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Greetings from Owen Barfield

Owen Barfield

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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

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Abstract

Transcription of recorded greetings to the Mythopoeic Society shortly before his death.

Keywords

Barfield, Owen

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Wayne G. Hammond



GREETINGS FROM OWEN BARFIELD *On 11 October 1997 Christopher W. Mitchell, Director of the Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College, recorded a conversation with Owen Barfield at his home in Sussex. Among Mr. Barfield's remarks were these words of greeting for the 1998 Mythopoeic Conference:*

I hadn't prepared anything to say, but it's quite a landmark, really. The publication by Wesleyan University Press of *Poetic Diction* was really the start of my literary career, not only in America but here [in England]. So far as I have any literary career, it's American. I feel more like an American, if you know what I mean. Because of, well, just because they show so much interest, and the British public have shown so little on the whole. Not that I've really been hurt or anything of that sort. Anyhow I was very pleased to have this request from your organizers and I do wish you every possible success in the conference. Not because I am frightfully interested in what happens to my reputation after my death, but just because you have shown so much interest, and so many of you have taken so much trouble, and some are still taking that, I should hate to think of the effort being wasted. And it's lovely to think that there will be this meeting going on in '98 with quite a lot of people. I do send my warm greetings and appreciation for the interest. And I'm so glad that it's associated with the C.S. Lewis celebrations because, of course, my friendship with him, both personal and literary, meant so much to both of us.

Owen Barfield (1898-1997)