption, natural enough *a priori*, that the habit of using or writing down English with any definitely literary purpose was at first preserved in the West mainly, and connected with the lingering there of links with the past (in alliteration and all that implies, in spelling, and in an archaic and relatively undisturbed form of language); that scribes able to handle M.E. familiarly were more often trained in the West and natively or otherwise familiar with western English. Consideration of *Ancrene Wisse*, at any rate, strengthens the impression, if my argument is sound, of the existence in the west of a centre where English was at once more alive, and more traditional and organized as a written form, than anywhere else.

**TOLKIEN'S 'ANCRENE WISSE AND HALI MEIÐHAD' –  
THE 'MOST PERFECT' OF HIS ACADEMIC WRITINGS**



**3. TOLKIEN, John Ronald Reuel.** 'Ancrene Wisse and Hali Meiðhad', in **Heathcote William GARROD (editor).** *Essays and Studies by Members of the English Association*, vol. XIV, pp. 104-126. Oxford: John Johnson at Oxford University Press for Clarendon Press, 1929.

Octavo (214 x 138mm), pp. 126, [7 (previous vols)], [1 (imprint)], [2 (blank l.)]. (A few light marks, very light marginal browning.) Original green cloth, spine lettered and with publisher's device and rules in gilt, boards with quadruple blind-ruled frame. (Extremities lightly rubbed and bumped, light offsetting from pastedowns onto first and last ll.) *Provenance:* L.M. Lord (pencilled ownership signature on front free endpaper and a couple of marginal pencil markings on 'Charlotte Brontë' article).

**£125**

**First edition.** 'Tolkien never lost his literary soul. [...] He brought to [...] his subject a grace of expression and a sense of the larger significance of the matter. Nowhere is this demonstrated to better advantage than in his article (published in 1929) on the *Ancrene Wisse*, a medieval book of instruction for a group of anchorites, which probably originated in the West Midlands. By a remarkable and subtle piece of scholarship, Tolkien showed that the language of two important manuscripts [...] was no mere unpolished dialect, but a literary language, with an unbroken literary tradition going back to before the Conquest' – the so-called 'AB language' of the West Midlands (Humphrey Carpenter, *Tolkien: A Biography* (London, 1977), p. 134).

'The *Ancrene Wisse* (or *Ancrene Riwe*, MS Corpus Christi College Cambridge 402) [...] and the thirteenth-century homily *Hali Meiðh* (a part, with *Sawles Worde* and others, of the "Katherine Group", MS Bodley 34) attracted Tolkien's study throughout his career' (Hammond and Anderson, B12). Tolkien had started planning this article while still at Leeds, listing it in June 1925 as 'forthcoming' in *Essays and Studies* in his application for the Rawlinson and Bosworth Professorship of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford under the title 'The Second Weak Conjugation in the Ancren Riwe and the Katherine-Group'; however, it was only published on 17 January 1929, roughly three years after he took up his professorship at Oxford. 'T.A. Shippey has called "*Ancrene Wisse* and *Hali Meiðhad*" the "most perfect" of Tolkien's academic writings' (Hammond and Anderson).

W.G. Hammond and D.A. Anderson, *J.R.R. Tolkien*, B12.



THE ENGLISH TEXT OF THE  
ANCRENE RIWLE

# Ancrene Wisse

EDITED FROM  
MS. CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE  
CAMBRIDGE 402

BY  
J. R. R. TOLKIEN

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY  
N. R. KER

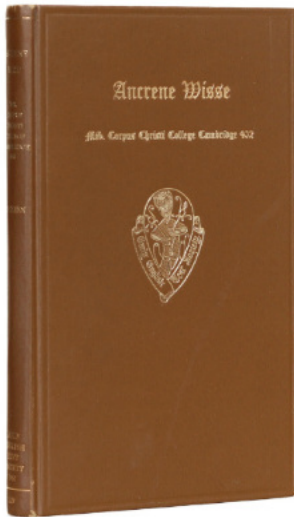
*Published for*  
THE EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY  
*by the*

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

LONDON NEW YORK TORONTO

1962

## TOLKIEN'S EDITION OF ANCRENE WISSE – DELAYED BY THE SILMARILLION AND A PRINTERS' STRIKE



**4. TOLKIEN, John Ronald Reuel (editor) and Neil Ripley KER (introduction).** *Ancrene Wisse. The English Text of the Ancrene Riwe. Edited from MS. Corpus Christi College Cambridge 402.* (Early English Text Society No 249. 1962 (for 1960)). London: Vivian Ridler at Oxford University Press for The Early English Text Society, 1962.

