

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL: Name: **John R. Holmes** Date of Birth: **5 February 1955**
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Steubenville, Ohio 43952**
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EDUCATION 1980-1985: **Ph.D., Kent State University, August, 1985;**
Dissertation "**William Blake's Place in the Mystical
Tradition,**" **Martin K. Nurmi, Dissertation Director**
1978-1979: **M.A., St. Bonaventure University; Thesis, "Physics of
Perception in William Blake and Thomas Pynchon."**
1973-1977: **B.A., St. Bonaventure University (Journalism)**

ADMINISTRATIVE

EXPERIENCE: 1984-1985: **Administrative Assistant to Dean of Graduate
College, Kent State University**
1995-1997: **Director of Drama, Franciscan University**
1997-2003: **Chair, Department of English**

TEACHING **Basic English (remedial), Freshman Composition, Writing Lab, Public Speaking,
Introduction to Poetry, Introduction to Fiction, Introduction to Drama, Classical
Mythology, Classical Rhetoric, Modern Drama, Medieval English Literature,
The English Renaissance, The Romantic Movement, The Victorian Period,
Renaissance Drama, Victorian Novel, Modern British Novel, Modern Poetry,
Chaucer, Milton, Shakespeare, Science Fiction, World Literature, Theatre
History, The Jazz Age, Icelandic Literature, Elementary German, J.R.R.
Tolkien, Old English, and the History of the English Language; I have also
taught several honors seminars in Franciscan University's Honors program (a
"Great Books" approach), and two graduate education courses, "Teaching Great
Books" and Phonics.**

2002 Senior Faculty Award **for excellence in teaching,
Franciscan University of Steubenville**

PUBLICATIONS: I have delivered 40 conference papers and published two books of local history and about 200 articles on various literary (and a few non-literary) subjects. Of these, the following are most recent, and have focused on the writer J.R.R. Tolkien.

Conference Papers

1. "*Aðbricas*: Germanic Philology And Semantic Displacement in Tolkien's Fiction" 38th International Medieval Congress, May 2003
2. "Tolkien, *Dustsceaung*, and the Gnostic Tense: Is Timelessness Medieval or Victorian?" 39th International Medieval Congress, May 2004
3. "Beren's *Moniage*: Love As Exile in *The Lay of Leithian*" 40th International Medieval Congress, May 2005
4. "'Excellent *wrecca*: Gollum, Exile, and Elegy" 41st International Medieval Congress, May 2006

5. "Tolkien's *Gawain*: The Incredible Hulk and the Critics," 42nd International Medieval Congress, May 2007.
6. "A Cadent Echo": *Hebung* Meets *Sdrucchiola* In the Prosody of Tolkien's *Leithian* Verse," 43rd International Medieval Congress, May 2008.
7. "That Was the First *Hebung*": Tolkien's Modernist Metrics in Formalist Garb" 44th International Medieval Congress, May 2009
8. "Tolkien on the Old English *Pater Noster*: Digging Niggling Calligraphy." 45th International Medieval Congress, May 2010
9. "Swann's Songs: Tolkien's Clues to Tempo and Tone in Middle-earth Music" 46th International Medieval Congress, May 2011
10. "Metrical Variation as Characterization in *Hobbit* Verse" 47th International Medieval Congress, May 2012
11. "A Historiology for England: Tolkien on the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles." 48th International Medieval Congress, May 2013
12. "Double-hearted: *Psychomachia* in *The Fall of Arthur*." 49th International Medieval Congress, May 2014
13. "That does not attract me": Lang./Lit. and the Structure of Tolkien's *Beowulf* Commentary." 50th International Medieval Congress, May 2015
14. "A Tight Fitt: Strategies of Condensation in 'The Lay of Beowulf.'" 51st International Medieval Congress, May 2016

