

Owen Barfield Centenary Celebration

*A Collaboration Among
The Anthroposophical Society in America
New York City Branch*

*Columbia University
New York City*

*Drew University
Madison, N.J.*



Owen Barfield 1898 - 1997

Dec. 4 5:45 - 9:00 PM

Dec. 5 8:45 AM - 5:30 PM

The occupational hazard of the prophet is that he is without honor in his own country. Certainly Owen Barfield has had a more intensive and extensive appreciation in the United States than he has had in his native England. Many Americans who have had the good fortune to meet the work of Owen Barfield owe that good fortune to the activities of a relatively small number of dedicated friends and colleagues. Owen Barfield's "second career" as a Visiting Professor began at Drew University, and it was Shirley Sugerman of Drew University who celebrated the occasion of Mr. Barfield's seventy-fifth birthday with the collection of essays in his honor, Evolution of Consciousness: Studies in Polarity. That volume begins with a comprehensive, incisive and luminous Conversation with Owen Barfield, which she has graciously agreed to distribute at this gathering. This celebration of the life and work of Owen Barfield is gratefully dedicated to Shirley Sugerman.

Owen Barfield Centenary Celebration

Our committee is deeply grateful to the Fetzer Institute, particularly Rob Lehman, as well as the Rudolf Steiner Foundation for their generous support in making this celebration possible.

The Committee:

Drew University
Dean James Pain
Dr. Shirley Sugarman

Columbia University
Dr. Douglas Sloan

The Anthroposophical Society in America
Frederick Dennehy
Marsha Post
Joyce Reilly

The Books of Owen Barfield

The Silver Trumpet



History in English Words



Poetic Diction

POETIC
DICTION
A Study in Meaning
by
OWEN
BARFIELD

Romanticism Comes of Age



This Ever Diverse Pair



Saving the Appearances



Worlds Apart



Unancestral Voice



Speaker's Meaning



What Coleridge Thought



The Rediscovery of Meaning



History, Guilt, and Habit



Orpheus: A Poetic Drama



Owen Barfield on C. S. Lewis



A Barfield Sampler



3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

Documentary

A screening of "Owen Barfield: Man and Meaning"

4:30 pm - 6:15 pm

A Round Table Discussion

Lionel Alley, Howard Fulweiler, Richard Hoeks, Thomas Kranidas, Shirley Sugerman, and many of the other presenters who knew Owen Barfield personally.



Notes on the Presenters

Lionel Adey is Professor Emeritus in English at the University of Victoria where he taught mainly nineteenth century poetry and literature for and about young people. He has drawn on his classical and medieval background for *Hymns and the Christian 'Myth'* and on his nineteenth century background for *Class and Idol In the English Hymn*. He is the author of *C.S. Lewis: Writer, Dreamer And Mentor* as well as a monograph, *C.S. Lewis's 'Great War' With Owen Barfield* (after extensive consultation with Mr. Barfield). Professor Adey is also a poet, and has had poems collected for joint publication called *Affirmations* (1990).

Christopher Bamford is co-director and editor-in-chief of Anthroposophic Press and Lindisfarne Books. He is the editor of "Celtic Christianity: Ecology and Holiness," "The Noble Traveller: The Poetry and Prose of Oscar de L. Milosz" and the author of "The Voice of the Eagle: the Heart of Celtic Christianity." He is a student of Hermeticism, Esoteric Christianity, Platonism, and Romanticism and a contributor to *Parabola*, *Lapis*, *Gnosis*, *Temenos*, and *Sphynx* - journals dedicated to the resacralization of culture.

Simon Blaxland-de Lange is a teacher in curative education and a music therapist. He is a translator of the works of Sergei Prokofiev and is Owen Barfield's biographer. Mr. Blaxland-de Lange is currently the Chairman of the College and Chairman of Management of the Philpots Manor School, a Rudolf Steiner special school in Sussex, England.

