



Friends of the Wade

The Marion E. Wade Center

Wheaton College

Doorway to the Collection: The Wade Museum

As Friends of the Wade well know, the Wade Center's collection of books, letters, manuscripts, and artifacts is valued world-wide for its variety, magnitude, and uniqueness. While only ten percent of our guests use the Kilby Reading Room to research these materials, virtually all of our ten thousand annual visitors spend time in the museum, where memorabilia exhibits and wall displays allow them to enjoy highlights from our collection.

The memorabilia exhibits showcase particular items preserved in the Wade Collection, including personal effects of our authors (like Dorothy L. Sayers's stylish eyeglasses), illustrative artwork (such as Pauline Baynes's original painting for a paperback cover of *The Hobbit*), and unique books (for example, C.S. Lewis's personal copy of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*). Archivist Laura Schmidt, when choosing what to exhibit and for how long, considers environment and security issues as well as an item's appeal to the public. Certain furniture pieces including the desk where J.R.R. Tolkien wrote *The Hobbit*, and of course, the Lewis family wardrobe, are mainstays of the collection so are left on permanent display.

Our wall displays bring together a variety of materials chosen to introduce visitors to specific topics. Though these displays draw heavily on our collection for inspiration, they incorporate facsimiles rather than originals of archival material. Often the whole staff partic-

ipates in brainstorming display themes, which might be based on particular archival holdings, on the content of the authors' writings or lives, or on topics suggested by popular interest (for example, the recent movie versions of *The Lord of the Rings* prompted a display comparing various artists' illustrations for Tolkien's epic tales).

A few of the wall displays are essentially permanent, such as the display that shows the influence of Lewis's childhood stories about "Boxen-land" on his later Narnia

stories. Other wall displays are replaced after a few seasons. Just last autumn, the display describing George MacDonald's life, faith, and imagination was installed on the north wall of the museum. Staff member Shawn Mrakovich

arranged quotes from MacDonald's writings among pictures of the Scottish landscape and of MacDonald and his family, as well as reproductions of the elegant covers and illustrations from his fantasy books.

Recently we have begun investigating two new exhibit options for the museum area: an interactive audio/visual kiosk, and specially designed display cases for rare and fragile items. By making portions of our materials immediately visible to guests using different types of museum displays, we hope to enrich their understanding of our authors' lives, writings, and historical contexts, as well as to pique their interest in investigating our collections more closely. **W**



*"All we have
to decide is
what to do
with the time
that is given
to us."*

—J.R.R. Tolkien



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The population of the city proper is more than ten million, but if one counts the immediate surrounding area this number swells to a remarkable 25 million—more than half of the total population of the country. Even so, the city is clean, modern, welcoming, and efficient. The city is Seoul, South Korea. At the invitation of Dr. Jae-Hyun Kim, founder of the Korea Institute for Advanced Theological Studies, I spent February 10–17 in Seoul. During that week, I preached three times, gave two public lectures and two conference lectures on C.S. Lewis, and met with representatives of two publishing companies who, between them, have translated and published a majority of C.S. Lewis's works.

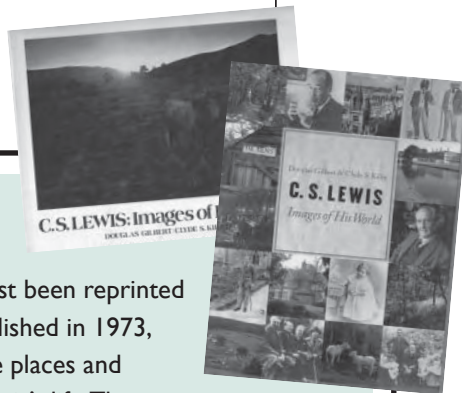
So why Lewis? I raised the question in every context in which I found myself. The answer was always the same: "Mr. Lewis is very popular on both an academic and popular level in Korea." "But why is he popular?" I would ask. Why, in other words, does he fit the Korean context so well? What I uncovered through my inquiry was that Lewis's appeal to natural law, his emphasis on a common ethical/moral ideal (e.g. *The Abolition of Man* and *Mere Christianity*), his affective concern for all living things, and what might be perceived as his reverential attitude toward the ordinary person resonate with those who have been raised in a culture shaped by the teachings of Confucianism.

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES,



Did You Know?

