

Essays Presented To Charles Williams

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When Williams died in 1945 there remained a number of essays which had appeared in periodicals and elsewhere, many of which contain important statements of his ideas. A selection of these is compiled in this volume. (Christian)

A final installment of a three-volume series is comprised of personal correspondences as penned during the final part of his life, a time during which he passed his days at Cambridge and wrote the Narnia chronicles.

On Stories

Shadows of Ecstasy

Essays presented to Charles Williams

The Mythical Poetry of Charles Williams

The Fellowship

C.S. Lewis

Reappearance of a classic work of Dante criticism interpreting the central female image of Beatrice.

Charles Williams (1886-1945), poet, novelist, critic, biographer, lay theologian, and 'Inkling'; exercised a great influence, both as a personality and through his writings, on English letters in his own day; and now, after a period of relative neglect, interest in him has grown once more. This international symposium, a product of this revival, is presented as a contribution to the serious study of Williams and his work. Its contents reflect not only the extraordinarily wide range of his writing, but also the many contacts he made both personally and through his work at the Oxford University Press. Contributors look at his literary background and context, describe the part he played in introducing Kierkegaard to the English-speaking public, discuss his theology of love, and compare his work with that of friends, disciples and associates. Two papers concentrate specifically on one of his remarkable novels, *The Place of the Lion*. Between them, they give a glimpse, or a series of glimpses, of an unusual man and a fascinating writer whose influence and importance are being recognized more and more. This is the first full biography of Charles Williams (1886-1945), an extraordinary and controversial figure who was a central member of the Inklings—the group of Oxford writers that included C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. Charles Williams—novelist, poet, theologian, magician and guru—was the strangest, most multi-talented, and most controversial member of the group. He was a pioneering fantasy writer, who still has a cult following. C.S.

Lewis thought his poems on King Arthur and the Holy Grail were among the best poetry of the twentieth century for 'the soaring and gorgeous novelty of their technique, and their profound wisdom'. But Williams was full of contradictions. An influential theologian, Williams was also deeply involved in the occult, experimenting extensively with magic, practising erotically-tinged rituals, and acquiring a following of devoted disciples. Membership of the Inklings, whom he joined at the outbreak of the Second World War, was only the final phase in a remarkable career. From a poor background in working-class London, Charles Williams rose to become an influential publisher, a successful dramatist, and an innovative literary critic. His friends and admirers included T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden, Dylan Thomas, and the young Philip Larkin. A charismatic personality, he held left-wing political views, and believed that the Christian churches had dangerously undervalued sexuality. To redress the balance, he developed a 'Romantic Theology', aiming at an approach to God through sexual love. He became the most admired lecturer in wartime Oxford, influencing a generation of young writers before dying suddenly at the height of his powers. This biography draws on a wealth of documents, letters and private papers, many never before opened to researchers, and on more than twenty interviews with people who knew Williams. It vividly recreates the bizarre and dramatic life of this strange, uneasy genius, of whom Eliot wrote, 'For him there was no frontier between the material and the spiritual world.'

Faith and the Power of Imagination

The Third Inkleling

Charles Williams and C. S. Lewis

Essays Presented to Charles Williams

Essays on the French Enlightenment Presented to George R. Havens

The Rhetoric of Vision

The twelve original essays in this volume are joined by a common interest in the forms the shadows of an author 's imagination can take and in analyzing the shapes that can cast such shadows. This collection will be of interest to a wide audience: the general reader, the science-fiction devotee, and students of twentieth-century literature. Taken together, the essays provide a comprehensive view and critical evaluation of the fantasy fiction of Lewis, Tolkien, and Williams.

When platonic archetypes begin to invade London and the heavenly world intrudes on our own, a small number of people who know what is happening react in varying ways. Some attempt to control these rabid Ideas while others run and hide. One ignores their existence and another vows to stop their impending rule.

