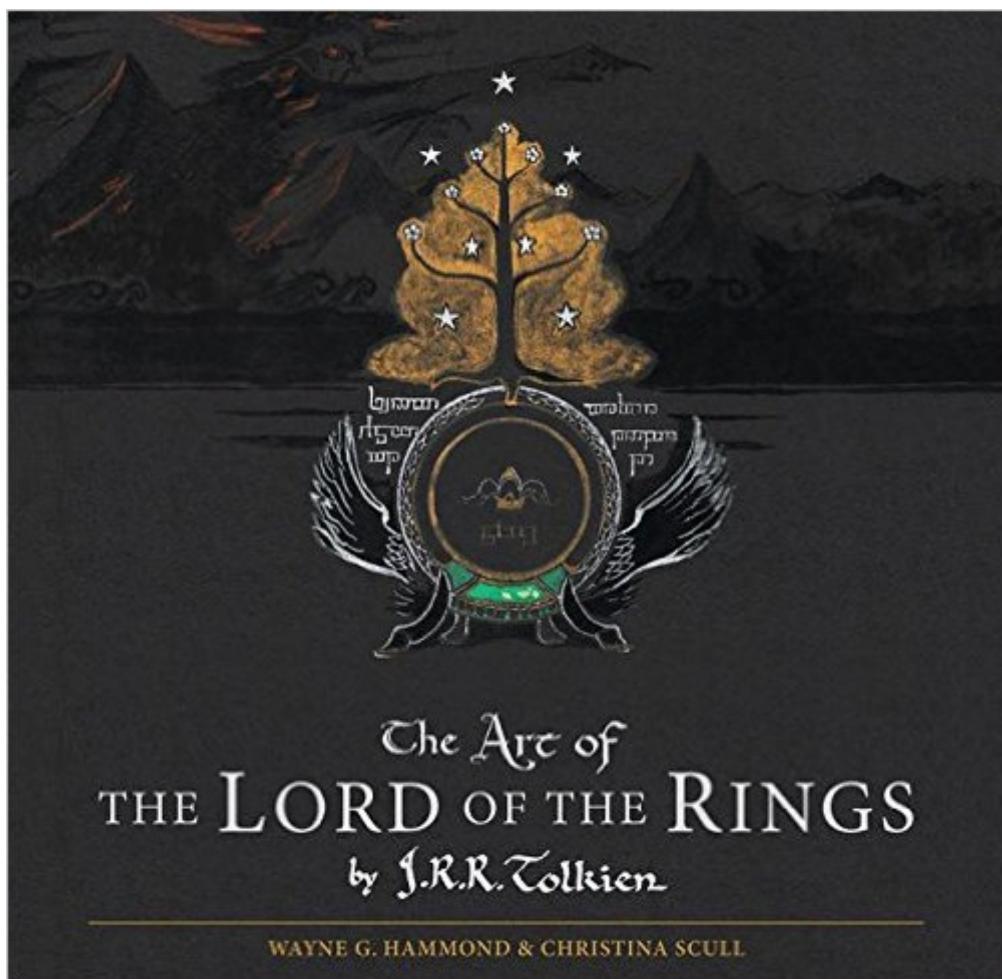


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The Art Of The Lord Of The Rings By J.R.R. Tolkien



Synopsis

J.R.R. Tolkien's complete artwork for his magisterial novel, published on the sixtieth anniversary of The Lord of the Rings. As he wrote The Lord of the Rings, J.R.R. Tolkien's mental pictures often found expression in drawing, from rough sketches made within the manuscript to more finished illustrations. Only a few of these were meant for publication; most were aids to help Tolkien conceive his complex story and keep it consistent. Many do not illustrate the final text, but represent moments of creation, illuminating Tolkien's process of writing and design. In addition to pictorial sketches, numerous maps follow the development of the Shire and the larger landscape of Middle-earth, while inscriptions in runes and Elvish script, and "facsimile" leaves from the burned and blood-stained Book of Mazarbul, support Tolkien's pose as an "editor" or "translator" of ancient records. The Art of The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien collects these drawings, inscriptions, maps, and plans in one deluxe volume. More than 180 images are included, all of them printed in color from high-quality scans and photographs, more than half not previously published. Wayne G. Hammond and Christina Scull, two of the world's leading Tolkien scholars, have edited the book and provide an expert introduction and comments.

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Customer Reviews

J.R.R. Tolkien was a talented artist as well as a writer, and throughout his life he produced dozens of drawings and paintings, many of which display the same sense of wonder and delight that make his books so enjoyable. In the 1970s a collection of his finished work dealing with Middle-earth was

published as Pictures by J.R.R. Tolkien. Wayne G. Hammond and Christina Scull, who are among the most authoritative of Tolkien scholars, have already edited J.R.R. Tolkien Artist and Illustrator, which contains a wide range of his work from throughout his life; as well as The Art of The Hobbit, concentrating on the paintings and drawings he produced for his first book. The Art of the Lord of the Rings is a beautiful companion to these earlier publications and is especially valuable in that it contains many heretofore unpublished sketches and drawings that allow us to better understand how Tolkien came to create his best loved tale. A major difference between The Art of the Lord of the Rings and earlier collections of Tolkien's art is that it contains many pieces which were never intended to be published, and indeed were meant only as aids to Tolkien's imagination as he analyzed the appropriate settings for his characters. Other works were drawn and finished by Tolkien for his own private amusement, while still others, usually rune transcriptions, were eventually to be included in the published text. Other pieces, including "pages" from the Book of Mazarbul and the "King's Letter" from the abandoned Epilogue, Tolkien also meant to include in the finished book, but were eventually left out for cost reasons. Perhaps the most important of the pieces which Tolkien never meant to be published are the many maps he produced as his story developed.

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