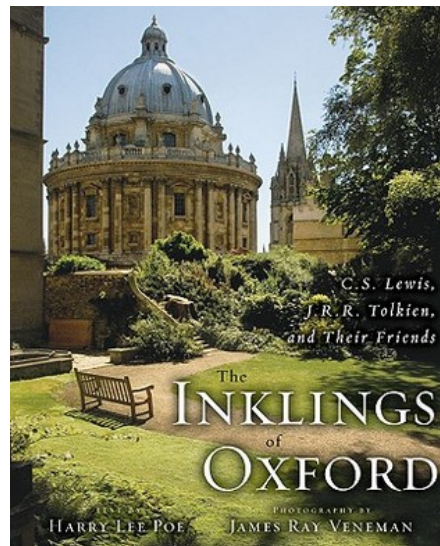




The Inklings of Oxford: C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and their Friends

Harry Lee Poe , James Ray Veneman

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Oxford's fabled streets echo with the names of such key figures in English history as Edmund Halley, John Wycliffe, and John and Charles Wesley. Of more recent times are those of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and the other members of the renowned literary circle to which they belonged, the Inklings. What would it be like to walk this medieval city's narrow lanes in the company of such giants of Christian literature, to visit Magdalen College, where Lewis and Tolkien read aloud their works-in-progress to their friends, or the Eagle and Child pub, the Inklings favorite gathering place? The lavish photography of this book will introduce you to the fascinating world of the Inklings, matching their words to the places where these friends discussed and argued over theology, philosophy, ancient Norse myth, and Old Icelandic, while writing stories that were to become classics of the faith. The Inklings of Oxford will deepen your knowledge of and appreciation for this unique set of personalities. The book also features a helpful map section for taking walking tours of Oxford University and its environs."

The Inklings of Oxford: C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and their Friends Details

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From Reader Review The Inklings of Oxford: C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and their Friends for online ebook

booklady says

If your fantasies lean in a literary direction—particularly along the lines of mid-twentieth century Christian dons debating in pubs—then I have just the book for you. My sister surprised me with *The Inklings of Oxford* for my birthday this year. Of course I couldn't wait to accept the invitation, eager to travel back in time with this most famous literary circle, so dearly beloved by many. The photography is excellent and there are many fine photos throughout. It was fun taking a trip down memory lane ... I visited Oxford once back in 1983 and recognized some of the places—wish I'd gotten to see more. Although *The Inklings of Oxford* isn't the last word on the history of the Inklings, it's a good overview of the group including the who, why, where and when the people, books and major events happened.

Most highly recommended! Now, my sister wants to borrow it. The best part about gifts is sharing them. ?

Deborah says

This is not a dust-gathering coffee table book. It is exactly as Harry Lee Poe describes it in the opening lines of chapter one. "This book is not an ordinary book. It is both a picture book and a storybook. It tells all about a place and the friends who lived there."

I bought this book and read it in one sitting. In 171 pages Poe invites you into the intimate friendships between C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien and the other Inklings. You meet not the stalwart historical figures but the men who come to dinner.

The photographer knows how to go beyond mere documentation. It's like you are there as opposed to looking at photographs. Stunning work!

Includes many references to the works published by the Inklings, some of which I had never heard. Excellent work for further research.

The appendix is a cool surprise, making the book even more useful...as if it needed it.

Ye says

This book is heavily focused on C.S. Lewis than Tolkien and other Inklings.

The photos remind me so much of my own visit to Oxford. I visited the Christ Church, Balliol and St. Magdalen, so lucky they were open to public that day. Being a big fan of both Lord Peter and Sir Humphrey, Bailey was definitely on my list of must-go-visit. Didn't have time to look up all the pubs of Inklings gathered on a day trip, but did stop by Lamb and Flag. A nice old gentleman at the Botanic Garden draw a

map for me... I was so happy to be able to squeeze in a little Tolkien/Inklings-related activity on that first trip to Oxford.

Always love the name "inkling".

Scott says

This was a fast, fascinating, and fun read. I have never been across the pond, and so I appreciated the many, fine, color photographs throughout. Were I more blessed with discretionary cash, I think that particularly after reading this book I would jump the first plane and positively wallow in Oxford's environs for awhile. I would just have to make Blackwell's bookshop my forwarding address.

I enjoyed the bird's-eye view of the Inklings as given by Poe. It was engrossing to read how time and circumstances changed the dynamics of their relationships. I would have eagerly devoured many more details, however, and the brevity is the only reason I gave it four, rather than five, stars.

I had never read accounts of how these friends inspired elements of each others' works; I was excited to read these insights. I will read their works with a new set of lenses as a result of this book. As an insignificant dabbler in writing, I was even given some "inklings" as to how elements of common life can inspire great elements in one's own tales. I am grateful for this.

If you've any interest at all in these men (and the women who had more than enough mettle to forge their way into the midst), the history of Britain, higher education, poetry, writing, friendship, etc., you will find this book a satisfying experience. It can be read thoughtfully in just a couple of days, and there are many avenues provided for further exploration.

Peter Holford says

I'm giving this book four stars because of the beautiful photographs and the walking tours included in the back of the book (which look good, although I haven't tried them yet). The text is ordinary - an unremarkable account which cannot replace the text of the classic title, 'The Inklings' by Humphrey Carpenter, which I have read (although a long time ago). The text was also disadvantaged in my estimation given that I was reading a new biography of Lewis at the same time (which I thought was excellent and a fresh take on the life of this great writer). On the other hand, many people would find this coffee-table book a more accessible way to learn of the Inklings than the book by Carpenter, so perhaps I am being a little unfair. Disappointing, however, is the number of editorial errors in the captioning of the text which reflects poorly on a usually-reliable publisher, Zondervan.

