

J.R.R. Tolkien

Texts, Sources, and Narrative Material of the *Legendarium*

1. Primary Literature and Source Material

1.1. Collections/Corpora of Texts

Collection/Corpus	First Publication date	Content	German title
Tolkien, Christopher (ed.): <i>Unfinished Tales of Númenor and Middle-earth</i> [UT]	1980	»first book of unpublished texts presented in the form that his [scil. Christopher's] father left them« ¹ ; collection of stories, essays, and fragments posthumously published by Christopher Tolkien	<i>Nachrichten aus Mittelerde</i> (1983)
Carpenter, Humphrey (ed.): <i>The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien</i>	1981		<i>Briefe</i> (1991)
Tolkien, Christopher (ed.): <i>The Monsters and the Critics and Other Essays</i>	1983		–
Tolkien, Christopher (ed.): <i>The History of Middle-earth</i> [HoME]	1983– 1996		–
Rateliff, John D. (ed.): <i>The History of the Hobbit</i> [HotH]	2007 (rev. 2011)		–
Hostettet, Carl F. (ed.): <i>The Nature of Middle-earth</i>	2021	compilation of minor writings by J.R.R. Tolkien; different topics on Middle-earth, its nature, landscapes, cultural, and philosophical/theological topics	<i>Natur und Wesen von Mittelerde: Späte Schriften zu den Ländern, Völkern und Geschöpfen und zur Metaphysik von Mittelerde</i> (2021)

1.2. Monographic Publications

Narrative Material	First Publication	Special, new, or revised Publication
Tom Bombadil	1934 <i>The Adventures of Tom Bombadil</i> in: The Oxford Magazine 52.13, 464f.	1962 <i>The Adventures of Tom Bombadil</i>
The Hobbit	1937 <i>The Hobbit; or There and Back Again</i>	1951 Revised edition of <i>The Hobbit</i> 1987 50th Anniversary edition of <i>The Hobbit</i> 2002 <i>The Annotated Hobbit</i>
The Lord of the Rings	The Fellowship of the Ring	1954 <i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i>
	The Two Towers	1954 <i>The Two Towers</i>
	The Return of the King	1955 <i>The Return of the King</i>
The Silmarillion	1977 <i>The Silmarillion</i>	2007 30th Anniversary edition of <i>The Silmarillion</i>
The Children of Húrin	2007 <i>The Children of Húrin</i>	
Beren and Lúthien	2017 <i>Beren and Lúthien</i>	
The Fall of Gondolin	2018 <i>The Fall of Gondolin</i>	
The Fall of Númenor	2022 <i>The Fall of Númenor</i> (ed. by Brian Sibley)	

