

Laura Stanifer (née Schmidt)

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WORK EXPERIENCE

- Marion E. Wade Center**, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL **May 2005 - Present**
Archivist
- Bentley Historical Library**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI **August 2003 - April 2005**
Graduate Reference Assistant and Collections Processor
- Special Collections Library**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI **May - August 2004**
Internship
- Berg Collection**, New York Public Library, New York, NY **February 2004**
Alternative Spring Break with University of Michigan

EDUCATION

- School of Information, University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI **September 2003 - April 2005**
Master of Science in Information, Archives and Records Management
- Wheaton College**, Wheaton, IL **August 1999 - December 2002**
Bachelor of Arts, History and English Literature

MEMBERSHIPS

- Midwest Archives Conference**, Member since 2005
Society of American Archivists, Member since 2003
The American Tolkien Society, Member since 1995

PRESENTATIONS & CONSULTING

- Atla (American Theological Library Association)**, webinar **November 2024**
♦ Presented as one of several participants in the program “From Myth to Manuscript: Exploring Inklings Archival Collections”
- DuPage County Historical Museum**, Wheaton, IL **November 2022**
♦ Presented a talk titled “C.S. Lewis and the Marion E. Wade Center: Wheaton’s Connection to Britain”
- Center for Ray Bradbury Studies**, IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN **August 2018**
♦ Served on a team of NEH grant-funded consultants to assess and make recommendations to the Center for establishing policies regarding collection access, processing, digitization, etc.
- DuPage County Historical Museum**, Wheaton, IL **January 2018**
♦ Presented a talk titled “Tolkien’s Beginnings” featuring J.R.R. Tolkien’s early writings and the impact of World War I on his life and creativity ([presented again at the Wade Center in January 2019](#))
- Mythcon 48**, Champaign-Urbana, IL **July 2017**
♦ Guest of Honor during the conference and gave a keynote address titled: “Treasure in the Archives: A Celebration of Archival Collections”

PRESENTATIONS & CONSULTING (continued)

Signum University, signumuniversity.org **February 2017**
Gave an online lecture for a research methods class, informing students on how to search and access both physical and digital archival collections

10th Frances White Ewbank Colloquium on C.S. Lewis & Friends, **June 2016**
Taylor University, Upland, IN
◆ Offered workshop on researching at the Wade Center to conference participants

Midwest Archives Conference, Milwaukee, WI **April 2016**
◆ Presented as one of three panelists in the session “Where do we Store the Action Figures?: Archives and the Growth of Popular Culture and Fandom Collections”

Tolkien Conference, Urbana Theological Seminary, Champaign, IL **September 2014**
◆ Spoke on “Beyond Lewis and Tolkien: Getting to Know the Other Inklings” about the Inklings writing group

American Tolkien Society, event in Frankenmuth, MI **September 2003**
◆ Presented the paper, “Songs and Poetry in *The Lord of the Rings*,” chosen as the best submission in a writing contest, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Hobbit Letters
◆ The paper was later published in *The Minas Tirith Evening-Star*, the quarterly publication of the American Tolkien Society, Autumn 2003

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

The Wheaton College Tolkien Society, Wheaton College **2011 - Present**
Staff Advisor and founder
◆ Supervising student-led group activities; including reading groups, drama performances, trips, conferences, writing groups, and social events

Carol Stream Historical Society, Carol Stream, IL **2010 - 2024**
Historian
◆ Oversaw acquisitions, storage, description, and access to the documents and artifacts in the historical society’s archives. Also served on the society’s Board of Directors.

PUBLICATIONS

“Across the Western Seas: Longing for the West in Tolkien's Legendarium” in *The Undiscovered C.S. Lewis: Essays in Memory of Christopher W. Mitchell*. Hamden, CT: Winged Lion Press, 2021

Book Review of *The Worlds of J.R.R. Tolkien: The Places that Inspired Middle-earth* by John Garth. *VII: Journal of the Marion E. Wade Center*. Vol. 37 (Wheaton, IL: Marion E. Wade Center, 2020): Online reviews pp. 172-174

Remembrance of Richard C. West. *VII: Journal of the Marion E. Wade Center*. Vol. 37 (Wheaton, IL: Marion E. Wade Center, 2020): 11-12

Book Review of *Pagan Saints in Middle-earth* by Claudio A. Testi. *VII: Journal of the Marion E. Wade Center*. Vol. 36 (Wheaton, IL: Marion E. Wade Center, 2019): Online reviews pp. 161-162

“In Dorothy’s Footsteps: The Pilgrimage of an American Admirer.” *The Dorothy L. Sayers Society Bulletin*. No. 258 (Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex, UK: The Dorothy L. Sayers Society, July 2018): 12-14

“[Treasures in the Archives: A Celebration of Archival Collections](#).” *Mythlore* No. 131, Volume 36, Issue 1, (*Mythopoeic Society*, Fall / Winter 2017): 5-20

PUBLICATIONS (continued)

Review of Logos 6 Software, *C.S. Lewis Books Collection*. (Faithlife/Logos Bible Software, 2015). *VII: Journal of the Marion E. Wade Center*. Vol. 32 (Wheaton, IL: Marion E. Wade Center, 2015): Online reviews pp. 5-9

Book Review of *C.S. Lewis: Twentieth Century Pilgrim* by Janet Hamilton. *Sehnsucht: The C.S. Lewis Journal*. Volume 7/8 (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2013-2014): 172-173

Wade Center Book Groups overview. *The Dorothy L. Sayers Society Bulletin*. No. 219 (Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex, UK: The Dorothy L. Sayers Society, January 2012): 5-7

“Using Archives: A Guide to Effective Research.” (Chicago, IL: Society of American Archivists, 2011) Web and PDF publication:

<http://www2.archivists.org/usingarchives>

“Mything the Point: Why Some Stories Strike True while Others Fall Short.” *Transpositions* blog (St. Andrews, Scotland: Students associated with the Institute for Theology, Imagination, and the Arts at the University of St Andrews) article in two parts on December 5 & 9, 2011:

<http://www.transpositions.co.uk/mything-the-point-part-one/>

<http://www.transpositions.co.uk/mything-the-point-part-two/>

Book Notes and Reviews in *VII: Journal of the Marion E. Wade Center*. Vols. 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, and 31 (Wheaton, IL: Marion E. Wade Center, 2007-2014)

“Songs and Poetry in *The Lord of the Rings*.” *Minas Tirith Evening-Star*. 32.3 (American Tolkien Society, Autumn 2003): 9-31 (Presented as a paper in September 2003)