Michael Heath-Caldwell says

Picturesque book of picturesque Oxford focusing on C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien and the elegant, much patina-ed Oxford environment that they lived in.

Pastoralmusings says

The Inklings of Oxford: C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Their Friends (Paperback)

by Harry Lee Poe

<http://astore.amazon.com/pastomusin-2...>

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ISBN-13: 978-0310285038

It has been a while since I have read anything of C.S. Lewis'. I am, however, listening to an audio course that carries one through the life and works of C.S. Lewis. Lewis was a very interesting man, and his writings are the same. One can learn much by reading the writings of Lewis. It is for this reason that I'm glad to have been offered this opportunity to review The Inklings of Oxford.

First of all, I must say that this book is in the form of a coffee table book. It is well bound and in a durable cover.

The photography is excellent. All the while that I read the book I was wishing I could be in Oxford seeing all of the places that are pictured in the book.

Each photo has a caption that tells of the relationship between the place photographed and the Inklings.

The text is very well written and engages the reader enough to bring them into the lives of the Inklings and help them know and understand both them and their background.

I am not sure how one would classify this book. It is to some extent biographical, but it is not the biography of any particular person; it is about the Inklings. It is to some extent historical, but it is not the history of a nation or a city; it is about the Inklings. It is not photography only; again, it is about the Inklings. Perhaps we should give it a genre of its own and simply call it the genre of the Inklings?

I do know this, however, whether one already knows all there is to know about Lewis, Tolkien, and the other Inklings, or whether they are new to the subject, this book is a wonderful read and an excellent overview of this group.

I heartily recommend it to lovers of Lewis and Tolkien.

Rachel Murphy says

An absolutely beautifully-photographed book I bought for my mom (you know, one of those gifts that you're actually buying for yourself ;) and it is also a succinct little bio of the Inklings' associations with this beautiful city of Oxford ~ truly a city of Dreams for me, which I am dying to visit as soon as humanly possible. This book made the desire even more urgent! And at the end, there are a few Inklings walks mapped out for those who want to see the specific places related to Lewis, Tolkien, Williams, and Company.

Mary says

Loved this book. I didn't realize how many different writers came and went from the Inklings over the decades. I just read a biography of Jane Austen by David Cecil and would never have known he was an Inkling. Having just visited Oxford, I loved all the pictures, many very similar to photos I took myself last month. I especially liked reading about any interactions between Lewis and Tolkien and their discussions about the books they were writing (especially The Hobbit, The New Hobbit (LOTR before it had a name), Lewis' space trilogy, and the Narnia series and its inspirations). I guess now I need to read proper biographies of Lewis and Tolkien since I liked the picture-book version so much!

Karen says

I enjoyed this book once I got into it. The photographs are extraordinary and learning more about the Inklings proved to be insightful. I would recommend this book to anyone who has loved Tolkien and Lewis' writings. Altogether a very enjoyable book.

Garrett Cash says

While this isn't the most detailed or informative Inklings book you can buy, it serves its own special purpose exceedingly well. The point of the book is allow readers (aimed at Americans, seems like), who don't know Oxford, England to really see the places associated with the Inklings while also reading a brief overview of their history. If you've never been to Oxford and have read works on the Inklings and wondered what Magdalen College or Merton College or the Kilns or the Eagle and Child looks like, than this is a great book for that. It's also a superb guide for a visitor to Oxford wanting to see the Inklings related sites, which is precisely what I used it for. There are handy walking guides in the back with maps that allow one to see many of the sites in the book. Thankfully, much of the sites are all quite close together and are within walking distance, which allows you to see a good bit more than you may think you can. Still, I didn't get to see everything and look forward to going back with this book in tow again to acquire new insight into the world of arguably the most influential group of Christian writers of all time!

Kenneth McIntosh says

The text was enjoyable, though nothing that you won't find in other works on these authors: the focus was on the Lewis household and (except for Tolkien) touched only briefly on the other Inklings. I could learn as much about Charles Williams from a book jacket, for one example. However the pictures are incredible: artistic and profuse, documenting visually every inch of Oxford where the Inklings walked, lived, ate, drank or worshiped. The text accompanying the pictures is also superb, in fact I think I learned as much from the captions as from the main text. Overall, it did give me a wonderful sense of everyday life at Oxford in this circle of literary friends. I should also note that I've spent just one day in Oxford and after reading this book and enjoying the pictures I have a much deeper appreciation for the town. I've fallen in love with the place via this book. I must return there and I intend to use the 'walking tour' at the end of the book as my guide.

Kevin says

I loved this book and if you are a fan of Lewis's or Tolkien you'll probably enjoy seeing Oxford too.

Matthew says

A thoroughly enjoyable book, combining lots of wonderful photographs with a biography of all the Inklings. Recommended.

J.Aleksandr Wootton says

This is a coffeetable book - half photos of Inklings-related sites in and around Oxford, half biographical, with a few maps in the back of suggested walking tours of Oxford for Inklings enthusiasts.

Not bad, but the photo quality is just okay for a book that was published as recently as 2009, for a photographer as experienced as Veneman. Hardly "lavish" as the description claims.

After the first chapter or so, the text is similarly uninspiring. Its title purports to be about the Inklings, but the text is heavily biased towards Lewis and very light on the rest of the bunch.

The maps of suggested walking tours are probably the most useful bit of the book. The rest is a quick dip into Inklings territory, not bad, but nothing to get really excited about.
