

# Guide to Carpenter's Revised Tolkien Letters Changes

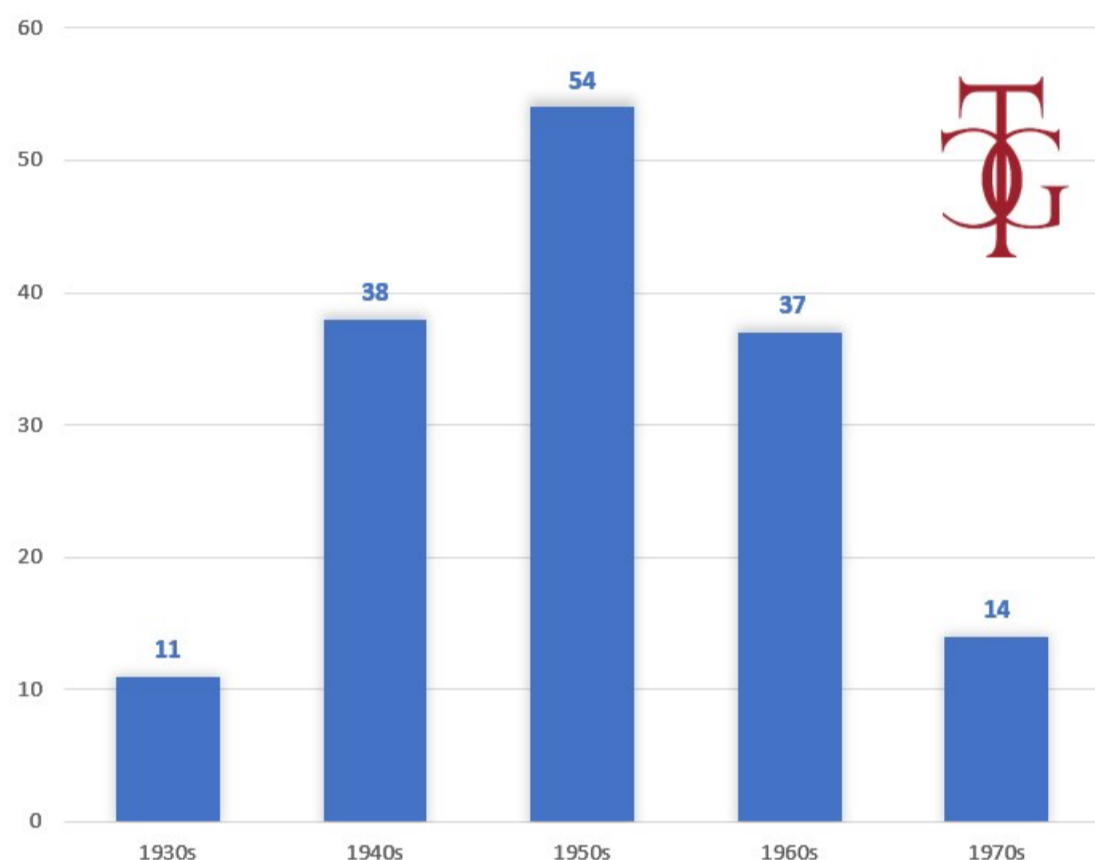
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Version 2023-11-05

508 total letters in new edition

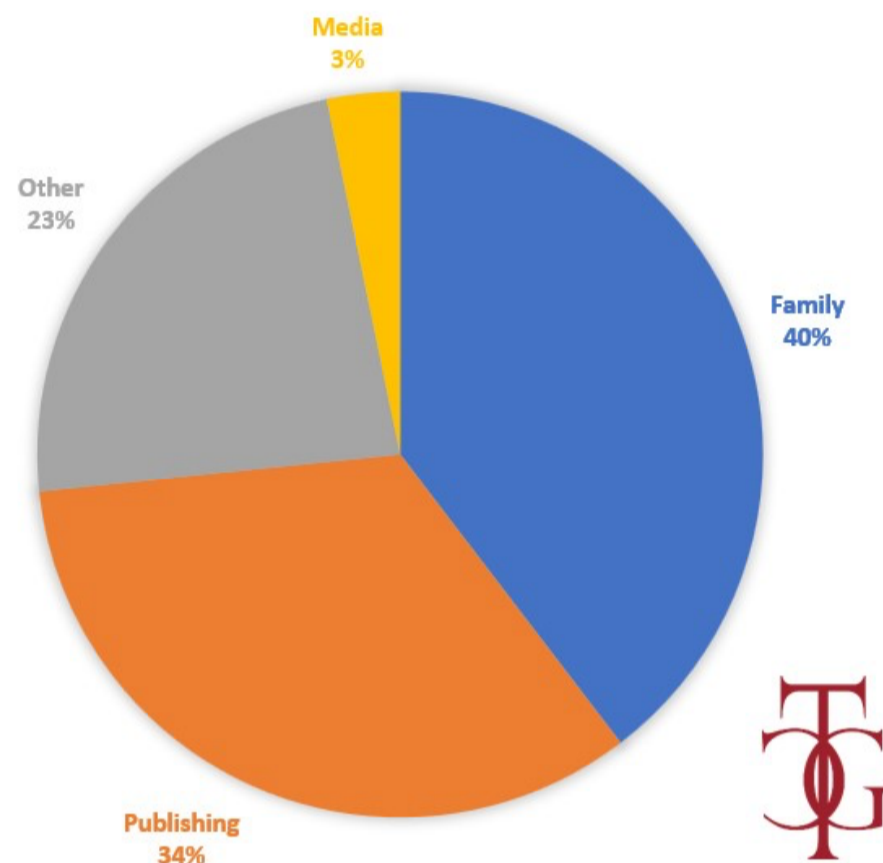
- 154 new letters with alphanumeric references, for example #8a is a new letter that comes between the original #8 and #9 in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition
- 45 updated letters marked in grey
- 8 especially interesting (in our opinion) letters highlighted in green

See our [Guide to Tolkien Letters](#) for more information. All letters will be available on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2023.

NEW LETTERS



NEW LETTERS



Carpenter Reference	Recipient	Date	Summary
7	[University of Oxford Electors]	27 June 1925	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien says that his departments achievements in scholarship appear small but that a number of those who obtained a first class have gone on to work on such distinguished projects as the <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> , and to work on the 'Survey of English Place-Names'. He also notes that some very interesting dissertations have been presented recently, notably on placenames of Richmondshire, and a translation of <i>Saga of Hrolf Kraki</i> . He expects both to be published.
8	Vice Chancellor of Leeds University	22 July 1925	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien hopes that Dr. Baillie is enjoying the "perfect summer" and says he has also informed the Registrar. He mentions the University's "present campaign", stating that he cannot take part as the coming months will be very busy.
8a	John Tolkien	21 January 1934	Tolkien asks about the credits his son John will take and also that he noted that his German books remained in his trunk after his holiday. He asks John about his drawing and notes that he doesn't see him getting the worth from the classes. Tolkien asks if he would mind if the extras were cancelled. He hopes that John has rid himself of the last of his cold and reminds him to not forget "mummy" letters.
8b	Christopher Tolkien	10 August 1936	Writing to, Christopher, Tolkien says he misses his son but that he is glad Christopher's little holiday has begun with fine weather. He discusses the weather of London and Oxford and talks about his day in the garden. He and Edith had visited with the Wrenn's the previous night. He makes a brief mention of the 'Pearl' being done badly. He goes on to say that <i>The Hobbit</i> is nearly complete.
8c	Michael Tolkien	21 October 1936	Tolkien sends birthday wishes for his son Michael. He says that he has heard from John that he is short of cash and apologizes for his lack of help but sends a postal order for him. He hopes that Michael can find a place in a play, and says he will enjoy it. Tolkien is later that day going to London for a board-meeting. He closes asking for news, and wishes his son well.
11	Susan Dagnall	5 February 1937	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien is happy to let the "Production department" do as it pleases them with the chart and says he is very grateful for their work. He notes receiving a letter from them that they had decided on different illustrations and one will be used for the jacket. He leaves the selection of the remaining illustrations in her hands.

