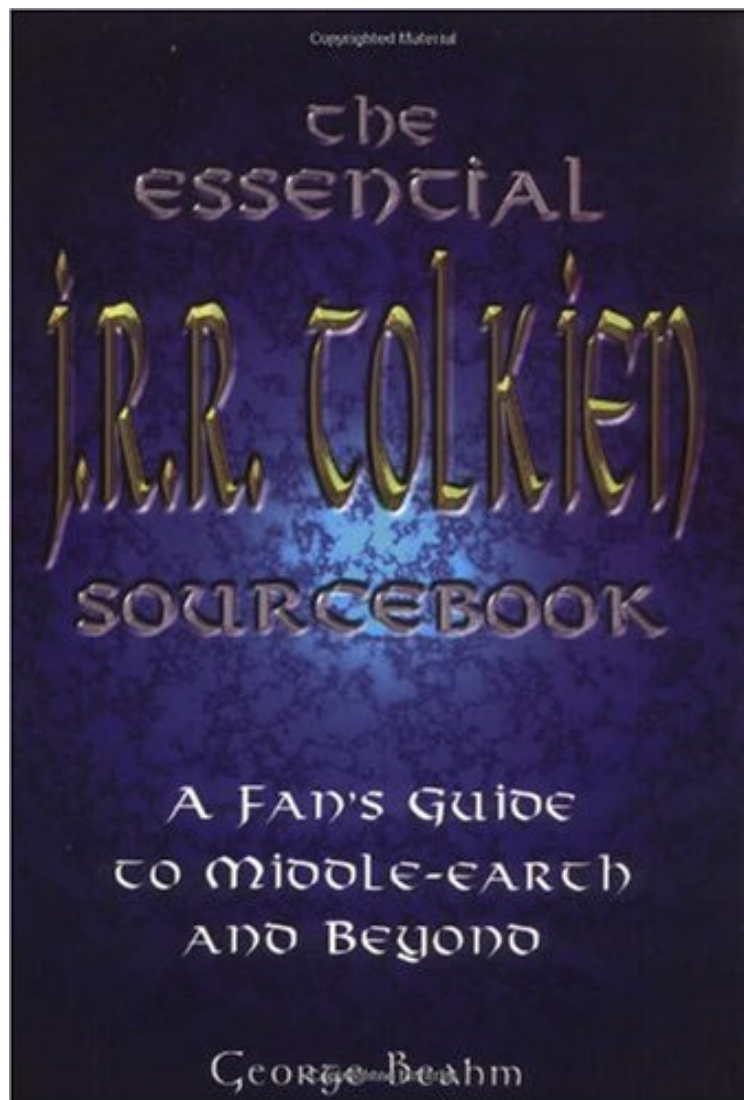


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## The Essential J.R.R. Tolkien Sourcebook: A Fan's Guide to Middle-Earth and Beyond

*George Beahm*

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**George Beahm : The Essential J.R.R. Tolkien Sourcebook: A Fan's Guide to Middle-Earth and Beyond** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Essential J.R.R. Tolkien Sourcebook: A Fan's Guide to Middle-Earth and Beyond:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very informative bookBy Michael J. HellmanIf you're looking for

more stories about Middle Earth or a complete guide to all Middle Earth collectibles, you may be disappointed by this book. For one thing, it doesn't deal with any merchandise relating to the Ralph Bakshi release of 1978 or to the previously released animated versions of *The Hobbit* and *The Return of the King*. There are also scads of collectibles out there that are not covered by this book. However, as a source book for people who are relatively new to Middle Earth or those who know of it mainly through the Peter Jackson movies, it provides quite a nice selection of material. It's an invaluable guide to books published not only by, but also about Tolkien and Middle Earth. It's also a good reference to consult before you go bidding on merchandise advertised on e-bay, particularly if you're new to Middle Earth collecting. And the best part is, since it's only a reference guide and not a collectible in its own right, you can save a lot of money by buying a nice used copy, as I did!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A book about what else is out there to read/buy/find ...By Tom Bassett

A book about what else is out there to read/buy/find. Minimal new or interesting information about Middle-Earth or LOTR besides having it tell you what else is out there for you to get your hands on.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! with one \*huge\* oversight.

By S. B Lauderdale

I checked a copy of *The Essential J.R.R. Tolkien Sourcebook* out of my library a few weeks ago, and I don't want to give it back. I've scanned through it once, cover to cover, and am still jotting down some items I want to follow up on: some book titles I'd like to track down, a few BBC audio dramatizations. There is one gross oversight, however: this sourcebook provides no coverage of the three movie adaptations of Middle-earth books made PRIOR to the Jackson trilogy - that is to say, - *The Hobbit* (1977, dir. Rankin Bass)- *The Lord of the Rings* (1978, dir. Ralph Bakshi)- *The Return of the King* (1980, dir. Rankin Bass)It isn't that these films receive short shrift or unfavorable comparison to the Jackson trilogy, which would be understandable. It is that Mr. Beahm doesn't reference them at all. What makes it even stranger is that he does mention a previous attempt at adapting the books for film: that is, the Morton Grady Zimmerman script which so irritated Tolkien in the '50s, and which never amounted to anything. If Beahm sees fit to mention that one, why doesn't he mention the three animated movie adaptations, some 320 minutes of run-time, that \*were\* ultimately produced and which have been available on a fairly continuing basis on video and DVD? It's a baffling omission.

Of course a 264-page sourcebook can't be expected to include EVERYTHING in the extended Tolkien franchise. And much of what Beahm does include is wonderful: I even found an entry for Mithril Miniatures, which I used to collect back in the mid-90s. Ultimately this is an excellent, if somewhat flawed, reference book for all things Tolkien up to the year 2004.

Breaking new ground, this is a must have for any Tolkien fan seeking to learn more about the reclusive professor from Oxford who reluctantly became a celebrity because of his "hobbit-forming" books. It is a comprehensive reference work long awaited by the millions of Tolkien fans throughout the world who have bought 100 million copies of his books, in more than 40 languages. This book will also be especially appealing to the millions of new fans-moviegoers-turned-readers-who have rushed from theaters to bookstores worldwide to seek more information about Tolkien and his work. Profusely illustrated, it features one hundred photographs and drawings from noted fantasy artist Colleen Doran, plus art portfolios by Tolkien calendar artist Tim Kirk, and cover artist Donato Giancola. Chock-full of sidebars, quotes, and short interviews, this guide to Middle-earth and beyond will be an indispensable addition to any Tolkien collection.