1.3. Development of Important Narratives

Corpus	Dating of the material	Ainulindalë	Valaquenta	Quenta Silmarillion	<i>The Lay of Leithian / Beren and Lúthien</i> («leithian« meaning »Release from Bondage«)	<i>I Narn i chin Húrin</i> (engl. <i>The History of the Children of Húrin</i>)	<i>(The Tale/Lay of) The Fall of Gondolin</i>	The Fall of Númenor	Eärendel	Annals of Valinor
Monographic collection					<i>Beren and Lúthien</i> (2017)	<i>The Children of Húrin</i> (2007; essentially a synthesis of the <i>Narn</i> and of the account found in <i>Silmarillion</i>)	<i>The Fall of Gondolin</i> (2018)	<i>The Fall of Númenor</i> (2022)		
<i>Silmarillion</i> (1977)		<i>Ainulindalë</i> (= Ainulindalë D)	<i>Valaquenta</i>	<i>Quenta Silmarillion</i>	chap. 19	chap. 21	chap. 23	<i>Akallabêth: The Downfall of Númenor</i>	← <i>Quenta Silmarillion</i>	
HoME I: <i>The Book of Lost Tales: Part One</i> (1983)	1916–1920	<i>The Music of the Ainur</i> (the first version of the later <i>Ainulindalë</i>) [November 1918–Spring 1920]	<i>The Coming of the Valar and the Building of Valinor</i> (later <i>Valaquenta</i> and first chapters of <i>Quenta Silmarillion</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Chaining of Melko</i> <i>The Coming of the Elves and the Making of Kôr</i> <i>The Theft of Melko and the Darkening of Valinor</i> <i>The Flight of the Noldoli</i> <i>The Tale of the Sun and Moon</i> <i>The Hiding of Valinor</i> 						
HoME II: <i>The Book of Lost Tales: Part Two</i> (1984)					<i>The Tale of Tinúviel</i> (first version of the tale of Beren and Lúthien) [1917]	<i>Turambar and the Foalókë</i> (first version of the Túrin saga)	<i>(The Tale of) The Fall of Gondolin</i> (orig. »Tuor and the Exiles of Gondolin (which bringeth in the great tale of Eärendel)«; the only full narrative of the Fall of Gondolin) [1916f., revised 1920] ↗ Monographic		<i>The Tale of Eärendel</i> (the only full narrative of Eärendil's travels)	
HoME III: <i>The Lays of Beleriand</i>				<i>The Flight of the Noldoli</i> (early abandoned poem)	<i>The Lay of Leithian</i> [started summer 1925; abandoned September 1931] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gest of Beren and Lúthien. Release from Bondage (Canto I–XIV) Unwritten cantos 	<i>The Lay of the Children of Húrin</i> (unfinished poem in alliterative verse; first and second version)	<i>The Lay of the Fall of Gondolin</i> (early abandoned poem) [early 1920s]		<i>Fragment of an alliterative »Lay of Eärendel«</i> (early abandoned poem)	
HoME IV: <i>The Shaping of Middle-earth</i>							<i>Turlin and the Exiles of Gondolin</i> (prose fragment, very quickly abandoned) ↗ Monographic	?	?	<i>The Earliest Annals of Valinor</i> (first version)
				<i>The Earliest/Original »Silmarillion«</i> (or <i>Sketch of the Mythology</i> ; the start of the <i>Silmarillion</i> proper) [1926]	← The Story told in the <i>Sketch of the Mythology</i>	?	← The Story told in the <i>Sketch of the Mythology</i> [§16] (compressed, not greatly changed version of <i>The Tale of the Fall of Gondolin</i>) ↗ Monographic			
				<i>The Quenta</i> (<i>Quenta Noldorinwa</i> , »a reworking and expansion of the »Sketch of the Mythology« [...] [which] moves towards <i>The Silmarillion</i> in its published form, both in structure and language« ²) [1930]	?	← The Story told in the <i>Quenta Noldorinwa</i> [§12f.]	← The Story told in the <i>Quenta Noldorinwa</i> [(§15)§16] ↗ Monographic			<i>The Earliest Annals of Beleriand</i> (second version)
HoME V: <i>The Lost Road and Other Writings</i>		<i>Quenta Silmarillion</i> [In 1937, Tolkien got back the manuscript from Stanley Unwin shortly before starting to write <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> ; revised mainly after the completion of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>]			← The Story told in the <i>Quenta Silmarillion</i> (chap. 12–15)	← The Story told in the <i>Quenta Silmarillion</i> (chap. 17)	?	<i>The Fall of Númenor</i>		<i>The Later Annals of Valinor</i>
		<i>Ainulindalë B</i> [late 1930s]								
HoME IX: <i>Sauron Defeated</i>								<i>The Drowning of Anadûnë</i> resp. <i>The Fall of Númenor</i> (third version?)		
HoME X: <i>Morgoth's Ring</i>		<i>Ainulindalë C*</i> [1948] <i>Ainulindalë C</i> [late 1948] <i>Ainulindalë D</i> [1951]	<i>The Later »Quenta Silmarillion«</i>		?	?	?	?		<i>The Annals of Aman</i>
HoME XI: <i>The War of the Jewels</i>						<i>The Wanderings of Húrin</i>				<i>The Grey Annals</i>
Unfinished Tales of Númenor and Middle-earth						<i>Narn i Hin Húrin</i> (later long version, relatively near to completion; main text of the narrative) [?]	<i>Of Tuor and his Coming to Gondolin</i> (last, but abandoned version; originally »Of Tuor and the Fall of Gondolin«) [1951] ↗ Monographic			

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Poems in LotR					<i>Song of Beren and Lúthien</i> resp. <i>The Tale of Tinúviel</i> (chap. »A Knife in the Dark«)	?	?		TBD	
LotR Appendices								<i>The History of the Akallabeth</i>		

Texts that already stood when Tolkien started writing *The Lord of the Rings*. These textual configuration presented a stage »[t]hat was the first great break in the continuous development of *The Silmarillion* from its origins in *The Book of Lost Tales*«³.

