



Lustrumfeest 2011
'From Hobbits to Dragons: 30 years of strolling through Tolkien's world with Unquendor'

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You can still register

As we told in our previous newsletter, we are happy to welcome participants from all over Europe to our Lustrumfeest. And there is still room for more. So be a wise Elf, Hobbit, Man or whatever inhabitant of Arda you may be. Don't hesitate any longer and go to the internet site of the [Lustrum 2011](#). There you will find all the information and the possibilities to register. The main information about [traveling to Baarlo](#), where it all takes place, is also there.

It's promising to be a great party. Hope to see you there.

Jessica Yates



Our next guest-speaker has been around for a while... She is a member of the Tolkien Society for nearly forty years now, having joined the Northfarthing Smial (of London) in 1972.

But let's begin at the beginning. As a voracious reader, she was given *The Fellowship of the Ring* shortly after publication "to keep me quiet, but when I asked for the sequel my school's headmaster advised that it would be too frightening, and that I should wait until I could borrow it from the adult library when I turned 11." In the intervening years she discovered *The Chronicles of Narnia* and other great children's books.

In the early 1960s Jessica's parents bought a caravan. Their first touring holiday was to Holland, where they swam at Scheveningen and visited the great art galleries. In 1967 she went up to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, to read early and mediaeval English literature. She also joined the O.U. Speculative Fiction Group, which embraced fantasy and science

fiction. Proudly: "Several of us volunteered to appear in the BBC film *Tolkien in Oxford*."

Graduating in 1970, she decided to qualify as a librarian. In 1974 Jessica was a founder member of Oxonmoot, and in 1976 became the second Secretary (succeeding Vera Chapman) holding the post until the 1980 AGM. She edited the TS-magazine *Amon Hen* for some of the time. "September 1977 was an important month for me: I married Christopher Yates, read and reviewed *The Silmarillion*, and invited Tom Shippey to visit Oxonmoot."

Jessica has published many reviews and articles in *Amon Hen* specialising in Tolkien's sources, and defending Tolkien against his detractors. She lectured at the 1992 and 2005 conferences, on 'Tolkien the Anti-totalitarian' and 'William Morris's influence on J.R.R. Tolkien' respectively. Her essay on Tolkien as an author for young adults is in the *St. James Guide to Young Adult Writers* and on the [Tolkien Society website](#).

Other literary interests include children's and teenage SF and fantasy. She has attended and lectured at the Discworld Conventions, Eastercon and Redemption, published a folksong booklet for the 2007 Discworld Jamboree, and delivered a lecture to the William Morris Society.

To conclude. "Having just retired from school librarianship, I should have more time for writing, fandom, choral singing and playing the cello. However... My lecture theme at the Lustrum is 'Goths and Huns revisited' in which I hope to add something new to the work of preceding scholars, and to provide at least one 'eye-opener' for all of you."

Battle of the Five Armies



Once upon a time long ago there was a fierce battle. It was a truly great battle since not just 2 but 5 armies battled each other. Of course we are referring to the horrendous battle of the Lonely Mountain, Erebor, and the ownership of the great hoard of Smaug the Golden.

We, being knowledgeable about Tolkien's work, know the outcome of that battle. But could that fight have ended differently? What if the Elves and Men from Dale had gained earlier entrance into Erebor, what then? And if the Orcs and Wargs would have arrived sooner, what would have been the impact? And what would have been the effect if the Dwarves would have fought the Men and Elves in front of Erebor prior to the arrival of the Orcs? And if the Eagles would not have come, or Beorn, what then?

Well, you don't need to ponder that question any longer, because this Lustrumfeest we will re-enact the battle, and this time even for Tolkien fans the outcome is uncertain.

What is about to happen? At this Lustrumfeest everybody will be enlisted into one of the five armies. So don't be surprised if, despite weighing a stone or 20, you nevertheless will be nominated an Eagle. And even if your lengths exceed 2 meters you might still end up being a Dwarf... Yes, even if you are the most tender-hearted of all people, you might be nominated a fierce Orc or Warg.