Carpenter Reference	Recipient	Date	Summary
11a	Michael Tolkien	12 February 1937	Tolkien replies to Michael's letter. It appears that Michael has opted to change his work, but Tolkien would like to walk with Welch & Bostock first before they make a final decision. This appears to be around Michael's Greek classes and he says that Michael's tastes should rule in the end. Michael has had a change of heart over what he wants to do and Tolkien says that if he wishes to become a historian, then he should go in that direction, but Tolkien believes at his age he may regret it. He asks Michael what he is reading, especially post 410 CE and says he can recommend some books, some of which he can lend to him.
11b	C.A. Furth	?10 March 1937	Tolkien writes to Furth of GA&U acknowledging the two drawings which were "safely received", he has placed them in the correct positions among the proof sheets. He is also sending corrected proofs and rough end-papers. He commends the type-setting. He continues on the subject of the proofs, the MS of <i>The Hobbit</i> and asks if a "season of publication" has been decided on. If it is earlier publication, he will attempt to sort the jacket at once.
11c	Priscilla Tolkien	c. 16 April 1937	Tolkien hopes to see Priscilla tomorrow. He remarks that he has just arrived and will stay at Minehead for the night and will catch the train home from there.
15	C.A. Furth (Allen & Unwin)	31 August 1937	<b>New Material:</b> adds three sentences at the end where Tolkien tries to ease the blow of critiquing Furth's drafted dust-jacket blurb.
15a	Stanley Unwin	17 September 1937	Tolkien apologizes for sounding ungrateful. Unwin had sent Tolkien a much welcomed cheque. He hopes that <i>The Hobbit</i> earns it.
15b	Christopher Tolkien	2 October 1937	Tolkien says how delighted he is to have received his letter, although he doesn't expect them. He, Edith, and Priscilla had been out that day. He says that C.S. Lewis and his brother have read <i>The Hobbit</i> and would like to read more. He asks Christopher to pray for him and "mummy" at Mass and inquires if he has been to Communion.
17	Stanley Unwin	15 October 1937	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien mentions that his daughter (Priscilla) aged 8, has already distinguished "literary and actual terrors", but also notes that they had to change the handles on Priscilla's bedroom furniture as the previous ones "grinned" at Priscilla.
18	Stanley Unwin	23 October 1937	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien confirms their lunch meeting on 27 October, and his train will arrive at Paddington at 12.5pm. Stanley Unwin had been bedridden with a heavy cold, and Tolkien thanks him for answering from his bed.
18a	E.V. Gordon	22 November 1937	Tolkien writes that Gordon has been treated badly. He says that he cannot help enough on the <i>Pearl</i> manuscript but will certainly read the proof and offer comments. He believes the work complete and that Gordon should continue the work alone. Tolkien goes on to talk at length about Sisam and academic/theological matters regarding Sisam, 'Dom. W', and publishing.
19	Stanley Unwin	16 December 1937	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien discusses Arthur Ransome's queries sent to him on 13 December and says that to answer these it really needs <i>The Silmarillion</i> to provide answers. He notes that other correspondents have given glowing reports. He says that he is "crushed by Richard Hughes" regarding the illustrations, and notes that he agreed with him.
21	Allen & Unwin Ltd.	1 February 1938	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien asks for four more copies of <i>The Hobbit</i> . While on vacation he has been unwell and spent most of the time "laid up".
22	C.A. Furth	4 February 1938	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien confirms that he has received the four copies of <i>The Hobbit</i> .
27	Houghton Mifflin Co.	12 March 1938	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien acknowledges receipt of 6 further copies of <i>The Hobbit</i> (and that more are coming), and a copy of the advertisement (presumably for <i>The Hobbit</i> ).
36a	Michael Tolkien	1 March 1939	Tolkien offers his sympathies to his son Michael as he has been bedridden with a bad cold. He has been very busy and feels he has neglected his son with a lack of letters from home. Tolkien leaves for Scotland soon to deliver a lecture (the Andrew Lang Lecture at St. Andrews to be published as <i>On Fairy-Stories</i> ).
36b	Stanley Unwin	15 September 1939	Tolkien updates Stanley Unwin on the current situation at universities given the news of war with Germany. He says there will be a reduced demand, but still, the universities will continue to function. Tolkien has been busy so has not had time to work on his sequel to <i>The Hobbit</i> , but it is three quarters complete.
38a	Michael Tolkien	12 July 1940	Tolkien replies to a letter from his son Michael where he had evidently spoken about his feelings about events of the world, studies, etc. Tolkien is relieved he has, and says that they don't discuss matters with him enough. Tolkien wonders if he in fact comes across as critical. In a very long passage, Tolkien discusses many personal family matters with his son, with mentions of Edith's health, her religious activities, their life in general, Michael's love life, and more.

Carpenter Reference	Recipient	Date	Summary
40a	Christopher Tolkien	20 October 1940	Tolkien hopes that Christopher has not had air raids recently. He notes that he is very lonely without him close to home. Tolkien has been busy with term, but has no actual news. He says there were bombs on Friday night, but otherwise it has been peaceful. He also notes that he had managed to spend a little time with C.S. Lewis for a pint yesterday morning.
42a	Christopher Tolkien	26 January 1941	Tolkien sends Christopher some money, and reminds him that it is important to remember birthdays, especially his mother's. Tolkien then goes on to remark how busy work is keeping him.
42b	Christopher Tolkien	1 February 1941	Writing to Christopher, Tolkien remarks on the work of typing up "Hobbit" and how Edith and Priscilla are getting along. He then promises to write more.
42c	Christopher Tolkien	23 February 1941	Tolkien says that he has neglected Christopher of late. He briefly mentions a trip out with Warnie Lewis and 'Honest Humphrey' Harvard. He and Michael were at St. Gregory's that morning.
43	Michael Tolkien	6-8 March 1941	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien considers that Michael has had a tough time, noting that it has "fallen heaviest" on him. Michael had feared he would not make it through the war. Tolkien says that his fears are not unfounded, and that maybe they all might not, "even Priscilla". In a footnote Tolkien says that he remembers this feeling. Tolkien mentions how hard it was to find work, and that "no amount of merit not accompanied by extraordinary chances and luck would have landed me here as Oxford's youngest professor in 1925". Tolkien also talks about the how in many ways women are braver than men.
43a	Michael Tolkien	12 March 1941	Tolkien discusses certain differences that might arise between a husband and wife and how to handle them.
44	Michael Tolkien	18 March 1941	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien mentions that Edith first met the Incedons of his family, and in Worcestershire.
45	Michael Tolkien	9 June 1941	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien mentions that the government treats the upper and lower classes with "kid gloves", and that the middle class gets "put through it".
49a	Christopher Tolkien	28 July 1943	Tolkien was glad to get Christopher's letter, he had been waiting to write, needing his new address. He mentions the weather, and fruits which are growing, and wonders if he can send Christopher some plums. Tolkien says also that he has been to Magdalen to finish the reading of his essay, which he has handed to Charles Williams. The family had been to St. Gregory's, which he notes included an "admirably restrained" talk about Rome.
49b	Christopher Tolkien	1 September 1943	Tolkien details a visit to Collegiate Church and describes the building. He then remarks on the people buried there and gives some historical context.
49c	Christopher Tolkien	8 September 1943	Christopher had apparently been having a bad week, and Tolkien writes with his sympathies. He says to not spend "precious time" on letter writing, that a brief note is fine letting him know Christopher is OK. Tolkien has little to tell, but the weather is beautiful. He says of his "chances of writing 'Hobbit' – nil!".
49d	Christopher Tolkien	13 September 1943	Tolkien has organized the next course where he will have around 40 cadets and has to attend the Passing Out Parade of the Royal Navy. He is also invited to the Squadron Smoking Concert in the evening, but he may miss this to see the Inklings.
49e	Christopher Tolkien	19 September 1943	Tolkien asks how Christopher has been getting on with flight training. Tolkien has heard C.S. Lewis' new translation of the <i>Æneid</i> .
51a	Christopher Tolkien	3 November 1943	Tolkien had not managed to send Christopher his pipe yesterday, and sends it on to him with this letter. He and Edith received a long letter and were happy to read of Christopher enjoying some normal activities. Tolkien is critical of some of the conditions "on the ground" in the R.A.F. but mentions that this is the case during war.
51b	Christopher Tolkien	10 November 1943	Tolkien mentions being tired but still productive. He notes that he has heard two chapters from Charles Williams new novel, <i>All Hallow's Eve</i> and that he had half an hour with him at the White Horse yesterday.
52	Christopher Tolkien	29 November 1943	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien reports that he has had influenza and that the steel works had over 900 men ill. Tolkien says that those in charge are deciding what people need, and if they had their way those people would remain in charge permanently.
53	Christopher Tolkien	9 December 1943	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien recounts a humorous story about a cadet "wished" upon him by the local committee, a Polish cadet who knows nothing of philology but was a jolly fellow and they parted as friends. Tolkien also mentions that he may need to visit Cardiff on 15-16 December, which in the event is postponed until January.
53a	Christopher Tolkien	15 December 1943	Tolkien heard from Michael that Christopher had been unwell again. Tolkien updates him on home life, with Edith being unwell at the moment. He remarks on visiting Lewis and Williams recently, on a bitterly cold night. Tolkien also mentions that he was had interviewed a First Lieutenant Poptawski.

