



# Tengwar

The Newsletter of the Mithril Fellowship



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**Galadriel**

Number Three

*Edited by Chris Tubb*  
*Art by John Temperton*

# Editorial

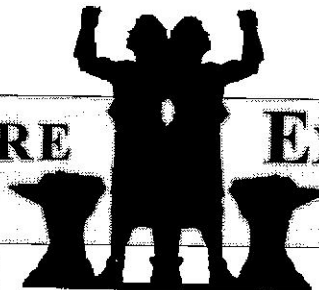
Editing this Newsletter, and generally running the Fellowship has now become a full-time position. John Treadaway who edited the first two issues, is a freelance journalist with many other interests and commitments in the hobby field. Feeling unable to commit himself to this increasing workload, he has therefore decided to step down from the post of editor. He will be missed by all of us at Mithril. He has however agreed to continue to contribute to the newsletter, with more articles in the same imaginative vein as his "Saruman's army" in Tengwar 2. So for this issue, I'm laying aside my Das pronto modelling tool and pack of Plasticene, to take over (very temporarily!) until our new editor/Fellowship co-ordinator takes up his post next month. As you know issue No. 3 is somewhat late off the press. **In view of this, and as there are supposed to be 4 issues of Tengwar annually, we are not calling for any subscription renewal until issue No. 4 has been distributed.**

Your response to my prototype 54mm Mithril figure, pictured in issue No. 1 (Eowyn) was generally very favourable, and Mithril is now considering releasing a range of 54mm scale Middle-earth personalities, in addition to the regular 32mm figures. With this in mind we are offering as this month's exclusive Fellowship offer a 54mm figure of Galadriel, code **No. MA1**. We would appreciate your comments on this figure. Galadriel was an obvious choice for me for this new figure. She was the first Mithril subject in the original series, and seemed to set an auspicious beginning for the range. Also February 1993 is the fifth anniversary of both her release (**M1**) and of the launch of Mithril itself.

Lastly, you will receive with this newsletter, the list of members whose names have been picked randomly to receive our remaining stock of old Mithril figures (**M1 - M82** production masters). Your demands for the old figures far out-weighted our meagre supply, so apologies to those not lucky enough to have their names drawn. Please keep those letters coming. They really do make a difference. "The death of Boromir" and "Gandalf on Shadowfax" are already in the 1993 release schedule due to Fellowship demand.

Chris Tubb 1993

## FIGURE EXCHANGE



This column is the most of the newsletter, and may separate sheet in future so as to avoid squeezing out everything else on page 2. If you wish to write in with figures to sell or "wants lists" for this column, please state whether we can print your name and address, so that other members can contact you directly. If you would prefer to buy and sell via us, that's fine but in this case please state the prices, or other figures that you want for items, so that we can pass these on directly to other members. Please use the form enclosed with this issue to send in your Exchange and Mart lists.

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**Mithril miniatures wanted:**  
**M65, M66, M71, M68,**  
**M67, M70, M72**  
*Hella Kroeger (via Tengwar)*

**Mithril miniatures for sale:**  
**M9, M19, M20, M24**  
*Will swap all plus cash for*  
**M16**  
*Any offers to Ed Moylan*  
*(via Tengwar)*

*Please write to Mithril Exchange (Address as letters page)*

### Cutting Turin and saving the Hobbit.

Due to a fault in two of our rubber batches last year, and the bad state of the master figures, we are being forced to cut production of both the **TURIN TURAMBAR** and **THE BLACK SWORD** series (**M215 - M224, M238 - M247**). Current stocks of these figures at the factory mean that we can continue to supply only until May 1993.

**THE HOBBIT** series (**M227 - M235**) was also affected, but the popularity of this release has lead us to re-make it, so its availability is not threatened. If you do not have the two **TURIN** releases and want them, please purchase in good time to avoid disappointment.

### The Lord of the Nazgul

This spring sees the release of Mithril Boxed set No. 3. Unlike the first two, this one is not a boxed version of items previously released as blistered figures, but is a completely new set. Coded **MB 279**, it contains metal figures of the Lord of the Nazgul mounted on the fell beast, Merry, and Eowyn. It comes with a detailed resin base which in turn has the figures of Theoden and Snowmane moulded onto it.



Art by John Temperton.

### MITHRIL CLASSICS

In 1993, some of the Mithril blistered figures, will be re-packaged as "Mithril Classics". These will be the most popular figures, which are always in demand in the range, like Gandalf and Bilbo etc, along with some of the more popular generic types. These individual figures will not be cut when their ranges are discontinued, but will continue to be available indefinitely or until a new version of the character is created. The first Mithril Classics will be picked from the range as it exists at the time of its inception.

