

Call for Papers

“Something has gone crack”: New Perspectives on J.R.R. Tolkien in the Great War

edited by Janet Brennan Croft and Annika Röttinger

J.R.R. Tolkien's experiences in the Great War (1914-1918) can be traced in his writings, most prominently in his masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings*. Much has been written concerning the impact of his time in the war on his literary work, including such significant publications as John Garth's *Tolkien and the Great War* (2003), Janet Brennan Croft's *War and the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien* (2004) and edited collection *Baptism of Fire* (2015), Joseph Loconte's *A Hobbit, a Wardrobe and a Great War* (2015), and Margaret Hiley's *The Loss and the Silence* (2011).

This edited collection of new essays on J.R.R. Tolkien's experiences in the Great War, and his literary responses to those experiences, will build upon earlier work in this area by filling in gaps in the scholarship and incorporating new material that has come to light in the years since the publication of the works mentioned above. This Walking Tree Publishers collection will be purposefully international, incorporating views from the United States, Canada, England, Europe, and perhaps even beyond.

To achieve a broad range of topics, we would welcome contributions that explore both Tolkien's literary work and biographical approaches. Potential topics include the effect of war trauma on Tolkien's creativity (also post-traumatic stress disorder, disability, and life after war), women in war and the female view on the war, the war experiences of Tolkien's friends and classmates, reminiscences by Tolkien's family, Tolkien's modernism and his continued relevance in our current era, depictions of Tolkien at war (documentary or fictionalized), linguistic approaches, international reception and consideration of Tolkien as a war writer, as well as examinations of Tolkien's own artwork and poetry.

Considerations of war in Tolkien's other works beside *The Lord of the Rings* would also be of interest: for example, in recent posthumous publications such as *The Fall of Arthur*, *Beren and Lúthien*, *The Tale of Kullervo*, *Sigurd and Gudrún*, the *Beowulf* translation and *Sellic Spell*, but also across the *Legendarium* and in less-often considered works as *The History of Middle-earth*, *The Silmarillion*, *The Book of Lost Tales*, *Unfinished Tales*, *The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth Beorhthelm's Son*, etc.

Please send a short abstract of your paper together with a short bio-sketch (both together no longer than one page) before 28th February 2018 to greatwar@walking-tree.org