



## inklinations [http://www.okcu.edu/english/csliis\\*](http://www.okcu.edu/english/csliis*)

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

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### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On the weekend of March 26-28, 2009, presenters from over twenty-five different college or university campuses across the U.S., both secular and private, came to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual C. S. Lewis & The Inklings Society Conference at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Our hosts and organizing committee for this year's meeting at Calvin College were Jan Prewitt, (Kendall College), Charles Huttar and Curtis Gruenler (Hope College), Michael Stevens (Cornerstone University), Kurt Berends (Theological Book Network), Harry Lew (InterVarsity), Don Vander Kolk (North Point Christian School), and Dean Ward and Paulo Ribeiro (Calvin College).



Clockwise from upper right: Devin Brown, David Rozema, Philip Tallon, Jan Prewitt, Salwa Khoddam

Concurrent paper sessions included topics not only on Lewis and Tolkien, but on Charles Williams, George MacDonald, Dorothy Sayers, and G.K. Chesterton.



Most of the conference papers in various ways dealt with this year's theme of "The Inklings: Dinosaurs or Contemporaries?" Attendees enjoyed Calvin's hospitality in providing hot tea or coffee and cookies while warming oneself by one of several large stone fireplaces between sessions. Bookvendors were plentiful, offering a vast collection of Inklings literature and secondary sources, some new and some quite rare. In the evenings, the new Narnia film adaptations were shown in the main conference ballroom, which provided rich discussions later.

Vespers at the Chapel provided a time of meditation and worship with soul-stirring performances by Amphion Men's Ensemble of Western Michigan University (Dr. Ken Prewitt, Director) of the songs "Ubi Caritas," "The Gift to Be Simple," and "In Christ Alone."

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\*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).

Additionally, this chapel service featured a unique and moving dramatization of selected passages from Lewis's *Mere Christianity*, enacted as a dialogue between Lewis, played by David Kent, and a skeptic, played by Mark Jameson.

The friendly debate offered an update on Lewis's materials, addressing objections to faith as might be expressed today in a coffee house.



Amphion singers & *Mere Christianity* performers in chapel

Friday's plenary speaker, Dr. Peter J. Schakel, has written seven books on C. S. Lewis and his opening session topic was "Dinosaurs, Dragons, and Destiny: The Inklings and Old Western Culture." Schakel reminded listeners how important it is to study the past in order to perceive, as Lewis did, vast differences from contemporary notions such as having medieval "rulers" instead of modern "leaders" and the old "virtues" which have been replaced by today's neutral "values." An awareness of historical truths as well as errors of past worldviews helps one to realize the provisional nature of our own explanations and theories in the modern age. In his address after the evening banquet, Schakel also pointed out how Lewis may have written himself into the



Narnian world, not only as the narratorial voice, but as an actual dinosaur.



Last panel: Devin Brown, Charles Huttar, Peter Schakel

Our other plenary speaker, Dr. Devin Brown, teaches at Asbury College in Kentucky, and has written two books on Narnia and is working on a third. In his presentation that included an extensive fact sheet with evidence from the *Narnia Chronicles*, Brown made an exhaustive and compelling response to detractors of the *Narniad* like Philip Pullman who accuse Lewis of being racist and sexist, proving that the opposite is overwhelmingly the case in this fantasy series.

After another delicious meal on Saturday, there was a final address and special guest panel comprised of Peter Schakel, Devin Brown, and Charles Huttar, who has written many critical works on the Inklings. In this session attendees queried the panelists about the *Narnia* adaptations and the Inklings' views on cinema as an artistic medium.

This 12th CSLIS conference was a concerted effort between several colleges, institutions, and experienced individuals to bring our annual event to the Calvin campus, and we are thankful to all who helped orchestrate such a wonderful occasion and to all the conference sponsors: Baker Publishing Group, Calvin College, Calvin College Bookstore, and Hope College.