1.4. Art and Maps

Cat-egory	Text/Publication	First Pub-lication date	Content	German title
Maps	Fonstad, Karen Wynn: <i>The Atlas of Tolkien's Middle-earth</i>	1981 (rev. 1991)	Maps and plans of many locations and movements of Tolkien's legendarium	
	Sibley, Brian / Howe, John: <i>The Map of Tolkien's Middle-earth</i>	1994	Alphabetical lexicon with lemmata for different locations by Brian Sibley and repaintings of maps of Tolkien by John Howe	<i>Die Karte von Mittelerde</i> (1995); <i>Die Straße gleitet fort und fort. Die Karte von Tolkiens Mittelerde</i> (2009)
Art	Hammond, Wayne G. / Scull, Christina: <i>J.R.R. Tolkien. Artist and Illustrator</i>	1995	General art (including <i>The Hobbit</i> and the <i>Lord of the Rings</i>) of J.R.R. Tolkien himself	
	Hammond, Wayne G. / Scull, Christina: <i>The Art of The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien</i>	2015	thematically sorted collection of art of the <i>Lord of the Rings</i> created by J.R.R. Tolkien himself	
	McIlwaine, Catherine: <i>Tolkien. Maker of Middle-earth</i>	2018	Essays on Tolkien and thematic catalogue of the 2018 exhibition <i>Tolkien. Maker of Middle-earth</i> in Bodleian Library (Oxford)	

2. Secondary Literature

Category	Text/Publication	First Publication date	Content	Comment	German title
encyclopaedia, lexicon, handbook	Lee, Stuart D. (ed.): <i>A Companion to J.R.R. Tolkien</i>	2014	thematically sorted collection of different essays concerning Tolkien himself (life and work), the legendarium, linguistic and literary context as well as critical approaches to different topics		
	Drout, Michael D.C. et al. (ed.): <i>The J.R.R. Tolkien Encyclopedia. Scholarship and Critical Assessment</i>	2006	alphabetically sorted lemmata		
	Hammond, Wayne G. / Scull, Christina: <i>The J.R.R. Tolkien Companion and Guide</i> (consisting of <i>Chronology</i> and <i>Reader's Guide</i>)	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chronology</i>: Chronology of all dates related to the life and work of J.R.R. Tolkien • <i>Reader's Guide</i>: Encyclopaedia with lemmata related to the life and work of J.R.R. Tolkien 		
	Hammond, Wayne G. / Scull, Christina: <i>The Lord of the Rings. A Reader's Companion</i>	2005	detailed (more or less) line by line commentary to the <i>Lord of the Rings</i>		
	Tyler, J.E.A.: <i>The Complete Tolkien Companion</i>	1976 (new 2002)	alphabetically sorted lemmata	Editions entitled differently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Tolkien Companion</i> (1976) • <i>The New Tolkien Companion</i> (1979; integrating information on <i>The Silmarillion</i>) • <i>The Complete Tolkien Companion</i> (2002; integrating information from <i>Unfinished Tales</i> and <i>History of Middle-earth</i>) 	
	Duriez, Colin: <i>Tolkien and the Lord of the Rings. A Guide to Middle-earth</i>	2001	4 Parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mind behind Middle-earth • The Book of the Century • An A–Z of Tolkien's Middle-earth • A Look Behind Tolkien's Life and Work 		
	Foster, Robert: <i>The Complete Guide to Middle-Earth: From The Hobbit Through The Lord of the Rings and Beyond</i>	1971 (new 1978)	alphabetically sorted lemmata	Editions entitled differently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1971: <i>A Guide to Middle-Earth</i> • 1978: <i>The Complete Guide to Middle-earth: from The Hobbit to The Silmarillion</i> • <i>The Complete Guide to Middle-Earth: Tolkien's World from A to Z</i> • The Complete Guide to Middle-Earth: From <i>The Hobbit</i> Through <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> and Beyond 	<i>Das große Mittelerde-Lexikon. Ein alphabetischer Führer zur Fantasy-Welt von J.R.R. Tolkien</i> (2002)
	Duriez, Colin: <i>The J.R.R. Tolkien Handbook. A Comprehensive Guide to His Life, Writings, and World of Middle-Earth</i>	1992	alphabetically sorted lemmata		

