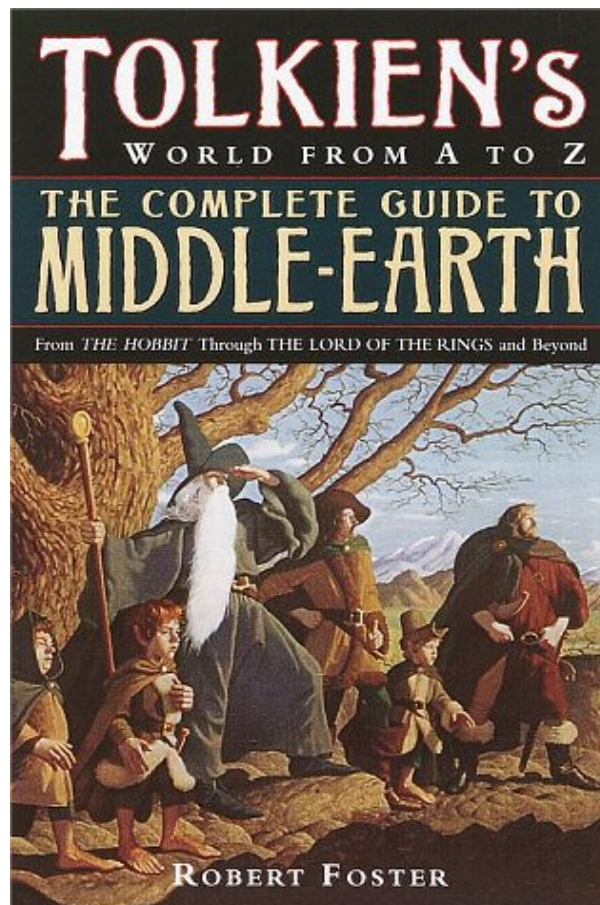


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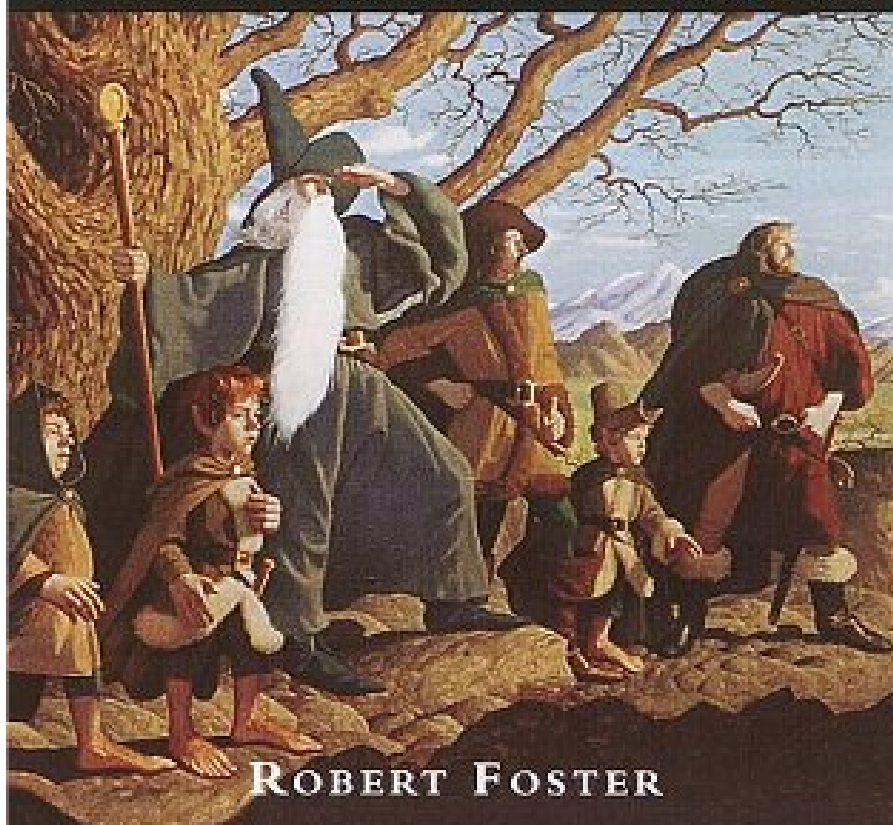


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From *THE HOBBIT* Through *THE LORD OF THE RINGS* and Beyond



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- Sales Rank: #38452 in Books
- Published on: 2001-12
- Released on: 2001-12-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.17" h x 1.29" w x 5.49" l, 1.02 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 569 pages

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In my book this is 10 stars!