# After the Dragon

## The forces of Dale in the War of the Ring.

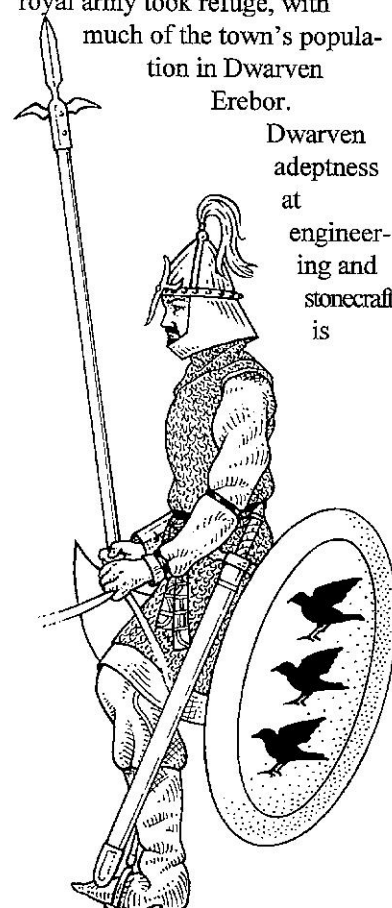
It is a cool evening early spring. The deep clear blue of the northern sky carries the scent of frost. In the west some light yet remains but in the eastern sky sharp stars are appearing in the gathering dark. Numerous fires are alight all along the ridge of the hill and clusters of men warm themselves, talking quietly. Behind them to the west lies the city of Dale, nestling in the great spurs of mount Erebor, its myriad lights twinkling in the dusk, and clearly visible to the men in the camp. At the centre of the camp the king's standard, depicting the dying dragon Smaug and three thrushes, catches the evening breeze in its tattered folds. The king himself is talking earnestly with his commanders, while sappers are digging out hasty fortifications and laying stakes along the camp's eastern edge. The place is a bustle of activity. Men in fine mail coats and plumed helms, albeit grimed with many days campaign, ride into the camp at a gallop, and dismounting, hurry to the king. Other groups, of eastern appearance, but also bearing the thrush emblem of Dale on their shields also ride in, on hardy little ponies with reports and intelligence. The wounded are tended by the fires and weapons are sharpened and cleaned. Beyond the ridge, to the east, the lights of other fires far off across the plain can also be

seen forming a wide arc on the horizon. The Easterling army which huddles around them is also drawing breath, readying itself for the morrow's battle, when once more their horsemen will hurl themselves at the army of Dale. The defenders on the ridge look grimly at the enemy camp and then westwards to the lights of their own fair city. Twice the eastern hordes have driven them back, across the plain of Carnen, twice they have broken before the invader, and now stand on the low hills of the Celduin valley, a weary army but the only remaining barrier between the eastern hordes and the city of Dale.

Such might have been the scene on the hills above Dale in early March T.A. 3019. Away to the west, in Mirkwood, Thranduil was wresting victory, amid the blazing trees, from the forces of Dol Guldur and in the far south the Witch-king broke the gates of Minas Tirith. Here in the north, where the river Celduin marked the last natural obstacle to the invasion of Dale, the Royal army of king Brand was to make its final unsuccessful attempt to halt the Easterling invasion. As had long been feared the Easterling tribes, agitated and closely advised, by Mordor, crossed the Carnen around the 10th March. Despite Brand's desperate attempts to prevent them, the horde swept westwards to Dale itself. If the king had so chosen, the city could

probably have been successfully defended, and withstood investments. But Brand together with his ally the Dwarven king Dain of Erebor, chose to chance everything on a pitched battle. It lasted three days and was hard fought, but in the end the Easterlings had the victory. Both Brand and Dain fell and much of their army was destroyed in the retreat that followed. Weakly defended, Dale soon fell to the invader, while the remains of the royal army took refuge, with much of the town's population in Dwarven Erebor.

Dwarven adeptness at engineering and stonecraft is



Ill. 1 Mounted Royal Guardsman

unsurpassed, and the Easterling horsemen with their penchant for open battle had no skill in siegecraft. It was at this point that fortune began to turn against the invader. Dale's scouts and militias would be a constant threat to their rear, preventing supplies from reaching the easterling army, and picking off their foraging parties. The Dalemén and Dwarves re-formed their shattered forces inside Erebor, and news of Sauron's final defeat in the south, reduced the invaders' morale still further. Finally, on the 27th, two days after the fall of Sauron, Brand's son Bard and Thorin Stonehelm, in desperation or sudden hope, led such an assault from the Gate of Erebor as to shatter the easterling army, slaying many and driving back the rest. Retreat soon

became rout; Dale was re-taken and the shattered and hungry Easterlings were driven pell-mell, back across the Carnen.

