# AWESOME

# LORD OF THE RINGS

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For twenty years (1930-1950), while school was in term and "The Inklings" were in town, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien (plus some of their other friends) met once a week to discuss their work and their lives. In this image we see the area where they met at the Eagle and Child pub in Oxford (also more affectionately known as "The Bird and the Baby"). Photo by Tom Murphy VII; online via Wikimedia Commons. License: <a href="CC BY-3.0">CC BY-3.0</a>

<u>Lord of the Rings</u>, the most popular book of the last century according to various polls, was written by <u>J.R.R.</u> <u>Tolkien</u>, Jack Lewis' close friend. Two years after his conversion, Jack formed "The Inklings"—a group of writers, including Tolkien—who met every week at the <u>Eagle and Child</u> (an Oxford pub) or at <u>The Trout Inn</u>.

Sharing a pint and their writing, Jack and his friends looked forward to their time at the "Bird and Baby", as their favorite pub was affectionately known. (Today, a <u>plaque</u> at the pub commemorates their famous meetings.)

Tolkien was making progress on *Lord of the Rings*, his masterpiece. Jack continued to encourage Tolkien in his ambitious project. Having read George MacDonald's <u>Phantastes</u> (which "baptized my <u>imagination</u>") when he was eighteen, Jack loved the imaginary world of the <u>allegorical</u> writer.

As Tolkien's <u>fantastic</u> work (<u>here</u>, again, <u>illustrated</u> by Alan Lee) took shape, Jack listened to the ideas of his close friend.

Later, Tolkien credited lack with helping him maintain enthusiasm for his monumental project.

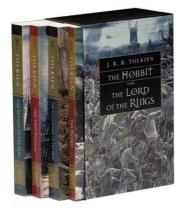
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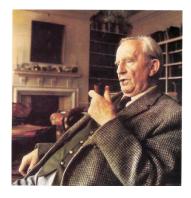


#### The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings - by J.R.R. Tolkien

Image online courtesy <u>Barnes and Noble</u> website.

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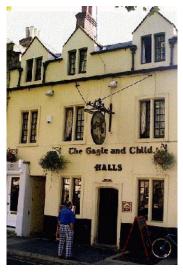
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#### Photo: J.R.R. Tolkien

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#### Oxford Pub: The Eagle and Child

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#### The Trout Inn

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#### Plague at the Eagle and Child

Image online courtesy the Tolkien Gateway website.

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# <u>Illustration from Phantastes - "Fairy Land"</u>

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# Illustration for Phantastes - "A Great Dragon"

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#### Phantastes - Illustration by Arthur Hughes

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Scene from Lord of the Rings - Alan Lee

Illustration by Alan Lee; online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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# Lord of the Rings - Alan Lee

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### Lord of the Rings and Alan Lee

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