By Peter Dykhuis

I can't say enough good about this book. As a companion resource to the any of Tolkien's novels based in mythical Middle Earth this is the perfect companion. This isn't a series of essays and it doesn't try to explain the twists of plot in all of Tolkien's books. What this book does is give complete, sourced and easy to find definitions for nearly ALL of the terms, places and people in Middle Earth.

Ever wonder what the difference between the Maiar and the Istari? Want to know a brief history of Morgoth, the original poison in Middle Earth? This is the book for you. I had to work VERY hard to find any obscure term not included in this book. Not only is this book complete but it is cross-referenced and multiple terms are listed. For instance both Melkor and Morgoth are listed separately so you will find him regardless of which name you look him up under.

What a wonderful piece of work. This book has furthered my reading enjoyment of the Lord of the Rings and opened the Silmarillion to me in a entirely new light. A definite A+ recommendation.

66 of 70 people found the following review helpful.

This is the all-time best Tolkien resource

By Michael Martinez

I feel a bit of nostalgia whenever I open this book because it takes me back more than twenty years to when I was first beginning to study Tolkien's world. Robert Foster's glossary is now sadly outdated because so many informative books have been published by Christopher Tolkien, but none of the tertiary sources written by other Tolkien researchers even come close to Foster's dedicated achievement.

Unlike some early Tolkien indexers, Foster usually refrains from mixing his opinions with the facts he is reporting. His occasional guesses and interpretations may be wrong but given the information available when the book was written they are solid and well-considered. Many more recent books have contained unforgivably egregious errors because those later authors had access to material Foster didn't.

The sources that Foster covers include some of Tolkien's private correspondence, and the research has been vindicated by Humphrey Carpenter's Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien. Foster's other sources include The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings, The Silmarillion, The Adventures of Tom Bombadil, Pauline Baynes' 1969 map of Middle-earth (on which she was advised by Tolkien himself), and the first edition of The Road Goes Ever

On.

The most impressive section, however, is Foster's attempt to devise a chronology of the First Age. Such a chronology could be achieved with any hope of accuracy only after Christopher Tolkien published *The War of the Jewels* in 1994, 16 years after Foster published the *Complete Guide*. Foster's guesswork was off by no more than a few years. I still glance through his chronology for a quick reference when I just need to be reminded of critical dates.

My only regret is that this book was never updated, although I heard a rumor that HarperCollins was looking for someone to revise it. It would be good to see a much fuller guide published, but only if Foster's impeccable standard was adhered to.

32 of 34 people found the following review helpful.

Illustrated 2003 hardcover edition lacks references

By Amazon Customer

I was looking to purchasing this edition for a long time. I finally received it only to be disappointed. Nothing bad can be said of the quality of the printing, the feel & thickness of the paper or the beautiful Nasmith paintings, which are all first class. Before ordering this edition I browsed the content of the paperback edition using Amazon.com's LOOK NOW feature. You see annotated references at the end of each entry, showing which book (i.e., *Silmarillion*) & page number(s.) My gripe is that this 2003 edition, while presented beautifully is missing the KEY FEATURE I looked forward to the most, which is linking any subject by all books & pages referencing that particular topic. So the main reason to get this book is missing! Maybe I would have been better off getting the 2003 hardcover & 2001 softcover edition for the notations along with a book of Tolkien artwork, like "*Realms of Tolkien: Images of Middle-earth*." Hopefully this review will help people select the exact edition to get the features they want.

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