

The Art of
THE HOBBIT

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 HarperCollins *Publishers* · 2011

Introduction

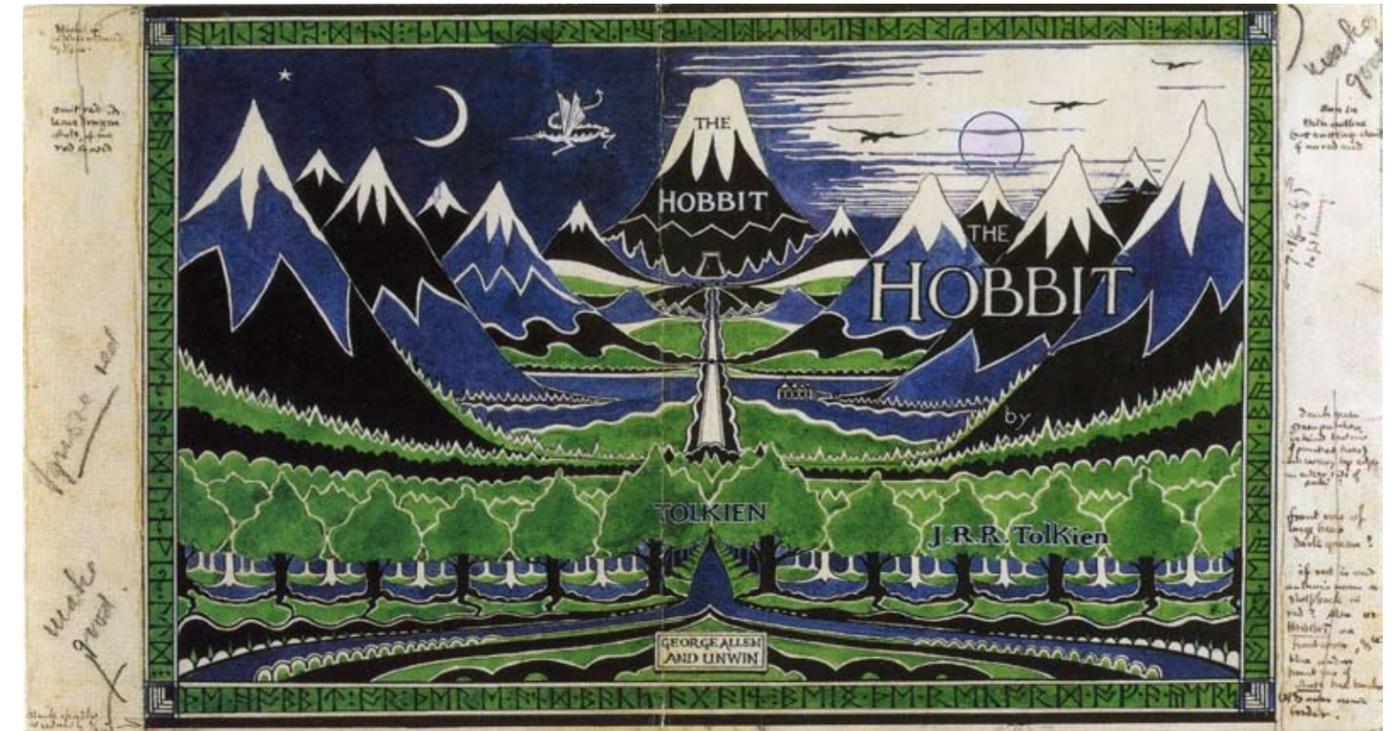
This book, with the help of maps, does not need any illustrations it is good and should appeal to all children between the ages of 5 and 9.

THE BOOK in question was *The Hobbit*, and the judgement was by Rayner Unwin, the ten-year-old son of Stanley Unwin, who was considering Tolkien's story for publication. In 1936, at his father's request, Rayner read *The Hobbit* in typescript and returned an enthusiastic report. For this he was paid a shilling – the best shilling George Allen & Unwin ever spent, Rayner would later say, since it led to the publication of one of the firm's most successful books, and in turn to an enormously popular sequel, *The Lord of the Rings*.

