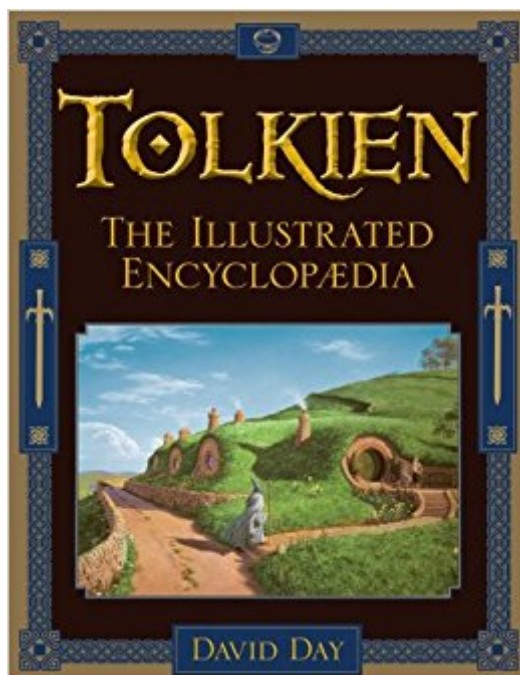


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# Tolkien : The Illustrated Encyclopædia



## Synopsis

The first encyclopedic illustrated guide to the world of Middle Earth and the Undying Lands, this book brings together every important aspect of Tolkien's vast cosmology. More than five hundred alphabetical entries cover five major subject areas: history, geography, sociology, natural history and biography. The maps, genealogies and time-charts, together with the illustrations of characters, places and events, reveal to the reader the full dramatic sweep and splendor of Tolkien's world.

## Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Touchstone (September 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0684839792

ISBN-13: 978-0684839790

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.7 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #736,343 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Science Fiction & Fantasy](#) #313 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Literature](#) #410 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Science Fiction & Fantasy](#)

## Customer Reviews

"A real beauty." (Los Angeles Times)"A comprehensive guide to every important aspect of Middle Earth and the Undying Lands...a stunning tour de force." (Detroit Free Press)

I own Foster's reference and JEA Tyler's newest edition. Both books are comprehensive, and especially in Foster's case, generally accepted as accurate - Christopher Tolkien acknowledges both authors. I strongly recommend those 2 books. This book is quite different, and its presentation is a refreshing change. Along with compelling images, the tome is sectioned by topic: first history, then geography to biographies and so on. Entries are then presented in alphabetical order for each topic. This means when you wish to look up Arnor, it isn't surrounded by dozens of Ar\* entries with all the many rulers that were named after the kingdom. There are 2 reasons I see to purchase this book. 1. If you are looking for a less punctilious Tolkien companion, you won't regret getting this book - it is beautiful and would serve as a good coffee table book. Any inaccuracies you might come

across are really niggling details. This is clearly evidenced by some of the other reviews here. I am a purist, but not a perfectionist, and even the tightly-knit mythology of Tolkien canon has its small contentions. I doubt you'll notice and I know none of your house guests will.<sup>2</sup> I maintain this is the perfect companion for a first read of the Silmarillion, which can be dense to get through. (I wish I had had it next to me) Although Foster's and Tyler's books have more detailed entries, it is an exercise in page flipping to make sense of the dozens of names and places coming at you. This book explains the relevant timelines and relationships in a simple, chronological way. The use of flowcharting and other diagrammatical techniques give much of the details here a new slant.

Great addition to our Tolkien library! Love the illustrations and information.

I got this as a gift for a friend of mine. I owned my own copy when i was kid and loved it. I know much of this information is now on the web for free but the great illustrations and the organization that the Encyclopedia has can only be experienced in a print format. Yes for the quick fact look up the web is better, but for someone looking to explore the Tolkien world as a whole this is a great reference resource.

I bought this book as a birthday gift for someone who is not a huge fan of in-depth reading but who none the less appreciates illustrations with information. The book was a big hit, it is arranged as a standard encyclopedia A-Z, with information and many accompanying illustrations making it an entertaining read as well as informative.

I am biased here. I like anything that digs into Tolkien's world. This is a good book for that. Lots of information here at your finger tips. It's a must have for any fan of the man's work.

Great customer service and reasonable in price.

I'm enjoying this book. I've been a collector of Tolkien for a long time but there is so much it is hard to remember everything so I've found this book very helpful to refresh my memory on what I've already read and how it fits the whole scheme of things.

very good.

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