



inklinations

http://www.okcu.edu/english/csliis*

Hwæt we inclinga on ærdagum
searopancolra snyttru gehierdon. . .
þara wæs Hloðuig sum, hæleða dyrost, brad ond beorhtword. . .**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On the weekend of March 3-4, 2006, presenters from 22 different universities across the U.S., both secular and private, came to the 9th Annual C. S. Lewis & The Inklings Conference at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Scholars hailed from the following 12 states: California, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kansas, Nebraska, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, New York. Some CCCU schools brought undergraduate students to present papers: LeTourneau (7), Grove City College (4), and George Fox.

Derick Bingham, Northern Ireland's best-known evangelical preacher and a prolific author of over 27 books, addressed the society at both morning sessions with inspiring lessons from the life of C. S. Lewis. Bingham was recently appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts for his book of poems, *The Hawthorne Scent*.

The keynote speaker for the conference, Tom Shippey, delivered a tour-de-force lecture on the Inklings and magic, speaking with great humor and keen critical insights, apparently without any notes. He pointed out the Inklings' perceptions of magic and how it is variously treated in the novels of Lewis, Tolkien, and Williams. Shippey, who holds many of the same credentials and has held many of the same positions as Tolkien in Oxford, is currently the Walter J. Ong Chair of Humanities at St. Louis University. Among his many studies on medieval literature and sci-fi is *J. R. R. Tolkien: Author of the Century*, winner of the 2000 Mythopoeic Award. Over 80 people attended Shippey's keynote speech on Friday evening.

Many people migrated afterward to the Board Room to see a C. S. Lewis impersonation and re-enactment of an Inklings meeting in his rooms at Magdalen College, Oxford. At the conclusion, the audience interacted with "Jack" and the others and read or recited favorite Inklings-related passages. Refreshments were served such as tea and biscuits, sparkling punch, sodas, hot cocoa, and chocolate dipped strawberries. DVDs of the performance are available for \$5 (cost of production, no profit); contact Jonathan Himes (jhimes@jbu.edu).

*The C. S. Lewis and Inklings Society is based out of Oklahoma City University. See website for information.

**"Lo! we have heard in old days of the wisdom of the cunning-minded Inklings. . . One of them was [Lewis], dearest of men, broad and bright of word" (Humphrey Carpenter, *Inklings* 176-77).

To provide other perspectives on the proceedings, here is some of the feedback I received about this year's CSLIS conference:

. . . thanks for providing such an excellent conference both scholastically and spiritually.

. . . As an independent scholar, I look forward to the intellectual jolts such times provide. The keynote speakers were really outstanding.

. . . It was superb! And the meals were delectable. My compliments to the chef! Thanks again for the wonderful hospitality shown us by JBU. The campus is so beautiful and the classrooms worked splendidly for the presentations.

. . . what a great experience CSLIS 9 was for me. There were some great papers, and I definitely know more about CSL now than I did before.

. . . It was very well organized, and it made it very convenient for everyone having the shuttle take us from the hotel to the campus. The papers were extremely good, and I was personally impressed by the number and high quality of student papers. The key speakers were very inspiring and knowledgeable. I felt privileged that I had the opportunity to hear them and speak with them. Please thank everyone who participated in the organization.

MEMBERSHIP

Please don't forget to renew your CSLIS membership for 2007-08. This will entitle you to present your paper at the conference and receive society announcements and the annual newsletter. The cost is \$10 for students, or \$20 for faculty and independent scholars. The form for applying or renewing, required along with your payment, is available online: <http://www.okcu.edu/english/cslis/membership.html>

Please contact Joe R. Christopher for queries about membership in the Society:
JChristopher@tarleton.edu.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

The C. S. Lewis & Inklings Society is putting together a collection of outstanding papers for book publication with Cambridge Scholars Publishers. This anthology will be mostly keynote presentations from the past decade, but with recent papers including a few from the upcoming conference at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene. We may also include a few papers presented by faculty and independent scholars from past conferences. If you are aware of exceptional papers (perhaps recognized with a prize), or of a great keynote presentation from a past year you participated, please let me (Jonathan Himes) know.

We extend the **call for papers** for this publication, with the following criteria for submissions.

Consideration will be given:

- 1) to papers for the upcoming conference in Abilene to stress the Society's recent scholarship;
- 2) to papers with a substantial research focus (including a bibliography of 10 sources or so); and
- 3) to papers (non-undergraduate) from past CSLIS conferences (pre-2006 since we've already got those submissions) that have this research basis, and that have not been published elsewhere, that have a provocative thesis not widely treated yet in existing publications, and that are critical or analytical rather than devotional or expository in nature.
- 4) to papers from active members in good standing (they would need to renew their membership if inactive).