Rayner's comment that *The Hobbit* should include maps may have been suggested by the presence with the typescript of one of those Tolkien had drawn to accompany his story; or it may already have been agreed between Tolkien and Allen & Unwin that maps would be needed, as aids to the reader, should *The Hobbit* be published. But Rayner's view that the work did not need illustrations – a nod, maybe, to the publisher's perennial desire to control costs – ultimately was not shared by its author. For even though *The Hobbit* had been submitted originally with only one picture (probably a version of *Thrór's Map*, which is mentioned in the text), it was a more fully illustrated book as it was read by (or to) family and friends, and Tolkien wished it to remain so when it was issued to a wider audience.

Dust-jackets

MOST OF THE several dummy dust-jackets Tolkien made for *The Hobbit* have been lost, and the one that survives is only a fragment, preserved by mounting it on Japanese paper. This may be one of the earliest of the jacket designs, as it seems never to have had the runic border present in the version Tolkien first sent to Allen & Unwin and which was used in the final art. Tolkien admitted that the first submitted sketch had too many colours, including two reds and two greens, and needed to be simplified and improved. At last, he reduced the number of colours to black, green, and blue along with the white of the paper. He would have liked some of its elements, such as the sun and flying dragon, to be printed in red, but an additional colour was considered too costly. (Red, however, has been added to some later editions of *The Hobbit*.) In a letter to Allen & Unwin, Tolkien wrote that ‘the presence of the sun and moon in the sky together refers to the magic attaching to the door’ in the Lonely Mountain, at the centre of the design – that is, according to the hidden message on *Thror’s Map*. The border of Anglo-Saxon runes on the final dust-jacket reads: THE HOBBIT OR THERE AND BACK AGAIN BEING THE RECORD OF A YEARS JOURNEY MADE BY BILBO BAGGINS OF HOBBITON COMPILED FROM HIS MEMOIRS BY J.R.R. TOLKIEN AND PUBLISHED BY GEORGE ALLEN AND UNWIN LTD. Although its lettering has since been revised by other hands, Tolkien’s dust-jacket for *The Hobbit* endures as one of the most successful and inviting examples of British book cover art.



Dust-jacket for *The Hobbit*, final art with Tolkien’s manuscript notes for the printer

Concept Art, Design and Illustration by our Artists. Follow. Previous. Between the Iron Hills and Erebor, two armies of Dwarves needed to be designed for The Hobbit film trilogy, each with unique armour, including variations in rank and weaponry. The notion of mounted Dwarf warriors was also explored, with a new breed of Middle-earth swine designed by Weta Workshop. In the final film, only Dain Ironfoot would ride a boar, while his Iron Hills cavalry rode War Goats. © 2012 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures Inc. Images courtesy of Weta Workshop. Read More Posted 5 years ago. 620 Likes. The Arkenstone (Hobbit Card Game). Dain Ironfoot. Orcrist, The Goblin Cleaver. When the Thrush Knocks. The Riddle Game (Early Work). An Unexpected Morning Visit. Gollum is Defeated. Here you will find a collection of some of my sketches, studies and unpublished art based on J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit "The Hobbit" as first printed had ten black-and-white pictures, two maps, and binding and dust jacket designs by its author. As a Tolkien fan for over 40 years I found The Art of the Hobbit to be a richly rewarding book to examine, and I intend to spend much more time poring over its pages. However impressive the artistic creations of others who have illustrated Tolkien's worlds, nothing matches the special beauty and love that he put into his own paintings and drawings. The Art of The Hobbit well displays that love and beauty, and it should become an absolutely essential part of the libraries of all lovers of Middle earth. Read more. 10 people found this helpful. Cool Art: 'The Hobbit' by Tom Whalen. 'The Hobbit' by Tom Whalen, commissioned by Weta for their booth at the Calgary Expo last weekend, and will hopefully be on their online store soon. Regular Edition Variant Edition. The Flames of War. Character Sketches Drawing Proportions Middle Earth Art Sketch Book Smaug Artwork Hobbit Art Animal Drawings Art. Kryptonite makes me better. The Hobbit: Dwarfs, King of the Goblins, Beorn detail and Smaug Art by Denis Medri. Pictures Digital Illustration Middle Earth Art Earth Illustration Artist At Work Art Gallery Art Prints Tolkien Art Art.