

Inklings Forever: Published Colloquium Proceedings 1997-2016

Volume 10 *A Collection of Essays Presented at the Tenth Frances White Ewbank Colloquium on C.S. Lewis & Friends*

Article 105

6-5-2016

Afterword: About the Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis and Friends at Taylor University

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Recommended Citation

Ritche, Lisa (2016) "Afterword: About the Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis and Friends at Taylor University," *Inklings Forever: Published Colloquium Proceedings 1997-2016*: Vol. 10 , Article 105. Available at: https://pillars.taylor.edu/inklings_forever/vol10/iss1/105

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Afterword: About the Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis and Friends at Taylor University

The Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis and Friends is housed in the Zondervan Library of Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. With a mission to promote the integration of faith, scholarship, and the imagination, the center serves the Taylor University campus, the local community, as well as a worldwide academic and lay audience. We offer several programs to reach these various groups. For our students, we hold classes on the works of C. S. Lewis and several related authors—primarily, but not exclusively, George MacDonald, Dorothy L. Sayers, Charles Williams, and Owen Barfield. For our local community, we offer invitations to learn from visiting Lewis & Inklings scholars, as well as other events both educational and inspirational. For both of these audiences, as well as our more distant friends, we organize the biennial Frances White Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis and Friends, which gathers scholars and readers from across the United States and around the world. Over the years we have hosted hundreds of scholars and *aficionados* alike for this most friendly of conferences

For all of these groups, we maintain a fine rare book and manuscript collection, named after its original collector, the late Dr. Edwin W. Brown of Indianapolis, Indiana. The Edwin W. Brown Collection includes first English and American editions of books authored, edited, or with prefaces by C. S. Lewis, published essays and lectures of Lewis, over a hundred Lewis letters, and two very special Lewis manuscripts (“Light”—a previously unpublished short story and “*Clivi Hamiltonis Summae Metaphysics Contra Anthroposophos Libri II*”—a notebook containing the majority of what has come to be called “The Great War,” a philosophical debate between C. S. Lewis and his great friend, Owen Barfield).¹ The collection also contains significant books about C. S. Lewis, as well as first and reprint editions of Lewis’s brother and his friends, Charles Williams, Dorothy L. Sayers, and Owen Barfield. Since its relocation to Taylor University in 1997, the collection has more than tripled in size.

1 Both of these manuscripts have been recently published: Charlie W. Starr, ed., “Light”: *C. S. Lewis’s First and Final Short Story* (Hamden, CT: Winged Lion Press, 2012); Norbert Feindendegen and Arend Smilde, ed., *The “Great War” of Owen Barfield and C. S. Lewis: Philosophical Writings, 1927–1930* (Oxford: *Inklings Studies* Supplements, no. 1, 2015).

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After C. S. Lewis, however, the author most prominently featured in the collection is the Scottish writer George MacDonald. The George MacDonald portion of the collection contains more than five hundred volumes, including first edition books, biographies, critical works, and books with inscriptions and/or annotations by MacDonald. Among these, visitors to the collection will find one hundred early or first editions of MacDonald's work, a forty-six volume set of his complete works in a very fine series of reprints, fifty bound copies of nineteenth-century periodicals containing the first state versions of many of MacDonald's works, including serialized novels, poems, and essays. The periodicals also contain early versions of works by other significant Victorian writers. The MacDonald holdings also include twenty books by MacDonald's wife, sons, and grandson, forty-two PhD dissertations, several Master's theses, and a wide variety of manuscripts, letters, and articles on microfilm.

Some of the many highlights of the collection include the following:

- MacDonald's personal copy of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, which contains MacDonald's extensive handwritten notes for lectures that he gave on the same, and comprising a sort of rough draft for his book on *Hamlet*.
- Two George MacDonald novels with handwritten notes by C. S. Lewis, one from Lewis's personal library and one from the library of his friend Arthur Greeves;
- Eight books from MacDonald's personal library, five of which include notes in MacDonald's hand;
- Joy Davidman's copy of *Mere Christianity*;
- *Prince Caspian* inscribed by Lewis to its seven-year old owner;
- Mary Neylan's copy of *George MacDonald: An Anthology*, inscribed by Lewis, who dedicated the book to her;
- The Lewis letters to Jill Flewett-Freud, who, as a school girl, live with the Lewis household at the Kilns during World War II.
- Signed copies of books by Barfield, Dorothy Sayers, and Charles Williams

Proceedings from the Francis White Ewbank Colloquium

Individuals or groups interested in visiting the collection are welcome during the academic year, when we hold regular hours; special arrangements can also be made for other times. We are always eager to share our collection with new friends.

To facilitate our outreach work, the center has recently added the Lewis Room to complement the Brown Collection. The hundreds of books, journals, DVDs, and other materials in this room feature recent publications as well as reader's copies of books written by the authors and a comprehensive collection of Inklings scholarship. It is our goal to collect and provide ongoing support to new scholarship in the field of Inklings Studies. On-campus students find this a pleasant study room, and the occasional game of Narnia Monopoly brings out the Eustace Scrubb in visitors of all ages. Small seminar classes on the Inklings meet here regularly. Best of all, the books in the Lewis Room are available for circulation, both locally and through inter-library loan, thus enriching the research opportunities for students, faculty and scholars alike.

In a nearby lounge, a "Lewis Tea" is held most Friday afternoons during the school year, featuring tea, biscuits (and sometimes Turkish Delight), and a presentation or reading in the spirit of the Inklings.

*Lisa Ritchie, Program Coordinator for the Lewis Center revised, expanded, and updated this from an earlier document by Thom Satterlee, former Director of the Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis and Friends.