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John Ronald Reuel Tolkien Order of the British Empire (January 3, 1892 – September 2, 1973) was a British writer and university professor who is best known as the author of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. He was an Oxford professor of Anglo-Saxon language (1925 to 1945) and English language and literature (1945 to 1959). He was a strongly committed Roman Catholic. Tolkien was a close friend of C. S. Lewis; they were both members of the informal literary discussion group known as the "Inklings." The J. R. R. Tolkien Encyclopedia. Quite the same Wikipedia. Just better. The J. R. R. Tolkien Encyclopedia, subtitled *Scholarship and Critical Assessment*, edited by Michael D. C. Drout, was published by Routledge in 2006. (ISBN 978-0415969420). A team of 127 Tolkien scholars on 720 pages covers topics of Tolkien's fiction, his academic works, his intellectual and spiritual influences, and his biography. Co-editors were Douglas A. Anderson and Verlyn Flieger (both Drout's co-editors also of *Tolkien Studies*), Marjorie Burns and Tom Shippey. See also. *The Lord of the Rings: A Reader's Companion*. *The J. R. R. Tolkien Companion and Guide*. References. Themes. The J. R. R. Tolkien Encyclopedia: *Scholarship and Critical Assessment*, edited by Michael D. C. Drout, was published by Routledge in 2006. A team of 127 Tolkien scholars on 720 pages cover topics of Tolkien's fiction, his academic works, his intellectual and spiritual influences, and his biography. Co-editors were Douglas A. Anderson, Verlyn Flieger (both Drout's co-editors also of *Tolkien Studies*), Marjorie Burns and Tom Shippey.