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Review of The Undiscovered C. S. Lewis: Essays in Memory of Christopher W. Mitchell

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literature on the traits, how Lewis's life demonstrated each one, his fictional depictions of them and in his nonfiction treatment of the traits.

Early in the work, Hurd links leadership to obedience (22) and goes on to refer to leadership as a "call" (23). This understanding contributes to the consideration of the leadership characteristic of duty as particularly noteworthy. Lewis himself attributes our actions to the motivation of either duty or pleasure (141-2). Yet in Christ, duty is transformed into a pleasure, and this is the case when it comes to the duty to grow as leaders. Examining *The Leadership of C. S. Lewis: Ten Traits to Encourage Change and Growth* is indeed a pleasant duty for all who have been influenced (led!) by Lewis and dutifully seek to grow themselves.

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Bruce R. Johnson, ed., *The Undiscovered C. S. Lewis: Essays in Memory of Christopher W. Mitchell* (Hamden, CT: Winged Lion Press, 2021). 389 pages. \$24.99. ISBN 978193568813.

It may be tempting to believe that any new addition to the voluminous corpus of Lewis scholarship would either be hagiography or sheer redundancy. While that may certainly be true of a few outlying publications, it is difficult to argue the same for the latest volume of essays published in memory of the late Christopher W. Mitchell. This collection, *The Undiscovered C. S. Lewis: Essays in Memory of Christopher W. Mitchell*, is replete with insightful and illuminating discussions on Lewis the warfighter, communicator, and imaginative theologian (just a few of the traits and potentialities explored therein). While those aspects of Lewis's life and works may have been previously known, the "undiscovered" aspects of these essays stem from the unique perspective each contributor brings to light.

The book is divided into three main sections: Historical Studies, Assessments and Reassessments, and Interactions with Contemporaneous or Current Writers. In the first section, Grayson Carter's essay on Lewis's wartime experiences connects lines to some of the possible influences that

those experiences had on his life, writings, and religious views. While it may be obvious that the war would have had its influence, Carter fleshes out some particulars that may set the fuller scope of what could have been lost had Lewis not faced that horrendous trial during a crucial period of his intellectual, spiritual, and physical journey. The ends do not justify the means of course, and Lewis would have certainly been spared a great deal of trauma if the Great War had not pulled him onto its hellish stage. But, in spite of this great evil, the war's effects on his literary achievements have made its readers all the wiser.

Turning to the theological in the Assessments and Reassessments section, Adam J. Johnson provides a fascinating argument that Lewis, famously reticent on theories of the atonement, implicitly conceived of a *Christus Victor* "turned inside out" (224) with the ransom of God through Christ also being a re-establishment of the earth within the harmony of the Cosmic Song. Johnson argues to his readers that while Lewis may have demurred in his correspondence and non-fiction writing, his unique theory of the atonement is present in his imaginative works, especially the Ransom Trilogy.

In the final section of the collection, Stephen Beebe demonstrates that Lewis's skills and intuitions as a communicator anticipated key focal points of Communication as a formal academic discipline far prior to those central tenets being codified (those focal points are still an ongoing conversation today). Not only was Lewis himself a skilled writer, orator, and communicator who freely gave advice on those pursuits when asked, but he also intuited that communication was central to the conveyance of *meaning* and how it is related across human relationships.

These are but a few of the eighteen total essays contained in this collection, and all of them enrich the reader with new insight, fresh reminders, and potentially new paths for others to clear as Lewis is juxtaposed with contemporary or current writers. Readers may have never met Christopher Mitchell, but many of the contributors to this volume knew him dearly. His absence is keenly felt, not only as one who contributed to the flowering field of Lewis scholarship, but as a missing variable in the "algebra of friendship" as Diana Glycer so beautifully puts it in her own essay. While the very application of algebraic methods is to "find" that variable, the analogy here breaks down because death has robbed us of our mathematical potency.

Lives and legacies such as Lewis's and Christopher Mitchell's remind us, who too frequently languish in Holy Saturday, that they are already a day ahead. Through Christ, Easter dawn approaches, and this collection by editor Bruce Johnson is a beautiful and valuable homage to that shared hope.

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Joseph A. Kohm Jr., *The Unknown Garden of Another's Heart: The Surprising Friendship between C. S. Lewis and Arthur Greeves* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2022). 114 pages. \$21.00. ISBN 9781666710403.

At slightly over a hundred pages and written in accessible language, Joseph Kohm Jr.'s *The Unknown Garden of Another's Heart: The Surprising Friendship between C. S. Lewis and Arthur Greeves* (2022) can easily be read in one sitting or two. The title is beautiful and suggestive of an image from Lewis's poem "To the Memory of Arthur Greeves" (1917)—which speaks of "Roaming—without a name—without a chart— / The unknown garden of another's heart."

The friendship between C. S. Lewis (1898–1963) and Arthur Greeves (1895–1966) is "surprising" because it lasted nearly fifty years and because Lewis was an intellectual who rose to international fame, while Greeves lived a more ordinary and seemingly unaccomplished life. And yet, as the author suggests (persuasively, I think), "it was Arthur Greeves—not Owen Barfield, not J.R.R. Tolkien, and not even Lewis's brother Warnie—who was C. S. Lewis's best friend" (3). All the hallmarks of deep friendship are there: common interests, honesty, vulnerability, and affection. In his nearly three hundred letters to Arthur, whom Lewis calls his "first friend," we find a Lewis who reveals his innermost thoughts and secrets. "You are my only real Father Confessor," he tells Greeves.¹ "I never pass a day without remembering you."² *The Unknown Garden of Another's Heart* will help

¹ Letter of 3 April 1930, in C. S. Lewis, *The Collected Letters of C. S. Lewis*, ed. by Walter Hooper, 3 vols. (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 2004–7), 1:186.

² Letter of 25 May 1941, in Lewis, *CL*, 2:487–8.