Octavo (219 x 138mm), pp. [2 (blank l.)], xviii, 222, [1 (imprint)], [1 (blank)], 8 (Early English Text Society titles). Half-tone frontispiece printed recto-and-verso with facsimiles. Original brown cloth, upper board lettered and with Early English Text Society device in gilt within blind-ruled frame, spine lettered and ruled in gilt, lower board with blind-ruled frame. (Extremities lightly rubbed and bumped, some very faint marking.) *Provenance:* price on half-title neatly cancelled in ink by [?]bookseller – later ownership signature on front free endpaper.

**£150**

**First edition**, one of 3,000 copies. *Ancrene Wisse*, Tolkien's edition of the source manuscript, MS Corpus Christi College Cambridge 402, was even longer in the making than '*Ancrene Wisse and Hali Meidhad*' (1929), his seminal article on the subject. Tolkien is known to have mentioned the edition in correspondence as far back as 1936, and in a letter to Stanley Unwin of March 1945, he described the book as 'all typed out' – probably, as Hammond and Anderson conjecture, only referring to the MS text proper. In 1952 Tolkien called this his 'overdue professional work, which he was attempting to finish in the midst of other writing and with *The Lord of the Rings*, soon to be published, distracting his attention'.

The years passed until 'Robert Burchfield, [...] the editorial secretary of the [Early English Text Society], "gently bullied" Tolkien until the typescript was submitted – which, in the event, was not merely a typescript, but included initial letters elegantly drawn by Tolkien. [...] A printers' strike prevented proofs from being sent to Tolkien until June 1960, when he was "in full tide of composition for the *Silmarillion*, and had lost the threads of the M[iddle] E[nglish] work" (letter to Rayner Unwin, 31 July 1960)' (Hammond and Anderson). Further delays meant that Tolkien likely did not correct the final proofs until January 1962, and on '19 December 1962, in a letter to his son Michael, he reported that "my *Ancrene Wisse* ... got between covers this week at last"' (*loc. cit.*). Thus, entirely inadvertently, *Ancrene Wisse* was one of Tolkien's few academic publication after 1940.

W.G. Hammond and D.A. Anderson, *J.R.R. Tolkien*, B25.

## MS. Bodley 34: A re-collation of a collation.

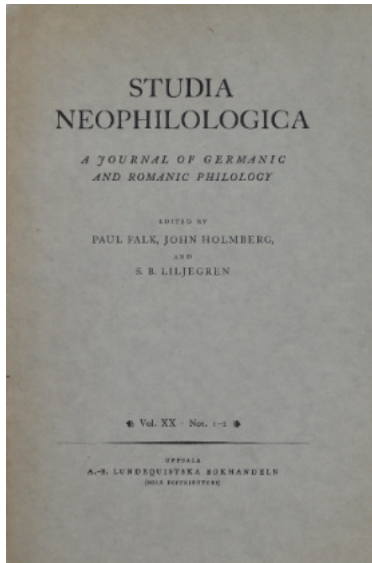
*Bulded ower boldes up o-treowe corde þet ne dreded na ual  
for wind ne for wedere.*

A complete edition of MS. Bodley 34 has been needed for some time. Even the most recent editions of the separate homilies contained in it require correction. This need will be felt

This edition begun long ago was interrupted in 1938—45, when we were otherwise engaged. It is now, however, nearly completed on the basis of a careful review of the manuscript itself, and will, we hope, shortly be in print. It will doubtless contain many debatable points, and, alas! almost certainly it will still contain errors, even though it will be presented by students to whom this odd little volume has become almost as familiar as it was to those for whose use it was originally made.