Charles Williams (1886-1945), the friend of T. S. Eliot, C. S. Lewis, and J. R. R. Tolkien, was both a writer with many gifts and a religious thinker of an unusual kind. Poet, playwright, novelist, biographer, critic, and theologian, in each capacity he displayed a distinctive and highly imaginative cast of mind. Here, in the first full-length study to appear for over twenty years, Glen Cavaliero discusses Williams's work in its entirety and pays particular attention to the manner in which his theological ideas were shaped and furthered by his various literary achievements. Following a brief account of Williams's life, the author examines the early poems, the criticism, biographies and plays, the novels, the Arthurian poems, and the assessment of Charles Williams's literary and theological importance. The book also illuminates the relationship between religious belief and the scope and working of the poetic mind. The discussion of Williams's place in twentieth-century literary history as a writer of "fantasy literature, and of his unique gifts as a Christian apologist in an age of skepticism, ensures that this book will be of immense interest to literary critics and theologians alike.

The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis, Volume 3

C.S. Lewis and His Circle

Charles Williams and his Contemporaries

To Michal from Serge

The Fantasies of C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams

Journey Towards Home

In this edition, the author collects together twenty-four of William's earlier poems on Arthurian themes.

These letters to "Michal," Williams endearing name for his wife, from "Serge," a moniker by which his most intimate friends addressed him, are more than just a collection of love letters--they are significant for what they tell us about the man, for the light they throw on his work, and for the way they show Williams in the context of his literary contemporaries (C. S. Lewis, T. S. Eliot, W. H. Auden, Dorothy L. Sayers, Christopher Fry, and Edith Sitwell). In fact, Williams felt that T. S. Eliot and C. S. Lewis were the only two people other than his wife to whom he could talk seriously about important matters

"This book was intended [. . .] as an introduction to the works of certain contemporary poets, for those readers who do not know them, while not being, it is hoped, entirely without interest for those who do. At times, when the mind of the instructor is jaded, a remark with which he disagrees may prove exciting, and one with which he agrees is sufficiently reminiscent to be helpful. Criticism as an art which attempts, therefore, in another medium, to create experiences as full and satisfying as those of the work it is discussing, has not been attempted here, and will certainly not be found. The essays are utilitarian, whereas real criticism aims always at its own absolute being." -- From the preface

Arthurian Literature V

Image and Imagination

The Image of the City and Other Essays/ Charles Williams

And Other Essays on Literature

The Place of the Lion

A Celebration

Clives Staples Lewis (1898-1963) called his theological writings as that "of a layman and an amateur" who merely attempted to restate "ancient and orthodox doctrines." However, S. Steve Park argues that Lewis's theological reflections are well-informed, thoughtful and weighty. For instance, Lewis's notion of "mere Christianity" consistently shows his commitment to "supernaturalism" (vs. naturalism) and "eucatastrophic salvationism" (vs. ethical developmentalism) in sharp contrast to many prevailing theologians of his time. In this book, the author expounded Lewis's theological writings rather comprehensively and organized the results according to Lewis's signature literary motif of the journey towards home, in four stages: "Away from Home," "Homeward Turning," "Home Away from Home," and "The Final Home." Under these headings, Lewis's major theological and literary themes find illuminating treatments with rich contents and penetrating analyses. In so doing, the author presents to the readers, probably for the first time, a systematic theology of C. S. Lewis. It turns out that Lewis, more than just a storyteller, was a significant participant in the world of theological reflections, demonstrating himself to be a rather formidable theological mind to be reckoned with. Deals with an invasion of Europe from Africa and a kind of superman who denies that he is Antichrist, but who looks uncommonly like him.

Examines the life and works of the British author and scholar, best known for his creation of "The Chronicles of Narnia" series.

Charles Williams and Peter Rabe

Poetry at Present

The Pattern in the Web

Charles Williams

Poet of Theology

Two Essays

Charles Williams has achieved considerable reputation for his novels. He has been recognized as a brilliant theologian and a sensitive literary critic. But Williams himself wished most to be remembered as a poet, and trusted his future literary reputation to the two-volume series of poems on the Arthurian theme, *Taliessin Through Logres* and *The Region of the Summer Stars*. Of the first volume Williams wrote: "The matter and the style require and reward attention. The poems do not so much tell a story or describe a process as express states or principles of experience. The names and incidents of the Arthurian myth are taken as starting-points for investigation and statement on common and profound experience." In this first full-length study of these poems, they receive, in both matter and style, the close attention that Williams requested. The emphasis in this study is on the quality of these poems as poetry and only secondarily upon their religious content. Although essentially Christian, they are placed within the context of the multifaceted, many-changing forms of recurring myths. Thus they represent one of the few attempts in the twentieth century to encapsulate and age-old and ever-recurring "pattern in the web" in a brilliant structure that is thoroughly modern.