## NEWS

### CSLIS Conference April 9-10, 2010.

The next CSLIS Conference will be hosted at Oklahoma City University. The theme will be "C.S. Lewis and the Inklings: Discovering Hidden Truth." Papers on this theme related to the works of C.S. Lewis, the Inklings, George MacDonald, and Dorothy L. Sayers are invited. However, papers on other subjects related to the above authors will also be accepted.

There will be a competition for the best undergraduate and best faculty/scholar paper presented at this conference. Monetary awards will be given as determined by a committee of three jurors from the Executive Board members of the CSLIS. To be eligible, the presenter must be a member of the CSLIS and present the paper at the conference. The awards will be presented during the evening banquet on April 9.

**If you would like your paper to be considered for the competition, please send the full paper by January 15, 2010.**

Otherwise, please submit a one-page abstract or a full paper by January 30, 2010. Papers should be 8-10 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font). Participants will be held to a twenty minute presentation limit. All participants must be members of the CSLIS society in order to present at the conference.

Participants can download a society membership form from [www.okcu.edu/cslis](http://www.okcu.edu/cslis).

E-mail all abstracts/papers to the following:  
Dr. Salwa Khoddam, Conference Director  
[skhoddam@okcu.edu](mailto:skhoddam@okcu.edu)  
Phone: 405-208-5058  
Fax: 405-208-5870

To insure prompt notification, please include your e-mail and/or fax number on your submission. If you are willing to chair a section, please note this at the top of your abstract/paper.

### Mythcon, in Dallas, TX, July 16-19, 2010.

This is the 41st Annual Meeting of the Mythopoeic Society. The event co-chairs are Jason Fisher (CSLIS member) and Randy Hoyt (webmaster for the Mythopoeic Society). A CFP will follow in the next month or two, but in general, we welcome abstracts for papers on Tolkien, Lewis, Williams, or any of the Inklings, and more generally, on mythopoeic and fantasy fiction in general. The theme for Mythcon 41 is "War in Heaven," in part to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Charles Williams's novel of that name. Proposed papers do not have to address this theme, and one does not have to present a paper to attend. This is a wonderful event for all lovers of fantasy fiction, and especially the works of the Inklings. The Guests of Honor are Tim Powers (author) and Janet Brennan Croft (scholar), with special guests to be announced. The website is <http://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/41/>.

### Lewis & Friends Colloquium June 3-6, 2010

"The Frances White Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis and Friends," June 3-6, 2010, will be held at Taylor University. For details see [www.taylor.edu/cslewis](http://www.taylor.edu/cslewis).

### New Chapter of CSLIS at ORU.

Mark Hall has started a brand new chapter of the C.S. Lewis & Inklings Club at Oral Roberts University this semester. The first meeting had over 20 interested students, and the second one had around fourteen. Mark's "C. S. Lewis and the Inklings" class which will be offered in the spring has already filled. Way to go, Mark!

### Joining/Starting Local Chapters of CSLIS

If you enjoy the fellowship and scholasticism at our annual conferences, why not continue such activities year-round? Local chapters of CSLIS help you stay in touch with Society members you meet at conferences while promoting interest in the Inklings within your local community. By starting a local chapter, you will receive access to the following online services of the Society:

- Blogs on Lewis, Tolkien, and other Inklings
  - Monthly suggested readings
  - Scheduled topics for local discussion groups
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- Service opportunities (read-a-thons, etc.)

Also, membership in local chapters makes you eligible for **student stipends for conference expense**, among other additional benefits, at no additional cost beyond your annual CSLIS membership fee. Ask J. Himes for further details. Please register your local chapter with the CSLIS today! (contact: [jhimes@jbu.edu](mailto:jhimes@jbu.edu))

Requirements: You must have at least 5 members to be recognized as a local chapter of CSLIS, and you need a Spokesperson to act as the local contact for regular correspondence. Chapters composed of college students could request a faculty member to be their sponsoring Spokesperson and could apply to their university's student board to fund their own various local events (for instance, to pay for snacks at meetings or book discussions). All chapters must abide by the Mission Statement as found on the Society's website.

