

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR CALENDAR

The cycles should be linked to a majestic whole, and yet leave scope for other minds and hands, wielding paint and music and drama.

(from Tolkien's letter to Milton Waldman
[in:] *The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien*, no. 131, p. 145)

Tom Loback is an artist from New York (whose hands “wield paint” that illuminates the great depth of Tolkien's world). He has fortunately agreed to decorate the 2009 Elendilion Calendar with his artwork displayed in both coloured and black-and-white graphics. And we hope they will accompany you throughout the year when wandering under the stars of Arda.

The 2009 Elendilion Calendar is a unique publication. As is always our custom, it follows a specially designed notation system designed by Richard “Galadhorn” Derdzinski. The calendar provides daily information using four methods of calculation: (1) the Gregorian Calendar; (2) the Calendar of Imladris (used by the Elves); (3) the Hobbit Calendar (or *Shire Reckoning*); and (4) the New Reckoning of King Elessar (used by the Dúnedain in the Fourth Age of Middle-earth). The relationship between the Gregorian Calendar and the other three above-mentioned calendars is described in detail in Appendix D of *The Lord of the Rings* (please refer to this if you wish to gain a better understanding of this subject).

Thanks to the work done by the editor of the 2009 Elendilion Calendar you will no longer have to toil away at doing complex calculations: everything is clearly- marked and fully-explained in our calendar. Polish national and religious holidays have been marked **in red**. As for the dates of Tolkien-related events and anniversaries, these have been marked **in green** (this calendar includes more of these dates than its previous edition).

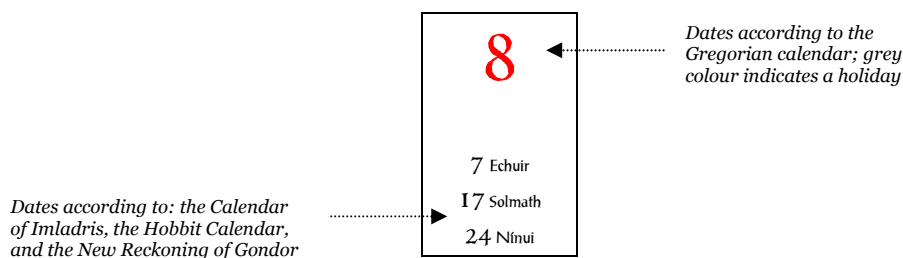


Fig. 1. An illustration of an Elendilion Calendar day

Our calendar will be of great help to you in finding out: when the Elves celebrate New Year; when the Hobbits observe *Lithe* and *Yule* (i.e., our Midsummer Day and Christmas); when the New Year is celebrated in the Reunited Kingdom etc. What has also been marked is the dates of the birth and death of J.R.R. Tolkien, a few anniversaries connected with the Tolkien family, anniversaries of the most important events described in *The Lord of the Rings* (e.g. the birthdays of Bilbo and Frodo Baggins, the date of the Downfall of Barad-dûr etc.); as well as the dates of our traditional Tolkien-related events marked in Poland and worldwide, e.g. the date of the Tolk Folk Festival, the birthday of the Heir of Buckland, the date of the American Mythcon Conference etc.

We hope that the Elendilion Calendar will make 2009 for you, Tolkien fans, a year full of magical moments and memorable days spent under the starry sky of Middle-earth. *Mae govannen, Mellyn!*