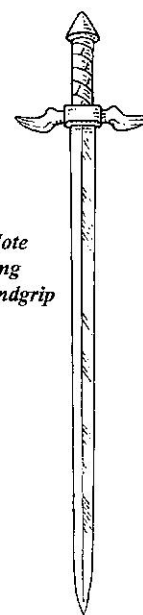


*Illo.3 Dale foot guards. Note the Sagathic belts, the number of which probably denoted rank.*

Bard the Archer resettled the old City of Dale in T.A. 2944. As King, most of Bard's first subjects would have been descendants of those who had fled the City during its destruction by Smaug, and had subsequently settled in Laketown and many other northern communities. Dale again became known for its fine crafts and grew wealthy in its trade with Esgaroth and Dwarven Erebor. The relative peace of this corner of Middle-earth after the fall of Smaug and the destruction of the army of Bolg, attracted much additional settlement. The land between the Carnen and the Celduin had never been entirely deserted but its hitherto sparse population was greatly augmented now with new Northman settlers from the south and west, a trend which increased after the Nazgul's re-occupation of Dol Guldur in T.A. 2954. These settlers would have been of mixed Northman stock from Eriador with a fair proportion of Grammuz (Woodmen). Some of the more settled Easterlings and mixed Northman/Easterling folk were also attracted by the prosperity and peace of the new kingdom, and were settled in the largely uninhabited land west of Erebor. Thus the population of both City and surrounding lands grew quickly. It is likely that Bard's claims to all of Dale's old lands were not fully accepted especially by some of the Sagathic populations living west of the Carnen. While many settled Easterlings, who had long lived and prospered under the civilising influence of Laketown would have welcomed Dale's resurgence, those with more traditional allegiance would have resisted Bard's attempt to reestablish a Northman stronghold east of the Running river. These grievances later became a suitable bait, with which the agents of Sauron where to catch and hold the fealty of the Easterling tribes.

## Esgaroth

The forces available to the Master of Laketown would have remained much as they had been before the fall of Smaug, though since Esgaroth itself had grown on its new site, would have now been



*Illo.2 Dale longsword. Note distinctive wing design on handgrip*

somewhat larger. The bulk of Laketown's forces were the small mercenary companies retained by individual merchants and trading guilds. These were licensed by the town's council (Umanathrain), which required that they bear its own badge, a flying swan on a blue field, in addition to that of their patron. Like the companies in existence before the destruction of Smaug, the majority would be of Easterling origin and officered by Northmen, though due to Northmen migration into the area since the refounding of Dale, this Easterling majority would now be significantly smaller. The Laketown guard was now the sole military unit under the direct command of the Master. The other unit previously under his command, the foot archers had mostly accompanied Bard to re-found Dale. Any members that had remained were incorporated into the Lake-town Guard, as an auxiliary unit. Laketown although an ally of Dale during the War of the Ring would have been able to contribute little during the siege. The Laketown Guard would have been sorely needed at home, while the Easterling mercenary companies, could not be risked in a fight with their own compatriots, and would have been used on outpost and policing duties rather than in battle.

## The Raft-elves

Owing allegiance to Thranduil, most went to the defense



of his halls when war came to Mirkwood. Some though may have remained behind, between the river and the forest edge, to spy out the borders of the woodland realm. There is little evidence that they took part in fighting, though they probably chose to make the lakeshore a place of danger in the minds of the Easterlings. The Raft-elves did not use metal armour or shields, but relied rather on stealth and skill with bow and spear. Like their Silvan kin their clothes were ornamented with various motifs representing the natural environment, the most common showing a willow frond pattern.

## Dale

### Outlier scouts

These were local forces, of a semi-regular nature, used to patrol the borders of their own settlement areas. Half soldiers and half settlers they provided much of their own equipment, but were issued with mail shirts and weapons from Dale.

