

From the Editor

Six years ago, we launched the *Journal of Inklings Studies* as a collaboration between the Oxford C.S. Lewis Society, the Charles Williams Society, and the Owen Barfield Literary Estate. Two of these bodies had published journals or newsletters – the *C.S. Lewis Chronicle* and the *Charles Williams Quarterly* – for some years, and were established voices within their fields. The Owen Barfield Literary Estate, meanwhile, was in the process of launching an ambitious programme of republications of Barfield’s works, and looking for a format in which to publish smaller manuscripts by the author, as well as to encourage the growing scholarship on him. All three bodies agreed that the significance of Williams, Tolkien, Lewis and Barfield within and for theology, philosophy and literature were far from being exhausted – indeed, that much of the potential of their thought remains to be understood and appropriated. They also agreed that these authors were best seen not in isolation but as a group that shared contexts, ideas, and processes, and shaped each others’ work by collaboration and critique.

The journal was founded to enable and sustain high standards of scholarly engagement with the Inklings, their debts, and their legacies. One of the most important ways of doing so has been publishing manuscript texts by its subject authors. Our most requested issue (vol. 4, no. 2) contains J.R.R. Tolkien’s translation of the Book of Jonah, together with an article on the history of its creation by Brendan Wolfe. Recently, this side of the journal’s work has been expanded into a series of *Inklings Studies Supplements*: free-standing special issues presenting larger manuscripts by our subject authors. The first issue contains the missing papers of the ‘Great War’ C.S. Lewis and Owen Barfield waged in the 1920’s on the roles of reason and imagination; an upcoming issue will comprise Warnie Lewis’s memoir of his brother, written shortly after Jack’s death but never published as written.

As important to the journal’s work has been the publication of cutting-edge commentaries on the Inklings’ work, analyses of their thought and influences, and constructive and critical responses to the impulses they gave. These include contributions both from scholars within the growing field of ‘Inklings studies’ (esp. C.S. Lewis studies) and from those working in philosophy, theology, literature, and philology more widely, who are able to test and develop the distinctive contributions and challenges offered to their fields by the journal’s subject authors.

Through all this work, the *Journal of Inklings Studies* has, in the last six years, grown to be one of the leading academic journal on the Inklings worldwide, and has seen a great increase in both submissions and subscriptions. It now publishes only a quarter of the submissions it receives, and has several hundred subscribers, including many university libraries. The publication has been made possible by the tireless (and honorary) work of a small editorial team, most notably Dr Paul Brazier, who has designed and typeset the journal since its inception and for several years managed its website. We still set, print and distribute the journal out of our editorial office, which, in 2014, moved with the executive editors from Oxford to St Andrews, where it is now housed within the wonderful Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts in the University of St Andrews.

We have valued the flexibility and control that this mode of publication affords. At the same time, the steady growth of the journal, and the shift from print only to print and online access for both individuals and libraries, has meant escalating workloads for the small editorial team. Last year, we therefore began to look for a publishing house to streamline the publication process and distribute the journal for us both in print and online. Edinburgh University Press has one of the

strongest journal lists of twentieth-century literature in the world, and it was an honour and a delight when they agreed to publish the *Journal of Inklings Studies* from the next issue onwards. From January 2018, therefore, EUP will handle subscriptions and submissions, and host the online archive of the journal. These and other information will be found at <http://www.eupublishing.com/ink>.

The editorial team will remain as it was, with a few very welcome additions, above all Derek Keefe, who joins us as lead reviews editor. Derek brings with him wide academic expertise in the area, and professional experience as reviews editor for *Christianity Today*. Book reviews will continue to be on open access to support the development of scholarship on C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, Owen Barfield and their peers. The journal will continue to be published twice a year (in April and October), and all article submissions will continue to undergo double-blind peer-review.

Current subscribers will have received, or soon receive, a renewal notice from Edinburgh University Press. We would ask you to renew your subscription with them as quickly as possible to enable uninterrupted service. Any subscription payments already made for 2018 (whether for the first issue only or for both issues) will be honoured. If you are a member of a library whose readers would benefit from a subscription to the *Journal of Inklings Studies*, please encourage your librarian to subscribe. The level of service offered to libraries will be higher and more consistent than we have been able to offer so far, and we hope many institutions will make use of it.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us at editor@inklings-studies.org or admin@inklings-studies.org. We look forward very much to taking this next step of the journey with you.

Judith Wolfe
General Editor
Michaelmas 2017