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## Briefly Noted: *The Shared Witness of C.S. Lewis and Austin Farrer* by Phillip Irving Mitchell

Landon B. Loftin  
*Cox Hospital*

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#### Additional Keywords

Mythlore; briefly noted; The Shared Witness of C.S. Lewis and Austin Farrer by Phillip Irving Mitchell; Austin Farrer; Landon B. Loftin

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**THE SHARED WITNESS OF C.S. LEWIS AND AUSTIN FARRER: FRIENDSHIP, INFLUENCE AND AN ANGLICAN WORLDVIEW.** Philip Irving Mitchell. Kent State University Press, 2021.

C.S. LEWIS, AS IS OFTEN NOTED, was a man with an extraordinary capacity for friendship. Anyone who wishes to understand Lewis's personal, intellectual, or spiritual life must try to understand the considerable influence that his many friends exercised over him. Unfortunately, because researchers have largely focused their attention on members of the Inklings, the significance of a few of Lewis's closest and most formative friendships has received insufficient attention. Phillip Irving Mitchell has made an admirable contribution to this gap in the literature on Lewis's life and thought with his new book *The Shared Witness of C.S. Lewis and Austin Farrer*, which explores their friendship, shared goals, and the mutual influence that these men had on each other.

Farrer was a life-long friend whose influence on Lewis is shown to be important for his personal, intellectual and spiritual development, especially in his later years. Being an Anglican priest and theologian, Farrer's influence is seen primarily on Lewis's work as a theologian, apologist, and cultural critic. Mitchell's book, therefore, does not address primarily or at length the common interests of *Mythlore's* readers. He includes a chapter on Myth, but it focuses on a few particular 20th century theorists of myth. The chapters on Analogy and Apocalypse may also overlap with the primary interest of *Mythlore's* readers, for they grapple with the natures of analogy and symbolism, and the role they play in both theology and literature. Overall, *The Shared Witness of C.S. Lewis and Austin Farrer* is worth noting because it is an enjoyable book and a needed contribution to Lewis studies.

—Landon Loftin



## ABOUT THE REVIEWERS

**DOUGLAS A. ANDERSON** is an independent scholar. His first book was *The Annotated Hobbit* (1988; revised 2002). He co-founded *Tolkien Studies: An Annual Scholarly Review* and co-edited its first nine volumes. With Verlyn Flieger he edited *Tolkien On Fairy Stories* (2008). His anthologies include *Tales Before Tolkien* (2003) and *Tales Before Narnia* (2008). Currently he is Book Review Editor at *The Journal of Tolkien Research*. His main blog is on *Tolkien and Fantasy* ([tolkienandfantasy.blogspot.com](http://tolkienandfantasy.blogspot.com)), but he also contributes frequently to *Wormwoodiana*, a blog devoted to fantasy, supernatural and decadent literature.