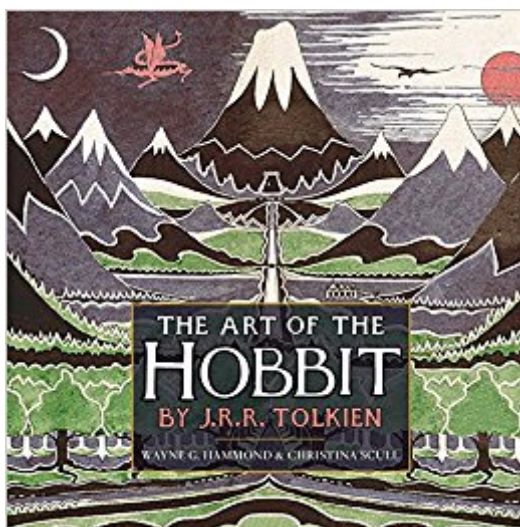


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The Art Of The Hobbit By J.R.R. Tolkien



Synopsis

J.R.R. Tolkien's complete artwork for *The Hobbit*, presented for the first time in this edition. When J.R.R. Tolkien wrote *The Hobbit*, he was already an accomplished amateur artist, and drew illustrations for his book while it was still in manuscript. The *Hobbit* as first printed had ten black-and-white pictures, two maps, and binding and dust jacket designs by its author. Later, Tolkien also painted five scenes for color plates, which comprise some of his best work. His illustrations for *The Hobbit* add an extra dimension to that remarkable book, and have long influenced how readers imagine Bilbo Baggins and his world. Written and edited by leading Tolkien experts Wayne G. Hammond and Christina Scull, *The Art of The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien showcases the complete artwork created by the author for his story—including related pictures, more than one hundred sketches, drawings, paintings, maps, and plans. Some of these images are published here for the first time, others for the first time in color, allowing Tolkien's *Hobbit* pictures to be seen completely and more vividly than ever before.

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Customer Reviews

As Tolkien fans mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of *The Hobbit* and await the first film in Peter Jackson's *Hobbit* trilogy, following his triumphant *Lord of the Rings* epic, they can peruse the profoundly imaginative writer's artwork for his first published novel. Coauthors Wayne G. Hammond and Christina Scull continue their championing of Tolkien's artistry, launched with *J. R. R. Tolkien: Artist & Illustrator* (1995), with this handsome and informative showcase for the

sketches, plans, drawings, maps, and paintings—many never before published or reproduced in color—that Tolkien created as he refined his vision and readied his manuscript for publication. Readers can see Tolkien clarifying his layout of the village of Hobbiton, based on prehistoric European lake settlements, and creating the dramatic landscapes his characters traverse based on his walking tour through the Swiss Alps. Tolkien's Hobbit illustrations, Hammond and Scull attest in their consistently intriguing commentary, are “among the finest work he achieved as an artist.” Tolkien's intimate and inventive handmade creations stand in evocative contrast to cinematic opulence. --Donna Seaman

“A splendid introduction to Tolkien the artist . . . Editors and experts Hammond and Scull walk through the classic book's publication history, providing context for the over 100 pieces of artwork, some never before published, which the author prepared to accompany his account of Bilbo Baggins's adventures.” —Publishers Weekly

I confess that a large part of the charm of *The Hobbit* was Tolkien's own pen and ink or water color illustrations he did for the book. The value of this volume is that it takes us through many of the early drafts, sometimes as many as four full page illustrations, before reaching the final version. This is especially valuable with the many versions of the two key maps Tolkien did for the final printed edition of the book. Many of the pictures are an antidote to the picture we have been given of key scenes by Peter Jackson's *LOTR* and *The Hobbit* films. Perhaps the biggest difference we find is in the depiction of "The Last Homely House", later known as Rivendell. Tolkien did not imagine it as an elaborate art nouveau architecture. Rather, it was not much more than a cozy Swiss style chalet in the foothills of the Misty mountains. The depiction of the woodland elves' abode is also much less imposing than Jackson's rendering. This means there is much to be gained by reading the novel, with Tolkien's illustrations, before watching what it became in the very creative hands of Jackson and company. For those of you who have seen the companion book on the Art of Lord of the Rings, I must say this is a better book, because there is much more original work from Tolkien from which to draw (to coin a phrase.) If you have not already bought the *LOTR* volume, get this one first. The only disappointment with this volume is that while the illustrations for the Trolls done by Tolkien are presented, there is nothing said about them, unlike virtually every other series of illustrations. The reproductions of all illustrations on large fold out glossy pages is magnificent. Well worth the relatively modest cost for an art book.

J.R.R. Tolkien's prowess as a creative writer is now well known, but there may be some who do not yet realize that he was a gifted artist as well. In *The Art of the Hobbit* pre-eminent Tolkien scholars Wayne G. Hammond and Christina Scull have collected every known drawing and sketch made by Tolkien to illustrate *The Hobbit* and analyzed them with love and scholarly rigor. The result is a fascinating and beautiful book. Tolkien was painstaking both in his writings and in his artworks. Often there are several versions of a planned painting, meticulously covered with Tolkien's notes to himself about improvements and adjustments that needed to be made. Tolkien was also knowledgeable about and deeply interested in the physical process of book publishing, and he was heavily involved in the process of designing, printing, and finally publishing *The Hobbit*. Included in this book are the familiar paintings and drawings that have been included in most editions of *The Hobbit*, along with discarded variations, all with rich and fascinating descriptions and analyses by Hammond and Scull. There are several foldout pages that provide a wider view of how some drawings developed and changed as well. 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.

This book is a wonderful gift to all fans of Tolkien. The production quality of the book is excellent, the content is beautiful. My wife has one of the early Unwin and Allen printings of the *Hobbit*, which features many of the illustrations in this book. To see the complete art and process of creation of it is a great treat indeed. Highly recommended. 5 stars doesn't come close to a fair rating for this gem.

Got this as birthday gift for my father-in-law who is a big J.R.R. Tolkien fan. It is a beautiful book with information on the drawings. I plan on getting the one for *The Lord of the Rings* as well.

Absolutely one of the most beautiful books I've seen. This is a gift for my adult son who has been a Tolkien fan for many years. He is also a talented artist. The book will reach both of these characteristics very nicely for his birthday gift. The illustrations are primarily black and white. They are enhanced with color in approximately 40% of the illustrations. The narrative that accompanies the illustrations provides details from Tolkien's perspective and deepens the reader's understanding of Tolkien's story line. Again, I am so pleased with my decision to purchase this book. I am also

extremely pleased with the quality of the book and the price through . Thank you.

My husband doesn't fall in to trends he loved lord of the rings and the hobbit since he was a young boy Now everything thing extra you find on the hobbit or lord of the rings has more to do with the movies then Tolkien or his books. My husband loves his art and this book made him super happy to find under the tree this year He has learned so much about Tolkien and his art work I would def recommend this for a Hobbit or Tolkien fan specially if they are really into the art

The Art of the Hobbit gives us the privilege of seeing every bit of Tolkien's artwork that was created for the Hobbit and a few items that are tangentially related to it. Hammond and Scull's commentary are interesting and enjoyable, making the book much more than an attractive coffee-table art book. If there is any downside, it is that most of the finest works in the book have already been published, and most of the previously unpublished items are rough sketches and scraps. That is not a reason to pass on this volume, however, as it is definitely up to Hammond and Scull's usual high standards. Makes a nice companion to Rateliff's The History of the Hobbit.

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