



Friends of the Wade

The Marion E. Wade Center Wheaton College

Award Ceremony in England

The Wade Center's acquaintance with Aidan Mackey dates back to December 1977 when he offered us some G.K. Chesterton volumes in his capacity as a rare book dealer. Since that day, more than thirty years ago, we have been privileged to be the recipient, along with so many others, of both his generosity of spirit and his vast insightful and encyclopedic knowledge of the writings of GKC. Therefore, it was a delight for the Wade Center to be able to honor this long-time friend who has contributed in so many ways to our work. On September 27, 2008, Aidan Mackey received the second-ever Clyde S. Kilby Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the Marion E. Wade Center.

The purpose of the Kilby Lifetime Achievement Award is to recognize and honor those rare individuals whose work on one or more of the Wade Center authors is both exceptional in quality and has also made a lasting and irreplaceable contribution to Wade related scholarship. Friends of the Wade will remember that Dr. Barbara Reynolds received the first Kilby Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007 in recognition of her great and ongoing contributions to Sayers scholarship.

The award ceremony for Aidan Mackey took place at the Embankment Hotel in Bedford, England, where Aidan's

wife Dorene, five of his seven daughters, and other family and friends gathered to surprise the guest of honor with a celebration of his significant and wide-ranging contributions to Chesterton scholarship. Dr. Christopher Mitchell, Wade Center Director, presented Aidan with a check for



Marjorie Mead and Christopher Mitchell (standing) with Aidan and Dorene Mackey

\$2500 and a beautiful hand-illuminated certificate of achievement. Tributes from Chesterton scholars Dale Ahlquist, Joseph Pearce, and Adam Schwartz, as well as from Aidan's long-time colleague Kim Gilnett were read by Stratford Caldecott (current Director

of the Chesterton Study Centre) and by C.S. Lewis scholar Walter Hooper.

A program highlight for Aidan and Dorene was the reading of a letter from their daughter Rosemary who lives in Australia and was unable to attend the program. Rosemary wrote: "I want to thank you as a daughter, for being a living demonstration of the life of an enthusiast; for showing in all you do the satisfactions and joy of learning and for sharing that learning. ...This is the true education which you have passed on to all of us, what a wonderful legacy." The Wade Center joins Rosemary and many others in thanking Aidan for his scholarship, teaching, and promotion of the life and works of G.K. Chesterton. **W**

"...faith is not primarily a 'comfort,' but a truth.... Only when we know what we truly believe can we decide whether it is 'comforting'."

—Dorothy L. Sayers



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As we near the end of 2008, there is much for which we at the Wade Center are thankful in the areas of staff and program development. Beth Hammer joined the Wade staff in March to share front desk duties with Shawn. Beth is bright, personable, and brings a wealth of experience as a pastor's wife to the position. Both Heidi Truty (Head of Public Services) and archivist Laura Schmidt attended professional conferences this year, furthering their ability to serve the mission of the Wade.

Highlights in the area of program development include the unveiling of an exhibit of original artwork by celebrated British artist and illustrator Pauline Baynes, whose illustrations adorn the Chronicles of Narnia and various works of J.R.R. Tolkien. Alongside the exhibit, the Wade published a limited edition book of her illustrations of Psalm 8 that we entitled *How Excellent is Thy Name*. In the fall, Associate Director Marjorie Mead and I traveled to Bedford, England to present the second Clyde S. Kilby Lifetime Achievement Award to Aidan Mackey for his work on G.K. Chesterton. Also, the Wade hosted a conference marking the 100th anniversary of the publication of Chesterton's books *Orthodoxy* and *The Man Who Was Thursday*.

Without your support through volunteering, donations, prayer, referrals, and friendship, this work could not happen. On behalf of the whole Wade staff, thank you.

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES,



Did You Know?

On June 25th & 26th, 2009, the Oxford C.S. Lewis Society will present a new production of *Perelandra*, an opera by Donald Swann, written between 1960 and 1964 with the enthusiastic support of C.S. Lewis. *Perelandra* originally opened to admiring reviews in Oxford, Cambridge, London, and later New York, but the sale of the film rights shortly after Lewis's death placed a long-term embargo on its performance, now lapsed. The production will be accompanied by a two-day international colloquium on C.S. Lewis's *Perelandra*. The Call for Papers and other details are available at www.perelandraproject.org. **W**



Up Close

A Q&A with Jerry Root

Dr. Jerry Root has been studying C.S. Lewis for 38 years, and continuously teaching college and graduate courses about Lewis for 28 years. Jerry is Assistant Professor in the Christian Formation and Ministry Department at Wheaton College as well as in the Evangelism and Leadership Department of the Wheaton College graduate school, and is an adjunct professor at Biola University. He is also the Associate Director of the Institute for Strategic Evangelism where he provides leadership for Wheaton College's Evangelism Initiative. Of his longtime interest in C.S. Lewis, Jerry says "I have specialized in [Lewis's] life and work. But the study of Lewis will never leave a person in a Lewis rut. He takes the reader everywhere; he was a true Christian educator who saw the integration of faith in all he did. My own interests in Christian education and spiritual formation as well as evangelism and mentoring have been motivated by my Lewis studies." His recent book, *C.S. Lewis and a Problem of Evil: An Investigation of a Pervasive Theme*, brings aspects of these varied interests together.