Carpenter Reference	Recipient	Date	Summary
53b	Christopher Tolkien	6 January 1944	Tolkien is glad to hear from Christopher and notes instructions for his tobacco. He has prayed constantly for his son. He spent some time with C.S. Lewis, Williams, and "Warnie" Lewis and heard more of Lewis' next novel.
54	Christopher Tolkien	8 January 1944	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien hopes that things are bearable for his son. He says all he can do is pray for him. He reminds Christopher that he is always there for advice if needed. He then offers Christopher advice on prayer and to remember his guardian angel. At the end of the letter when talking about "praises" a Latin example from his letter is restored.
55a	Christopher Tolkien	25 February 1944	Tolkien has not written for a week and speaks of his "shame of letting a whole week go". He has been praying for Christopher constantly though. Tolkien has been finding the cadet exams very difficult. He had time with Charles Williams at the White Horse and saw the Lewis brothers on this morning after his lecture. He heard a joke from C.S. Lewis and recounts it for his son. He will send Christopher an Airgraph soon.
56	Christopher Tolkien	1 March 1944	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien remarks that while at breakfast he and Edith received Christopher's "EFM code cable", and mentions a few more details of communication attempts back and forth between them. Tolkien hopes that Christopher may be able to visit Bloemfontein, where Tolkien was born.
56a	Christopher Tolkien	27 March 1944	Tolkien says they have received many letters from Christopher, he will feel much better when he knows that he has received theirs. Tolkien notes that he has been very busy with work but the weather has been very good, remarking that it has been "wedding weather" and he is visiting Birmingham, and will visit his old school, King Edward's School. He goes on to complain about the changing of the clocks and says that there is not much news. He would like some company who give him the conversation he craves, and might see some friends in town. He closes with the news that he has bought a new hat.
58	Christopher Tolkien	3 April 1944	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien continues to describe his walk where he met a man who shook his hand. He describes his hometown in some detail. Priscilla breaks up for holiday from tomorrow, and Tolkien has been invited by Gwyn Jones to Aberystwyth during the break. Tolkien says that he has not heard from either John or Michael. He apologizes that this letter been all about himself, saying that he relies on Edith to send the local news.
59a	Christopher Tolkien	8 April 1944	Tolkien mentions sitting in his garden on a beautiful night around 2 a.m. Tolkien had struggled that day with a chapter and mentions that Gollum is fitting well now he has entered the story.
66	Christopher Tolkien	6 May 1944	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien talks of "intelligence" tests, noting that they only suit certain people. He says that people like himself and Christopher are not quick, or "perky". He likens war to "Orcdom".
67	Christopher Tolkien	11 May 1944	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien mentions spending most of Sunday writing except for a trip to Carmel.
73a	Christopher Tolkien	27 June 1944	Tolkien overslept which he says has made him feel worn out. He mentions that he had received a cheque for <i>The Hobbit</i> with a letter from Sir Stanley Unwin who pointed out that his son Rayner was the same 'R. Unwin' student in Tolkien's course.
74	Stanley Unwin	29 June 1944	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien bemoans his not knowing that Rayner had been at Oxford since April. He notes that he started the Naval course in January, 1943 but had given up the directorship after not having a day or night off in two years. He is please that Rayner has done well in the "half-course exam", which he says was a struggle for most Cadets.
74a	Christopher Tolkien	7 July 1944	Tolkien gives news of C.S. Lewis and his need for an operation to remove some shrapnel, which he says must have been in his arm since 1917. He had a pint with Charles Williams who had given him two chapters from <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> which Williams had typed for him.
77	Christopher Tolkien	31 July 1944	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien reports that he had received Christopher's airletter of 24 July. He says that his day on Friday was "grim", as he was teaching "drowsy" cadets who had one eye on the weekend. He notes that he had found comfort in some cider and wine, along with a barrel of beer. He says that his mind "runs rather on alcohol" at these times. Tolkien reminds Christopher to take care of himself in body and spirit, noting that he does not belong wholly to himself, referring to God as the delegator of fatherhood and offers a Latin phrase "Deus unde omnis paternitas et omnis caritas custodiat te pro me cui te dedit et quem tibi praestavit" translating to "May God, from whom all fathers and charity are given to you, and whom he has promised you to".
80a	G.E. Selby	19 September 1944	Tolkien sends his congratulations on Selby's marriage and on the birth of his daughter. He says that he had to wait for his own, describing having a daughter as "gracious and emprising", noting that Priscilla is currently typing copies of a "vast romance" which he hopes GA&U will publish if they ever find a paper supply.

