

THE MARION E. WADE CENTER

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

Mission Statement

The Marion E. Wade Center of Wheaton College, Illinois, houses a major research collection of writings by and about seven British authors: Owen Barfield, G.K. Chesterton, C.S. Lewis, George MacDonald, Dorothy L. Sayers, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams. These writers are well known for their influence on contemporary literature and Christian thought, and were a part of the Wade collection from its inception in 1965. The Center's primary purpose is to collect, preserve, and make available to the public all writings, and a broad sampling of other media, by or about these authors.

Use of the Collection: As a special collection/archives, the Wade Center has guidelines for use and handling of materials. All materials are non-circulating. Archival staff will direct users on proper handling of rare and fragile items. Certain materials stored outside the Wade Center Reading Room require staff to retrieve them, so pre-notification is encouraged for requests to use these resources. Restrictions may apply to materials due to their physical condition, copyright, or donor agreements. The Wade Center reserves the right to determine and administer appropriate access to and usage of its holdings.

Administrative Connection to Wheaton College: The Wade Center is a department of Wheaton College, connected to the college administration through the campus library system. However, Wade Center funding comes from a separate, private endowment as well as revenues such as donations and service fees.

Programs Supported

Research: Materials are acquired and made available to serve the research and teaching needs of the Wheaton College community and the public.

Educational Resources: To encourage scholarship, dialogue, and education on the seven authors, the Wade Center offers in-house reading groups and programs, museum displays and exhibitions, conferences, tours, research grants, and printed learning resources available in-house and on our website. In addition, Wade Center staff members speak at off-site locations upon request.

Preservation and Security of Collections: The Wade Center is committed to the preservation of its holdings through maintenance of facility environmental controls, storage procedures, handling guidelines, and institutional security measures and equipment.

Acquisition and Collection Areas

The Wade Center acquires materials through purchase and donation. Acquisition decisions are made by balancing research and program goals as outlined above, seeking to accurately represent the authors' lives and work, as well as their ensuing influence in scholarship and contemporary culture. All materials relating to the seven Wade authors will be considered for acquisition according to the criteria described by this collection development policy. Items relating to the history of the Wade Center will also be considered.

Collected formats relating to the Wade authors include: books, articles, artwork, audio-visual materials, calendars, computer files, dissertations, letters, manuscripts, memorabilia, merchandise, periodicals, photographs, and posters. The top acquisition priorities are materials owned or produced by the seven authors themselves, followed by rare editions of published materials, such as books and periodicals.

Resource Sharing and Retention Policies

Loaning of Materials: The Wade Center museum exhibits original manuscripts and letters, rare books, and other unique items which require a secure display environment. The Wade Center welcomes opportunities to exhibit materials on loan from other repositories relating to the seven authors which would enhance our displays. The Wade Center is open to discussing the loan of unique materials from its collection to other institutions as well.

Deaccession Policies: Collections or items in the Wade Center holdings which are deemed to no longer contribute to the purpose of the Wade Center, or which do not adhere to the specifications of this collection development policy, will be evaluated for removal. All deaccessioning decisions are subject to original donor agreements or restrictions.