

## Editorial Note

In this volume of *VII*, you will find three extended pieces that each contain previously unpublished material: letters Joy Davidman wrote in 1952, annotated and introduced by Don W. King; the edited manuscript of a presentation Owen Barfield gave in 1980, introduced by Sarah O'Dell;<sup>1</sup> and marginal comments C.S. Lewis made in Shakespeare volumes from his personal library, examined and contextualized in an article by Sarah R.A. Waters.

Reading a renowned author's unpublished work often provides a small thrill—a sense of having peeked behind the curtain and glimpsed an unpolished, private side to someone whose most relatable side, we imagine, is not the professional, published side we often see. To be sure, the opportunity to read such material can reveal new aspects of an author's character, personality, thought, and experience. Yet it can also reflect something back to us: the truth that the extraordinary is nestled within the ordinary.

No one can accuse Lewis, Barfield, or Davidman of being run-of-the-mill. Yet seeing their unpublished writing shows these great minds at work in their most humble, regular practices. In the pages that follow, Joy's letters reveal her incisive mind, quick wit, and sharp writing, as well as her personal insecurities and her love of a fun shopping trip. Barfield's draft of "Language, Consciousness, and the Recovery of Human Meaning" displays the committed, sometimes frustrating editorial work any author must do to refine and communicate their ideas. Lewis's marginal notes in his Shakespeare volumes indicate many hours spent in careful study: the persistent, unglamorous labor of critical thinking that both emerged from and shaped his brilliant mind.

Ultimately, part of what is instructive about unpublished material is that it reveals what undergirds the oeuvres of masterful writers and thinkers: their everyday perseverance in work and life. And that revelation makes even the most accomplished authors and artists relatable, since we are all called to, in Dorothy L. Sayers's words, "good work well done."

This volume of *VII* features much good work, but due to the physical constraints of the printed journal, some of it appears on *VII*'s digital platform. There, Toby Coley interprets Lewis's *The Four Loves* as a framework for spiritual formation. In a similar vein, Kristine Wolberg examines the spiritually formative aspects of courtesy, posture, and appearance in the work of both Lewis and seventeenth-century Anglican priest and poet George Herbert. And Alan Snyder and Jamin Metcalf look closely at some of Lewis's

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<sup>1</sup> While a version of this talk was published in Columbia University's *Teachers College Record* in 1981, what appears here is a facsimile of the original manuscript with Barfield's editorial notes.

annotations and markings in his personal library to glean insight into his views on historical knowledge.

The website also features numerous reviews, as well as remembrances of three former members of the *VII* editorial board who passed away in 2024: Peter Schakel, Father Ian Boyd, and Aidan Mackey. Through their excellent, lifelong work on G.K. Chesterton and C.S. Lewis these scholars promoted the value of the literary and theological imagination and contributed immeasurable service to this journal.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Brian Horne for the very good work he has done in the area of Inklings scholarship generally and for this journal, in particular. Brian is retiring from his position as a *VII* editorial board member, and we are grateful for his advising that has helped us produce a high-quality publication for decades.

As you read these pages, as well as *VII*'s digital offerings, may you be encouraged in your own good work.

Marjorie Lamp Mead  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Kendra Langdon Juskus  
EDITOR

## Acknowledgements

The editors wish to thank the University of Oxford Archives at the Bodleian Library, Magdalen College, Oxford; Magdalene College, Cambridge; and the C.S. Lewis Company for permission to reprint previously unpublished writing by C.S. Lewis in this volume of *VII*. We also extend our gratitude to Owen Barfield Jr. for the permission to reprint his grandfather's article in the following pages.

## Online Content

*VII* is available online at [journals.wheaton.edu/vii](http://journals.wheaton.edu/vii). Readers may purchase online subscription packages, in addition to individual copies and back issues, at our digital home. Access to reviews and remembrances from this volume of the journal, as well as occasional supplemental material, is available on the website without a subscription.

