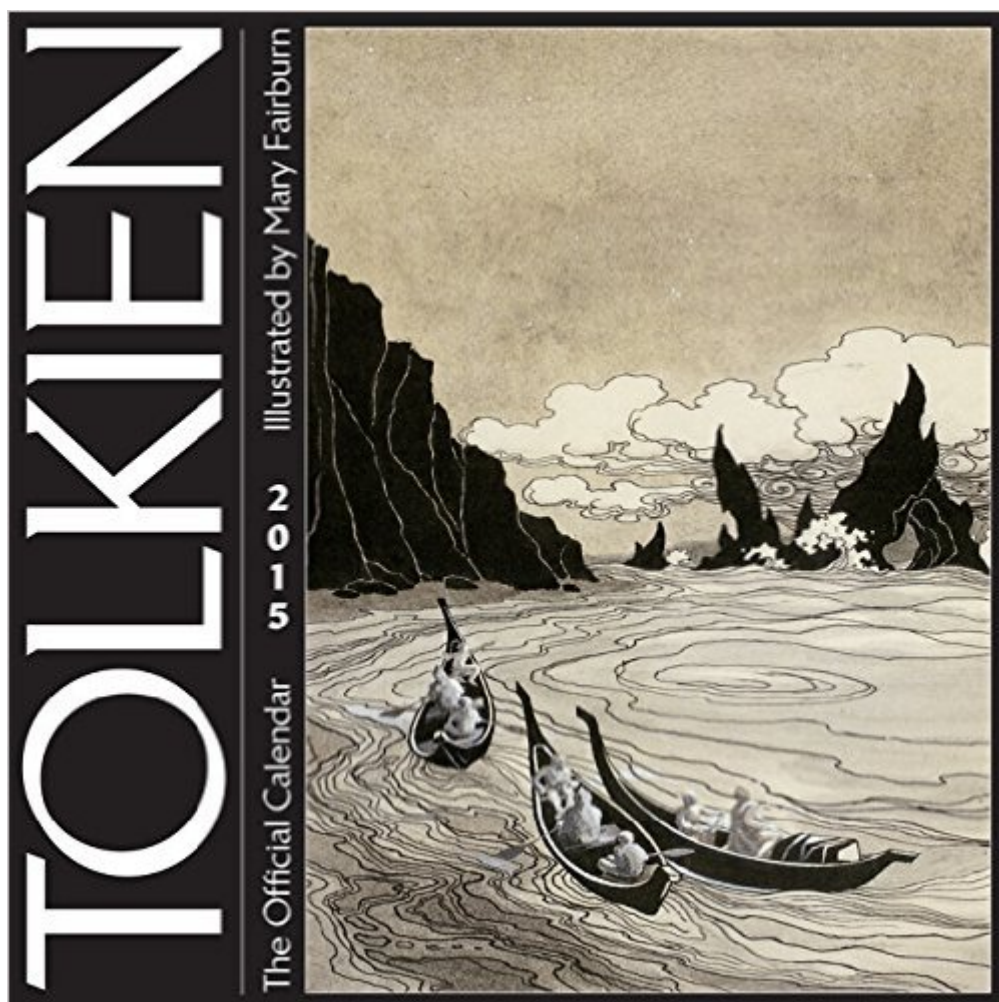


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Tolkien Calendar 2015



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

Publisher: Harper Voyager; 2015 ed. edition (September 16, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062356976

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Product Dimensions: 12.2 x 11.9 x 0.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #612,777 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Calendars >](#)

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Customer Reviews

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."

Let me clarify something to people who will immediately berate me for giving a seemingly low rating to a Tolkien calendar: I give 4-4.5 stars for the artwork itself. I have no complaint with the art side of things, and it's an intriguing idea that they would focus a calendar on someone whose name was unknown before now yet whose art existed decades ago. It's the layout/formatting of the calendar that's so darn shoddy. The 2014 "Hobbit" calendar (Jemima Catlin) was still borderline useable, but this one has drifted even further away from the realm of useful calendars. I believe the date boxes actually got a little smaller than the ones on the 2014 calendar (very bad news for those of us who still write appointments down on a calendar), and the white (yes, WHITE) numbering in grayscale date boxes renders this completely useless as a reference tool if you're looking at it from several feet away. Now that my gripe about function is done, let me elaborate on Mary Fairburn's art. Even diehard fans won't have heard of Mary Fairburn very long before this calendar's release, but that doesn't mean she shouldn't have a place in the inner circles of Tolkien calendar artists. She was, in fact, one of the earliest visionaries in the world of artists who sought to paint/draw Tolkien's characters. Most of these pictures date from the late 1960s, so it's possible she was only really preceded by Cor Blok (among artists whose names can still be historically proven, of course). No, she doesn't lean terribly hard into realism like the Bros. Hildebrandt, Alan Lee, Roger Garland, etc., but there's still an undeniable charm to her pictures...this art isn't for everyone, but I think it has enough variety that many people will enjoy at least some of the featured pictures.

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