When Dale was re-founded by Bard, it became policy to grant land along the Eastern marches only to those settlers of Northman origin, while those of Easterling stock were settled in the land west of Erebor, furthest away from their hostile brethren. The outlier scouts thus formed two distinctive groups, the

Western March, comprising pony mounted Easterling subjects, and the East March, comprising Northman settlers. The Easterling scouts would use the same hardy ponies as the invaders, and be similarly armed with composite bows which would be used from the saddle. For close combat their preferred weapon was a slightly curved single edged sword of Sagathic origin. Costume would vary from man to man, but both chain-mail and fur-lined leather jerkins were popular among the Dale Easterlings, often decorated with embroidered designs, or more practically, with thin iron rings. These were worn with woollen shirts and loose leather trousers invariably tucked into soft calf length boots. They were distinguished from their hostile kin by their Northman-style helmets, often fur-trimmed and by their side plaits probably adopted from their Dwarven neighbours. Abstract designs or geometrically depicted animal motifs seem to have been common among all Easterlings and were often worn as clan or family tokens. The Northmen scouts of the East March would have used larger mounts and carried the spear as their principal weapon. They carried straight Northman cavalry swords and round shields. Mail-shirts were sometimes worn though there would usually be little uniformity in dress. Hand-axes would commonly be carried; also the longbow, though this would not be used in the saddle.

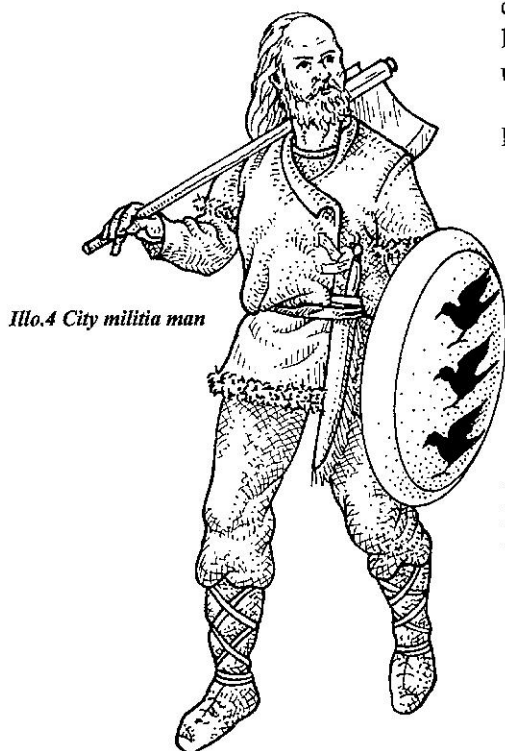
### Mounted Royal Guard

This was the only standing cavalry force in Dale, drawn, initially at least, from the families of old Dale. Brand himself seems to have faced the initial Easterling attack during the War of the Ring, from across the Redwater, and almost certainly would have had this unit present to supplement the scouts of the East March and the local levies. There is no record, prior to the war of any large action in or around Dale, and some guards may have previously performed little more than escort and courier duties. They would have been hard-pressed in what seems to have been a rapid and harried retreat from the



*Illo.5 Outlier scout.  
western March (Easterling)*

forces, but as well-armed and trained troops would have borne the brunt of the fighting during the retreat to Dale, and the subsequent three day battle. This seems to have been the limit of their use as cavalry. During the siege of Dale and Erebor, it is likely that they fought on foot. The most splendid troops of the kingdom, the Mounted guard (illo.1) wore a short helm with fixed nasal ridge, with a flared neck and cheek guard which bore a remarkable similarity to the Dwarven helms of Erebor (see illo. 6). Most of Dale's armour would have been manufactured under the mountain, and much Dwarven influence can be detected in the armours of Dale. A sleeveless chain tabard over a leather shirt protected the body, a plate vambrace covered the lower right arm and elbow. Like all the regular soldiers of the city itself, and some of the outside scouts and militias, they used an oval shield decorated with the three thrones which was the emblem of Dale. Their baggy trousers tucked into calf boots betray Sagathic influence, as do the Easterling embroidered belts which were a mark of high rank in both Dale and Esgaroth (illo.1). The long-spear that they carried had a fairly narrow blade with small wings at the socket, a motif repeated in the hand guard of their long two edged swords (illo. 2)



*Illo.4 City militia man*

## Dale foot guard

Taking as its model the heavy armed infantry of the Laketown Guard, Bard lavished much on the creation of his own foot guards. Like the mounted Guard, they were clad in hauberks of the finest Dwarf-wrought mail, and wore helms crafted in the smithies of Erebor. Enlistment in the main garrison of Dale was open to any subject of the king who satisfied a residency requirement and who was of Northman origin. Much of their equipment was similar to that of the mounted guard, but their spears and swords were both heavier and shorter and they used larger shields. Other differences were the longer and heavier half-sleeved hauberk worn with Northman style cross-bound leggings rather than Sagathic boots. This force suffered very heavy casualties whilst covering the army's retreat to Dale. During the mauling that it received in the retreat, the unit lost much of its equipment which would later have been replaced by anything that was to hand. During the siege, therefore, its appearance was somewhat more irregular than that illustrated (illo. 3).

