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In around 1920, J. R. R. Tolkien began a new family tradition. Each year, he would adopt the nom de plume of Father Christmas and send his children a letter from the North Pole. Complete with beautiful illustrations, these letters continued for each of his three sons for over 20 years, each one being a beautiful tale of Christmas adventure. In 1976 they were all compiled and released in a book, later republished again as Letters from Father Christmas; 25th Anniversary edition. The following is one of those letters complete with its illustrations and we thought it perfect to highlight the amazing power of handwritten letters at this festive time of year. Merry Christmas! Cliff House Top of the World Near the North PoleXmas 1925My dear boys, I am dreadfully busy this year — it makes my hand more shaky than ever when I think of it — and not very rich. In fact, awful things have been happening, and some of the presents have got spoilt and I haven't got the North Polar Bear to help me and I have had to move house just before Christmas, so you can imagine what a state everything is in, and you will see why I have a new address, and why I can only write one letter between you both. It all happened like this: one very windy day last November my hood blew off and went and stuck on the top of the North Pole. I told him not to, but the N.P.Bear climbed up to the thin top to get it down — and he did. The pole broke in the middle and fell on the roof of my house, and the N.P.Bear fell through the hole it made into the dining room with my hood over his nose, and all the snow fell off the roof into the house and melted and put out all the fires and ran down into the cellars where I was collecting this year's presents, and the N.P.Bear's leg got broken. He is well again now, but I was so cross with him that he says he won't try to help me again. I expect his temper is hurt, and will be mended by next Christmas. I send you a picture of the accident, and of my new house on the cliffs above the N.P. (with beautiful cellars in the cliffs). If John can't read my old shaky writing (1925 years old) he must get his father to. When is Michael going to learn to read, and write his own letters to me? Lots of love to you both and Christopher, whose name is rather like mine.That's all. Goodbye.Father Christmas Every December J.R.R. Tolkien's children would receive letters from Father Christmas. From the first note to his eldest son in 1920 to the final poignant correspondence to his daughter in 1943, this book collects all the remarkable letters and pictures in one enchanting edition. This revised edition of Tolkien's famous illustrated letters from Father Christmas to his children includes a number of pictures and letters that have not been seen in print before. Will appeal to any kids whose appreciation of new worlds hasn't been blighted by Action Man and enlightened schoolteachers. - Terry Pratchett Every December an envelope bearing a stamp from the North Pole would arrive for J.R.R. Tolkien's children. Inside would be a letter in strange spidery handwriting and a beautiful colour drawing. They were from Father Christmas, telling wonderful tales if life at the North Pole:● How all the reindeer got loose and scattered presents all over the place;● How the accident-prone Polar Bear climbed the North Pole and fell through the roof of Father Christmas's house into the dining room;● How he broke the Moon into four pieces and made the Man in it fall into the back garden;● How there were wars with the troublesome horde of goblins who lived in the caves beneath his house! Sometimes the Polar Bear would scrawl a note, and sometimes ilbereth the Elf would write in his elegant flowing script, adding yet more life and humour to the stories. Skip to main content Skip to footer content LIMITED INVENTORY ALERT!! ONLY LEFT! This is the complete collection of letters and full-color illustrations that J.R.R. Tolkien created for his own children. The letters are filled with wonderful tales of life at the North Pole, creating a new fantasy world for readers young and old. Show Less Show More In stock. Ships in 6-10 business days. \$123.3 monthly installments of \$4.1 Quantity 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Features include: - Fully bound in genuine leather. - 22kt gold deeply inlaid on the "hubbed" spine. - Superbly printed on acid-neutral paper that lasts for generations. - Sewn pages – not just glued like ordinary books. - Satin-ribbon page marker. - Gilded page ends. - Bound in the USA. Imported materials. - Rigorous inspection at every stage ensures adherence to our exacting standards. - Superb craftsmanship and commitment to quality. - Standard shipping included at no additional charge. Item #:1209 It doesn't take children long to suspect that Santa Claus is actually their parents. But if Mom and Dad demonstrate sufficient commitment to the fantasy, so will the kids. This must have held even truer for the family of the 20th century's most celebrated creator of fantasies, J. R. R. Tolkien. Before Tolkien had begun writing The Hobbit, let alone the Lord of the Rings trilogy, he was honing his signature storytelling and world-building skills by writing letters from Father Christmas. The toddler John Tolkien and his infant brother Michael received the first in 1920, just after their Great War veteran father was demobilized from the army and made the youngest professor at the University of Leeds. Another would come each and every Christmas until 1943, two more children and much of a life's work later. Every year, Tolkien's Father Christmas had a great deal to report to John, Michael, and later Christopher and Priscilla. Apart from the usual hassle of assembling and delivering gifts, he had to contend with a host of other challenges including but not limited to attacks by marauding goblins and the accidental destruction of the moon. The cast of characters also includes an unreliable polar-bear assistant and his cub Paksu and Valkotukka, the sound of whose names hints at Tolkien's interest in language and myth. Since the publication of the collected Letters From Father Christmas a few years after Tolkien's death, enthusiasts have identified many traces of the qualities that would later emerge, fully developed, in his novels. The spirit of adventure is there, of course, but so is the humor. Understanding seemingly from the first how to fire up a young reader's imagination, the multitalented