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80b	Stanley Unwin	20 September 1944	Tolkien writing to Stanley Unwin says that he now seen Rayner twice. He regrets that he has not been able to help him but remarks on what a fine young man he is. He hopes that Stanley is not suffering during the bombings in London.
83	Christopher Tolkien	6 October 1944	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien remarks on what a wonderful week it has been for letters from Christopher. He hopes that letters from home will be delivered to him soon that include tobacco.
88a	Christopher Tolkien	1 November 1944	Tolkien was interested to hear that Christopher had run into “another of the Unwins”, Harold Unwin, a.k.a Chris. He says that Rayner was at Blackwells, but he had not been aware of it at the time. He notes that by the time this letter arrives, Christopher have left his teens behind, or close to it. He hopes that his third decade is better than the second. He himself would not wish to visit those years again.
89a	Christopher Tolkien	13 November 1944	Tolkien had seen C.S. Lewis. Lewis had been interested in the “angelic question” which Tolkien had mentioned in an earlier letter.
90	Christopher Tolkien	24 November 1944	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien says that when Christopher returns, he will be able to retake “Shortened Honours” or “Full” honours. Later, Tolkien says that he and Edith had tea in the market and he typed up Committee paperwork and attended a General Board meeting.
91a	Christopher Tolkien	29 November 1944	Tolkien says that he gave two lectures yesterday, which was an “appalling” day of weather but that he had an excellent morning “at the Bird” with C.S. Lewis, Warnie, and Charles Williams. They discover that today is C.S. Lewis' birthday.
91b	Christopher Tolkien	4 December 1944	Tolkien has finished his Beowulf lectures. He has neglected academic matters in favour of working out the time-schemes and other matters from book five of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> . He is “stuck” but feels an idea is forming. Tolkien attended an examiners meeting at Balliol College which he says was very pleasant. In other news, Tolkien had a visit from Mrs. de Boisse on Saturday and this morning he met with Lewis and Williams at Magdalen and enjoyed a talk with them.
91c	Christopher Tolkien	10 December 1944	Tolkien has given himself an early Christmas gift in the form of a new pruner for the garden, and gives a humorous description of his cycling to the gardening shop to buy it in his gardening clothes. He says that he doesn't comment on war news, but that “we” have a close relationship with Greece. He comments on democracy, as seen by Churchill, and draws comparison to Saruman stealing the ring and becoming “Lord of a scorched earth”.
92	Christopher Tolkien	18 December 1944	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien says that today is the last day for Christmas post arriving in time for Christmas and laments the way the holiday is full of labour. He has a great many letters yet to send to his brother Hilary, Michael, John and others. He continues to talk about the commercialism of this holiday.
94	Christopher Tolkien	28 December 1944	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien briefly talks about some unusual weather in Birmingham and what people there thought of it.
94a	Christopher Tolkien	7 January 1945	Tolkien says he is struggling with letters, many of which he should have written at Christmas. He complains that the weather is bitterly cold and he can not garden. Tolkien is nursing a bad cold. He also notes that he has not done anything on <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> during the vacation. He and Edith visited the cinema and saw the movie <i>The Song of Bernadette</i> which Edith was “anxious” to see. He talks about the movie, and through it God and faith.
94b	Christopher Tolkien	9 January 1945	Tolkien continues to talk about the movie he and Edith saw, remarking that his “mind and heart” are still thinking of it. He says that it has the qualities of a fairy story, while being truthful. He notes reading Martindale's pamphlet the previous night. He mentions that the Lewis brothers were in “depths of gloom” as Warnie's daughter “M” had produced a child. Tolkien, Dr. Havard, and Charles Williams took delight in showing them a photograph of what they had to look forward to.
94c	Christopher Tolkien	15 January 1945	Tolkien says that he is still “under the influence” of the movie he and Edith saw a week ago and continues to talk about religion, God, and other aspects of faith.
96	Christopher Tolkien	30 January 1945	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien recounts a brief anecdote about a cold he had, and a frozen cistern he had to fix.
97a	Christopher Tolkien	17 February 1945	Tolkien says that he is finding lectures hard work, and that he is tired. He is surprised that he does not have written notes for <i>Beowulf</i> beyond approx. line 2200 and says that if he had, he has lost them. He saw “Lewis and company” on Tuesday and details his week of lectures, household bill paying, and reading <i>Sellic Spell</i> . He attended an annual dinner, and notes that he had missed the bus three times for it being so full.
97b	E.H. Connor	23 February 1945	Tolkien discusses Chaucer, saying he had “little learning”, some Latin skill but lacked the talent for prose.

Carpenter Reference	Recipient	Date	Summary
97c	Christopher Tolkien	12 March 1945	Tolkien writes to Christopher while in working with Cadets at the Taylorian. He is missing his son and wishes he could see him. He gives an update on the weather and on a short break away that he and Edith plan after Easter.
98a	Christopher Tolkien	29 April 1945	A short excerpt from Tolkien to Christopher after he had been on leave. He describes seeing him again as like having an old tooth with a "dulled ache". He sends his prayers.
102a	Christopher Tolkien	9 October 1945	Tolkien writes to his son Christopher, informing him that the Inklings propose to consider him a permanent member.
107a	Stanley Unwin	5 May 1947	Tolkien notes to Stanley Unwin that he has received the agreement for <i>Farmer Giles of Ham</i> , and that he would also send revised manuscripts for it in July and he notes that his royalty is only 7½% but hopes it will sell well. He notes that he has struggled for time on the sequel to <i>The Hobbit</i> . He is pleased to learn that Rayner Unwin has returned to Trinity College, Oxford.
111a	Stanley Unwin	30 September 1947	Tolkien writes to Stanley Unwin in regards to Tolkien's prior interaction with Rayner, and hopes that Rayner will enjoy the next packet (assumably <i>Lord of the Rings</i> draft material).
122a	Pauline Baynes	20 December 1949	Tolkien writes to Baynes making mention that Lewis had been in touch and wishes her a Happy Christmas. He wonders if she may be interested in his upcoming work ( <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> ) and if she plans to visit Oxford. Lewis had written to Tolkien to mention his enjoyment of Baynes' illustrations for Tolkien's <i>Farmer Giles</i> .
123	Milton Waldman	5 February 1950	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien mentions his brother Hilary's health, having trouble recalling a prior letter he hadn't kept a copy of, and noting that he has written to Sir Stanley Unwin, going into more detail about how <i>The Silmarillion</i> is related to <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> and that they need to be published together. Tolkien will in 1951 write a long letter to Waldman summarising the entire corpus of his <i>Silmarillion</i> and <i>Rings</i> cycle.
126	Milton Waldman	10 March 1950	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien mentions Priscilla and that she will write to Milton soon.
127	Stanley Unwin	14 April 1950	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien talks about his failing health and dental issues that caused a delay in sending this letter.
128a	Hugh Brogan	4 September 1950	Tolkien notes that he does not know what is happening with <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> which he had hoped would be published this year. He says that negotiations are still ongoing. He continues that he typed the story himself as it was too expensive to have done professionally. He concludes that a new edition of <i>The Hobbit</i> will be published soon which brings it closer to <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> .
130a	Hugh Brogan	9 October 1950	Tolkien in a letter to Hugh Brogan gives him some updates on his health. He also says that "Drama" is a "bore".
131	Milton Waldman	1951 (late)	<b>New Material:</b> Significant material is restored, describing in detail the plot and structure of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> , book by book. Also, a detailed list at the end of the letter shows all of the material that Tolkien would like considered for publication.
132a	John Tolkien	23 March 1952	Tolkien says that Edith is much happier but for the terrible noise in the street. He says that they will move into the room he currently uses as an office as it is the quietest. He says it will have to wait until he over the current "exam-crisis".
134a	Michael Tolkien	21 October 1952	Tolkien writes to wish Michael a happy birthday for tomorrow. He is busy with work but offers his prayers and love to his son. He also mentions the arrival of a grandchild, who he hopes to see soon. He gives details of the road situation which gets worse and while Edith has been better lately, she is starting to suffer for a lack of sleep. Christopher had been ill, but is recovering more quickly than he feared. He must return to preparation on his lectures.
135a	Rayner Unwin	12 November 1952	Tolkien replies to Rayner's letter and mentions his pleasure at the news of Allen & Unwin's decision to publish <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> .
135b	Basil Blackwell	Not dated (1953)	Tolkien remarks to Basil Blackwell on the merits and shortcomings of a linguistic text being published in the near future. He points out that had he been consulted earlier, he could have given his thoughts on this text, and what kind of work on the matter needs to be composed. In a footnote Tolkien says that he reveres Sweet, considering him hard done to by the University but that 1882 was a long time ago, noting that the field needs a new name rather than continual editions of Sweet's <i>Old-English Primer</i> published in 1882 and now into its 9th edition.
135c	Michael and Joan Tolkien	29 January 1953	Writing to his son Michael and daughter-in-law Joan, Tolkien gives an update on their move to a new house, to 76 Sandfield Road. He notes that the start of term is hectic and sleep evades him.