Articles

1. "The Burrahobbit: Semantic Displacement in J.R.R. Tolkien." In Deborah Bice, ed. *Elsewhere: Selected Essays from the "20th Century Fantasy Literature: from Beatrix to Harry" Literary Conference*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2003, 17-28.
2. "Oaths and Oath Breaking; Analogues of Old English *Comitatus* in Tolkien's Myth." In Jane Chance, ed. *Tolkien and the Invention of Myth* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2004), 249-26.
3. "Tolkien, *Dustsceawung*, and the Gnostic Tense: Is Timelessness Medieval or Victorian?" in Jane Chance and Alfred K. Siewers, eds. *Tolkien's Modern Middle Ages* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), 43-58.
4. "Art and Illustrations by Tolkien." In Michael D. C. Drout, ed. *The Tolkien Encyclopedia* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 27-32.
5. "The Battle of Maldon." In Michael D. C. Drout, ed. *The Tolkien Encyclopedia* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 52-54.
6. "King Alfred." In Michael D. C. Drout, ed. *The Tolkien Encyclopedia* (London: Routledge, 2007), 320-321.
7. "Milton." In Michael D. C. Drout, ed. *The Tolkien Encyclopedia* (London: Routledge, 2007), 428-429.
8. "Mythopoeia." In Michael D. C. Drout, ed. *The Tolkien Encyclopedia* (London: Routledge, 2007), 450-451.
9. "Valedictory Address, Oxford." In Michael D. C. Drout, ed. *The Tolkien Encyclopedia* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 691.
10. "Most Intriguing Question Marks": Fantasy as History in *Lord of the Rings*." *Fides Quaerens Intellectum* 3, No. 2 (Spring 2007), 77-105.

11. Review of Stuart D. Lee and Elizabeth Solopova, *The Keys of Middle Earth*, in *Tolkien Studies* 3 (2007), 278-282.
12. “*The Lord of the Rings*.” In John K. Roth, ed. *Masterplots II: Christian Literature* (Pasadena: Salem Press, 2007), 1073-1077.
13. “Inside a Song: Tolkien and Phonaesthetics.” In Brad Eden, ed., *Middle-earth Minstrel: Essays on Music in Tolkien*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2010.
14. “‘Like Heathen Kings’: Religion as Palimpsest in Tolkien’s Fiction.” In Paul Kerry, ed, *The Ring and the Cross: Tolkien and Religion*. Teaneck, NJ: Fairleigh Dickenson University Press, 2011, 119-144.
15. “‘A Metre I Invented’: Tolkien’s Clues to Tempo in ‘Errantry’” in Julian Eilmann & Allan Turner, *Tolkien’s Poetry*. Zurich: Walking Tree Publishers, 2013, 29-44.
16. “Counseling the *Scippigræd*: How T.A. Shippey Taught Us to Read.” In John William Houghton, et. al., eds. *Tolkien in the New Century: Essays in Honor of Tom Shippey*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2014, 11-13.
17. “Keeping Counsel: Advice in Tolkien’s Fiction.” In John William Houghton, et. al., eds. *Tolkien in the New Century: Essays in Honor of Tom Shippey*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2014, 87-96.
18. “The Lord of the Rings.” In Stuart Lee, ed. *A Companion to J.R.R. Tolkien*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014, 133-145.
19. “The Other as Kolbitr: Tolkien’s Eowyn and Faramir as Æthelflæd and Alfred.” In Christopher Vaccaro and Yvette Kisor, *Tolkien and Alterity: Essays in Honor of Jane Chance* [forthcoming]
20. “‘A Green Great Dragon’ and Tolkien’s ‘Native Language.’” In John Rateliff, ed. *Essays in Honor of Verlyn Flieger* [forthcoming]
21. “*Nis me ti hearpun hygi*: Harping as Lament in Tolkien’s Imagination” In Friedhelm Schneidewind and Julian Eilmann, *Music and Middle-earth*. Zurich: Walking Tree Publishers, 2018

Creative

I have co-authored with my wife a musical *Wooden Heart Follies*, using comic lyrics to the melodies of Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker Suite* to bring to life ten of the life-sized nutcrackers in Steubenville’s Nutcracker Village and Advent Market. The musical premiered in November of 2016, ran for four weeks in conjunction with the Nutcracker Village, and will be repeated in Advent of 2017.

Other

A founding editor of the online peer-reviewed *Journal of Tolkien Research*, I continue on the editorial board, regularly reading and offering extensive written commentary on submissions, averaging about six per semester.