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## Concerning the Contributors

### Owen Barfield

Owen Barfield (1898-1997), one of the seven authors archived at the Marion E. Wade Center, was a British philosopher, attorney, and author of works on language, myth, perception, and the evolution of human consciousness. His publications include *History in English Words*, *Poetic Diction: A Study in Meaning*, and *Saving the Appearances: A Study in Idolatry*, as well as poetry and works of fiction. From all of this work, Barfield gained a significant reputation among academic and philosophical communities, in particular in the U.S., where he was often a lecturer and visiting professor at various colleges and universities. An occasional attendee at Inklings meetings, his thinking was influential on the work of his friends C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

### Don W. King

On the faculty of Montreat College since 1974, Don W. King is a faculty fellow and professor of English. From 1999 to 2015 he served as editor of the *Christian Scholar's Review*. His more than eighty essays and reviews have appeared in *Books & Culture*, *Christianity and Literature*, VII, *Literature and Religion*, *The Journal of Inklings Studies*, *Studies in the Literary Imagination*, *The C.S. Lewis Readers' Encyclopedia*, and *C.S. Lewis: Life, Works, and Legacy*. He is the author of eleven books, including *C.S. Lewis, Poet: The Legacy of His Poetic Impulse*, *Plain to the Inward Eye: Selected Essays on C.S. Lewis*, *The Collected Poems of C.S. Lewis: A Critical Edition*, and *Inkling, Soldier, Historian, and Brother: A Life of Warren Hamilton Lewis*.

### Joy Davidman

Joy Davidman (1915-1960) was an American poet and writer and, toward the end of her life, the wife of British author C.S. Lewis. She received the 1938 Yale Younger Poets Prize for her book *Letter to a Comrade* and the Russell Loines Award for Poetry in 1939. Her published books include *Anya*, *Weeping Bay*, and *Smoke on the Mountain: An Interpretation of the Ten Commandments*. In 2015, Don W. King published a selection of her previously unpublished poetry as *A Naked Tree: Love Sonnets to C.S. Lewis and Other Poems*.

## Sarah O'Dell

Sarah O'Dell, PhD, is an MD/PhD candidate at the University of California, Irvine, where she is the first to complete a PhD in English within a dual MD/PhD program. As a future physician-scholar and psychiatrist, she is passionate about how the activity of the imagination—as shaped by literature, faith, and the arts—helps heal the mind. Reflecting this core interest, her dissertation research presents the first combined study of the early Gothic novel, religious studies, and the history of psychiatry. She is also an active C.S. Lewis and Inklings scholar, with a particular focus on Lewis's friend, physician, and fellow Inkling, R.E. Havard. Her current book project, *The Medical Inkling* (under contract at Kent State UP), not only explores Havard's roles as a physician, Inkling, and Catholic writer, but also reveals how his medical imagination influenced C.S. Lewis. Her research has previously appeared in *Mythlore*, VII, and the *Journal of Medical Humanities*. She is a recent Harvey Fellow as well as a recipient of the 2023 Andrew Vincent White and Florence Wales White Graduate Student Scholarship. Additional updates can be found on her website: sarahodellmdphd.com.

## Sarah R.A. Waters

Dr. Sarah R.A. Waters is assistant professor of language and literature at Sterling College. With a PhD in medical humanities and English literature, with a particular focus on Shakespearean drama and an early research background working on Shakespeare and Narnia, she is a specialist on Shakespeare and C.S. Lewis. She works on Shakespeare and Lewis separately and together. She speaks regularly on Lewis and Shakespeare across Europe and the United States. In 2019, she was the first recipient of the Marion E. Wade Center's William George Shuster Research Grant for Younger Scholars, and in 2023 she delivered the annual Shakespeare Lecture of the Batson Shakespeare Society at Wheaton College. Recent publications include "Hamlet in Narnia: The Prince and the Poem in Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*" (*Mythlore*, 2024); "Tripping into the Light Fantastic: Seeing (through) MacDonald" (*Northwind*, 2024); "'A Critic Who Makes No Claim': Disrupting Lewis's (In)Expert Rhetorical Flourishes" (*Linguaculture*, 2024); "'De Arca Noe': An Early Lewis-Barfield Collaboration" (*Journal of Inklings Studies*, 2023); and "Lewis, Lear and the Four Loves," in the special issue of *An Unexpected Journal* on Shakespeare and Cultural Apologetics which she co-edited with Joe Ricke (2022). She is currently working on a book (recently under contract with Kent State UP) on Lewis and Shakespeare.