biography	Carpenter, Humphrey: <i>J.R.R. Tolkien. A Biography</i>	1977			<i>J.R.R. Tolkien. Eine Biographie</i> (2001?)
	Carpenter, Humphrey: <i>The Inklings. C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Charles Williams and their friends</i>	1978			
	Tolkien, John / Tolkien, Priscilla: <i>The Tolkien Family Album</i>	1992			
	Garth, John: <i>Tolkien and the Great War. The Threshold of Middle-earth</i>	2003			
Tolkien and myth-making	Shippey, Tom: <i>The Road to Middle-earth. How J.R.R. Tolkien created a new Mythology</i>	1982 (rev. 2005)			
	Shippey, Tom: <i>J.R.R. Tolkien. Author of the Century</i>	2000			<i>J.R.R. Tolkien. Autor des Jahrhunderts</i> (2002)
	Garth, John: <i>The Worlds of J.R.R. Tolkien. The Places that inspired Middle-earth</i>	2020			<i>Die Erfindung von Mittelerde. Was Tolkien zu Mordor, Bruchtal und Hobbingen inspirierte</i> (2021)
The Hobbit	Atherton, Mark: <i>There and Back Again. J.R.R. Tolkien and the Origins of the Hobbit</i>	2012			
History of Middle-earth	Whittingham, Elizabeth A.: <i>The Evolution of Tolkien's Mythology. A Study of the History of Middle-earth</i>	2007			

3. Bibliography

3.1. General Sources for the Schema

Garth, John: A Brief Biography, in: Stuart, Lee (ed.): A Companion to J.R.R. Tolkien (= Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture 89), Wiley Blackwell: Chichester (UK) 2020 [978-1-119-65602-9], 7–23.

--: The Worlds of J.R.R. Tolkien. The Places that inspired Middle-earth, Frances Lincoln: London 2020 [978-0-7112-4127-5], 44.

Lee, Stuart: Brief Chronology of the Life and Works of J.R.R. Tolkien, in: Stuart, Lee (ed.): A Companion to J.R.R. Tolkien (= Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture 89), Wiley Blackwell: Chichester (UK) 2020 [978-1-119-65602-9], xxii–xxxiv.

Whittingham, Elizabeth A.: The Evolution of Tolkien's Mythology. A Study of the History of Middle-earth [2007] (= Critical Explorations in Science Fiction and Fantasy 7), McFarland & Company: Jefferson/London 2008 [978-0-7864-3281-3], 5–11.

3.2. Literature for specific topics

3.2.1. Unfinished Tales

Whittingham, Elizabeth A.: *Unfinished Tales* and the History of Middle-earth. A Lifetime of Imagination, in: Stuart, Lee (ed.): A Companion to J.R.R. Tolkien (= Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture 89), Wiley Blackwell: Chichester (UK) 2020 [978-1-119-65602-9], 146–160, here 147f.

3.2.2. History of Middle-earth

Whittingham, Elizabeth A.: *Unfinished Tales* and the History of Middle-earth. A Lifetime of Imagination, in: Stuart, Lee (ed.): A Companion to J.R.R. Tolkien (= Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture 89), Wiley Blackwell: Chichester (UK) 2020 [978-1-119-65602-9], 146–160, here 148–159.

Pettersson, Ninni M.: The HoMe-texts in chronological order, online: https://www.forodrim.org/daeron/md_hmch.html.

--: What's in the History of Middle-earth? A detailed list of the contents of the 12 HoMe-volumes and Unfinished Tales, online: https://www.forodrim.org/daeron/md_hm.html?_cf_chl_managed_tk__=pmd_c7adaefb6791e228beb59e6c48ac00e7aa7b8312-1628287722-0-gqNtZGzNAvijcnBszQh6.

- 1 Whittingham: *Unfinished Tales* and the History of Middle-earth (2020), 147.
- 2 HoME IV, 76.
- 3 HoME X, vii.