



# Friends of the Wade

The Marion E. Wade Center      Wheaton College

## Brian and Sally Oxley Collection

The Wade Center is delighted to announce an exciting new acquisition from the private collection of *Friends of the Wade* Brian and Sally Oxley. The materials acquired—through both donation and discounted price—are a literary treasure trove of resources, including books, letters, poems, and manuscripts by George MacDonald, C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams.

George MacDonald’s original manuscript of the novel *Alec Forbes*, previously on loan to the Wade Center, was a key part of this acquisition.

*Orts* and *Donal Grant*, have textual corrections in MacDonald’s own hand. In addition, there are multiple books inscribed to MacDonald’s literary agent A.P. Watt as well as to his friend and personal secretary, William Carey Davies.

Both Brian and Sally Oxley grew up in Asia, and currently work on filmmaking and preservation projects related to storytelling undergirded with Christian themes. Prior to his foray into the film industry, Brian worked in international business for over 35 years at ServiceMaster—the company founded by



Set of LOTR first editions autographed by Tolkien



Several MacDonald books, including Donal Grant

This handwritten manuscript, passed down through the MacDonald family, contains autobiographical glimpses into George’s childhood in the Scottish town of Huntly.

Included in this acquisition are 76 letters, 95 books, 4 manuscripts, and various other materials. Of special interest are 6 letters by C.S. Lewis, 6 by J.R.R. Tolkien, 2 by George MacDonald, and 69 by Charles Williams, some of which are yet unpublished. The bulk of the new collection is a selection of books by George MacDonald, including many works inscribed by him to friends and family members. Two early editions of the volumes,

our namesake Marion Wade. As part of these interests, the Oxleys had amassed an impressive collection of materials related to “storytellers.” The part of their collection that relates to the seven Wade authors will remain intact as the **Brian and Sally Oxley Collection** at the Wade Center.

Each item in this collection has a story to tell. We are grateful to the Oxleys for both their donation and for offering many of the items at a discounted price, and to two generous families who have funded the majority of the purchase. Visit our website to view more photos of the Oxley collection. **W**

“All is gift.”  
— C.S. Lewis,  
*Perelandra*



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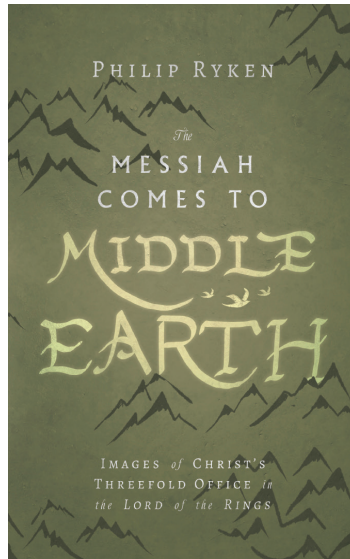
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# At the Wade

## IVP book launch of *The Messiah Comes to Middle-earth*

On November 2, 2017, the Wade Center was delighted to host the book launch for *The Messiah Comes to Middle-earth* by Wheaton College President Dr. Philip Ryken. The first in the Hansen Lectureship series published by InterVarsity Press Academic, this volume engagingly uses the characters of Tolkien's Gandalf, Frodo, and Aragorn to bring new insights to the prophetic, priestly, and royal roles of Christ.

As Tim Keller, Pastor Emeritus of Redeemer Presbyterian, NYC, explains: "J.R.R. Tolkien wrote that what he called the 'story-germ,' the shape of a fictional narrative, grows from an author's experience in unpredictable ways. Tolkien was a deeply devout Christian who knew the Bible well. He insisted that he did not write in order to 'make a point,' and certainly not to express doctrine in allegorical dress. Yet Phil Ryken shows how profoundly Tolkien's imagination was shaped by Jesus Christ himself, revealing the rich theological insights we can receive from the great tales if we are attentive to them. This book is a treat, filled with surprises."

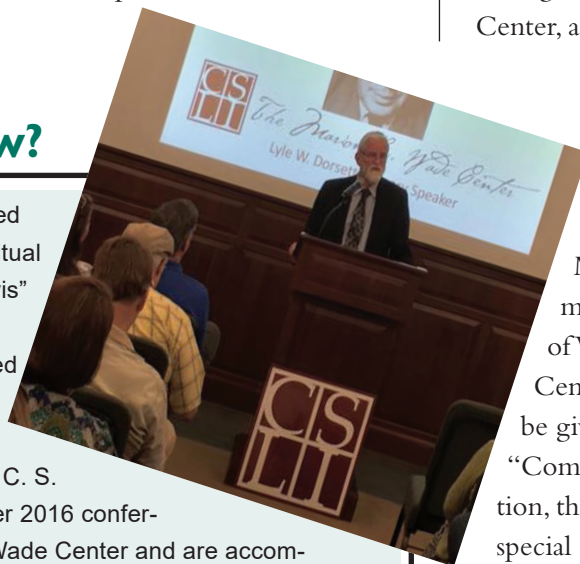


The three lectures that form this book were first delivered in 2015–2016 in the Bakke Auditorium of the Wade Center. As President Ryken explains, "This book arose out of a longer term project to reflect on the implications of the ministry of Christ as prophet, priest, and king—and also the calling of every believer to prophetic, priestly, and kingdom ministry—for pastoral and presidential leadership. I wrote my 'Faith and Learning' paper for Wheaton College on this subject, integrating Christian faith and theology with my calling as a pastor and a college president. When the Wade Center asked me to present a series of lectures presenting one of my scholarly interests in conversation with one of the Wade Center authors, I thought immediately of bringing this project into conversation with Lewis, Tolkien, and others."

