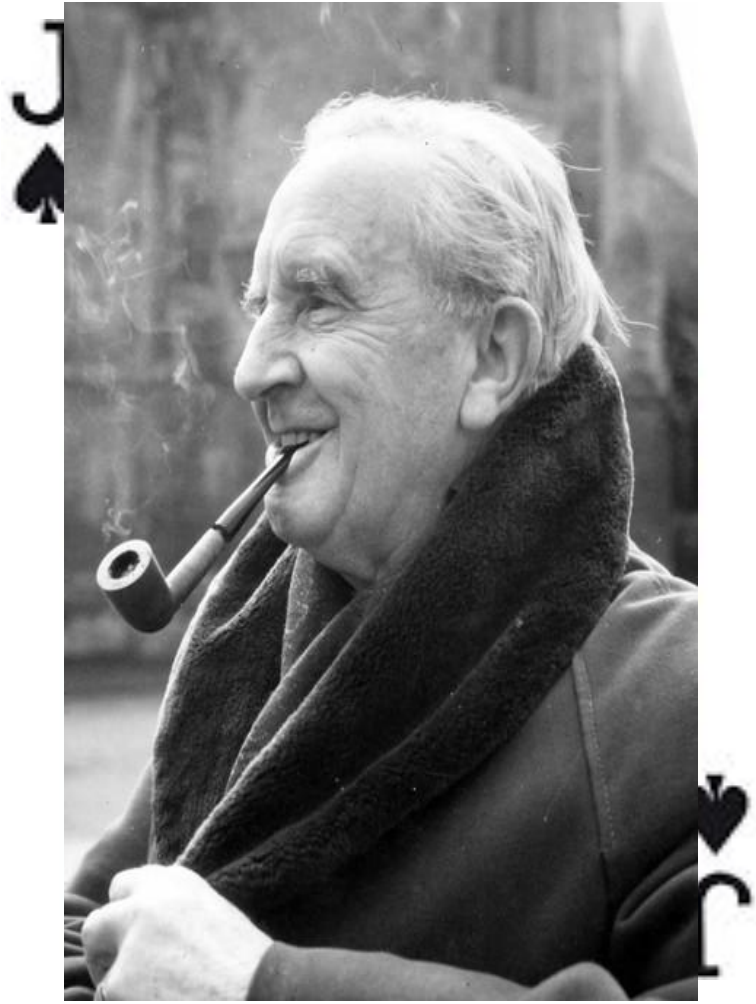


# Local celebrities and their impact



- 3 January 1892 – 2 September 1973), known by his pen name **J. R. R. Tolkien**, was an English writer, poet, philologist, and university professor who is best known as the author of the classic high-fantasy works *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The Silmarillion*.



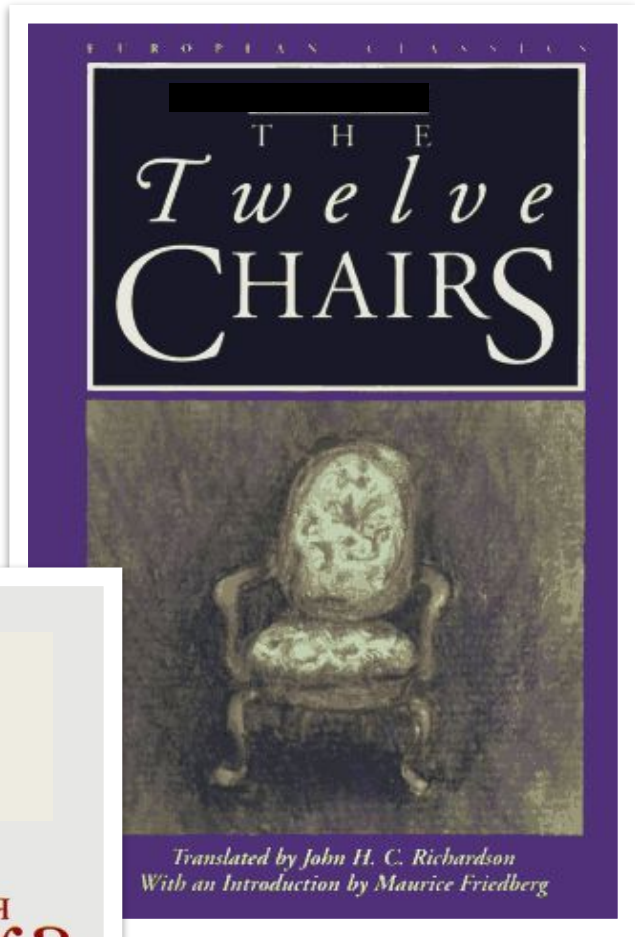
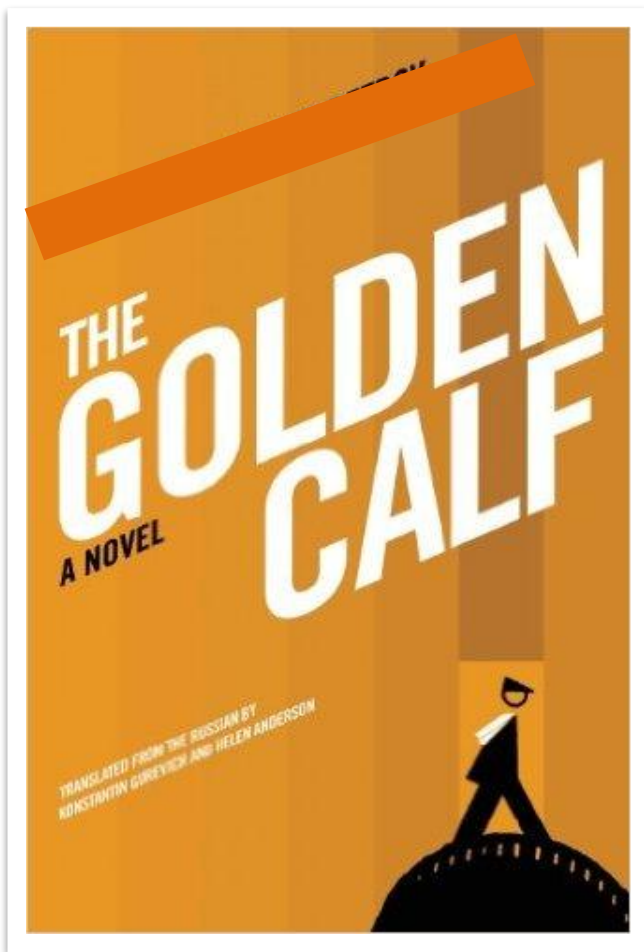
- He served as the Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon and Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford, from 1925 to 1945 and Merton Professor of English Language and Literature and Fellow of Merton College, Oxford from 1945 to 1959.
- He was at one time a close friend of C. S. Lewis—they were both members of the informal literary discussion group known as the Inklings. Tolkien was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II on 28 March 1972.

