

**THE RING OF WORDS: TOLKIEN AND THE OXFORD
ENGLISH DICTIONARY**

Colleen Hanf

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Project MUSE - The Ring of Words: Tolkien and the Oxford English Dictionary (review)

When J.R.R. Tolkien, veteran of the Somme, met up with Old Boys from school at Oxford during , he imparted a vivid impression of life in the front line – not.

The Ring of Words: Tolkien and the Oxford English Dictionary by Peter Gilliver

Tolkien's first job, on returning home from World War I, was as an assistant on the staff of the Oxford English Dictionary. He later said that he had "learned more.

The Ring of Words: Tolkien and the Oxford English Dictionary - reviewed by John Garth

THE RING OF WORDS: TOLKIEN AND THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY.
By Peter Gilliver, Jeremy Marshall, and Edmund Weiner. New York: Oxford.

The Ring of Words: Tolkien and the Oxford English Dictionary investigates J.R.R. Tolkien's work on the Oxford English Dictionary.

Keywords: English literature, Dictionaries; Review Number: /5;
Review Subject: The Ring of Words: Tolkien and the Oxford English Dictionary Peter Gilliver.

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Other words, such as waistcoat, waken, unwan, and want, posed rather different problems. A vivid impression of life in the front line – not of war, but of words. Adaptable or adaptable? By the time of Tolkien's arrival, the staff was working on the letter W—one with many words of Germanic origins, so Tolkien's expertise was especially useful.

Community Reviews. The three authors of this small book are well placed to comment. Marshall and Weiner, all of them current OED editors, give an equally vivid impression of life in the front line of words. He relished the task of distinguishing the different garments denoted at different times by waistcoat as he later grew to relish the garment itself; among the numerous drafts of his definitions of wake which survive are many colourful turns of phrase which he considered in his attempts to convey the spirit of a wake; and he was clearly fascinated by the change in meaning undergone by wan which in Old English was applied to dark or gloomy things, and carried no suggestion of pallor or faintness.