## Dale bowmen

The core of the original unit came with Bard from Esgaroth's company of archers, but once in Dale drew new members from the near countryside. It was not now a professional force, its original laketown members being used as officers to train and organise the new units more as a militia, though of higher status. Before the War of the Ring, its members would have formed Dale's most numerous fighting unit. The bow used was shoulder-high and would outrange the composite bows of the mounted Easterlings on a high trajectory. During the opening of the battle the Carnen the bowmen would have benefited from the shelter of pavises and prepared positions, but once the retreat was under way, the enemy's

proximity made their bows useless. Equipped as they were, in nothing more substantial than leather jerkins, and shieldless, the bowmen companies suffered much loss during the retreat to Dale. In the siege itself though, they proved their great worth, in harrying the enemy from the walls.

## City militia.

Several companies of militia took part in the defense of the City but were probably the least effective of the defenders. They were armed variously, but were primarily issued with spear, hand-axe or stabbing sword together with a smaller version of the oval guards' shield. Some at least were given simple hardened leather caps reinforced with metal strips. (illo 4)

## Army of the Kingdom.

Theoretically the largest force in Dale's army, this was the collective name for those militias from the lands outside the city which were called to arms during times of peril. Each man would provide whatever weapons were to hand, and be clad and equipped, each to his own ability. These militia bands were, in theory, under the king's direct command, his own regular officers being sent to direct them. By the time that they had formed in response to the Easterling invasion however, Dale was tightly invested, and in such dire straits that no thought was given in Dale to these irregular levies which would in any case be of little use in an organised battle. Some of the militias disbanded and drifted back to their homes, though a certain number were taken under to command of the Northmen scouts of the east marches, and used in operations to cut off the enemy's supply lines.

## Engineers

Dale's location within a wide bend of the river was in itself fairly defensible, but the hurried work of artisans from the city and of Dwarves from Erebor may well have strengthened it further. The escape of so many of the city's defenders after its fall despite Erebor itself being under attack, suggests the the long curve of the river may have formed the main line of defense. Flooding, earthworks palisades and stakes would all have made the ground very difficult for an invader such as the Easterlings.



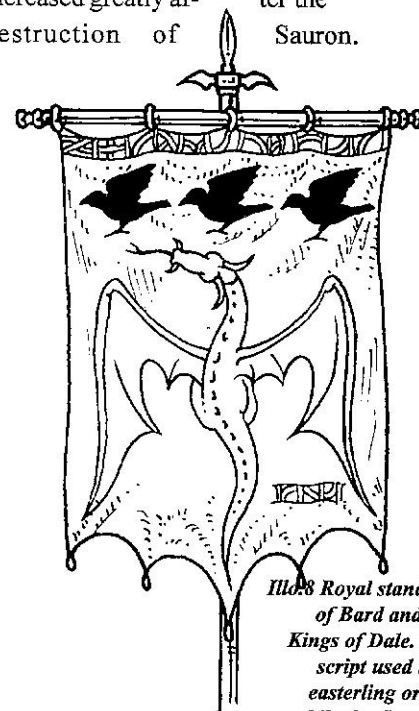
Illo.7

Dale foot guard standard.

The Dwarven allies, who lent their skills to the defenders of Dale, were matchless in their engineering prowess in all of Middle-earth. Doubtless they constructed engines to protect and cover those approaches that were not guarded by the river.

## Conclusion

It is likely that in the aftermath of victory over the Sagath in the War of the Ring, that there would have been some reaction against the Easterlings generally, and probably more so in Dale than in Laketown. Laketown seems to have suffered less during the War the Dale, and in view of her large amount of trade with the Easterlings would tend to view them more pragmatically. Even those loyal Easterlings employed in Dale's army would probably have been excluded from military service during the early fourth age, their place being taken by other Northman migrants, whose freedom to travel would have increased greatly after the destruction of Sauron.



Illo.8 Royal standard of Bard and the Kings of Dale. The script used is of easterling origin while the figure of Smaug conveys graphically the title "Dragonslayer" which was adopted by the Bardings.

Illo.6 Erebor Dwarven helm. Note the dragon motif, made popular by the death of Smaug



# A great shadow

## The appearance of Balrogs: Your opinions

We have had a very large response to our brief article on this subject in Tengwar #1. It is a figure that has been constantly requested by Mithril collectors for the past few years and one which we will definitely release in 1993. Below are some of the comments sent in by Fellowship members.