The deadline for past conference paper submissions is tentatively Nov. 22, 2006. Contact me, Jonathan Himes (jhimes@jbu.edu) for submissions or questions. The deadline for the upcoming conference at Hardin-Simmons is January 17, 2007. Contact Larry Fink (lfink@hsutx.edu) for details and to send submissions for 2007. Also, see the 2007 conference website (www.hsutx.edu/cslewis).

Dr. Harvey Solganick is **calling for papers** for the South Central Conference on Christianity and Literature, February 7-9, 2008, at LeTourneau University, Longview, Texas. The theme is "In Search of the Peaceable Kingdom: Studies in the Literature of Conflict, Struggle, and Hope." Papers should be read in 12-15 minutes, and proposals should be submitted via MS Word email attachment to HarveySolganick@letu.edu on/before Friday, January 11, 2008.

Craig Svonkin is **looking for essays** dealing with various aesthetic, historical, and philosophical aspects of C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* for a proposed edited anthology, *Through the Wardrobe: Essays on C. S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia*. Potential essay topics might include literary analysis of Lewis's series in connection to its historical, philosophical, and literary antecedents or analysis making use of critical lenses associated with cultural studies. The collection might also include analyses of Lewis's fantasy in relation to the current popularity of J. R. R. Tolkien's and J. K. Rowling's works, or other pertinent fantasy. Proposals of 500-750 words or full essays of approximately 4,000 - 5,000 words should be accompanied by a brief bio. Proposals must be received via email by November 15, 2006 by Craig Svonkin at svonkco@netzero.com. Questions are welcome.

Below are the titles of some peer-reviewed journals that regularly publish articles on C. S. Lewis and the Inklings. CSLIS members may wish to contact an editor about submitting a scholarly paper for publication. More information about them can be found online.

CSL: The Bulletin of the New York C. S. Lewis Society
Robert Trexler, CSL editor (editor@nyclsociety.com)

VII: An Anglo-American Review

Questions regarding submissions, procedures, permissions, and book reviews should be directed to the Assistant Editor (wade@wheaton.edu)

Mythlore

Janet Brennan Croft, Editor, jbcroft@ou.edu

The Lamp-Post (Southern California C. S. Lewis Society)

James Prothero, Sr., editor: lamppost@ix.netcom.com

Pilgrimage: The Toronto C. S. Lewis Society

Inklings: Jahrbuch für Literatur und Ästhetik

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Dr. Harvey Solganick, professor of English and Philosophy, LeTourneau University, presented a paper "My Testimony and the Life of C.S. Lewis," at the International Conference on Christian Studies, Kansas City, Missouri, July 21-22, 2006.

Jason Fisher presented "When Memory Becomes Myth—And Vice Versa" at Tolkien 2006 at the University of Vermont at Burlington, April 7-9, 2006. He also presented "Sourcing Tolkien's 'Circles of the World': Speculations on the Heimskringla, the Latin Vulgate Bible, and the Hereford Mappa Mundi" at the 37th Annual Mythopoeic Society Conference (aka Mythcon 37), August 4-7, 2006.

Salwa Koddham was active working on her book on C. S. Lewis during the summer of 2006. She also gave a paper on "Cityscapes in the Chronicles of Narnia" at Mythcon 37: The Map and the Territory: Maps and Landscapes in Fantasy at the University of Oklahoma, August 4-27-2006. She chaired the session on Old and Middle English Language and Literature at the SCMLA conference Oct. 26-28, 2006 in Dallas, Texas.

Katherine Harclerode, senior English undergraduate at LeTourneau University, Longview, Texas, is currently studying Old English literature at the University of Oxford for the fall 2006 semester and enjoying this opportunity to experience the cultural and geographical context that brought the Inklings together. She is currently investigating uses of poetic form to make memory concrete, tracing the developing role of memory in English poetry from Anglo-Saxon oral tradition through the modern works of Robert Frost and Seamus Heaney.

Dr. Larry E. Fink, Professor of English, Hardin-Simmons University, was elected Vice-President of CSLIS. During the summer of 2006 he read a paper entitled, "The Style and Diction of *Till We Have Faces*: Medieval and Renaissance Overtones," at Taylor University's biennial colloquium on C. S. Lewis. He also presented a slide lecture, "George MacDonald: Images of His World," at Taylor University's biennial colloquium on C. S. Lewis. In the Fall of 2006 he presented a slide lecture, "Nature and the Imaginative Life of C. S. Lewis: A Photographic Essay," at the Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Abilene Christian University. He was chosen Local Arrangements Chair for the 10th annual meeting of the C. S. Lewis & Inklings Society to be held at Hardin-Simmons University, March 23-24, 2007.