The Wade Center is grateful for this partnership with IVP Academic, and anticipates that this new book series will further broaden the scope of this conversation about these authors and their work beyond the campus of Wheaton College. Copies are available for purchase at the Wade Center, and online from IVP Academic. **W**

## Did You Know?

A new video series called "Learning from the Spiritual Pilgrimage of C. S. Lewis" is now available online. The six videos are based on Wade Director Emeritus Dr. Lyle Dorsett's talks from the C. S. Lewis Institute's summer 2016 conference at the Marion E. Wade Center and are accompanied by a study guide. Find more information at: <http://bit.ly/2y4HgYr> **W**



## CSLI Summer Conference 2018

June 17–20, 2018, will see the second C.S. Lewis Institute Conference to be held at the Marion E. Wade Center. Dr. Jerry Root, Wade Board member and Professor of Evangelism and Director of Wheaton Evangelism Initiative at the Billy Graham Center, Wheaton College, is the plenary speaker. He will be giving six talks over the course of the conference on "Communicating the Gospel: C.S. Lewis Style." In addition, there will be talks by other Lewis scholars as well as special activities and offerings unique to the Wade Center.

Register by March 1, 2018 and receive the discounted rate at <http://www.cslewisinstitute.org/Wheaton2018> **W**

# Up Close

## The Road Goes Ever On: a Hobbit Day Recital

On Friday, September 22, 2017, an appreciative audience gathered in Edman Chapel for a lecture and recital by Dr. Richard G. Leonberger, tenor, accompanied by Dr. William Phemister, piano. Dr. Leonberger began the evening with a presentation on his doctoral research related to Donald Swann's *The Road Goes Ever On* song cycle. This was followed by a performance of the poems and songs from J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, which Swann had set to music.

The evening was co-sponsored by the Marion E. Wade Center and the Wheaton College Tolkien Society in celebration of Hobbit Day—which commemorates the joint birthday of Tolkien's hobbit characters Bilbo and Frodo Baggins. This special day is observed annually by Tolkien fans around the world in tribute to his life and works.

Fueled by his special interest in the works of Tolkien, Dr. Leonberger's dissertation, titled "A Swann's Song in Middle-earth," was researched, in part, at the Marion E. Wade Center in 2015. Dr. Leonberger is currently a visiting assistant professor of voice at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX. He has performed numerous principal opera roles with Tri-Cities Opera, Opera Perigord, and Opera Nova Costa Rica. His principal areas of academic work include lyric diction and vocal literature.

Dr. William Phemister, Professor Emeritus of Piano at Wheaton College, is on the Steinway Artist Roster. He has had an active career as a soloist, collaborative artist, and teacher of music, and has performed across the United States and around the world. A graduate of Juilliard and Peabody where he earned a DMA working with Leon Fleisher, he has recently completed a book, *The American Piano Concerto Compendium*, to be published in Spring of 2018. Dr. Phemister and his wife Mary Anne are long-time friends of the Wade Center, and we continue to be grateful for their many contributions of time and talent through the years.



Leonberger and Phemister performing at Edman Chapel

If you missed this event, you will want to watch it on our YouTube channel at: <http://bit.ly/2fRncm6>. Feel free to share this recording with other friends who enjoy music and poetry. The concert portion of the event begins at 41:00. Recording allowed by kind permission of the Donald Swann Estate. **W**

## Spotlight

A screening of the film "Tolkien & Lewis: Myth, Imagination & the Quest for Meaning" was held in the Wade Center's Bakke Auditorium at 7:30pm on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. The film, co-produced by Crouse Entertainment and Duncan Entertainment Group, is a non-fiction documentary based on a conversation that took place in Oxford on a rainy evening in 1931, when Tolkien and Lewis discussed the meaning of "the true myth" and its relation to faith. This conversation was key to Lewis's own developing belief in God. Former Wade Director Chris Mitchell was one of those interviewed in this film.

Following the screening, there was a time of Q&A with Dr. Rolland Hein (also interviewed in the film), Robert Huck (Vice President of the Duncan Group), and Dr. Jerry Root (Wade Board Member). DVDs of the documentary are available for purchase at the Wade Center and online at: <http://duncanentertainment.com/quest.php>. **W**

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## Highlights

Friends of the Wade / page 4

Imagination has the power to transform culture. In play, children often escape into imaginary worlds—where traditional laws of the universe are not in force. Such imaginary worlds often have their own history, geography, and ecology.

As a boy, C.S. Lewis and his brother Warren created their own imaginary world called Boxen. They illustrated their tales with maps, character sketches, and chronologies. Likewise, J.R.R. Tolkien spent so much time constructing his fictional Middle-earth, that fans and



scholars today continue to marvel at the depth and breadth of his imaginary world.

Riverside Center for Education in Westmont, IL has modeled a program called "Imagination Workshop" on these activities. Boys aged 10 to 14 have visited the Wade Center to draw inspiration and interact with the collection as they create their own imaginary world based on Tolkien's vision of Atlantis. They research, draw, create, and explore an imaginary world of their own making, creating an explorer's journal that chronicles the characters and traits of their own inner world brought to life on paper. **W**