S. R. T. O. D'ARDENNE and J. R. R. TOLKIEN.

AN ARTICLE ON THE 'KATHERINE GROUP' (MS BODLEY 34),  
HERALDING A PLANNED EDITION OF THE TEXT WHICH NEVER APPEARED IN TOLKIEN'S LIFETIME



**5. TOLKIEN, John Ronald Reuel – Simonne Rosalie Thérèse Odile D'ARDENNE and J.R.R. TOLKIEN.** 'MS Bodley 34: A Re-Collation of a Collation', in **Paul FALK, John HOLMBERG and Sten Bodvar LILJEGREN.** *Studia Neophilologica. A Journal of Germanic and Romanic Philology* XX, Nos 1-2, pp. 65-72. Uppsala: Almqvist & Wiksells Boktryckeri AB for A.-B. Lundequistska Bokhandeln, [1947-1948].

Octavo (245 x 163mm), pp. 160. Half-tone portrait frontispiece. (Frontispiece and facing l. lightly marked.) Original grey printed wrappers, all quires except Tolkien article unopened. (Spine and outer areas of wrappers slightly browned, a few light marks, extremities lightly rubbed and bumped.) *Provenance:* Parker & Son, Ltd., Oxford (bookseller's ticket on verso of frontispiece) – a few marginal markings and corrections in the Tolkien article.

**£75**

**First edition.** Following his early and mid-career work on *Hali Meiðhad*, Tolkien revisited the 'Katherine Group' in MS Bodley 34 in this article, which he co-wrote with the Belgian medieval philologist, his former student Simonne d'Ardenne (1899-1986). Towards the end of the article, the authors state: 'This edition begun long ago was interrupted in 1938-1945, when we were otherwise engaged. It is now, however, nearly completed on the basis of a careful review of the manuscript itself, and will, we hope, shortly be in print' (p. 72).

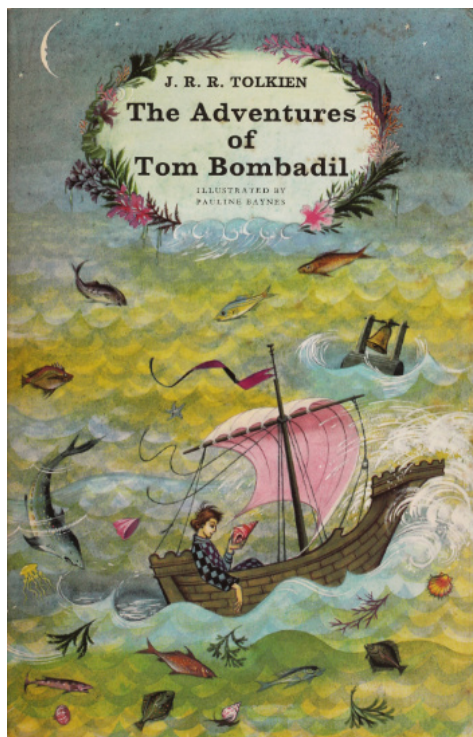
While this article did manage to earmark this manuscript for Tolkien's and Ardenne's scholarship, and apparently deterred others from producing an edition, it seems that Tolkien's other literary commitments prevented the edition appearing in his lifetime. The forecast publication would not appear until 1977 (some four years after his death), when a transcription – rather than a scholarly edition with full apparatus – was published naming d'Ardenne as the sole editor.

W.G. Hammond and D.A. Anderson, *J.R.R. Tolkien*, C35.





THE FIRST EDITION, FIRST IMPRESSION OF TOM BOMBADIL'S ILLUSTRATED ADVENTURES,  
WITH THE DUSTWRAPPER



**6. TOLKIEN, John Ronald Reuel and Pauline BAYNES (illustrator).** *The Adventures of Tom Bombadil and Other Verses from The Red Book.* London: Jarrold and Sons Ltd for George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 1962.