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#### MEMBERSHIP

Please don't forget to renew your CSLIS membership. This entitles all members to

- present your paper at the conference
- receive society newsletters and updates
- participate in CSLIS Writing Contests

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>

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#### RECENT SCHOLARSHIP

**Peter J. Schakel**, "A Boy Called Eustace and a Hope Education," *Vital Speeches of the Day*, November 2009: 514-517.

**Philip Tallon** will be editing *Sherlock Holmes and Philosophy* for the University Press of Kentucky. There are still a few openings for

chapters. If anyone wants to submit an abstract, they can email [philip.tallon@asbury.edu](mailto:philip.tallon@asbury.edu)

**Jason Fisher** will have an essay on Tolkien appearing in 2010: "Horns of Dawn: The Tradition of Alliterative Verse in Rohan", in Bradford Lee Eden (ed.), *The Scholar as Minstrel: Music as Conscious/Subconscious Thematic Material in the Mythology of J. R. R. Tolkien* (McFarland, forthcoming).

**Joe R. Christopher** has been in a publishing frenzy; see all five entries below:

Published "Snergs, Hobbits, Hobs, Bonobos, Pygmies" in *The Lamp-Post* (Summer issue); also a sonnet titled "Perelandra Revisited" (May issue) and "The Golden Figures," a poem about Merlin and Vivien with borrowings from Charles Williams (Fall issue).

Published a terza-rima sonnet titled "A Suburb of the City of Dis" in *The Mythic Circle*, No. 31. This sonnet is influenced by the opening of Lewis's *The Great Divorce*.

Published "The Thematic Organization of *Spirits in Bondage*" in *Mythlore* about Lewis's first book, a collection of poems written under the pseudonym of Clive Hamilton.

Read at the Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, held in Houston, Texas, on 1-3 October, a paper titled "Ruth Pitter, War Poet." Her friendship with Lewis was mentioned.

Edited, with an introduction and an episode checklist, a collection of fourteen 1946 radio mysteries, *The Casebook of Gregory Hood*, written as collaborations between Anthony Boucher and Denis Green (Norfolk, Virginia: Crippen and Landru, Publishers)--released in July.

**Jonathan B. Himes** published his critical edition, *The Old English Epic of Waldere* (Cambridge Scholars, 2009). This book contains important findings that will affect our interpretation of OE heroic poems like *Waldere* and *Beowulf*, while also presenting that

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information in a way that students and literary readers will find appealing. The book resolves some long-standing cruces and also explains some of the military and material culture behind the poem.

Here are snippets of the endorsements by Tom A. Shippey and Kelly DeVries:

"Jonathan Himes's new edition now combines scholarly rigour with reader-accessibility, puts the case for identification of the speakers, and provides welcome expansion on the background of the legend . . . It will replace all previous editions and give a new stimulus to study of an often-bypassed poem."

—Tom A. Shippey, Professor of English and Walter J. Ong Chair of Humanities (Retired), St. Louis University

"Up to now few have looked at the poem except as a work of language and literature. That will now change thanks to Jonathan Himes' insightful analysis of the poem. With great skill Himes is able to pull out and interpret every bit of information Waldere has to offer."

—Kelly DeVries, Loyola University, Maryland

Here is the publisher's link with the full book description:

<http://www.c-s-p.org/Flyers/The-Old-English-Epic-of-Waldere1-4438-0558-0.htm>

And here is a sample pdf showing the preface and the first section or two of the Introduction:

<http://www.c-s-p.org/Flyers/978-1-4438-0558-2-sample.pdf>

(The book can also be ordered with free shipping from Amazon.) Please take a moment to share this book release with your campus library staff, and by all means contact me if I can assist you further about the book.