You accepted a position on the Wade Steering Committee in 1989. How do you see your role as a member of this advisory board?

I've seen many research libraries before, but nothing like the Wade Center. The care given to the seven authors—Barfield, Chesterton, Lewis, MacDonald, Sayers, Tolkien, and Williams—is unparalleled. The collection and careful protection of the resources at the Wade, as well as the preparation of the material for access by researchers, has been honed to an art form. What I bring to the Steering Committee is encouragement for the great work done by those on staff at the Wade. Furthermore, I have been able to contribute resources to the collection. In my own study over the years I have come across many unique items particularly related to Lewis and, while I have a good library of Lewis resources at home, I have always felt that the unique and rare material should be at the Wade

Center available for researchers. It would be wonderful if everyone voluntarily contributed their particularly unique material to the Wade where it would be well cared for

and made available to benefit scholarship. I think I also contribute to the Wade Steering Committee by offering suggestions and advice relative to Lewis studies. And lastly, I think I lend some degree of continuity to the committee having been a friend to all of the curators as well as Marj Mead. It's been so much fun being a part of the Steering Committee, I can hardly believe it's been nearly 20 years!



Please summarize the main point of your new book *C.S. Lewis and a Problem of Evil*.

C.S. Lewis was concerned about an aspect of the problem of evil he called *subjectivism*: a kind of subjectivity that is no longer responsive to objective reality but rather engages in moral relativizing or self-justification of one's perspective and moves toward self-referentialism and utilitarianism. Lewis believed that subjectivism is the way most evil acts are rationalized. *C.S. Lewis and a Problem of Evil* provides a holistic reading of Lewis by walking the reader through all of Lewis's published work and argues Lewis's case against *subjectivism*. Furthermore, the book reveals that Lewis consistently uses both his fiction and non-fiction to make the point rhetorically. He concerns himself with literary critical approaches that tend toward subjectivism and he exposes them. In fact, over four decades Lewis consistently portrayed his evil characters as subjectivists. Lewis's warnings are prophetic; this book is not merely an exposition of C.S. Lewis, but also a timely investigation into the problem of evil.

For what audience is this book intended?

Though intended for an academic audience, the book is readable and accessible to the layperson, especially someone interested in knowing Lewis as a whole author. That is, someone who wants to understand him as the author of eleven literary genres, not merely an author of children's books, or Christian apologetics, or science fiction, but also the author of profound literary criticism, narrative poetry, and the like. Judgments are often made about Lewis from an uninformed

perspective. While not everyone has time to read the 73 titles attributed to him (not to mention the mounting number of books about him), nevertheless some will definitely find it helpful to read a book such as this that takes all of his literary genres seriously as it argues its point.

Jerry Root's book *C.S. Lewis and a Problem of Evil* can be ordered at any bookstore using ISBN 13: 978-1-55635-720-6. As a special offer for Friends of the Wade, you can purchase personalized signed copies through the Wheaton College Bookstore (www.wheatonbooks.com). When ordering, indicate in the notes field "FOTW" and how you would like Jerry to inscribe the book(s). **W**

Spotlight on *SEVEN*

Volume 25

The Wade Center is pleased to announce the release of Volume 25 of *VII: An Anglo-American Literary Review*. This issue opens with Chad Schrock's examination of C.S. Lewis's *Till We Have Faces*, and Reid Makowsky's analysis of George MacDonald's *Phantastes*. Also included is a conversation between Norbert Feinendegen and Stephen Thorson regarding the "Great War" of C.S. Lewis and Owen Barfield.

Additionally, a previously unpublished essay by Owen Barfield entitled "Death" reflects the influence of George MacDonald's writings while expressing Barfield's own Anthroposophical understanding of the concept of "death to self." Introductions by Chris Mitchell and Jane Hipolito, and footnotes by Amy Vail to Barfield's text, posit the importance of this essay for understanding aspects of Barfield's thought, as well as his influence on and divergence from C.S. Lewis's thought.

Closing the volume is Brian Horne's essay evaluating *Charles Williams: Alchemy and Integration*, by Gavin Ashenden, followed by reviews and booknotes on nineteen recent publications related to the Wade authors. To order this volume of *SEVEN* or back issues, contact us directly or download an order form from our website. **W**

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Highlights

G.K.C. Centenary Celebrations

On October 23 and 24, the Wade Center sponsored events to celebrate the centenary of G.K. Chesterton's books *Orthodoxy* and *The Man Who Was Thursday*, both published in 1908. Dale Ahlquist, President of the American Chesterton Society, gave the Wade Lecture to a group of 75 people on Thursday night, examining *Orthodoxy* chapter by chapter.

On Friday, Wade Center director Chris Mitchell spoke on GKC at Wheaton College's morning chapel service. Later that evening, Chuck Chalberg performed for an audience of 300. *An Evening with G.K. Chesterton* is Chalberg's dramatic rendition of G.K. Chesterton giving a lecture—with many digressions!

In honor of the centenaries, the Wade Center installed museum exhibits on both *Orthodoxy* and *The Man Who Was Thursday* in the display case, as well as a wall exhibit on G.K. Chesterton's detective fiction. **W**



Dale Ahlquist, president of the American GKC Society, takes questions from the audience after his lecture.