Octavo (222 x 140mm), pp. 64. Title illustrated in black and orange with facing orange vignette after Pauline Baynes, 6 full-page illustrations printed in black and orange, 16 headpieces surrounding poem titles of which one printed in black and orange, 14 tailpiece illustrations of which 3 printed in black and orange, 13 illustrations in the text of which one printed in black and orange, and 2 black-and-white vignettes facing beginnings of Preface and poems. Original paper over boards with colour illustration after Baynes, upper board and spine lettered in black, dustwrapper repeating board design, not price-clipped. (Extremities lightly rubbed and bumped, spine very lightly faded, endpapers very lightly spotted, dustwrapper lightly rubbed and creased at edges with light chipping on spine ends, 4mm closed tear at foot of spine, verso lightly spotted.) A very good copy. *Provenance:* Raymond Emil Maddison (1931-2003, engraved armorial bookplate on upper pastedown).

**£475**

**First edition, first impression.** *The Adventures of Tom Bombadil* was published on 22 November 1962, just in time for the 1962 Christmas market. Its origins, however, date from a quarter of a century earlier.

In December 1937, about 3 months after the publication of *The Hobbit*, Tolkien wrote to Stanley Unwin proposing the poem 'The Adventures of Tom Bombadil' – which had previously appeared in the *Oxford Magazine* in 1934 – for publication. Unwin's son Rayner responded that *The Hobbit* was already very successful and another story, that of Old Took's great grand-uncle, Bullroarer, might be better to publish as a continuation of *The Hobbit*, 'for Bilbo could tell it to Gandalf and Balin in his hobbit hole when they visited him. [...] Neither Rayner's preference nor a prose tale of Tom Bombadil was written, but the character was introduced into *The Lord of the Rings*' (Hammond and Anderson, p. 177).

It was not until 1961 that the present volume was proposed by Tolkien's aunt, Jane Neave, who 'asked him to "get out a small book with Tom Bombadil at the heart of it, the sort of size of book that we old 'uns can afford to buy for Christmas presents"', and the original poem was chosen for this purpose, to be illustrated by Pauline Barnes, 'who had so successfully illustrated *Farmer Giles of Ham*' (1949) (*loc. cit.*).

The poems included in *The Adventures of Tom Bombadil* are from the fictional hobbit manuscript familiar to all *Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings* readers, the *Red Book*. In his Preface, always the manuscript scholar, Tolkien sets the scene:

The Red Book contains a large number of verses. A few are included in the narrative of the *Downfall of the Lord of the Rings* or in attached stories and chronicles; many are found on loose leaves, while some are written carelessly in margins and blank spaces. [...] The present selection is taken from the older pieces, mainly concerned with legends and jests of the Shire at the end of the Third Age, that appear to have been made by Hobbits, especially by Bilbo and his friends, or their immediate descendants (*The Adventures of Tom Bombadil*, Preface, p. 7).

The sixteen poems include 'Oliphaunt' which Sam Gamgee declared 'traditional in the Shire' in *Lord of the Rings*; 'Errantry', 'an example of another kind which seems to have amused Hobbits: a rhyme or story which returns to its own beginning, and so may be recited until the hearers revolt' (*loc. cit.*); and poems witnessing 'the end of the Third Age, and the widening of the horizons of the Shire by contact with Rivendell and Gondor' (p. 8).

Tolkien had some doubts throughout the one-year publication process, but Rayner Unwin's support saw the finalisation of galley proofs in June, that of Pauline Baynes's illustrations around the end of August, and, finally, that of the binding and dustwrapper by the end of October 1962.

*The Adventures of Tom Bombadil* was an instant success. Even before its publication, Allen & Unwin 'sold approximately 5,000 copies' of the book, so that 'a second impression was needed immediately' (Hammond and Anderson, p. 180). In the second impression the positioning of two poems was changed, in order to position the colour illustration for the poem 'Cat' directly beside it. The present copy is the first impression, with 'Cat' on p. 48 and 'Fastitocalon' on pp. 49 and 51, surrounding the illustration for 'Cat'.

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