C. S. Lewis is one of the best-loved and most engaging Christian writers of recent times, and he continues to be a powerful defender of the faith. It is in his imaginative fiction that his genius finds its fullest expression and makes its most lasting theological contribution. Famously, Lewis had friends who, like him, employed powerfully creative imaginations to explore the profundities of Christian thought and their struggles with their faith. These illuminating essays on C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, Dorothy L. Sayers, Rose Macaulay, and Austin Farrer are written by an international team of Lewis scholars.

One of the most ambitious essays in the interpretation of Dante is Charles Williams' subtle and individual interpretation of the role of Beatrice. Williams' mysticism is palpable--the unseen world interpenetrates ours at every point, and spiritual exchange occurs continuously, unseen and largely unlooked for.

And Other Essays

Letters from Charles Williams to His Wife, Florence, 1939-1945

Essays presented to Charles Williams by Dorothy Sayers and others

Essays Presented to Charles Williams. Contributors: Dorothy Sayers, J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, A.O. Barfield, Gervase Mathew, W.H. Lewis. [With a Portrait.].

The Literary Lives of the Inklings: J.R.R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, Owen Barfield, Charles Williams

Life, Works, and Legacy

Essays Presented to Charles Williams William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company
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Essays Presented to Charles Williams Contributors: Dorothy Sayers [and Others]

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The Rhetoric of Vision Essays on Charles Williams Bucknell University Press

For over thirty years, the Oxford C. S. Lewis Society has met weekly in the medieval colleges of the University of Oxford. During that time, it has hosted as speakers nearly all those still living who were associated with the Inklings--the Oxford literary circle led by C. S. Lewis--as well as authors and thinkers of a prominence that nears Lewis's own. **C. S. Lewis and His Circle** offers the reader a chance to join this unique group. Roger White has worked with Society past presidents Brendan and Judith Wolfe to select the most important talks, which are here made available to the wider public for the first time. They exemplify the best of traditional academic essays, thoughtful memoirs, and informal reminiscences about C. S. Lewis and his circle. The reader will reimagine Lewis's **Cosmic Trilogy** with former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, read philosopher Elizabeth Anscombe's final word on Lewis's arguments for Christianity, hear the Reverend Peter Bide's memories of marrying Lewis and Joy Davidman in an Oxford hospital, and learn about Lewis's **Narnia Chronicles** from his former secretary. Representing the finest of both personal and scholarly engagement with C. S. Lewis and the Inklings, the talks collected here set a new tone for engagement with this iconic Oxford literary circle--a tone close to Lewis's own Oxford--bred sharpness and wryness, seasoned with good humor and genuine affection for C. S. Lewis and his circle.

New collection of literary-critical essays and reviews of C. S. Lewis, including previously unpublished and long-unavailable works.

The Celian Moment and Other Essays

Friends in Co-inherence

Contributors: Dorothy Sayers [and Others]

Essays and Memoirs from the Oxford C.S. Lewis Society

Narnia, Cambridge, and Joy, 1950 - 1963

Charles Williams (1886-1945) was hailed by Eliot, Auden, Agee, and others for his metaphysical, ethical, and social vision. In this collection, nineteen scholars examine the rhetorical means he employed to convey that vision and the rhetorical theories that guided him. The contributors vary in approach, from close analysis of Williams's syntactic and semantic strategies to study of his larger

