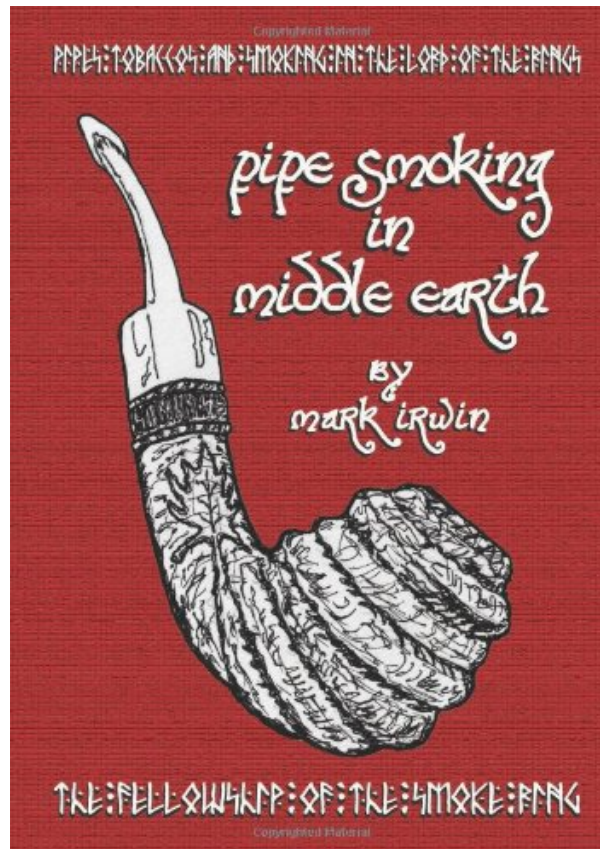
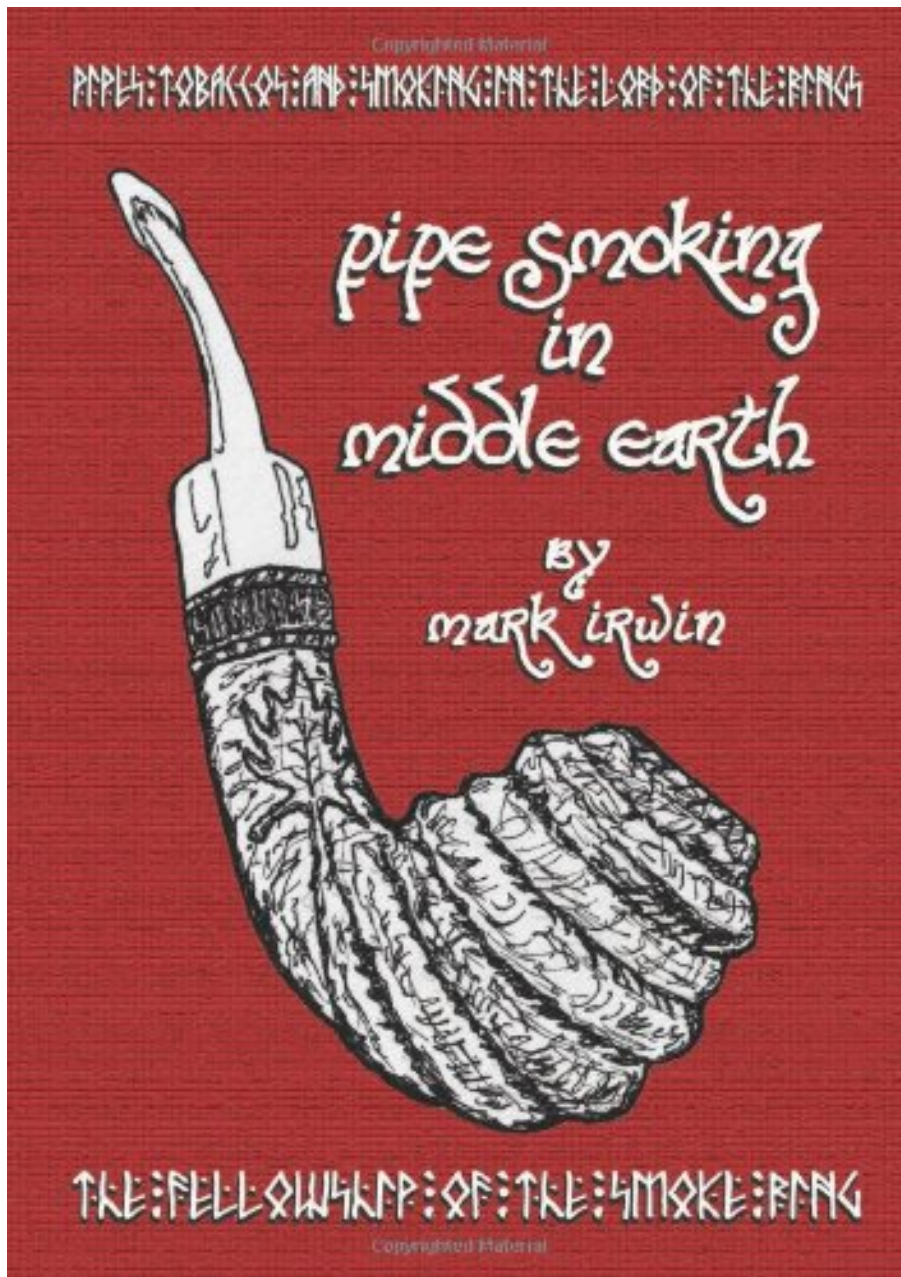