Carpenter Reference	Recipient	Date	Summary
135d	Norman Davis	11 March 1953	Tolkien notes how it has been some time since he wrote, he has been meaning to but has been getting his affairs in order with his house move. He says that it was important as Edith's health was suffering and spent time away due to the conditions at Holywell. He has not forgotten his lecture in Glasgow and will focus on <i>Gawain</i> . He also says that he has a fixed delivery date of 25 March for a "very large MS". ( <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> )
137a	Norman and Lena Davis	21 April 1953	Tolkien writing to Norman and Lena Davis begins by saying that he does not know how to call Davis, now that he has spent time with him and ate his "bread". He has sent flowers using Interflora in the hope it will show he is not a bigot. He hoped that his delivery of the lecture in Glasgow had gone better. While on his return he met and befriended a mother and daughter who he had welcomed to his carriage, and thus they were not made to pay first class. They liked him, but the daughter could not understand him. He says that the latter is common, the former not very much.
137b	Rayner Unwin	5 June 1953	Tolkien asks Rayner Unwin for an update on galleys for <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> . He hopes that there will be little work as the copy was "pretty good". He will work on the matter of maps and drawings for the first volume.
137c	L.G. Smith (Allen & Unwin)	5 June 1953	Tolkien writes to L.G. Smith of Allen & Unwin asking if there will be opportunity for the book to be reviewed. He wants C.S. Lewis especially to be able to review the book as his review of <i>The Hobbit</i> had a great deal of influence on its successes.
137d	P.H. Newby	22 June 1953	Tolkien writes to P.H. Newby of the BBC. Newby had been negotiating to broadcast some of Tolkien's translation of <i>Sir Gawain</i> but pressures meant that he did not send a finished version. If the BBC wish to broadcast it Tolkien is happy to send his finished translation with introductory remarks.
137e	P.H. Newby	8 July 1953	Tolkien writing to P.H. Newby of the BBC, apologies for his delay in sending the typescript of <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , which he has enclosed with this letter. He gives a brief commentary on it reading better aloud, rather than "with the modern eye".
140a	Rayner Unwin	31 August 1953	Tolkien regrets he has yet to finish the maps, he had to reread the text and make a "rough index" of the place-names (and distances). He is unsure of the proposed "form" of the book and questions its suitability to the geography. He asks for Rayner's advice.
140b	P.H. Newby	3 September 1953	Tolkien thanks Newby for his critiques of Tolkien's recording of Middle English.
140c	W.N. Beard	23 September 1953	Tolkien apologizes for his delay in providing comments on the drawings for <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> . He does not think them satisfactory. He says that he should have been more careful when producing the original sketches. He had not expected blocks to be made from his sketches of the 'Doors of Durin' which he was awaiting feedback on. He notes various elements which he dislikes which will need to be corrected. He notes that the "red letters" in Galley 15 are not good enough, and he includes a version which should be suitable. He puts this fault down to the original he supplied. He lists more improvements he would like to see implemented. He is also unhappy with the reproduction of the Tomb inscription, and suggests improvements to it.
141a	P.H. Newby	15 October 1953	Tolkien writes about his various health issues at present. He is suffering from laryngitis, lumbago, and sciatica. He still hopes to attend the rehearsal on 22 October at Broadcasting House and he has signed the contract, but he warns Newby that this may not be possible, and he will let him know nearer the time. He has drafted introductory remarks, but notes they may need to be reduced. He has noted 3 December for recording the concluding part.
141b	Rayner Unwin	19 November 1953	Tolkien has been struggling with ill-health through the term and only recently has he been able to deal with "many strands" of business. C.S. Lewis says he is keen to help with <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> and Tolkien offers some other names who may be willing to read and report on the first volume. He asks Rayner if he has any more proofs and says he could use one more.
141c	Rayner Unwin	30 November 1953	Tolkien will bring his copy of the third of volume for GA&U to use for costing but says it is yet to be revised and will need to be returned to him. He hopes that the galleys for volume two will arrive during the Christmas holidays.
141d	Rayner Unwin	1 December 1953	Tolkien writing to Rayner says that Volume Two reads "rather well" and notes that the first book contains very few errors. He comments on Gervase Mathew.
142	Father Robert Murray	2 December 1953	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien talks about how non-Catholics will receive the book, and describes how he might be able to get proofs of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> for Murray to read.
142a	Katherine Farrer	10 December 1953	Tolkien thanks Farrer for her "charity" at a time he is suffering illness. He felt that the <i>Sir Gawain</i> broadcast on BBC Radio was not especially good. Tolkien has a galley of Volume One of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> which he has read only once, intended for Farrer to read, and he would welcome any of her thoughts.

Carpenter Reference	Recipient	Date	Summary
143a	W.N. Beard	16 March 1954	Tolkien writes that he has today sent the proof for the "General Map" with a second map for 'Part of the Shire', both drawn by Christopher Tolkien. He has not had time, nor energy to work on the jacket but hopes he will find both in the coming days.
143b	W.N. Beard	23 March 1954	Tolkien, writing to W.N. Beard of Allen & Unwin, encloses possible jacket designs, one for <i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i> , and another for <i>The Two Towers</i> . Describing them as "notions", Tolkien says that they are technically deficient but hopes someone with better ability may be able to "produce something" out of them.
143c	Allen & Unwin	24 March 1954	Tolkien sends Allen & Unwin proofs of various pages and notes that some rune reproductions are bad.
143d	Rayner Unwin	26 March 1954	Tolkien has drawn a sketch for Volume III, but says he won't share it as he feels having the same design on all three books is a better approach. He notes that he is unsure which version of his designs Rayner prefers but hopes it is the version with the "three subsidiary rings", pointing out that it is more suited to the story.
143e	Allen & Unwin	15 April 1954	Tolkien approves of some updated page proofs. He has discovered a few errors in the runic decoration on the title page but remarks that those must now remain.
144a	P.H. Newby	3 May 1954	Tolkien discusses a proposed talk on the Third Programme. He says however that he is not an expert on modern writers on this subject and does not have time to take part. He asks Newby if the BBC would be interested in broadcasting his dialogue on the <i>Battle of Maldon</i> in August.
146a	Allen & Unwin	10 June 1954	Tolkien addresses queries about <i>The Two Towers</i> by Allen and Unwin's head reader. Tolkien found the close reading extraordinary.
148	Katherine Farrer	7 August 1954	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien thanks Farrer profusely for her last letter, and talking about a particularly unflattering review and Tolkien's thoughts on it, and his joy at having friends who have warmly praised his new book.
148a	Katherine Farrer	18 August 1954	Tolkien remarks on the morality of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> and thanks the respondent for paying close attention to such matters. He addresses the connections between the use of the word <i>Elves</i> and his earlier work on <i>The Elder Days</i> , citing connections to <i>Valimar</i> among other examples. He goes on to talk about reviews he has read and is pleased that some are positive.
149	Rayner Unwin	9 September 1954	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien begins the letter with apologies for delay and descriptions of health issues he has had returning from Ireland. He ends the letter with a brief note that he will include a separate sheet with notes and queries about <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> , and mentions Rayner and his brother's new books and that he hopes they are selling well.
151	Hugh Brogan	18 September 1954	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien opens with an apology for not answering several letters, and not letting Brogan know of the publication of <i>Fellowship</i> . He mentions that the books are not a "trilogy" as the publisher called them, but a single tale, and then laments about how most reviews are negative in one way or another.
152	Rayner Heppenstall	22 September 1954	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien laments leaving Heppenstall's previous letter unanswered for so long, especially as it mentioned being willing to put the program on the air.
158a	Rayner Unwin	20 December 1954	Tolkien apologizes to Rayner for not having sent off the "main matter" earlier, and he details the hectic year he has had. "More than any one person could cope with."
162a	Rayner Unwin	26 May 1955	Tolkien is still not happy with the appendices going in with <i>The Return of the King</i> , but says that they will have to do. He remarks on the ability of the printers to spot mistakes in the text. He informs Rayner that he will be away on holiday for part of the summer, but will try and slip away for a time to provide an address for proof consideration.
165a	Allen & Unwin	5 July 1955	Tolkien notes that the proofs sent to him arrived later than expected and notes that this will hurry matters, after his "days of leisure" have been cut short. He describes the changes he will make and what is needed for those changes to be put in and sent back for consideration and proofreading. Tolkien says that he will put in by hand the blanks on page 402, and that he will want to see a "revise" [sic] of it.
165b	Allen & Unwin	15 July 1955	Tolkien received some additional proofs of <i>Return of the King</i> back from the printers, and is still not happy with the result. He chalks it up to his inexperience in these matters, combined with the apparent response from them that they cannot print the runes that Tolkien has drawn out by hand for some of the pages in the appendices. Tolkien goes on to state his worries about Vol III and asks specifically why these pages cannot look how he wants them to look.
166a	Rayner Unwin	27 July 1955	Tolkien informs Rayner that he will be in "Gondor" (Italy) for a few days, but doubts that anything urgent will come up while he is away.



