



Friends of the Wade

The Wade Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary!

Throughout 2015, we have marked the 50th anniversary of the Marion E. Wade Center. Our primary celebration took place on October 29, when we welcomed back Director Emeritus Lyle Dorsett, poet Luci Shaw, and many friends. We were privileged to dedicate our new Bakke Auditorium as part of this joyful occasion. We are thankful for each one who was able to join us, whether in person or online via the livestream. The multimedia presentation, video of the program, and the 50th anniversary guestbook are available on our website at wheaton.edu/wadecenter.

In recognition of this milestone event, we asked some members of the extended Wade community to share their memories. We are grateful for all of the thoughtful responses we received.

I began serving as the Director of the Wade Center in 1983. During those years my wife and I traveled to the UK many times to conduct oral history interviews with Owen Barfield and many other British folks who knew the Wade authors. What a privilege it was to get to know so many good people while we collected memories, letters, books, and memorabilia.

All of the Wade authors have stimulated my thinking, but not one is comparable to C.S. Lewis in changing my life. Through his writing he has become my teacher and soul physician. I try to pass to others what he has given to me.

I owe an enormous debt to the Wade staff, steering committees, and donors who served and made donations before, during, and after my tenure. I thank them all.



Dr. Clyde S. Kilby (center) at the opening of Charles Williams's papers in 1972.

Lyle Dorsett
Professor of Evangelism
Beeson Divinity School
--

The Wade Center is a constant reminder of my heritage since Marion Wade was my father's mentor. My father often referred to Marion Wade with deep gratitude and respect. When I walk into the Wade Center, I give thanks to God for Marion Wade. He was a wise and gracious man.

I was delighted to bring my grandsons to the Wade Center recently. They were enchanted by the Wardrobe, the desks of Lewis and Tolkien, and the pictures in the museum area, tangible artifacts from the stories they love.

Dr. Walter Hansen
Wade Board

"To be sure, we shall live 99% of our lives doing the ordinary, but the ordinary when really looked at becomes the extraordinary and perhaps exciting."

— Clyde S. Kilby



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For Christ and His Kingdom

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On first entering the Wade Center itself, I was hit by a wave of unexpected emotion as I walked among furniture for which I had held great affection for years. There was our old hallway wardrobe, hand carved and built from ancient Welsh oak by Jack and Warnie's grandfather, Richard Lewis, and which had graced the family home in Wales before migrating along with the family to Belfast and then to The Kilns in Oxford and finally to the Wade Center. Jack's upstairs study desk and our dining table were there and still are. And I was filled with a sense of longing for what had been.

It was during my second visit that I began to feel that in a strange way, the Wade Center was welcoming me with the same kind of warmth that The Kilns had all those years before. I also began to have an uneasy realization that many of the people I was meeting at the Wade, and in Wheaton generally, were Christians in the sense that Jack himself was—and that I was not, but have since become.

Douglas Gresham
C.S. Lewis's stepson
--

My most abiding memory is a very personal one. In 1997 the Dorothy L. Sayers Society held a



Marjorie Mead and Lyle Dorsett
in 1986.

convention at Wheaton and for that occasion, the Wade put on a wide-ranging exhibition of Sayers's papers and artefacts. I noticed her personal phone book and asked that it be flipped to the letter D. Amongst the numbers listed was one for "Dr. Denholm", who was latterly her personal physician—and my father. It would seem a small thing to others but I thought how splendid it was that the Wade had looked after such minor items.

Seona Ford
Chair
Dorothy L. Sayers Society
--

I recall with great fondness the occasion when Walter Hooper was given the Wade's Lifetime Achievement Award. When Marjorie Mead read out David Downing's tribute to Walter, I

found myself deeply moved and grateful—not only for Walter's work and example, nor only for Lewis's work and example, but also for the fact that this was happening in the Wade itself, the hearth and home of Inklings scholarship.

The forward-thinking perceptiveness of Clyde Kilby, not to mention the brilliant work of his successors and supporters, is showing its value more and more as time goes by. May God send his blessings on the Wade and, through the Wade, on innumerable people round the world, as richly in the next fifty years as in its first half century of life.

Dr. Michael Ward
Fellow of Blackfriars Hall
University of Oxford
--

Most of my memories of the Wade Center combine the threads of friendship and research. It was always nice to be able to share a research discovery with a friend working at a nearby table. My memories are kaleidoscopic: of the old location at one end of the library, to the new magnificent Wade Center building; of the helpful staff over the years, as well as the friendships made.