**Gabriel Berry of Norwich U.K.** contributes his opinions as to the appearance of the Balrog, deftly avoiding the "with or without wings" question by giving him wing-like leaping flames on either side. I agree that the Balrog should be large and think that your dimensions - 100mm high/60mm wide - are about right. Thanks for the useful sketch. **Paul Milbourn of Kent U.K.** is very definite that the Balrog should not have wings, and writes, referring to the Balrog in the Fall of Gondolin "... in which there is no suggestion of flight but there is mention of climbing (why climb if you can fly)". Good point Paul. He continues, "My own feeling on the appearance of these creatures are that they should be along the lines of the traditional devil/demon with human body (although larger than a man) but with the head of some beast, thus allowing for the mane which is mentioned in Lotr".

On the other hand according to **Ron Simmons of Atlanta U.S.A.**, "Balrogs definitely have wings. In the Silmarillion, the Balrogs heard Morgoth calling them to his aid in Lammoth; they rose up and 'passing over' Hithlum came to him like a tempest of fire. They are physical beings, so must have been winged to fly so far and fast"

**Richard Knecht of Utah U.S.A.** gives us a very detailed description of the creature's appearance. He says, "You are correct in stating that there are as many different opinions about what the Balrog looks like as there are people. So here is mine. On the question of his size, I feel when he drew himself up on the bridge, he must have stood at least three times the size of Gandalf. Tolkien said the Balrog was of Man-shape. I think that his body must have been corded with great muscles, like that of a body-builder. I picture the Balrog with a mane of hair coming from the top of his otherwise bald head, going down the middle of his back and stopping at the waist. Also with long hair hanging from the back of the hand to the elbow and long, long hair on the back of the legs; from the knee to the ankle. A creature with a mane must have been pretty hairy. The Balrog definitely did not have wings. It was surrounded by a shadow which came from the Balrog itself. Tolkien said, 'and a power terror seemed to be in it and to go before it'. The evil of the Balrog was so great, it could extinguish the light surrounding itself. On the bridge, standing before Gandalf in its fury at being pushed back and its sword shattered, it expanded this shadow to engulf Gandalf and show its power. Much like a Cobra spreading its hood to make itself appear larger than it really is, to strike fear into its opponent. I would like to see the balrog in an active pose,

with him advancing with his sword held out from his side and whip held aloft in the motion of striking with it. Maybe he could have his mouth wide open, with teeth bared, making a challenge."

**From Holland, B.J. Hermus** (sorry you didn't give us your first name) adds that a perusal of the "Silmarillion" gives nothing definite but some references to "flames and whips". He goes on, "I think the drawing of a Balrog by John Howe in the 1991 Tolkien calendar is a very nice one. On that drawing the Balrog looks as if it really could exist and not like some wierd creature which might be frightening but at close inspection lacks credibility." I agree with you B.J. that the figure should look credible. The painting that you refer to for those members who may not know it is in the Sept section of the 1991 calendar, and has to mind some very minotaur-like qualities. It also very definitely has wings. Its also my favourite depiction of a Balrog to date.

I leave till last the contribution sent by **Gary Mc Naney Syracuse N.Y. USA** who while agreeing that strictly speaking, Balrogs did

not have wings, gives a sensible and practical reason why a model might do so. While not possessing wings in the conventional sense "... it appears to have the ability (by using some sort of effect or some appendage) to spread darkness around it to heighten its fearsome appearance. But how can you depict this darkness in a figure? I don't believe it can be done without depicting some sort of solid wings to simulate the effect. Also there is some insinuation that the Balrog was huge and fearsome only second to the Dragons." Gary goes on to suggest that "it has also the ability to make itself very large".

Thank you for all your contributions and illustrations concerning the appearance of the Balrog, which I have found very useful in formulating, or rather in modifying my own conception of this creature's appearance. All being well the figure should appear sometime in the late spring/early summer of '93.



### MA 1: Galadriel

### Special Fellowship Figure Collection Number 3

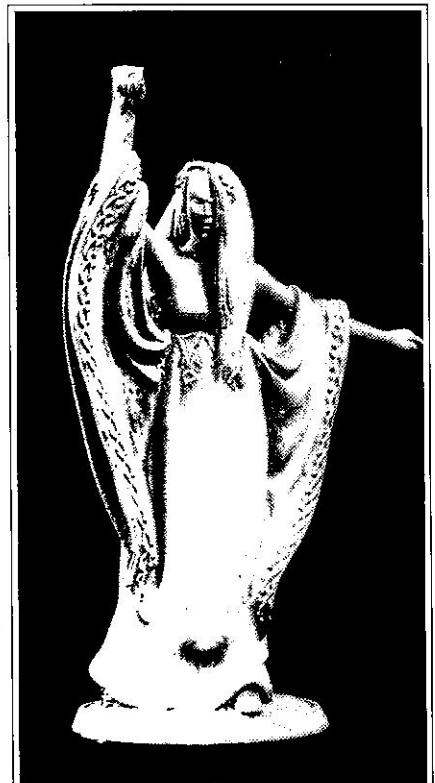
The mightiest of the Noldor who remained in Middle-earth in the Third-age, Galadriel was the wielder of the great Elven ring *Nenya*. She used its power subtly and with consummate skill preserved her woodland realm of *Lorien* in the timelessness of the undying lands.