Carpenter Reference	Recipient	Date	Summary
166b	W.N. Beard	11 August 1955	Tolkien says that he cannot answer Mr. Beard's questions until he is back home and has a proof copy of the final text of <i>The Return of the King</i> to look at.
168a	Katherine Farrer	8 September 1955	Tolkien remarks that his holiday in Italy only made him more tired and not at all rested. Combined with his anxieties over the <i>Return of the King</i> release, and his impending work on the O'Donnell lecture, these are leaving him feeling worn out. He remarks on his love of the Welsh language and contrasts it to French.
174	Lord Halsbury	10 November 1955	<b>New Material:</b> A paragraph listing all of the legendarium materials that Tolkien has available is restored, making more clear what Tolkien thinks Lord Halsbury might conceivably be interested in.
179a	John Tolkien	20 December 1955	Tolkien writes to his eldest son, Father John Tolkien, saying that he will miss him at Christmas time but knows that he will see him soon. He says he is enclosing a small amount of money in the hopes that John will say a mass for his grandmother Mabel and Our Lady of Thanksgiving, Tolkien hopes that John is not too busy to do so.
179b	Joan Anne Tolkien	20 December 1955	Tolkien writes to granddaughter Joan and says that he really enjoyed her birthday party, and that she is growing so fast. He has enclosed some money for her, and hopes that she will spend it on sweets.
179c	Rayner Unwin	5 January 1956	Tolkien says he has had no time to revisit <i>The Silmarillion</i> , but hoping to in the near future. He makes a point to thank Rayner Unwin for all his help in getting <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> published.
187	H. Cotton Minchin	16 April 1956	<b>New Material:</b> Significant new material added. H. Cotton Minchin had written to Tolkien with many suggestions, one being that he could publish <i>The Silmarillion</i> as a 'specialist' volume, noting that he had also entertained this idea, but costs would be prohibitive. And he now has the pressure of dealing with academic and professional matters, some of which come with binding commitments. He says that producing maps takes a "great deal of time", and notes that one cannot make a map after the story, for the map must come first. He says that it was his son, Christopher Tolkien who produced the maps. He blames spelling errors on himself, noting that the map still reads <i>Kirith</i> as Christopher argued that no one will ever say it correctly. He then concludes with some matters on names, his own origins, and gives a commentary of the name "Cotton". This published letter, a draft, would be followed by the letter Tolkien sent.
188a	Hugh Brogan	3 April 1956	Tolkien tells Hugh that although he will be delighted to see him, there are few hobbits left in Old Marston and Old Headington.
194a	Michael Tolkien	6 November 1956	Tolkien muses on his faith and how it brings him solace in times of trouble, he details how it helps, how it sometimes is a burden in other areas. He gives his thoughts on the political turmoil of the day, and the hypocritical nature of people who riot in the name of peace or pacifism. He says that real change comes through the political, democratic process. He points out the absurdity of the leftist ideology of the time, and worries that most of his income from <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> will go off to the taxman.
194b	Rayner Unwin	24 November 1956	In regards to the Dutch translation of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> , Tolkien says he has not the time or energy to be overly critical of it, and in any case has no interest in being "unkind." But any errors are the translators fault, noting that the Nomenclature is a "primary blunder".
195a	Rayner Unwin	3 February 1957	Tolkien says that work is still getting in the way of him spending any time on <i>The Silmarillion</i> . He having trouble with a professor in America (Wrenn) as well as Professor Wilson's retirement. He asks Rayner to come visit him soon, as he does not think he'll be able to make it to London in the near future.
195b	Rayner Unwin	1 March 1957	Tolkien apologizes to Rayner for being exhausted at their previous meeting and says he is recovering from a very stressful school term. He says that he is starting to look more at the <i>Silmarillion</i> and that it is becoming more clear to him than the last time Rayner visited. Tolkien alludes to a meeting, more like a "court martial" with the Early English Text Society coming up.
196	Katherine Farrer	21 March 1957	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien commiserates with Farrer about her health.
196a	Michael George Tolkien	24 April 1957	Tolkien discusses various matters including academic news, the Dutch translation of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> , Hebrew, and work with the <i>Book of Jonah</i> .
200a	Rayner Unwin	4 September 1957	Tolkien informs Rayner that he has had a meeting with Forrest J. Ackerman, acting for three persons, who were interested in filming <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> , and that they have left some drawings and storyboards with him. Tolkien notes that he liked the drawings by Ron Cobb and will send the material to Rayner once he has had time to consider them. He says that at a glance, they show more promise than the material "contrived" by the BBC.

