

Hi everyone.

In the last journal, I talked about the timeline for these books (when-ish I expect to complete them). In this entry, I want to talk a little about their history.

I started this project in 2007. But that doesn't really mean anything. Duration of involvement isn't a very precise surrogate for work invested. Consider distance. How far is it from Hartford to Boston? "Hour and a half, maybe two hours." That answer only works if you're in a car and you don't stop and the traffic is sparse. It's nonsense to a vagabond with a shopping cart.

A similar phenomenon applies to musical instruments. When people tell me how long they've been playing guitar – "I've played for 25 years!" – that tends to be a pretty poor indicator of achievement. Many of these multi-decade maestros don't even know a scale, so after 25 years of dabbling, they're still beginners.

With that in mind, "I started this project in 2007" isn't consistent with the reading on its odometer. After the first five years, I had put about a mile and a half on the shopping cart. Every few months, I'd write a paragraph or draw a picture. A few keystrokes here, some scribbles there, until I eventually amassed a small collection of chapters. Maybe 20. And all were terrible but one. There was a single mediocre (neither embarrassing nor exceptional) rough draft. I posted it online, then parked my cart for several years. I didn't do anything to it – I didn't even look at it – until early 2019, when I decided to finish what I had started.

I got to work tidying the old chapters, nurturing their sentences as though I were rearing children. By May, I had produced my first six infants (if you count the barely-edited version of the "Lily Maid" draft I had previously posted). On August 18 that year, I put them all online. Here they are:

[Epistle of Mundus](#)

[Twenty-One Tales from Charwarg](#)

[Letter from Lir to Firth](#)

[Essay on the Rivervalan Origin Myth](#)

[Diary of a Lily Maid](#)

[The Three Sailors](#)

Their grit ranges from 200 to 300 (a reference to the previous journal entry), meaning the writing is still coarse at times. And the names of most characters and many locations were just placeholders. "I'll fix this later" was mumbled a lot as I wrote. But the roughest part of these drafts is that their narratives fit the original outline, which has since undergone a lot of change. After posting this batch of chapters (all from Book Two), I put further tidying aside to replot the entire five-book story arc. In doing so, I modified the bread pan (outline) so much that these six loaves can't fit back into it. But baking them was a necessary chore. It allowed me to identify the dents in the pan.