Douglas A. Anderson
Author of *The Annotated Hobbit*

Did You Know?

Did you know we're launching the Hansen Lectureship in November 2015? The Ken and Jean Hansen Lectureship features three lectures per year by Wheaton College faculty on the Wade authors. The inaugural speaker will be Dr. Philip Ryken, President of Wheaton College, whose over-arching theme will be *The Messiah in Middle-earth: Images of Christ's Threefold Office in the Lord of the Rings*. The first of President Ryken's three talks was on "The Prophetic Ministry of Gandalf the Grey" on November 12, 2015. This lecture and the following two on February 4 and March 31, 2016 will be recorded and available after the event at: <http://www.wheaton.edu/wadecenter/Media-Gallery/Audio-and-Video-on-Tolkien> **W**

My husband and I owe our meeting to the Wade authors, to the Wade staff, and to our Wade-author-loving friends. Chris Mitchell, then the Wade Center Director, had abruptly told me one morning that “Mike Foster and Adam Schwartz are coming tomorrow. Adam just reviewed a book on Chesterton, the one you’ve just read, and he isn’t married. Why don’t you talk to him?” “Why not?” I thought to myself. Adam, a recent PhD, and I disagreed about the book. But at our wedding in 1998, Mike Foster and Chris Mitchell were best men.

Pam (Shade) Schwartz
Wade Center Secretary/Editorial Assistant
1996-2000

As important as the literary resources are at the Wade—and for Inklings research, they are second to none—it is the context and people that come first to mind. An English cottage with a Narnian lamp-post rather than the great halls of kings and heroes, the Wade is a pleasant and inviting place to read and study. It is a place where I can dig into the literary past as if I am browsing the shelf of an old friend’s study. And the staff—warm, encouraging, and hard as nails on knowledge.

Brenton Dickieson, BA, MCS
PhD Candidate
University of Chester

Some of my fondest memories are of working with researchers and visitors during my time as a Saturday volunteer. Seeing the awe and joy on their faces as they peered into the Wardrobe, or handled a rare book were priceless experiences.

Tony Dawson ‘91 (MA)
Director of Auxiliary Services
Wheaton College



Chris Mitchell, Mary Wade, and Dave Lutz in May 2001 during the construction of the Wade Center.

Our first introduction to *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Lord of the Rings* was in Dr. Kilby’s course on myth. Our friendship with Clyde and Martha Kilby grew and drew us to reading and exploring the multiple genres of the seven authors. Sometimes reading the works of these authors is like looking into a mirror and seeing oneself in a new light, sensing God’s presence and insights leading one to prayer and a new response.

Dr. Kilby’s vision for the collection was inspiring. It was incredible to watch him ask God and work very hard to acquire manuscripts with little or no funds. He dreamt far beyond his means and began

building a foundation with the first few letters.

Stan and Jeannette Bakke
Friends of the Wade **W**

Spotlight on *Christian History*

Issue on Wade Authors

Issue 113 of *Christian History* magazine focused on the seven Wade authors and why we still need their wisdom today. The issue was published in February 2015 with

Interim Director Marjorie Mead serving as an Advisory Editor. It is dedicated to the Wade’s 50th anniversary. The issue asks what legacy did these literary sages leave the modern world? It includes articles on environmental stewardship, education, and economics, just a few of the areas where the seven made an indelible mark on Christian thinking.

This issue has been read online more than any other *Christian History* issue and is available at <https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/issue/seven-british-sages/> for you to enjoy. The seven authors continue to influence the current generation. **W**



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Highlights

This is the fourth year the Wade Center has participated in Wheaton College's "Staycation" programming, a week of free activities during the local school district's spring break for Wheaton area families. Children of all ages came to explore the Wade by participating in a Wade museum scavenger hunt. The children enjoyed creating a Narnian shield which they could take home.

The highlight of the week was two performances

of scenes from *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*,

as adapted by Wade Center Archivist Laura Schmidt and performed by the Wheaton College Tolkien Society. The drama attracted 430 spectators over the course of two days. Attendance for the play was up by 250 from last year! The children were captivated by Aslan, the Beavers, and the

White Witch. They were devastated at Aslan's death, but the joy on their faces when he was resurrected was delightful. One little girl even told her grandmother, "This is an Easter story!" **W**