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201	Rayner Unwin	7 September 1957	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien describes the ending of the movie script as "badly muffed", stating that the only thing which would make him happier with the script is cash. Ackerman had said that one of their aims was to please the author, to which Tolkien said that would not be easy.
204a	Rayner Unwin	13 December 1957	Tolkien gives his thoughts to Rayner on the continuing work to try and turn <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> into a film. He gives his thoughts on the people wanting to do the project and generally feels like they want to do the work justice. He asks about how it could be transferred to the film medium, suggesting that a silent film might be the way to go. He notes that, obviously, the change in medium means tinkering with the story and wishes people didn't have such a strong desire to do that. He mentions that the conceptual art, from Ron Cobb, is very decent and that Cobb has the style to suit <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> . He does not feel so enthusiastic of the screenplay.
205a	Cees Ouboter	18 March 1958	Tolkien thanks Ouboter for the invitation to the festival, and says he is mostly looking forward to it. He points out that his understanding of Dutch is not great, and that he cannot speak it, and proposes some ideas for a speech he will give.
205b	Cees Ouboter	2 April 1958	Tolkien writes a letter thanking Mr. Ouboter regarding his visit to Holland. He says that the sooner he can return there, the better.
212a	Marjorie Incledon	23 October 1958	Tolkien discusses his decision on moving house after retirement, and his frustrations on the work being done to his current residence. He discusses how stressful the return from Ireland had been on him and Edith when they returned to find the state of the house. He expresses his sorrow to hear of the death of the recipients friend and tells how many of his friends have passed on over the last year. He offers a few words of encouragement upon his concluding thoughts.
214a	[Father] Alex Jones	4 February 1959	Tolkien expresses his hope that he will upon retirement, be able to work on a new Bible translation but expresses concerns for Edith's health and says that his participation in the project largely depends on this.
214b	Michael Tolkien	4 March 1959	Writing to his son Michael, Tolkien remarks on the state of their house, and Edith's recovery from a broken arm. He also talks about his recent health struggles with his appendix and a bout of the flu. He says he shall have to give up his pipe very soon.
215a	Rayner Unwin	4 August 1959	Tolkien tells Rayner that he would like his translation of <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> to be published next and details his work on <i>Ancrene Wisse</i> . He says this work will not delay any work on the <i>Legendarium</i> .
220a	Naomi Mitchison	8 November 1959	Tolkien apologizes that he has not been able to see Mitchison. He and Edith had gone away to Beournemouth and her letters, twice delayed, had not reached him in time. He says that writing while away is not easy, but then mentions that much of the early part of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> was written in Sidmouth. He hopes that his return home will be with some renewed energy.
222a	Joan Anne Tolkien	Undated (1960)	Tolkien describes the changes to the town of Oxford since he has been living there. He says that many of the changes are not for the better, noise, congestion and the like... He does indicate that a "slum" part of town is mostly gone.
222b	Rayner Unwin	9 February 1960	Tolkien informs Rayner that by way of looking at the "Scunthorpe lists" he has also continued work on <i>The Silmarillion</i> , and can say that it is in an active working phase. He also states that his new secretary has been very helpful with this.
222c	Rayner Unwin	12 February 1960	Tolkien tells Rayner that he is getting to his work on the translations of <i>Sir Gawain and Pearl</i> , in addition to <i>The Silmarillion</i> , however the arrival of the proofs of <i>Ancrene Wisse</i> have delayed those plans.
222d	Rayner Unwin	29 February 1960	Tolkien asks Rayner's thoughts on publishing small or minor bits having to do with the Ring Cycle. He says that he is being asked for these, and that they would in no way affect the publishing of the larger <i>Silmarillion</i> work.
222e	Alina Dadlez (George Allen and Unwi	1 March 1960	Tolkien says that he has been sent five more copies of <i>Sagam om Ringen</i> . He notes that Swedish is not especially popular in England so they are not exactly "going off as hot cakes for presents." He could send some back if it is not more trouble than it is worth.
222f	Jane Neave	4 April 1960	Tolkien tells Jane Neave that he will send her "a long instalment" for reference, presumably of his <i>Silmarillion</i> work.
222g	Rayner Unwin	5 May 1960	Tolkien tells Unwin that he has had very little time for literary work of late, but says that the latest royalty check from <i>The Hobbit</i> and <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> will help with matters. He indicates that the amount of work still to be done on various promised books has left him feeling slightly depressed.
226	L.W. Forster	31 December 1960	<b>New Material:</b> a brief paragraph mentioning the German roots of Tolkien's family name.

Carpenter Reference	Recipient	Date	Summary
228a	[Father] Alex Jones	13 February 1961	Tolkien apologizes for being late in his submission to the new Bible translation project, and says that he has been stuck in the thirteenth century as of late, alluding to his work on <i>Sir Gawain and Pearl</i> .
238	Jane Neave	18 July 1962	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien apologizes for not replying more quickly, and talks about fan mail, in particular one author (Edmund Fuller) who is writing a chapter about Tolkien.
239	Alina Dadlez	20 July 1962	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien explains his displeasure at the Spanish translation of 'Hobbit' and remarks back to the "private fancies" of the translators, noting <i>Hompén</i> as a bad example (also noting that book's "ghastly" illustrations).
239a	Rayner Unwin	21 July 1962	Tolkien informs Rayner Unwin that he is now "in residence" until 2 October and will return on 10 October as he is once again involved in term. He is standing in for C.L. Wrenn.
241a	Rayner Unwin	2 November 1962	Tolkien says that as Rayner knows, <i>The Adventures of Tom Bombadil</i> originated from a request from his Aunt Jane. He asks that a complimentary copy be sent to her and charged against his account. Rayner had asked Tolkien for an update on <i>Pearl</i> and <i>Sir Gawain</i> to which Tolkien informs him that they are complete and awaiting a final revision, after which he will send them to the office.
241b	Rayner Unwin	?19 November, 1962	In secret, Allen & Unwin had been putting a 'Festschrift' together to present to Tolkien on his 70th birthday. Tolkien writes to congratulate Rayner for keeping him in the dark.
242a	Austin and Katherine Farrer	16 December 1962	Tolkien gives thanks for a gift of the Rosary and says that he has benefited from it tremendously. He gives his reasoning for coming to the Rosary "a bit late" and states that a statement by Knox convinced him to.
249a	Christopher Tolkien	20 October 1963	Tolkien writes to Christopher to congratulate him in a way on being named a Fellow at Exeter College.
254a	Christopher Tolkien	8 February 1964 (not	Tolkien writes to Christopher about his thoughts on the current state of the Church, human nature, regarding lust, and other contemporary political matters. He reflects on the unwillingness of contemporary society to discuss complicated issues in the public square and alludes to the fact that many might boil down to someone's perspective on the matter. He remarks on sex, marriage, and lust at length. As Tolkien does this he refers to several historical examples of people and societies and how they dealt with this balance between what he calls "disgust and lust." He quotes Chesterton, refers to St. Thomas Aquinas on this issue, wondering what he would say.
274a	Austin Olney	31 July 1965	Tolkien writes to Austin Olney, at Houghton Mifflin, with corrections and additions to <i>The Two Towers</i> .
275a	Rayner Unwin	24 August 1965	Tolkien apologizes once again for being late in getting work to Rayner, this time revisions on the 3rd edition of <i>The Hobbit</i> . He says that many revisions are done to chapters 1 and 2 and that he has resisted the urge to "improve" <i>The Hobbit</i> . He goes on to give some remarks on reader feedback he has gotten and how that affected the editing process. He also says that bringing it more in line and tone with <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> would be quite impossible at this point and he seems to lament this a bit, afterwards say, he's done what he can.
276	Dick Plotz	12 September 1965	<b>New Material:</b> Tolkien goes into more detail on the Ace controversy, calling it 'legal' but "particularly unethical". He also talks in some detail about the revisions and planned revisions being made to <i>The Hobbit</i> and <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> .
277a	Donald Swann	19 September 1965	Tolkien, Edith and R.E. Havard, attend a performance of <i>At the Drop of Another Hat</i> on the 18th September 1965. Tolkien loved the show.
282a	Rayner Unwin	29 December 1965	Tolkien shoots down any idea of a "Tolkien Award" by Ace Books, and suspects that this is just a way for them to make themselves feel better about denying him royalties. He then makes a great analogy involving pirates to illustrate his point.
283a	Dick Plotz	12 January 1966	Tolkien corrects a Quenya phrase from Plotz.
283b	Donald A. Wollheim	29 January 1966	Tolkien thinks it doesn't make sense for Ace Books to spend the revenue from <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> sales on an award named after Tolkien, rather than paying Tolkien royalties.
284a	Nan C. Scott	11 March 1966	Tolkien informs Nan C. Scott that Ace Books have been in touch and offered an agreement. He notes that Ace have agreed to not reprint the book once current copies have sold out. He thanks Scott as one of the American fans who pressured Ace Books into this settlement.
289a	Rayner Unwin	Not dated; August 19	Tolkien writes to Rayner Unwin about an interview with Philip Norman that appeared in <i>The Sunday Times</i> on 15 January 1967, "The Hobbit Man". He wishes that he had not done the interview.
289b	Clyde S. Kilby	11 October 1966	Tolkien describes some of his recent writing experiences and describes his Mediterranean cruise.