Ronald Brady teaches Philosophy at Ramapo College in Mahwah, New Jersey. He has had a long-term interest in the relation between cognition and perception and has published on Goethe's organics, recent issues in taxonomy, and is now writing on epistemology and consciousness. All of these studies follow from Dr. Brady's original reading of Owen Barfield's *Serving the Appearances*, given to him by Paul Fiehler on his arrival in Berkeley in 1962.

Howard Fulweller, Professor of English at the University of Missouri-Columbia, is the author of *Letters from the Darkling Plain: Language And The Grounds of Knowledge In The Poetry Of Arnold Hopkins* (1972) and *Here A Captive Heart Busted: The Sentimental Journal of Modern Literature* (1993). He is also the author of numerous essays on nineteenth century fiction, poetry, cultural and scientific history as well as the thought of Owen Barfield.

Jane Hipolite was introduced to the works of Owen Barfield in 1966, when a fellow graduate student at U.C.L.A. lent her his copy of *Worlds Apart*. She has been learning from Barfield ever since. She is Professor of English at California State University, Fullerton.

Notes on the Presenters

Jeffrey Hipolito is a doctoral candidate in English at the University of Washington. His first encounter with Owen Barfield, at the age of nine, included a memorable chess game. Between subsequent meetings over the chessboard his interest in Barfield's work has come to focus on the relation between Barfield's theoretical and creative writings.

Terry Hipolito first read the canonical works of Owen Barfield at the U.C. Berkeley Library during two days in 1964. Barfield at once became a favorite author; over the years he also became a limitless topic of conversation and discussion, and at last the valued friend, Owen.

Richard Hocks is Professor of English as well as the Catherine Paine Middlebush Chair of Humanities at the University of Missouri. He has authored four books of literary criticism, one of which, *Henry James & Pragmatic Thought*, was a finalist for the National Book Award. He has likewise authored by now just about fifty academic articles on various authors such as Coleridge, Defoe, T.S. Eliot, Thoreau, Emerson, Melville, Conrad, Henry and William James, Michael Polanyi and, of course, Owen Barfield. He teaches British about as often as American Literature classes together with some general interdisciplinary courses in the humanities.

Gertrude Reif Hughes is author of *Emerson's Demanding Optimism* and of essays on the social imagination of American women poets. She is Professor of English and Women's Studies at Wesleyan University (Connecticut). She came to Barfield's work through her interest in Romanticism and in the work of Rudolf Steiner.

Thomas Kranidas recently retired as Professor in the English Department of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he taught Renaissance Literature for thirty years. He was a friend of Owen Barfield's since 1975. He is the author of *C.S. Lewis and the Poetry of Owen Barfield*, *The Defiant Lyricism of Owen Barfield*, and, with Jeanne Clayton Hunter, of the Introduction to *A Barfield Sampler*, a collection of poetry and fiction by Owen Barfield.

David Lavery is Professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University, where he teaches courses on modern literature, film, and popular culture. Co-producer and co-writer of the video "Owen Barfield: Man and Meaning" and webmaster of the Owen Barfield World Wide Web Site <http://www.mtsu.edu/~dlavery/barfielddoc.html>), he is currently at work on a book on the creative process, *Gonias at Work: Four 20th Century Minds and the Vocation of the Imagination*, which will include a major biographical study of Barfield.

John Lukacs is one of America's most distinguished historians. He is the author of twenty books, including *Budapest 1900: A Historical Portrait Of A City And Its Culture*; *The Hider of History*; *Historical Consciousness: The Remembered Past*. His most recent book is *A Thread of Years*.

Notes on the Presenters

Paul Fiebler received his PhD. from Columbia University in 1961. He has taught at Berkeley, California and McGill University. Among his writings is *The Visionary Landscape: A Study in Medieval Allegory*, reviewed by Owen Barfield in *The Rediscovery of Meaning*. He is the founder of The Atlantic Project, which has planned an adaptation of the Oxbridge College tutorial system for use in North American and other universities.