C.S. Lewis: Images of his World featuring text by Dr. Clyde S. Kilby and photographs by Douglas Gilbert has just been reprinted by Eerdmans Publishers. Originally published in 1973, this book offers a tour in images of the places and people who were important in C.S. Lewis's life. The new edition features a different cover—a mosaic of some of the included photographs—but retains Dr. Kilby's detailed yet accessible descriptions of Lewis's life and work. You can read and compare the two editions in our Reading Room, or purchase the new edition at our gift store. **W**



Martha's Table: An Update

Thank you very much to each of you who have contributed to the *Martha's Table* hospitality endowment. *Martha's Table* was created by friends of Clyde and Martha Kilby to honor Martha's contributions to the work of the Wade Center. Through her generous hospitality to incoming undergraduates and renowned scholars alike, and her unflagging support of Clyde's vision of a research library and archives, she left a legacy that the Wade Center is honored to uphold. The donors listed here and others who remained anonymous made it possible to reach our goal for the endowment of the *Martha's Table* fund. We gratefully acknowledge:

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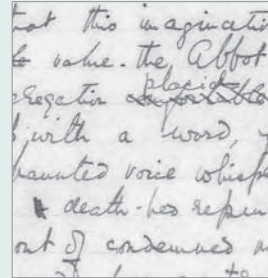
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Recent Acquisitions

The Wade Center has just acquired through Sotheby's auction house an unpublished manuscript by Dorothy L. Sayers. This 30-page short story is entitled "The Priest's Chamber" and dated 1920 (three years before the publication of Sayers's first Lord Peter Wimsey mystery). The manuscript will be useful to researchers as an example of Sayers's early writing and also of her only known use of the gothic horror genre.



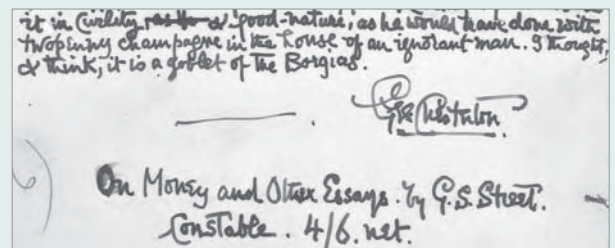
Detail from the 7th page of
"The Priest's Chamber"

Two other special acquisitions are a pair of G.K. Chesterton manuscripts that were offered to us by an antiquarian bookseller. These pieces are of particular interest to American researchers, since there are few Chesterton manuscripts on this side of the Atlantic.

One manuscript bears the title "Two Charades" and describes in humorous detail pantomimes for the words "idolatry" and "necromancer" performed by Chesterton's childhood friends in his family home. The vignette is 8 pages long, on 4 sheets of ruled notebook paper.

The other manuscript, entitled "The Disinfectant of the Decadence," is Chesterton's review of G.S. Street's book *On Money and Other Essays*. It is 5 and ¼ pages long; the title, corrections, and final page of text are in Chesterton's handwriting.

Many thanks to those Friends of the Wade whose designated gifts helped make these acquisitions possible! **W**



Detail from page 6 of "The Disinfectant of the Decadence"

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Highlights

The Wade Chair Inaugural Lecture On March 16, 2006, the Marion E. Wade Chair of Christian Thought was dedicated in a ceremony in Wheaton College's Blanchard Hall. More than sixty guests attended. Assistant Provost Ward Kriegbaum and Jill Baumgaertner, Dean of Humanities and Theological Studies, gave opening remarks. Dr. Chris Mitchell, as Wade Center Director and the first chair-holder, then gave the inaugural lecture entitled "C.S. Lewis: Faith and Learning in a Post-Christian Britain. A Preliminary Study." Carol Kraft of the Wade Center Steering Committee concluded the ceremony with a prayer of dedication. Guests lingered afterwards for a celebratory dessert reception, provided by the *Martha's Table* hospitality fund.

The Wade Chair of Christian Thought is an endowment enabling the Director to pursue research, writing, and speaking on the Center's seven authors. We are grateful for the support of an anonymous donor who has provided more than half of the funding for the Chair. **W**

The Wade and KIATS:

See the Director's Corner on page 2



Chris Mitchell, at the urging of his hosts, poses in the bright red and gold robes of the Emperor at Kyong Bok Palace in Seoul, Korea.