Carpenter Reference	Recipient	Date	Summary
289c	Donald Swann	14 October 1966	Donald Swann had written to Tolkien expressing interest in his poem 'Errantry'. Tolkien replied that was interested in his suggestion but wondered if it might be too long and that he might try to shorten it. He thinks the metre would make it very difficult. He continues in much the same vein offering insights about the poem.
289d	[Father] Alex Jones	18 October 1966	Writing to Father Jones, Tolkien thanks him for including his name in the list of contributors of the <i>New Jerusalem Bible</i> , even though Tolkien feels like he did very little work on it and wanted to do more. He tells Jones of his busy schedule outside of Church (presumably his work on <i>The Silmarillion</i> ). He then goes on about how he's still "afflicted by Knox", and hopes it will end soon. Tolkien has noticed (and feels the need to point out and ask about) certain elements of the languages used at Mass. He first talks about English (which he says he knows a little about) and Latin. Then goes on about certain Greek sayings, pronunciations, and letters of the sermon, in addition to asking questions about them.
290a	Gene Wolfe	7 November 1966	Tolkien writes about the origin of "Orc" and "Warg".
293a	Dick Plotz	Late 1966 – early 1967	This document, known as the Plotz Declension, contains manuscript notes regarding Quenya grammar. The chart shows the declension of a Quenya noun, with an explanation of the chart on the verso of the sheet.
293b	R. B. McCallum	11 January 1967	Tolkien says he doesn't remember making a remark that is quoted by McCallum, but that he agrees with it and is happy that McCallum remembers it.
294a	Michael Tolkien	5 March 1967	Tolkien remarks on the current state of the Church and says that these need to be resolved in private, not with public comments. He calls Charles Davis a 'thorn' and recounts a conversation he had with his doctor about Davis, where Tolkien compares him to John Wyclif and gives details about him and the way in which the church reacted to him.
294b	Donald Swann	20 March 1967	Tolkien thanks Swann for not cursing him. He has had long delays and while trying to work on "Elvish script" and work on his "Gawain and the Pearl". Tolkien humorously says that he has "tried to sit down on two stools" and has "of course slumped between them".
295a	Donald Swann	12 April 1967	Writing to Donald Swann on the matter of their book, <i>The Road Goes Ever On</i> , Tolkien provides much on the contents of the book, noting that the commentaries are not suited for reproduction as they stand, that they are a commentary for Swann rather than for any finished publication. Tolkien mentions that phonetic instructions are no use in the USA as they would be confusing.
295b	Donald Swann	12-13 July 1967	Tolkien does not like the calligraphy being made by Samuel Hanks Bryant as filler for blank pages in <i>The Road Goes Ever On</i> . Tolkien objects to Swann using parts of his Tengwar as page decorations in <i>The Road Goes Ever On</i> . He concludes by saying that Elvish should be treated seriously, and he doesn't like all the vowel-signs scattered around as ornaments.
298a	Clyde S. Kilby	ca. 3 December 1967	A brief extract from a much longer letter where Tolkien talks about his serious health issues, and complains about Joy Hill saying it was 'not serious'.
305a	Alan Klass	30 August 1968	Tolkien says that between his recent injury and recovery, Edith's health problems, and recently moving house, all his papers and other belongs are unorganized and in disarray. He hopes to be fully recovered in the near future however, and hopes after his "parole" in Oxford hospital his cast will be off.
307a	Michael Tolkien	29 December 1968	Tolkien writes that he hopes Michael is doing better and has recovered from overwork. He says that he and Edith spent Christmas with daughter Priscilla, but that he missed Michael and his brothers. He tells Michael, that <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> is selling very well in paperback as well as hardback. The <i>Hobbit</i> is also doing quite well, although Tolkien isn't seeing a lot of the royalties. He details housing and tax expenses and how they are eating away at much of this income. He also says the days are slipping by.
309a	Philip Neal	11 January 1969	Writing to a fan who published a review of <i>The Hobbit</i> , Tolkien responds by saying that he enjoyed to review, and is sending him a little book but not of the same time and place (presumably <i>Smith of Wootton Major</i> ). He encourages him to keep on writing.
310a	Miss T.R.C.	Undated	Tolkien details his thoughts on a recent article about him in a paper, and what he thought should have been written about. He then tells the respondent a bit about his wishes for a biography (if one is to be produced) and says that his son (Christopher) has already been installed to oversee anything like this should it come to pass. He then remarks on his own perceived place in history. Tolkien says that he is a relatively minor figure, aside from the fact that two books that he has written, have sold and continue to sell well.

Carpenter Reference	Recipient	Date	Summary
315a	Michael Tolkien	6 June 1970	Tolkien visited Nottingham with Rayner Unwin on 2nd May 1970. Tolkien received an Honorary D. Litt. Tolkien writes about a student demonstration that took place during the event, aimed at another recipient of an honorary degree. He describes the students as 'hooligans'. Tolkien also discusses his and Edith's health, and he thinks he may need to get a caregiver for Edith.
315b	Robert F. Cook	26 August 1970	Tolkien sends a copy of an article that he had written, and he also mentions an anecdote of a story about two interconnected families, one American and one Chinese.
319a	Roger Lancelyn Green	18 January 1971	Tolkien had written to try and find out about a story he remembers reading in childhood. Green reminds him that the story was "Puss-cat Mew" by E. H. Knatchbull-Hugessen which first appeared in his collection <i>Stories for My Children</i> (1869).
322a	Mrs. Phyllis Robertson	10 June 1971	Tolkien sends signed copies of his book <i>The Adventures of Tom Bombadil</i> to Robertson and discusses the biblical parallels to the current weather.
330a	Michael Tolkien	8 November 1971	Tolkien writes to Michael about how little time he has to work on <i>The Silmarillion</i> and about any prospects of feature films, he believes that no films will be produced in the near future.
331	William Cater	29 November 1971	<b>New Material:</b> a brief note about living at Miramar is included, as is a postscript asking if Snowdon might be convinced to give Tolkien a photograph from a day that Edith loved.
331a	Patient in Broadmoor Hospital	December 1971	Tolkien discusses hobbits and mentions that a picture of him will be in an upcoming edition of <i>The Sunday Times</i> .
331b	Michael Tolkien	19 December 1971	Tolkien has been ill and worried about where he is going to live, he is staying with family members while he decides on a permanent location to live.
332a	Lord Halsbury	March 1972	Tolkien had moved to 21 Merton Street in Oxford. Halsbury had offered to help him with book moving. Tolkien thanks him but declines his offer and talks about the difficulties of moving a large 'library', which he has now done four times.
338a	Lord Bullock	6 June 1972	On the 3rd June 1972, Tolkien is awarded an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Oxford University. Tolkien writes to thank Sir Bullock for the award.
339a	Christopher Tolkien	9 July 1972	Tolkien discusses the various meals that he has been treated to.
343a	Donald Glover	23 November 1972	Tolkien declines to discuss C.S. Lewis and states that he is still trying to work on <i>The Silmarillion</i> .
347a	Sterling Lanier	24 January 1973	Tolkien writes about <i>The Silmarillion</i> , saying it is mostly grim and has no comedy.
348a	Clyde S. Kilby	8 March 1973	Tolkien writes to Clyde S. Kilby, declining a visit to the USA due to age and health.
349a	Michael Tolkien	24 March 1973	Tolkien discusses the process of writing letters.