Douglas Sloan is Professor of History and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. He is the author of *Insight-Imagination: The Emancipation Of Thought And The Modern World; The Great Awakening In American Education: A Documentary History and Faith and Knowledge: Mainline Protestantism and Twentieth Century American Higher Education*. Among Dr. Sloan's special interests are epistemology, science and education, Waldorf Education and the epistemological, cultural and spiritual foundations of education.

Shirley Sugarman is Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Drew University. She is the editor of *Evolution of Consciousness: Studies in Polarity* and the author of *Sin and Madness: Studies in Narcissism*. She has been a friend of Owen Barfield since 1964.

Stephen Talbot has worked full time with computers since 1980. For the past several years Mr. Talbot has been Senior Editor at O'Reilly & Associates, a leading publisher of technical books about computers. Mr Talbot is the author of *The Future Does Not Compute: Transcending The Machines In Our Midst*, named one of the outstanding academic books of 1996 by the Library Journal "Choice" and an "Outstanding Book of the Year" by Unix Review. Mr. Talbot is also publisher of the highly regarded on-line newsletter, Net Future, focusing on technology and human responsibility.

G.B. Tennyson is Professor of English at UCLA where he specializes in British nineteenth and twentieth century literature. He is the author and editor of more than a dozen books on Victorian and Modern Literature and for many years edited the journal *Nineteenth-Century Literature*. His work on Owen Barfield began in 1969 and includes numerous articles, the collection *Owen Barfield on C.S. Lewis*, the video "Owen Barfield: Man and Meaning" and the forthcoming *A Barfield Reader*.

Columbia University

*in Milbank Chapel at Teachers' College
Columbia University, New York City*

Registration..... 5:45 p.m.

Reception..... 6:30 p.m.

Presentation..... 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Introduction *Douglas Sloan*

Presenters

John Lubacs

Owen Barfield and History

Christopher Barnford

Owen Barfield and Romantic Medicine and Technology

Stephen Talbot

Owen Barfield and the Technological Society

read by Frederick Dennohy

World and Word - His Manus Arthur Owen Barfield from Georg Bahirwind

You can't finish a book by Owen Barfield and just put it away. You keep coming back to it, to make sure it said what you thought it said, to be convinced all over again, or just to hear him say it one more time. No English-speaking writer in this century has written with greater clarity and served to awaken so many areas of thought: philosophy, science, literature, history, and language. Few writers of any kind have brought to their readers what he has --- the quiet, astonishing gift of changing the way they do their thinking.

Drew University

in Great Hall, S.W. Bowne

Drew University, Madison, New Jersey

9:30 am - 12:45 pm

Respondent

Gertrude Reif Hughs

Presenters

G.B. Tennyson

The Legacy of Owen Barfield

David Lavery

The Creative Life of Owen Barfield

Jeffery Hipolito

Reading the Self in Owen Barfield

Paul Piehler

Owen Barfield, C.S. Lewis and the Evolution of Consciousness

Terry Hipolito

Owen Barfield as Post-Post- Modernist

Ronald Brady

Owen Barfield and the Epistemology of Science

12:45 pm - 2:00 pm

Lunch

2:00 pm

A Musical Interlude

Mozart, Sonata No. 34 in B flat Major, KV3170

Andantino, Sestetto E Cantabile

Agnes Hardorp, piano John Collins, violin

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Jane Hipolito

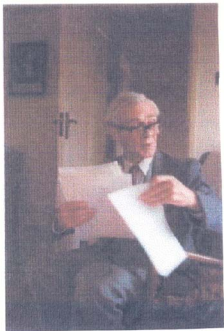
Owen Barfield's poetry

Simon Blaxland-de Lange

The forthcoming biography of Owen Barfield

3:15 pm

A Musical Interlude



The Owen Barfield Centenary Committee wants to express its gratitude to Dean James Pain of the Graduate School of Drew University for the warm encouragement he has given to this Celebration from the very beginning. The Committee wants to thank Dean Pain, Assistant Dean William Rogers and Administrative Assistant Leslie Riordan for their unfailing counsel and cooperation and the sacrifices they made to make the event at Drew a reality. The Committee also wishes to thank Douglas Sloan for his generous help with the program at Teachers College.