concern for an organic unity of rhetoric and idea. They also address his cultivation of affect, aporia, dislocation, allusion, the rhetoric of genres, and other strategies. About half the essays consider Williams's fiction. They explore the theological roots of his theory of imagery; the rhetorical implications of his belief that language is inherently meaningful; his methods of creating "subjective correlatives" for heightened states of consciousness; and, in individual works of fiction, his revisionary use of time-travel and ghost-story conventions, his rhetorical application of Blakean "contraries," aspects of his diction and syntax, and his call to pursue integrity of speech as an ideal. Three essays discuss Williams's poetry, specifically his use of the occult as a mode of imagining, the social significance that permeates his idea of coinherence, and the key literary and personal influences on the evolution of his mature poetic style. Another three essays treat Williams's rhetoric in plays - his debts to medieval drama, his success with conversational style, and his reliance on ambiguity and skepticism. Finally, four examine Williams's evenhandedness and liveliness as a historian, his prose style in theological writing, his sensitivity to the rhetoric of detective fiction both as reviewer and as writer, and his markedly poetic style in literary criticism.

This study of the literary relationship between Charles Williams and C. S. Lewis during the years 1936-1945 focuses on the theme of 'co-inherence' at the centre of their friendship. The idea of 'co-inherence' has long been recognized as an important contribution of Williams to theology, and had significant influence on the thought of Lewis. This account of the two writers' conviction that human persons 'inhere' or 'dwell' both in each other and in the triune God reveals many inter-relationships between their writings that would otherwise be missed. It also shows up profound differences between their world-views, and a gradual, though incomplete, convergence onto common ground. Exploring the idea of co-inherence throws light on the fictional worlds they created, as well as on their treatment (whether together or separately) of a wide range of theological and literary subjects: the Arthurian tradition, the poetry of William Blake and Thomas Traherne, the theology of Karl Barth, the nature of human and divine love, and the doctrine of the Trinity. This study draws for the first time on transcriptions of Williams' lectures from 1932 to 1939, tracing more clearly the development and use of the idea of co-inherence in his thought than has been possible before. Finally, an account of the use of the word 'co-inherence' in English-speaking theology suggests that the differences that existed between Lewis and Williams, especially on the place of analogy and participation in human experience of God, might be resolved by a theology of co-inherence in the Trinity.

The theme of this collection is the excellence of the Story, especially the kind of story dear to Lewis - fantasy and science fiction, which he fostered in an age dominated by realistic fiction. On Stories is a companion volume to Lewis's collected shorter fiction, *The Dark Tower and Other Stories*. Edited and with a Preface by Walter Hooper.

The Christian Life According to C. S. Lewis

C. S. Lewis and Friends

The Image of the City (and Other Essays)

Literature and History in the Age of Ideas

A Study in Dante

A Critical Essay

C. S. Lewis is the 20th century's most widely read Christian writer and J.R.R. Tolkien its most beloved mythmaker. For three decades, they and their closest associates formed a literary club known as the Inklings, which met every week in Lewis's Oxford rooms and in nearby pubs. They discussed literature, religion, and ideas; read aloud from works in progress; took philosophical rambles in woods and fields; gave one another companionship and criticism; and, in the process, rewrote the cultural history of modern times. In *The Fellowship*, Philip and Carol Zaleski offer the first complete rendering of the Inklings' lives and works. The result is an extraordinary account of the ideas, affections and vexations that drove the group's most significant members. C. S. Lewis accepts Jesus Christ while riding in the sidecar of his brother's motorcycle, maps the medieval and Renaissance mind, becomes a world-famous evangelist and moral satirist, and creates new forms of religiously attuned fiction while wrestling with personal crises. J.R.R. Tolkien transmutes an invented mythology into gripping story in *The Lord of the Rings*, while conducting groundbreaking Old English scholarship and elucidating, for family and friends, the Catholic teachings at the heart of his vision. Owen Barfield, a philosopher for whom language is the key to all mysteries, becomes Lewis's favorite sparring partner, and, for a time, Saul Bellow's chosen guru. And Charles Williams, poet, author of "supernatural shockers," and strange acolyte of romantic love, turns his everyday life into a mystical pageant. Romantics who scorned rebellion, fantasists who prized reality, wartime writers who believed in hope, Christians with cosmic reach, the Inklings sought to revitalize literature and faith in the twentieth century's darkest years-and did so in dazzling style.

The Figure of Beatrice

Shadows of Imagination

Essays on Charles Williams

The Image of the City