So, upon entering the Lustrumfeest location you will be drafted into an army. And as is common with armies, they will do battle. This Lustrumfeest is no exception. During the whole event members of the armies will try to outshine each other. The grand finale will be on Sunday. Then we shall bear witness as to who is most knowledgeable about Tolkien's work during a gruesome quiz.. Also we shall see who can compete with the esteemed professor by smoking a pipe as well as he used to do. And let's not forget the old English game of throwing horseshoes. Also, all bottled-up rage can find an outlet by swinging the cudgel most effectively.

But, make no mistake. Pitched battles will also take place before Sunday. The armies have the possibility to shame each other by making the best speech during one of the dinners. Also it is possible to humiliate others by indeed giving the best toast ever. And let's not forget the dancing competition and the possibility to humble all others by having the most impressive costume...

On top of all that, you are invited to battle each other across the game board. Several games will be made available so that the armies can fight. Let us determine who really has strategic insight or who has that unique and necessary quality, luck... To raise the stakes even further, you'll not compete for honour only, but also for trinkets from Smaug's hoard. And we all know what truly magnificent goods were stored therein.

Curious already? Has the battle spirit gripped you already? Do you already yearn and lust for the trinkets from Smaug's hoard? If so, join the Lustrumfeest and participate in the battles. So, practise your dancing steps, bring your finest costume, prepare a truly fantastic speech and practise drinking and toasting. And, not unimportantly, be ready to join a board game on behalf of your army.

Dick Mintjes is our leader-of-battle for this event. As a professional soldier and referee he is really looking forward to this re-enactment of the famous battle. Most of all he is curious to see who'll be victorious this time.

My Lustrumfeest

In this column we give an impression of a previous Lustrumfeest. Someone briefly tells about his or her fondest memories. This time we have a very special contribution by Anders 'Beregond' Stenström from Sweden. He is the only foreign guest who has visited each and every Lustrumfeest. Therefore, his reminiscing is not to be missed.

"Well, I have been to all the Lustra so far and look forward to this one. Actually, just to go to the Netherlands is a treat. Dutch pancakes, Dutch breakfasts (What? They really have chocolate sprinkles on bread?), many charming towns and villages, waterways, flower fields and picturesque castles. All this Unquendor and its Lustra have helped me to discover.

Of course going to a Lustrum is motivated by its content. Clearly a lot of effort - more and more each time, perhaps - is spent in order to get a really good list of speakers. But I have to confess that in order to recall what they actually said, I mostly have to consult the published proceedings (*Tolkien and the Spirit of the Age*, and volumes of *Lembas-Extra*). There has been much else though, like exhibitions, concerts (Johan de Meij's symphony I

think was in 1991), auctions, and contests, pipe-smoking in 2006, for instance.

However, when I think back at all these events, what comes most clearly to mind are all the meetings and talks with other members or guests of Unquendor. To mention a few among many, the row stretches from Renée Vink (already a friend of mine before the first Lustrum, and my original connection with Unquendor) and Johan Vanhecke (first met at the first Lustrum) via Ron Pirson (a short but deep-cutting conversation at the fourth Lustrum) to Cecile van Zon (first had a real talk with her at the fifth Lustrum) and Pieter Collier (first met at the fifth Lustrum). Ron is no longer among us, but I hope to meet all the rest - together with other old friends - again this time. And I am quite certain that there will be new good acquaintances to make."

Did you know that...

- our guest of honour Tom Shippey will speak about 'The ancestors of the hobbits: strange creatures from English folklore'?
- recently even Heidi und Peter have registered?
- they are among the more than ninety participants who have registered already?
- you have about one month left to be one of them too?
- we are aiming for at least a hundred, although eleventy-one would even be nicer?

Previous sent newsletters can be [downloaded on this page](#).

Tolkien Society Unquendor



visit the website of the [Lustrum 2011](#)