- After Tolkien's death, his son Christopher published a series of works based on his father's extensive notes and unpublished manuscripts, including *The Silmarillion*. These, together with *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* form a connected body of tales, poems, fictional histories, invented languages, and literary essays about a fantasy world called Arda, and Middle-earth within it. Between 1951 and 1955, Tolkien applied the term *legendarium* to the larger part of these writings.



- While many other authors had published works of fantasy before Tolkien, the great success of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* led directly to a popular resurgence of the genre. This has caused Tolkien to be popularly identified as the "father" of modern fantasy literature—or, more precisely, of high fantasy.
- In 2008, *The Times* ranked him sixth on a list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945". *Forbes* ranked him the 5th top-earning "dead celebrity" in 2009.













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- Osbourne was born in Birmingham, England.
- His father, John Thomas "Jack" Osbourne worked night shifts as a toolmaker at GEC.
- His mother, Lillian, was non-religious, and she worked days at a factory.
- Osbourne has three older sisters named Jean, Iris, and Gillian, and two younger brothers named Paul and Tony.
- The family lived in a small two-bedroom home at 14 Lodge Road in Aston.
- Osbourne has had the nickname "Ozzy" since primary school





- In late 1967, Gezeer Buler formed his first band, Rare Breed, and soon recruited Osbourne to serve as vocalist.
- The band played two shows, then broke up.
- Osbourne and Butler reunited in Polka Tulk Blues, along with guitarist Tony Iommi and drummer Bill Ward, whose band Mythology had recently broken up.



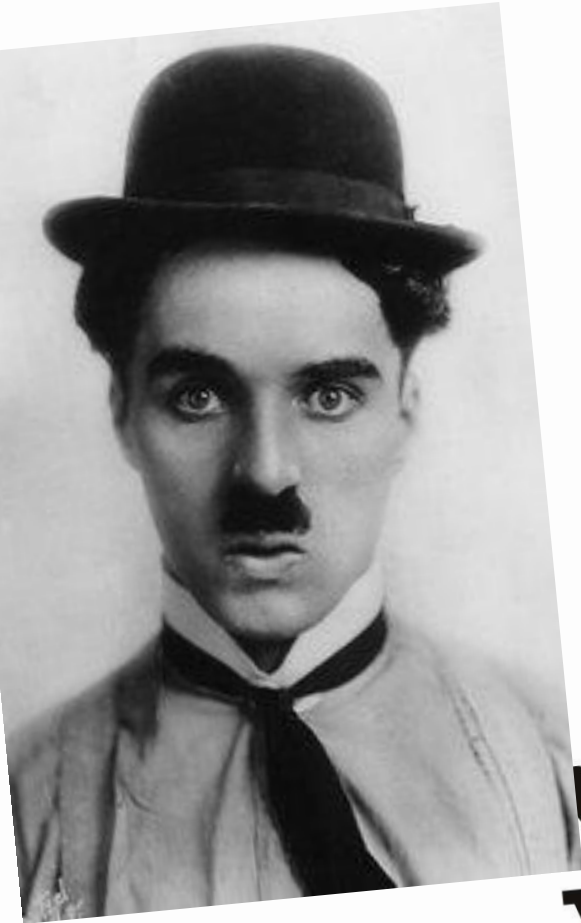
- Osbourne's biggest financial success of the 1990s was a venture named Ozzfest, created and managed by his wife/manager Sharon and assisted by his son Jack.
- The first Ozzfest was held in Arizona on 25 October 1996 and in California on 26 October.
- Ozzfest was an instant hit with metal fans, helping many up-and-coming groups who were featured there to broad exposure and commercial success.
- Some acts shared the bill with a reformed Black Sabbath during the 1997 Ozzfest tour, beginning in Florida. Osbourne reunited with the original members of Sabbath in 1997 and has performed periodically with them ever since.







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