



# Friends of the Wade

The Marion E. Wade Center    Wheaton College

## Walter Hooper Receives Award

The Wade Center was pleased to present C.S. Lewis scholar Walter Hooper with the Clyde S. Kilby Lifetime Achievement Award on October 21, 2009 in the Kilby Reading Room, with the company of various colleagues, personal friends, and the Wade Center Steering Committee members. Walter

Hooper's nearly five decades of research (so far) have produced dozens of publications, including biographies, reference works, critical essays, edited volumes of Lewis's writings, and recently, the definitive edition of Lewis's collected letters. As in the cases of Barbara

Reynolds and Aidan Mackey, who received this award before him, Walter Hooper's work on a Wade author has been both exceptional in quality and has distinctly shaped and deepened his field of study, in this instance, Lewis scholarship.

Members of the Wheaton College community and other visitors enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about Hooper's life work at the lecture he gave the evening before the award ceremony. His descriptions of the arduous task of helping manage Lewis's estate and keep his writings before the public, even in the years before Lewis's popularity was assured, testified to Hooper's diligent advocacy and gave many in the audience a better sense of the magnitude of his contributions to Lewis studies.

Some who could not attend the award presentation sent letters instead, which were compiled and given to Mr. Hooper. Invariably, they referred not only to his professional capability, but also his personal qualities. In one of these, Robert Trexler of the New York C.S. Lewis Society wrote,



Wade Center Director Chris Mitchell, Walter Hooper, and Associate Director Marjorie Mead at the Kilby Lifetime Award reception.

"Walter Hooper has done more than any single person to preserve, promote and illuminate the writings of C.S. Lewis. . . . Less well-known to those who have not had the privilege of meeting Walter is that his gentle and generous spirit is equal

to his achievements." Another letter, written by David Downing, was read by Associate Director Marjorie Mead at the award presentation and appears in full in Volume 26 of *SEVEN*. Wheaton College Provost Stan Jones joined Wade Center Director Chris Mitchell in presenting a framed hand-illuminated certificate to Walter Hooper, along with a check for \$2500.

As part of this special event, new displays relating to Walter's life and editorial work on C.S. Lewis's letters were installed in the central museum display case (gift of Wheaton College's Class of '61). The display will be up through the end of this year. We hope that you can stop in at the Wade Center to enjoy it, as well as other new exhibits recently installed. **W**

*"If more of us  
valued food and  
cheer and song  
above hoarded  
gold, it would  
be a merrier  
world."*

—J.R.R. Tolkien



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Since the Wade Center's founding in 1965, it has gained a global reputation for its unparalleled research collection. Over time, however, budget limitations prevented us from keeping pace with the developments in library cataloguing. While libraries around the world have transitioned from card catalog drawers to online catalogs, the Wade Center's listings largely remain accessible by staff only. Visitors and researchers alike are unable to access most of our holdings online, a hindrance to public users. In today's educational and research environment, whatever is not available electronically increasingly goes unused.

Rectifying this situation has become a top priority for the Wade Center. This project could be completed in around three years at a total cost of \$150,000, funded with monies over and above our operating budget. This cost covers the purchase of necessary software, and the hiring of temporary professional staff to accomplish the library-standard cataloging of all of our materials. At this early stage, we would like to ask you, in your capacity as Friends of the Wade, for help in identifying possible funding sources. Your feedback, questions, and support are indispensable to us. Please contact me anytime.

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES,



## Did You Know?

The Wade Center will be hosting an evening reading group featuring the three books in C.S. Lewis's Ransom Trilogy: *Out of the Silent Planet*, *Perelandra*, and *That Hideous Strength*. David McNutt, an adjunct professor of theology at Wheaton College, will be facilitating the discussion. It will start on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 and be held subsequently on Monday nights through March 22. The Saturday morning reading group taught by Dr. Rolland Hein will begin again in January. Call or email the Wade Center for more information about either group. **W**



## Owen Barfield

### A Grandson's Insights

Of the seven Wade authors, Owen Barfield is one of the least well-known. Although most of Barfield's writings are intended for a scholarly audience and do not have the same popular appeal as J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy novels, Dorothy L. Sayers's essays



Owen Barfield (left) and Clyde S. Kilby in 1971

and detective novels, or C.S. Lewis's diverse opus, Barfield's work was influential on many thinkers (including his fellow Inklings) in his day, and maintains a small but devoted set of readers who continue to promote it through conferences, scholarship, republication, and online resources.

