

Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the Owen Barfield Society

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

4 October 2007 2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Ten members attended this meeting: Don Cruse, Peter Fields, John Glanzer, Jeffrey Hipolito, Terry Hipolito, Jamie Hutchinson, William Johnson, David Joplin, Danny Smitherman, and Jane Hipolito, who served as chair.

Thank-yous. Dr. Hipolito opened the meeting by expressing the Society's thanks to David Lavery, who suggested the possibility of forming an Owen Barfield Society. Professor Lavery also suggested that it might be possible for the OBS to be named an affiliate organization of RMMLA. He made these suggestions in 2002. Dr. Hipolito next thanked the Executive Board of RMMLA for granting the Society's petition to be named an affiliate organization of RMMLA, and to Joan Grenier-Winther, RMMLA's Executive Director, who worked expertly, tirelessly, and always graciously to shepherd our petition through the approval process in a timely fashion. Finally, Dr. Hipolito expressed the Society's gratitude to the late Professor Raymond Tripp and his students who initiated RMMLA's first Barfield Session in RMMLA's 1998 convention and have sustained Barfield studies in RMMLA ever since.

Goals of the Owen Barfield Society. Those present informally affirmed that the principal goal of the Owen Barfield Society is to further understanding and appreciation of Owen Barfield's life and work. It is hoped that the Society may become a community of scholars in which Owen Barfield's three "publics" (mainstream academics, students of the Inklings, and students of anthroposophy) can all participate, communicate with each other, and even collaborate.

Accomplishments of the Owen Barfield Society to date. Terry Hipolito has constructed a skeletal *web site* for the Owen Barfield Society and serves as web master. The definitive *bibliography of Owen Barfield's published writings, 1917-2007*, is posted on the OBS's web site and continuously updated. Planning has begun for the Society's *peer-reviewed e-journal* and four scholars have agreed to serve on its editorial board: Cornel Bonca, Frederick Dennehy, David Joplin, and Thomas Kranidas.

Naming the Society's e-journal. The Society's e-journal is in need of a name. In discussion it was agreed that the title should be catchy, perhaps a phrase coined by Barfield, and that possibly there could be a subtitle with Barfield's name in it. The e-journal's title should discreetly signal that this is a venue for interdisciplinary scholarship, and for both established scholars and young scholars. All members of the Owen Barfield Society are encouraged to help name the e-journal. Please send your ideas to info@barfieldsociety.org.

Possibilities for the Owen Barfield Society Web site. Those present agreed that *reports of the Society's meetings* will be posted on the OBS Web site; Danny Smitherman's *photos of this meeting* will accompany the written report of the 2007 meeting. It was also agreed to post *the papers presented in the Owen Barfield Sessions*, if the presenters give permission for this. *News of Barfieldian publications, events, and so forth* should be posted on the Society's Web site. It was suggested that Clifford Monks be contacted to ask if the issues of his journal *Towards* might be posted on the OBS Web site; Jane Hipolito will pursue this. Another suggestion is that "*I remember Owen Barfield*" stories could be posted on the web site. Terry and Jane Hipolito volunteered to write a *mini-biography of Owen Barfield* and post it on the Society's Web site, with *photos of Owen Barfield*. Danny Smitherman volunteered to help set up a password-protected *online forum* in which members of the OBS can post and pursue research questions. For example, one possible forum research focus could be to develop a Barfieldian perspective on C. S. Lewis's *Till We Have Faces*. All members of the Owen Barfield Society are

encouraged to suggest possibilities for the Society's Web site. Please send your ideas to info@barfieldsociety.org.

The 2008 meeting of the Owen Barfield Society. It was agreed that the Society's 2008 meeting will include *a progress report on the e-journal* and that 1/3 to 1/2 of the meeting will be a "book club" discussion of Barfield's *Poetic Diction*, which was first published in 1928.