Tolkien accompanied each letter from Father Christmas with an illustration. Colorful and evocative, these works of art depict the scenes of both mishap and revelry described in the correspondence (itself stamped with a Tolkien-designed seal from the North Pole). How intensely must young John, Michael, Christopher, and Priscilla have anticipated these missives in the weeks — even months — leading up to Christmas. And how astonishing it must have been, upon much later reflection, to realize what attention their father had devoted to this family project. Growing up Tolkien no doubt had its downsides, as relation to any famous writer does, but unmemorable holidays can't have been one of them. via Messy Nessy Related Content: Read J. R. R. Tolkien's "Letter From Father Christmas" To His Young Children Discover J. R. R. Tolkien's Personal Book Cover Designs for The Lord of the Rings Trilogy The Only Drawing from Maurice Sendak's Short-Lived Attempt to Illustrate The Hobbit 110 Drawings and Paintings by J.R.R. Tolkien: Of Middle-Earth and Beyond When Salvador Dalí Created Christmas Cards That Were Too Avant-Garde for Hallmark (1960) Andy Warhol's Christmas Art Based in Seoul, Colin Marshall writes and broadcasts on cities and culture. His projects include the book The Stateless City: a Walk through 21st-Century Los Angeles and the video series The City in Cinema. Follow him on Twitter at @colinmarshall or on Facebook. The new home of Mark Kermode and Simon Mayo. They're back, and it's bigger, and better and larger-er and more-er. Film reviews, TV reviews, and all your conversation around movie and non-movie related stuff. Plus a whole bunch of recommendations to watch in cinemas, on all streaming services and on physical media. As well as the film and TV reviews, Mark and Simon will be talking about anything and everything. Punctuation, Thunderbirds, obscure German pop music, fax machines, subtitles, MRI scans, magic, school assemblies, Scandinavia, and don't forget the dad jokes. There's more to ... 5 out of 5 stars By Kan P. Norton on 08-04-22 Skip to main search results Paperback Condition: new. Paperback. Every December an envelope bearing a stamp from the North Pole would arrive for J.R.R. Tolkien's children. Inside would be a letter in a strange, spidery handwriting and a beautiful colored drawing or painting. The letters were from Father Christmas. They told wonderful tales of life at the North Pole: how the reindeer got loose and scattered presents all over the place; how the accident-prone North Polar Bear climbed the North Pole and fell through the roof of Father Christmas's house into the dining room; how he broke the Moon into four pieces and made the Man in it fall into the back garden; how there were wars with the troublesome horde of goblins who lived in the caves beneath the house, and many more. No reader, young or old, can fail to be charmed by Tolkien's inventiveness in this classic holiday treat. J.R.R. Tolkien's beloved holiday favorite—redesigned for a new generation! Actual letters sent by Tolkien to his children—who were convinced they were from Father Christmas—tell wonderful tales about life at the North Pole. Shipping may be from our UK warehouse or from our Australian or US warehouses, depending on stock availability. Soft Cover. Condition: FINE+. Near New. Third Edition. 52 pgs including covers. The History of the Middle Earth, "colorful pictures of postcard & letters dating from 1920, when John, the eldest, was three years old; and for over twenty years, through the childhoods of the three other children, Michael, Christopher and Priscilla, they continued to arrive each Christmas. Sometimes the envelopes, dusted with snow and bearing Polar stamps, were found int he house onthe morning after his visit; sometimes the postman brought them; and letters that the children wrote themselves vanished from the fireplace when no one was about." Edited by Baillie Tolkien! [Book Weight -= 200 grams]; Size: 4to - over 9¾" - 12" tall. Trade Paperback. First Edition. 28 x 22,5 cm. 24 unnum. Blatt mit farbigen Illustrationen. OPp. - Gut erhalten. Die Briefe vom Weihnachtsmann bestehen aus Briefen Tolkiens an seine Kinder aus den Jahren 1920 bis 1942, in denen er als Father Christmas, also als Weihnachtsmann, jährlich vom Nordpol aus schreibt und seine Erlebnisse des letzten Jahres schildert. Neben dem Weihnachtsmann selbst kommen auch dessen Sekretär Ibereth und ein Polarbär zu Wort, jeweils mit eigenständiger Handschrift. Illustriert wurden diese Briefe mit Zeichnungen, die Tolkien selbst anfertigte. Die Briefe waren ursprünglich nicht zur Publikation bestimmt, sie wurden aber nach Tolkiens Tod von seiner Schwiegertochter Baillie Tolkien, der Frau Christopher Tolkiens, herausgegeben und 1976 in Buchform veröffentlicht. Hardcover. Condition: Near Fine. Dust Jacket Condition: Very Good. First Edition. Assumed First Edition as no statement of edition and perhaps due to the fact printed in Great Britain by Houghton. Later printings have number line. In cream pictorial cloth with red and green type and characters. Bottom front corner lightly dinged, otherwise in nice shape. Jacket is unclipped (\$8.95) with wear/nicks to edges, spine ends and corners and several very short closed edge tears. Some fading to spine. Still glossy. 1st Printing. Hardcover. Condition: Near Fine. Text is in German. Translated from the English by Anja Hegemann. Illustrated by the author. Edited by Baillie Tolkien. First German edition. Publisher's (errata?) sheet laid in. A bit faded along the spine, else near fine in glossy illustrated boards. No dust jacket, as issued. Autograph note signed to Mrs Parke by Tolkien in 1968. ANS single pale blue Basildon Bond writing-paper sheet. Six lines with hand-drawn Christmas holly in colour to one corner, SIGNED "J.R.R.T." wishing Mrs Parke best wishes for Christmas and a "happier and more fortunate" 1969. Housed in a bespoke scarlet full morocco clam-shell box lined in black velvet. Central horizontal crease from original folding, and very slight creasing to edge. Near fine in Fine box. With a fine first edition of 'The Father Christmas Letters' published in 1976. Mrs Parke acted as a driver and general household help to the Tolkien family for and was appointed after responding to an advertisement by Edith Tolkien in the local Bournemouth newspaper. Page 2 Enter at least one of author, title, ISBN, keyword, or publisher to search. Search Preferences

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