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PIPE SMOKING IN MIDDLE EARTH BY MARK IRWIN PDF

Pack your pipe with your favorite blend, sit back and enjoy the first thorough exploration of Middle Earth's pipes, tobaccos, and pipe smokers. Pipe Smoking in Middle Earth recounts the way Tolkien literally frames his Saga in smoke rings, then devotes subsequent chapters concerning what can be known and what can reasonably be inferred about pipeweed or leaf (tobacco), the pipes of Middle Earth, smoker's equipage (or accessories), the fellowship of the smoke ring (the pipe smokers of The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings) and the art of blowing smoke rings. It concludes with a complete concordance to every reference to pipes, tobaccos, and pipe smokers in Middle Earth.

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Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Fun, but short.

By David N.

This is a fun and entertaining little book. If you are both a fan of all things Tolkien and a fan of pipe smoking, you will definitely want to add this book to your collection (and read it while smoking your favorite pipe). It was very interesting to see all of the references to pipes, pipe weed, and smoking, from both the Hobbit and Lord of the Rings, collected together and laid out in an orderly fashion. Some of the connections that the author makes to real life, historical pipe-making and tobacco-growing were helpful. It was also nice to get an idea of where exactly Peter Jackson and Co. went wrong in their depiction of the characters' pipes in the film versions (apparently, they went wrong just about everywhere!).

The only negative about this book is that it's very short, and the author is often repetitive. At times I almost felt as though I was reading a college English paper, where the student was clearly struggling to meet the minimum word count and so resorted to repeating things that were already said in a previous section. Unfortunately, there is only so much that can be said about smoking pipes, and it may have been a bit of a stretch to treat the topic in an entire book (had this been a short essay or journal article it would have been perfect).

Still, the index alone, along with some other extras in the back of the book and the beautiful illustrations throughout, are well worth the modest price. And as I said, if nothing else you can certainly enjoy an afternoon of reading while smoking your favorite pipe!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Good for the Geek and Pipe-Smoker, or Geeky Pipe-Smoker

By thefoolish

There are only so many books on pipe smoking. While the vast majority are fantastic, many tend to cover the same topics: material types, break-in strategies, packing methods. You know, the necessities. I am incredibly grateful for those that have taken so much time to help illuminate such issues, but it's not always what I'm looking for when I want to read about pipes.

That's why I could not resist when I saw Mark Irwin's book about pipes in the Lord of the Rings (and only ten bucks!).

This tiny book, a mere 112 pages, is absolutely jammed with information about the pipes enjoyed by the hobbits, dwarves, men, and others who populate Middle Earth. Mr. Irwin clearly did a great deal of research, including citations for every single instances that he mentions. He even went to far as to analyze the recent movies (though I would hazard to say that he wasn't the biggest fan).

Pipe Smoking in Middle Earth covers many topics, from the smoking habits of individual characters -- a group Mr. Irwin affectionately calls the Fellowship of the Smoke Ring -- to the preferences of different race, Tolkien's own pipe, and even a page or two helping people learn how to blow smoke rings, an absolute necessity if you're going to survive in Middle Earth.

Mark Irwin does not pull punches in his critique of Peter Jackson's depiction of the books, particularly on the issue of pipe smoking. His main qualms seem to be about the amount of pipe smoking shown (not nearly enough) and the types of pipes shown (not accurate). Irwin cautions, however, that many others exaggerate the amount of pipe smoking in Lord of the Rings and that it is important to find balance.

The second half of the book is primarily references, where Irwin pulls out of the books (including The Hobbit) the most important mentions of pipe smoking and quotes them directly. This is very helpful for someone like me who has a Lord of the Rings related pipe-project going with Stephen Downie. One of my favorite parts of the last half of the book was a correspondence between Tolkien and a pipe-smoking fan, where the fan asks for more information about the pipes and tobaccos in the books, only to receive a classic Tolkien response.

The short book does repeat itself from time to time, giving the impression that the chapters were written independently, without regard for the content of the previous ones, thus leading to needless repetition. The book itself felt a little rushed, lacking some of the proper editing that will come with further editions.

On the whole, this little gem does a wonderful job wading through the sometimes never-ending writing of Tolkien to find the information concerning pipes and tobacco. If you're a fan of Lord of the Rings or just want to learn more about pipes in popular culture, you should not pass this book up. After all, it will probably only take an hour or two to read!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Fun Read!

By Stephen A. Alexander Jr.

This was a great read, it has every mention of pipe smoking in the books and the tells of the great importance of pipe smoking as it pertains to the stories. I love it and recommend it highly to anyone that is a Lord of the Rings fan and/or a pipe fan.

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