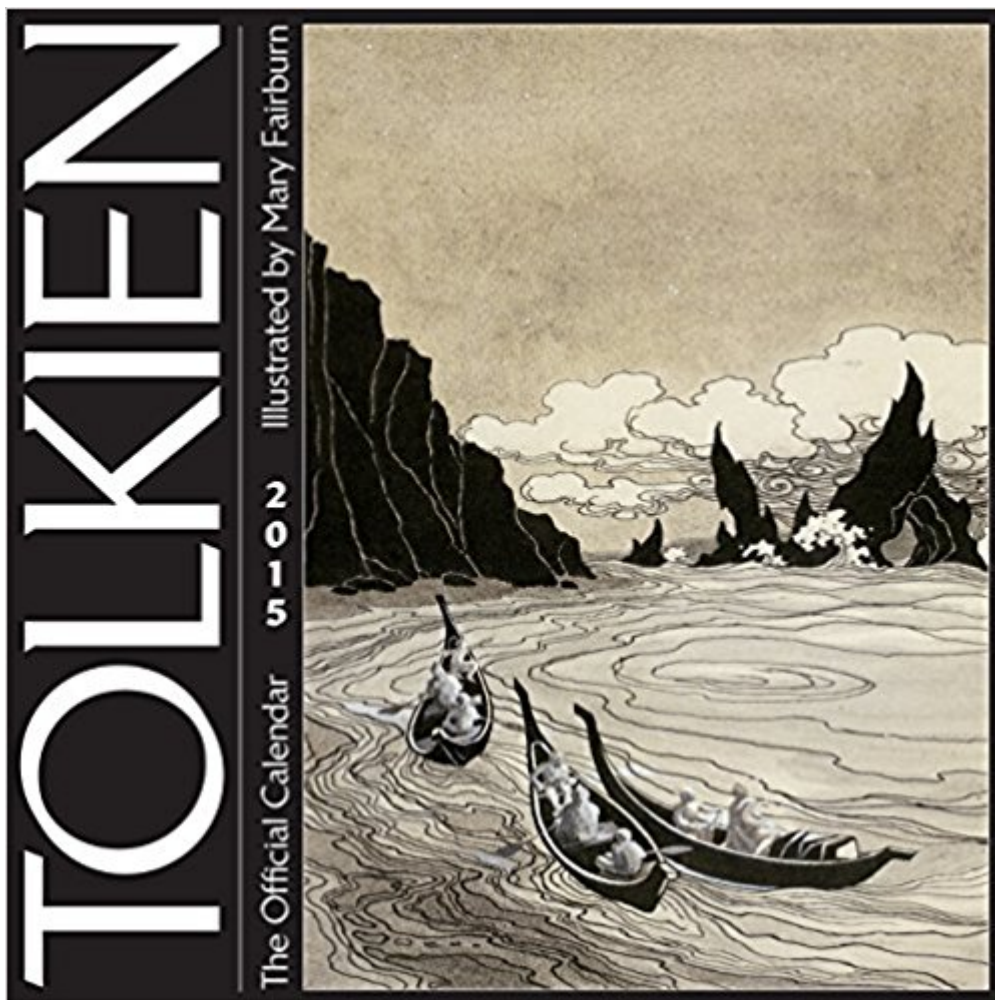


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Tolkien Calendar 2015



Synopsis

Celebrate every day of 2015 with this gorgeous full-color official Tolkien wall calendar that captures the excitement of J. R. R. Tolkien's beloved classic *The Lord of the Rings*. Illustrated by some of the most renowned Tolkien artists, the Tolkien Calendar has been an annual tradition for fans worldwide for more than 40 years. With the success of Peter Jackson's film adaptations of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, these classic works have become more popular than ever before. The Tolkien Calendar 2015 features beautiful and collectible full-color artwork from artist Mary Fairburn that brings to life scenes from *The Lord of the Rings*. The official Tolkien Calendar 2015 includes 12 lush paintings, one for each month.

Book Information

Calendar: 12 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (1892-1973) was a major scholar of the English language, specializing in Old and Middle English. Twice Professor of Anglo-Saxon (Old English) at the University of Oxford, he also wrote a number of stories, including most famously *The Hobbit* (1937) and *The Lord of the Rings* (1954-1955), which are set in a pre-historic era in an invented version of the world which he called by the Middle English name of Middle-earth.

