Art Companion
to

‘To Recall Forgotten Gods from their Twilight’: J. R. R. Tolkien’s ‘The Name Nodens’

by John D. Rateliff
Figure 1: The Vyne Ring (AKA The Ring of Silvianus).
SENICIANE VIVAS IIN DE [sic for 'IN DEO']: “Senicianus lives in God”
Figure 2: The Curse Tablet

DEVO
NODENTI SILVILANVS
ANILVM PERDEMIT
DEMEDIAM PARTEM

DONAVIT NODENTI
INTER QVIBVS NOMEN
SEICIANI NOLLIS
PETMITTAS SANITA-
TEM DONEC PEREERA
VSQVE TEMPLVM NO-
DENTIS

To the god Nodens. Silvianus has lost a ring. He has given the half part to Nodens. Allow health to none amongst [those] who bear the name of Senicianus until he brings [it] even to the temple of Nodens.

Figure 3: The Second Tablet

D M NODONTI FLAVIVS BLANDINVS ARMATVRA V S L M

To the great god Nodons, Flavius Blandinus the drill-instructor, willingly and deservedly fulfills his vow.
Figure 4: The Third Tablet

PECTILLVS
VOTVM QVOD
PROMISSIT
DEO NVDENTE
M DEDIT

Pectillus dedicates this votive offering which he had promised to the great god Nudens.
Figure 5: The Lost Mosaic

D . . . TILVIVS    SENILIS PR REL EX STIPIBVS POSSVII
O . . . . ANTE   VICTORINO  INTER . . I . . E

King’s Reconstruction:

Deo **Maximo** Iterum FLAVIVS SENILIS PRaeses RELigionis EX STIPIBVS POSSVIT
OpituLANTE VICTORINO INTERpret LA TINE

King’s Translation:

*To the greatest God, for the second time, Flavius Senilis, Head of the Religion, has erected this, from voluntary contributions, the Director of the works being Victorinus, interpreter for the Latin tongue.* (Bathurst/King 25)

Collingwood’s Reconstruction:

Deo **Nodenti** Titus FLAVIUS SENILIS, PRaepositus RELiquationi, EX STIPIBVS POSSUIT;
Opus curANTE VICTORINO INTERpretE

Collingwood’s Translation:

*To the god Nodens, Titus Flavius Senilis, officer in charge of the supply-depot of the fleet, laid this pavement out of money offerings; the work being in charge of Victorinus, interpreter on the Governor’s staff.*
Figure 6: Prospect (as imagined by R. E. M. Wheeler)

Figure 7: The Temple Complex (as presented by Bathurst)
Figure 8: The Temple Plan (as excavated by the Wheelers)

Figure 9: Nodens
Figure 10: The Great God Nodens
Machen’s Inscription:

DEVOMNODENTi
FLAvIVSSENIILISPOSSVit
POSSVIT
PROPTERNVPtias
quasVIDITSVBVMBra

Machen, divided into words:

DEVO M NODENTi
FLAvIVS SENILIS POSSVit
— —
quas VIDIT SVB VM Bra

actual Lydney Park inscriptions:

DEVO NODENTI
FLAVIVS SENILIS . . . POSSVIT
— —

To the great god Nodens (the god of the Great Abyss) Flavius Senilis has erected this pillar on account of the marriage which he saw beneath the shade.
Figure 13: Faun, satyr, or The Great God Pan?