This is the first 54mm figure that Mithril has produced and is available exclusively to Mithril Fellowship members.

**Available now** the price of this figure is **IR£7.95 (US\$12.70)** plus postage.

**Postage rates IR£**

	Surface	Airmail
UK	0.64	0.78
USA	4.20(US\$)	6.10(US\$)
Rest of World	1.10	2.14





# Your Letters

Please address all correspondence to:  
Mithril, Macroon, Co Cork, Ireland

**Damien Duncan of Cork, Ireland** asks whether John Temperton's artwork in "Saruman's army" in *Tengwar #2* is the basis for forthcoming figures. In reply I would say that we have no immediate plans for more Isengard figures, but I will certainly use the drawings if we do expand that range. The Dalemén in this issue will be a monthly release (along with the Dwarves of Erebor) sometime in the coming year ('93), and I will use the illustrations as the basis for some of the figures. Damien also suggests that we make siege machines, and specifically "Grond" at Minas Tirith. This one has been on my list for a while as a possible boxed set, though the large number of Trolls manning it would make it rather expensive. He also suggests Gandalf on shadowfax, as do **Stephen Ahern, also of Cork** and **Henry M. Herold of Calif. U.S.** along with numerous other members. Damien also quite sensibly rebuts our joking dismissal of the 300ft long Ancalagon figure in the last ish, by pointing out that it could be produced in Vinyl. Thanks for your beautiful sketch of the Death of Boromir, Damien. If its O.K. with you I'd like to base my forthcoming vignette on it. Let me know. **David McIlroy of Fife, Scotland**, wants more First Age characters, as does **Jason Parey of Surrey, U.K.** who also suggests figures of the Valar, and a range from the early ICE module "The court of Ardor". Among First Age figures suggested by **Warren Dowling of Gloucester, UK**, are Fingolfin fighting Morgoth, and Ecthelion battling with Gothmog the Balrog. Both he and **R. Cheshire, Beds. U.K.** also suggest figures from the court of Gondolin. A number of members have taken up David Mortlock's point in *Tengwar* about figures from Southern Middle-earth. Apart from "The court of Ardor" noted above, **Pascal Reuder, from Kaiserslautern, Germany**, is also in favour of this range, endorsing David's points. **David Asteraki of London, U.K.** would like to see the Army of the Southern Dragon. I personally like to make the figures from the peripheral areas. I remember that "The court of Ardor" was the first ICE Middle-earth module that ever caught my eye on a stand at a Games day in the early 80's, solely because it was so unusual and exotic. The suggestion made by **Dave Nicodemus of Reading, PA.** immediately appealed; namely that we could produce maybe one out-of-area release annually. If the response to David Mortlock's suggestions is anything to go by, its certainly an idea that we should consider.



Also in reply to two of last months contributors, **Richard Knecht** and **Gary McNaney: Jonathan Cole** while in favour of producing figures of the Witch-king on the Fell-beast and Shelob, would rather see free-standing figures than vignettes, for rpg purposes. Jonathan along with **Simon Lawrence of Sussex, U.K.** also suggests Imrahil and the knights of Dol Amroth. This is another release that I will put on my list. **G. W. Elvin**, who tells us that he is a vignette builder suggests the Swan ships of the Teleri. Stephen Ahern (mentioned above) proposes a vignette depicting the White council. This is another idea

that I've also had at the back of my mind for some time, and would make an interesting boxed set. I envisage as part of the set, a round table, its surface partitioned into five sections with Elvish script and other appropriate symbols. Stephen suggests a throne-like chair for Saruman. He goes on to say that he would also like to see a model of the swan boat in which Galadriel and Celeborn bade farewell to the Fellowship when they left Lorien, and also Rangers of Ithilien during the War of the Ring. Hobbits have also been featuring prominently on your recent request lists, from **Juan Albuérne Dzy, Dave Nicodemus, Bill Morris, Mark Ward, Jim Barry** and **Amy Kingham** to name but five. This is another range which I think we ought to do sometime soon. It was 1989 when "Gandalf and the Shirefolk", our last substantial Hobbit release, appeared. Maybe a series of named Hobbits from the shire (Juan's preference). Farmer Maggot and his dogs were suggested by several members. What about the farmer with dogs in attendance standing squarely and undaunted before the mounted but stooping Ringwraith, who is offering him gold for information on "Baggins"?