While the Wade Center has been helping make Owen Barfield's work more widely available through our holdings, our journal *SEVEN*, and museum displays, it was our particular pleasure to have the opportunity to introduce this important writer and thinker to a more general audience by hosting Owen A. Barfield, grandson of Owen Barfield. The younger Mr. Barfield lives in England with his family, and now works full-time promoting his grandfather's works as an executor of the estate. He is currently working to bring back into print many of his grandfather's

works, several of which are available for purchase in the Wade Center giftstore.

A philosopher and poet, Owen Barfield supported his family by practicing law in his father's firm for thirty years, meanwhile publishing well-received books and essays on scholarly topics. He and C.S. Lewis met when students at Oxford and though they disagreed on some topics, they established a firm friendship that was influential in Lewis's acceptance of Theism (a crucial step toward his eventual conversion to Christianity). Barfield also served as C.S. Lewis's personal lawyer. After leaving law practice, he began a second career of writing and lecturing, during which he produced many additional books on language, myth, perception, and human consciousness. He is the only one of the Wade authors to have visited Wheaton College, where he spoke four times at Dr. Clyde Kilby's invitation.

On October 6, 2009, Owen A. Barfield gave an evening lecture titled "Owen Barfield: a grandson's reminiscences, reflections and photos," in which he presented the life of his grandfather in pictures and personal stories. His talk was open to the public and around thirty people gathered to hear about Owen Barfield for the first time, or to glean additional details from the perspective of a family member to add to their knowledge of his professional life.

Mr. Barfield's visit to the Wade Center included not only the Tuesday lecture, but also the presentation of memorabilia belonging to his grandfather, on loan from the estate for display at the Wade Center. While



Wade Center Director Chris Mitchell examines the traveling case on loan from the Owen Barfield Estate.

some items, such as the author's boyhood chess set, were transported earlier, a gentleman's traveling case outfitted with ingenious grooming tools and conveniences needed to be hand-delivered by Mr. Barfield. The Wade Center is very pleased and honored to serve as the place where these items can be enjoyed by the public. We hope that like the rest of our collection, these tangible links to Owen Barfield's daily life will inspire viewers to learn more about his writings and influence. **W**

## Spotlight on *SEVEN*

### Volume 26

The editors of *SEVEN* believe that literary criticism should inspire a reader to return to the original text, better equipped to understand and enjoy it. While Volume 26 of *SEVEN* includes just four main articles, we are pleased at how well each of them illuminates essential primary texts of Wade authors, demonstrating an enjoyment and understanding of the works that is contagious.

In the opening article, Kirstin Jeffrey Johnson explores the influence of Dante's *Divine Comedy* on Charles Williams's *War in Heaven* and George MacDonald's *Lilith*. Her close comparison of these challenging texts helps unravel the theological truths these authors sought to convey about how humans should relate to one another and to God. Dale Sullivan brings a reading of C.S. Lewis's *Till We Have Faces* through the lens of classical rhetorical technique. Christine M. Fletcher provides an expansive examination of Dorothy L. Sayer's views on work and economics spanning decades, reinforcing her overview with unpublished material from the Wade Center archives. Amy E.K. Vail illuminates Lewis's views on language and morality by examining the Latin used by characters in *That Hideous Strength*.

We hope that Volume 26 motivates you, as it has us, to return to these key texts or to enjoy them for the first time. **W**



**The Marion E. Wade Center**

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## New at the Wade: A View of Oxford



Wade patrons now can enjoy a glimpse of Oxford life in the new wall display researched by Associate Director Marjorie Mead and designed and built by Office Assistant Shawn Mrakovich. Pete Mrakovich, Shawn's husband, volunteered his time to help Shawn with the final installation. We are thankful to them both for their creativity and hard work, and we hope you can visit soon to enjoy this elegant and interesting addition to the museum. **W**