The illustrations might rate 3 or 4 stars; I don't like them nearly as much as the "classic" illustrations of years past, but they are much better than the horrible Cor Blok artwork of a few years ago. The calendar part, however, is practically unreadable: Too small, with white text that's close to invisible on the light gray background.

The official 2015 Tolkien calendar is illustrated by Mary Fairburn and is a beautiful piece of work. According to the included essay "An Unknown Vision of Middle-earth" by Paul Tankard, Fairburn first read *The Lord of the Rings* in 1967 while staying with a friend in Tehran. She fell in love with the work and began working on a series of illustrations. After returning to England in 1968 Fairburn sent a selection of her illustrations, done mainly in colored inks along with some water color and white acrylic, to J.R.R. Tolkien, partly in the hope of being commissioned to do an illustrated edition of *The Lord of the Rings*. Tolkien was quite impressed with her illustrations and amenable to her suggestion of an illustrated edition, though he warned her that cost and other issues might make that impossible. In the event, no such edition using Fairburn's art was ever produced. At least one of the illustrations went to Tolkien while others were given to friends. Fairburn led an adventurous life and eventually settled in Australia. When her letters to Tolkien were unearthed in 2012 Fairburn reviewed the illustrations, found that some had faded or needed some corrections, and reworked them. For this calendar she has also created three new illustrations. I like all of the illustrations very much. Fairburn shows a skilled hand in her landscapes of mountains, water, and trees, especially January's "The Journey to Caradhras" and April's "The Journey Down the Anduin River." Some of the works are obviously inspired by Tolkien's own illustrations, like May's "Rivendell", which Fairburn notes is "His scene in my style." "The Old Forest" in July reminds me of Tolkien's illustrations of "Old Man Willow", "Fangorn Forest", and "Mirkwood", but she could not have seen those when she was at work in 1968, so it's even more remarkable that she shared so much of his own vision. I think my two favorites are February's "Lothlorien," showing Galadriel with Frodo and Sam at the Mirror (this was the one Tolkien asked for because he felt it really captured his own mental image) and "Gandalf on Orthanc" in August, a dramatic black and white drawing using Indian ink. I also like October's "Treebeard, with Merry and Pippin" because I think it's the most faithful to the book depiction of an Ent I've seen. On the other hand March's "Minas Tirith," which is one of the three new illustrations, shows the influence of the movie in depicting Gandalf riding Shadowfax toward the towering city, though the walls, towers, and houses of the City are very different from the film version, and in my opinion much better. I will certainly enjoy using this calendar in 2015. Fairburn's work is rich and beautiful, and we are fortunate to be allowed to enjoy it nearly 50 years after Tolkien himself expressed his liking for it.

Lovely calendar with enchanting art and it was very nice to see a different but no less loved vision of Middle-Earth by Mary Fairburn. The landscapes are beautiful. Sadly I must rate this only a "4"

because the calendar portion (days/dates) itself is small and difficult to read but the upside is the illustrations are very large and this would indeed have been rated a 5 had perhaps the month headers been a bit smaller to allow for the larger calendar space. So the illustrations gets a "5", the layout gets a "4". Too bad we can't rate in half-stars.

Disappointing! I'm used to the calendar artwork being nearly 'frame-able' quality - not this one - the artwork overlaps the fold of the calendar nearly every month :(The monthly dates part of the calendar is nearly useless at a glance - too small, too indistinct, almost illegible till your nose nearly touches the page. Over all too much money for too little quality. Won't buy anything like this again if I can help it. Wouldn't give it any stars if at least one wasn't required.

This was my second favorite calendar of 2015 because the artwork is so good. Some of these prints have already appeared in years past, but some have been improved upon. For real Tolkien fans of the books.

Would like the publishers to use less folksy art next year.....so many great illustrators available. Check out the artists at Gen Con.

This book was so full of surprises, I did not even realize it was a book! It has so far only revealed itself to me as a beautiful calendar, but now that I know it's a book, I will definitely keep a closer eye on it.

Date boxes are very small so you are not able to write much in them.

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