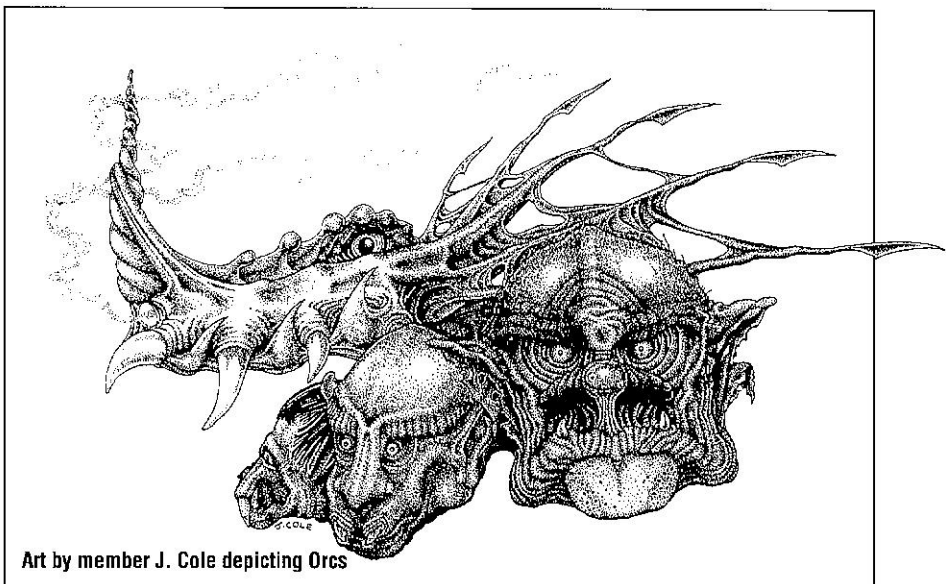
Both **Michael J. Hellman, Maryland, U.S.** and **Roger Grey, Sevenoaks, U.K.** took up Richard Knecht's suggestion for a series of (why not life size?) rings, representing all the rings of power in the Third age. I must admit that I had never thought about anything like this but we might consider it if the demand is there. Let us know. Several of you proposed that we make Oliphaunts (**Mark Ward, Pittsburgh; Henry Herold, Pete Reeder** among them). I can tell you that we have had Oliphaunts on our list of boxed releases from the beginning, and this release will definitely be out sometime after the Balrog. Shelob, also requested by several members is another definite boxed set probably for 1993. Mark Ward also suggests "The watcher on the water". I like this one Mark. I even made a

prototype of it 2 years ago but didn't think it was up to scratch and threw it out. (If I produced as many good figures as I do rejects, I'd be one wealthy designer!). Mark provided me with a good many ideas in his interesting letter, among them Gildor Inglorion, Arwen, the sons of Elrond (much requested) and an eagle without Hobbit/Dwarf passengers!. I would love to make a release called maybe "Lords of the Hithæglin", featuring the Great eagles, and maybe some other Denizens of the Misty mountains. What specific eagles' poses do you have in mind Mark (or anyone else for that matter). Let me know and I'll make them.



**Esteve Zamora Castillo** asks whether we have supplement sheets for M1 to M82. No I am afraid that we do not. We didn't start making the sheets until "Vales of the Anduin". We have had a number of requests for earlier ones though. Like everything else its a matter of whether there would be sufficient demand to justify the cost of making and printing them. So far there is not. In a somewhat similar vein, **W. Volkmann** wonders whether we could include painting instructions in the supplement sheets. I must admit that I have always been somewhat reluctant to do this. Colours are given for very few racial groups/characters in Tolkien, and I prefer to indicate, where I feel justified, some likely colour preference of the racial group to which this or that particular figure belongs, rather than presume to lay down the law on a matter where my opinion is no more valid than anyone else's.

**To conclude**, please keep your letters coming in. I do read every one of them, and try to reply personally to as many as I can. Yours opinions really do affect what we release. Our 1993 release schedule has already been ammended to include "Gandalf on Shadowfax" and "The death of Boromir", solely on the strength of Fellowship requests. Thank you also to all who made such kind comments about my work, notably **Angelika** (sorry I just can't read your surname) **from Dortmund, Germany** and **Kevin Keeling, Calif, US.** and all who wrote but did not get a mention in the column.



Art by member J. Cole depicting Orcs