

## About Mark Faith

Mark started in the rare book dealing business as Mark Faith Books (MFB) in January 2003, mostly as a hobby. As time went on MFB became more and more specialized and began primarily dealing in Tolkien books and memorabilia. Despite this Mark very quickly began dealing in millions of pounds worth of rare items. He was dealing with the most valuable and rarest pieces from the beginning, items including a signed *Hobbit* book which sold for £54,000 and a rare *Lord of the Rings* set which went for £75,000. This baptism of fire has made him one of the leading Tolkien dealers today. Mark is now trading under the name of Festival Art and Books.



He has helped a number of collectors to become more comprehensive in their knowledge of Tolkien and has recently supplied some of the rarest and most important items to a private Tolkien museum opening in Switzerland this autumn. One avid collector who is a big fan of Mark's business and describes his dealing with him in the following way, "*Mark introduced me to the works of Tolkien a few years ago and he is now coaching me on all things Tolkien and is helping me build up a pragmatic collection. His knowledge and contacts are incredible, they are to die for and I have no hesitation in recommending Mark's work.*"



Festival Art and Books: [www.festivalartandbooks.com](http://www.festivalartandbooks.com)

## About Festival in the Shire

Mark used his expertise and extensive contact list to hold one of the biggest Tolkien events in 2010 – Festival in the Shire. Held over three days, there was a comprehensive list of Tolkien experts giving lectures. Art show, stalls, entertainment and fan expo.

Festival in the Shire [www.festivalintheshire.com](http://www.festivalintheshire.com):  
August 2010 Festival, Fan Expo and Conference over three days  
([www.festivalintheshire.com/schedules.html](http://www.festivalintheshire.com/schedules.html))



We also produce 2-3 smaller, local fan events in the UK and Europe.

### Other Events:

August 2011 Machynlleth, Wales. Art exhibition, rare books and artists

September 2012 Leiden, Holland. 75th Anniversary of the *Hobbit*. Art exhibition, rare books and Tolkien merchandise and a program of talks

September 2013 Artist Gallery, Holburn Street, Aberdeen. Art exhibition, rare books and Tolkien merchandise and introduction of the "Rodney Matthew Experience" series of talks

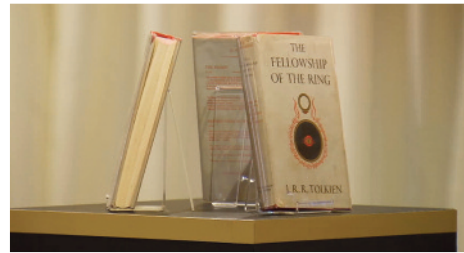
November 2013 Return visit to Aberdeen with a number of visits by the Rodney Matthews Experience to schools in the surrounding area.

### Festival Art and Books

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## Mark Faith promoting Tolkien collecting on TV

Mark Faith, founder of Festival Art and Books and Festival in the Shire, as you might of gathered by now, is a prolific collector of rare Tolkien first edition books and posters, he is also a expert on collecting Tolkien merchandise and has recently showcased his knowledge of the subject on a number of television programs including Channel 4's hugely popular television show Four Rooms which offers sellers of valuable and collectable items a chance to pitch their items to four of the UK's biggest dealers. Up to 30 dealers are rotated throughout the series to give the viewers variety. They range from the art collector and academic Ruth Meakin to the interior designer and A list dealer Celia Sawyer. Mark did not accept any offers for his Lord of the Rings first editions when he appeared on the show but recently sold the set for £15,000.



He then made two appearances on the new UK version of the Pawn Stars show being aired on the History Channel, the US version has been running since 2009 and is the second most viewed show in North America with over 5 million viewers. Pawn Stars is a reality TV show is based in a pawn shop and depicts the bargaining over the items customers bring in as well as discussing their historical background. The Show has received great critical acclaim, DVD Town praised the show for its cast and the educational value of the items displayed calling it “addictive” and a “Big time winner”. In 2010 Rick Harrison was named pawnbroker of the year due to the fact that Pawn Stars raised awareness and bettered the reputation of the industry. Pawn Stars is also very popular among the viewing public, which is why the show has been aired in over 20 countries including Belgium and Turkey.

Rodney Matthews and Mark Faith appeared on the show on September 9th and Mark appeared again on September 23rd to showcase his rare complete set of the first ten Hobbit impressions alongside Charlie Chaplin's original tramp suit and the first Manchester United football programme after the Munich air crash:

“...the boys meet a seller looking to part with ten first editions of the JRR Tolkein classic, The Hobbit. The seller's asking big money for his books, but does the price ring true for this precious literary classic?”



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