

Editorial Note

It was just over forty years ago, in March 1980, that the first volume of *VII* was published. The possibility of a journal on the seven authors of the Wade Center first arose as the result of a conversation between Barbara Reynolds, friend of Dorothy L. Sayers, and Beatrice Batson, chair of Wheaton College's English Department. This fledgling idea was subsequently brought to fruition through the efforts of Clyde S. Kilby, founder of the Marion E. Wade Center, resulting in a publication that was "born out of the need and opportunity for discussion and balanced assessment" of the seven Wade writers.

The inaugural volume of *VII*, published in 1980, included a *Foreword* by Owen Barfield, at the time the only living member of the seven, in which he recalled two evenings from his past. The first concerned a dinner in the 1920s when Lewis introduced him to Tolkien. In his second memory, Barfield recollected with gratitude a night in the fall of 1964, when he found himself "in the middle of Wheaton [College] campus," surrounded by an audience eager to hear memories of his friend, C.S. Lewis.

As Barfield wrote:

From Oxford to Wheaton. In those days there was as yet no Marion E. Wade Collection, though no doubt it was already germinating as an impulse in the active mind of Dr. Kilby; just as I fancy a future *Inklings*, though perhaps more obscurely as yet, was already germinating in the minds of Lewis and Tolkien by the time I dined with them. Maybe that is why just those two evenings from the past come so irresistibly into my own mind when it turns to the future, and why one of the very few survivors of the *Inklings* and the sole survivor of the collected 'Seven' has devoted space to them in greeting with pleasure and wishing with Godspeed and a long life to this new Anglo-American Literary Review.

Today, Volume 37 continues the work begun some forty years ago by drawing together the wisdom of established scholars such as Hal Poe, Don King, Charlie Starr, and David Bratman, and placing their contributions alongside the insights of younger academics like Toby Coley, Tiffany Martin, and Josiah Peterson. In so doing, it fulfills the vision of Barbara Reynolds, *VII*'s first managing editor, by bringing "balanced assessment" to the authors' works through "critical evaluation and interpretation" and presenting it in a way that is "accessible for general as well as for specialized readers."

Scholarship on the seven authors has grown and matured over the last forty years; it has also become broader and more diverse. Likewise, *VII* is striving to extend its reach to new readers. In the weeks and months

to come, the three-year-long digitization process of *VII* will be complete. As a result, every back issue of *VII* will soon be available online through both our website as well as through JSTOR's "Lives of Literature" collection. May these additional online offerings grant *VII* renewed Godspeed and an even longer life as our readers continue to enjoy and benefit from the thought and writings of the seven authors represented in these pages.

MARJORIE LAMP MEAD
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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Online Content

VII is available online at journals.wheaton.edu/vii. Readers may purchase online subscription packages, in addition to print subscriptions, at our new digital home. A special section in remembrance of Walter Hooper as well as the following open access content is available online without a subscription.

- **Remembrance:** Walter Hooper
- **Book Reviews:** John M. Bowers, *Tolkien's Lost Chaucer* (2019). Reviewed by Benjamin Weber.
- Christine A. Colón, *Choosing Community: Action, Faith, and Joy in the Works of Dorothy L. Sayers*. Hansen Lectureship Series (2019). Reviewed by Barbara L. Prescott.
- Dorothy L. Sayers, *God, Hitler and Lord Peter Wimsey: Selected Essays, Speeches and Articles*. Edited, with a Preface and Commentary by Suzanne Bray. Reviewed by David Llewellyn Dodds.
- George MacDonald, *Phantastes*, Edited by John Pennington and Roderick McGillis (2017). Reviewed by Daniel Gabelman.

Concerning the Contributors

David Bratman

David Bratman is co-editor of *Tolkien Studies: An Annual Scholarly Review*, for which he has written and now edits "The Year's Work in Tolkien Studies." He is also former editor of *Mythprint*, bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society. His publications include articles and reviews concerning J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Ursula K. Le Guin, Mervyn Peake, Neil Gaiman, and other authors. He has edited *The Masques of Amen House* by Charles Williams (Mythopoeic Press, 2000), and is preparing a collection of scholarly essays, *Gifted Amateurs*, for publication by the Mythopoeic Press. David holds an M. Libr. from the University of Washington, and has worked as a catalog librarian at Stanford University and elsewhere.

Toby F. Coley

Toby F. Coley (Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Writing, Bowling Green State University) is associate professor of English at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (Belton, TX). His research interests include writing, rhetoric, Christianity, and C.S. Lewis. He is currently exploring Lewis's ascetical-devotional works. His publications have been featured in *Rhetoric Review*; *Computers and Composition*; *Computers & Composition Online*; *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*; *Christianity and Literature*; and *Sehnsucht: The C.S. Lewis Journal*. He also writes poetry, creative nonfiction, and short stories. His creative work has been featured in venues such as the *The Windhover*, *Black & White*, and *The FictionWeek Literary Review*.

Don W. King

Don W. King has served on the faculty of Montreat College since 1974. He is a faculty fellow and professor of English. From 1999 to 2015, King served as editor of the *Christian Scholar's Review*. He has published over seventy essays and reviews as well as ten books, including *C.S. Lewis, Poet: The Legacy of His Poetic Impulse*, *Plain to the Inward Eye: Selected Essays on C.S. Lewis*, and *The Collected Poems of C.S. Lewis: A Critical Edition*. His current writing project is *Soldier, Writer, Inkling: A Life of Warren Hamilton Lewis*.

Tiffany Brooke Martin

Tiffany Brooke Martin completed a Ph.D. in English and the Teaching of English from Idaho State University. Her dissertation was on Owen Barfield's writings with a focus on fantasy and fiction. Tiffany has other publications on Barfield and is an adviser and editor for the Owen Barfield Literary Estate. She also serves as assistant production editor for the *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*. Tiffany currently works as global editorial content manager in communications for Roquette, an international company that produces plant-based ingredients for health and nutrition markets.

Josiah Peterson

Josiah Peterson teaches Literature and Composition and Humane Letters at Chandler Preparatory Academy. Previously, he coached debate and taught rhetoric at The King's College in New York City. He earned a B.A. in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics from King's, an M.A. in Liberal Studies from St. John's University, and an M.A. in Apologetics from Houston Baptist University, where he wrote his thesis on the rhetoric of C. S. Lewis under the advisement of Michael Ward and Holly Ordway.

Harry Lee Poe

Harry Lee Poe holds the Charles Colson Chair of Faith and Culture at Union University. He has published two books and numerous articles and contributed chapters on Poe, including *Edgar Allan Poe: An Illustrated Companion to his Tell-Tale Stories*, for which he won an Edgar, and *Nevermore: Edgar Allan Poe and the Mystery of the Universe*. Long an admirer of Dorothy L. Sayers, Poe has devoted significant space to her in his biography of C. S. Lewis.

Charlie W. Starr

Dr. Charlie W. Starr is an associate professor of English at Alderson Broaddus University in West Virginia. He teaches, writes, and lectures on Classic and American literature, film, theology, and on the works of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. Charlie has published numerous scholarly essays, over a hundred popular articles, a dozen chapters for anthologies, and seven books including his most recent, *The Faun's Bookshelf: C.S. Lewis on Why Myth Matters*. Charlie has published over a dozen never-before-seen Lewis manuscripts, including a lost sequel to *The Screwtape Letters*, and will soon be releasing more. Dr. Starr