

# Inklings Forever: Published Colloquium Proceedings 1997-2016

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## Forward

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## Foreword

by Joe Ricke,

Director of the Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis and Friends

Preparing for the 10th Biennial C. S. Lewis and Friends Colloquium at Taylor University, we couldn't help but think of the year 1997 when, under the leadership of Dr. David L. Neuhouser, and with the help of a generous anonymous donor, the outstanding book collection of Dr. Edwin W. Brown came to be housed at Taylor. Later that summer, Dr. Neuhouser was out beating the bushes, promoting both the collection and the first-ever colloquium to be held in November of that year. A substantial part of that story is told in our new book, *Exploring the Eternal Goodness: Selected Writings of David L. Neuhouser*, especially in the introduction, in the long interview with David, and in the many tributes included in the book.

This book, too, tells an important part of that story. For this volume, containing a good number of the eighty-plus essays and creative pieces presented at the 2016 Frances Ewbank Colloquium, suggests that the vision of Neuhouser and Brown is not only ongoing but, if anything, growing. Here, in the middle of the cornfields of Indiana, a fellowship and a friendship began that continues to make a difference in this university, in the long-time friends of the Lewis Center and the Brown Collection, and, perhaps more than ever, in the community of Inklings scholars and fans around the world. This year's colloquium welcomed back many long-time friends, including several who had participated in every one of the previous nine as well. At the same time, a large number of new friends attended, participated, and experienced the special, even unique blend of scholarship and fellowship that the title Lewis and Friends has always designated.

This year's colloquium honored not only the friendship of Neuhouser and Brown, both of whom had died in 2015, but it remembered the 90th anniversary of the first meeting of those two quite different Oxford dons, C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien, whose friendship did much to re-shape the literary landscape of twentieth-century imaginative writing. All four were remembered in a number of ways, including papers, special sessions using the Brown Collection resources, art displays, and a video honoring Neuhouser and Brown at the final banquet. More than these, the keynote speakers for the colloquium were chosen partly because of the focus in their own

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writings on the friendship, fellowship, and collaboration of the Inklings. Diana Glycer's *Bandersnatch* and Colin Duriez's *The Oxford Inklings*, both new in 2016, are key texts in what might be seen as a new and important emphasis in Inklings Studies (and in studies of creativity more generally). In our planning, we wanted to push that even further, announcing that, by our colloquium theme of "friendship," we hoped to inspire participants to extend the so-called "Lewis circle," tracing connections and shedding new light on friendships and influences which had been under-appreciated heretofore.

As a result, we saw an increase in papers on Dorothy Sayers, Charles Williams, and Owen Barfield, as well as a good many papers on the influence of George MacDonald. And not just papers about Sayers and papers about Williams, but papers about the relationship of Sayers and Williams or Sayers and Lewis or Sayers and Chesterton. We also had new papers about Lewis and astronomer Fred Hoyle, about Lewis and Richard Wagner, about Albert Lewis's influence on his two sons, about Lewis Carroll and MacDonald, about Lewis and Sister Penelope Lawson, about Lewis and Henry More (the 17th Century Cambridge Platonist), and about human/animal friendship. And much more.

As always the Lewis and Friends Colloquium and its proceedings feature a great variety of treasures from a wide range of perspectives. We were pleased to welcome senior scholars, Charles Huttar and Joe Christopher, whose volumes on Lewis and the Inklings have shed light on these authors for over forty years. A number of participants had recently published a book on some aspect of Inklings, so much so that we filled an entire room for one of our more open-ended sessions, listening as authors gave 3-5 minute summaries of their most recent work. That wonderful experience of meeting a member of your bibliography for the first time in person occurred more than once that afternoon. And, as usual, we had the newcomers, the first-timers, and the student presenters involved. Once again, as well, we conscripted participants to be part of our traditional readers theater performance: this year a special version of George MacDonald's *The Light Princess*. Of many wonderful performances, Sorina Higgins' wicked turn as the fairy godmother/witch haunts us long after the laughter has died down. One of our keynote presenters, Colin Duriez, included his paper in this volume, and our entire keynote panel on the future of Inklings studies was transcribed and included as well.

There were also numerous creative works presented, including

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paintings, an animated film in progress, original poetry, original fiction, readings of Inkling poetry, and the dramatic presentation of *The Light Princess*. Not to mention one late-night singalong that did not make it into the book. Suffice to say, the beautiful unrehearsed harmonizing on “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” and “Country Roads” fit the conference theme as well.

Those who have been collecting the *Inklings Forever* volumes since their first publication in 1997 will notice a few changes. First, and most obvious, is the shape. For the first time, the book is a standard octavo book rather than the previous folio double-columned volumes. Thanks to Bob Trexler of Winged Lion Press, we hope to make this yet another quality text under the Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis and Friends sponsorship. Another difference, also obvious, is heft. This year’s colloquium had far more presentations than any of the previous nine. Even though many of the works presented at the colloquium were not submitted for the publication, we are still confident that this volume represents both the biggest and the best, a fitting tribute especially to David Neuhouser who originally envisioned both the colloquium and the publication of its proceedings.

Finally, a special word of thanks to two people without whom this volume would never have appeared. First, Lisa Ritchie, the program coordinator for the Lewis Center and, therefore, the primary organizer of the colloquium, somehow kept the entire program from spinning out of control. She received the original proposals for the papers, sorted them, put together the schedule, and made sure of all the important details (like registration, housing, meals, conference rooms, etc.). She, more than anyone, made sure the colloquium exceeded all our expectations. To make this more personal, she got people here and took really really good care of them. I know this is so, because I have personally read the post-colloquium feedback.

The other person to thank is, of course, the co-editor of this volume, Rick Hill, Professor of English at Point Loma Nazarene University. Rick was a long-time faculty member at Taylor University. As such, he worked with David Neuhouser not only to make Lewis and Friends an important part of our university life but, more specifically, to make the Lewis and Friends Colloquium the significant event it has become. Since leaving Taylor, he has continued his relationship with the colloquium, going so far this year as to volunteer to help edit the proceedings. He might have changed his mind if he had known when he volunteered, while we were still in the planning stages of the colloquium, that we would have a record number of participants

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and presentations. Be that as it may, he received the submissions, put them into a format, worked with authors on necessary revisions, and got an entire draft turned around in a timely manner. His friendship, expressed in collaborative work, is another example of the colloquium theme which really came to life for us in 2016.

I also want to thank two people who helped with some further copy-editing and formatting. They are recent Taylor University English Creative Writing graduate, Alex Moore and senior English Education major, Rebekah Swank.

Just a brief note about the text. The authors have used various style guides for their essays (mostly MLA or Chicago Manual of Style). We have done our best to make sure that each essay's style and documentation are logical and consistent, although we have made no attempt to normalize the entire volume. Thus, for example, some essays have footnotes and others have parenthetical references.