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## Booknotes

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**Rozema, David, *Inklings of Things Unseen: Philosophical Essays on Literature*. Nagoya, Japan: Chisokudō Publications, 2022.**

Philosophy, literature, and theology intersect in this series of essays by David Rozema, *Inklings of Things Unseen: Philosophical Essays on Literature*. Rozema, a lifelong C.S. Lewis enthusiast, is the director of the philosophy program and the Inklings Professor of Philosophy of Literature at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He sorts his essays into two categories: “Philosophy of Literature” and “Philosophy in Literature.” The first section discusses literature in general, especially critiquing modern and postmodern trends in fiction and urging readers to return to older novels. Part II addresses works that have affected the author on a personal level, including C.S. Lewis’s Ransom Trilogy and J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*. The works of G.K. Chesterton also make an appearance. Rozema approaches the authors’ works from a variety of angles, thoroughly analyzing the philosophy in and of these well-loved stories.

**Hardy, Dean, *Waking the Dead: George MacDonald as Philosopher, Mystic & Apologist*. Hamden, CT: Winged Lion Press, 2020.**

Dean Hardy explores George MacDonald’s personal beliefs and their real-world implications in *Waking the Dead: George MacDonald as Philosopher, Mystic & Apologist*. Hardy claims that MacDonald was not only one of the most influential men of the nineteenth century, but that his work has the potential to revolutionize Christian apologetics today. The book divides its three main foci into corresponding sections: MacDonald’s cultural influences, his philosophical beliefs (with special emphasis on his relationship with mysticism), and his apologetics. *Waking the Dead* honors MacDonald as a well-rounded philosopher and model Christian whose voice is sorely needed in modern Christian scholarship.

**James Prothero, *Sunbeams and Bottles: The Theology, Thought, and Reading of C.S. Lewis*. Hamden: Winged Lion Press, 2022.**

When scholars cherry-pick C.S. Lewis’s writings to fit their pre-existing frameworks, they neglect entire aspects of his thought. In *Sunbeams and Bottles: The Theology, Thought, and Reading of C.S. Lewis*, James Prothero of the Southern California C.S. Lewis Society argues that Lewis’s commitment to the truth

of story makes it impossible to pin him to one particular ideology. To avoid cherry-picking, we must see the whole C.S. Lewis as well as acknowledge the scope of his thought. For example, how does Lewis's philosophy relate to his literary theory? How is his theology both Catholic and Protestant? To this end, Prothero structures his book topically—Lewis as Theologian, The Classical Lewis, Lewis' War with Modernism, etc.—then identifies key ideas within each topic. Additionally, Prothero considers sources that influenced Lewis's thinking. He includes a list of prominent authors and titles that were important to Lewis's work. Just as Lewis himself argued that trying to fit Christ in a box is like "trying to bottle a sunbeam," Lewis slips through the fingers of those who would try to limit him.

**Bunting, Nancy and Keays-Hamill, Seamus, *The Gallant Edith Bratt: J.R.R. Tolkien's Inspiration*. Zurich, Switzerland: Walking Tree Publishers, 2021.**

Over the years, J.R.R. Tolkien has been the subject of countless books, articles, and research projects, but very little research and scholarly work has been done regarding the people who influenced him as an individual. Nancy Bunting and Seamus Hamill-Keays's book, *The Gallant Edith Bratt* seeks to change this by providing readers a glimpse into the life of Tolkien's wife by using new material and sources to reveal the remarkable story of Edith Bratt. The book begins with Edith's early childhood and the importance her upbringing in Victorian England had in shaping her life, and it then traces her young adult years, including her relationship with Tolkien during World War I and the challenges that came with it. Extensive historical research into the early life of Edith sets the tone of the book as it seeks to uncover the strong woman who eventually became one of Tolkien's closest confidants and companions.

***The Great Tales Never End: Essays in Memory of Christopher Tolkien*, edited by Richard Ovenden and Catherine McIlwaine. Oxford: Bodleian Library Publishing, 2022.**

Richard Ovenden and Catherine McIlwaine honor the life and work of Christopher Tolkien in their compendium of essays, *The Great Tales Never End*. The title, a quotation from Sam Gamgee as he reflects on the significance of his and Frodo's role in the story of Middle-earth, pays homage to Christopher's irreplaceable work as editor of his father's legendarium. The collection is various, including the personal memories of Priscilla Tolkien, a eulogy by Maxime Pascal (translated into English by Christopher's wife, Baillie), and analytical essays by notable Tolkien scholars such as John Garth

and Tom Shippey, among others. The book also contains a brief biography of Christopher Tolkien, numerous photos of Christopher throughout his life, scans from J.R.R. Tolkien's manuscripts and illustrations, and a bibliography of Christopher's published works. This volume is a timely and thoughtful tribute to all Christopher did for Tolkien scholars and enthusiasts.

Book Notes compiled by Olivia D'Souza, Chloe DuBois, and Elise Peterson, student employees at the Marion E. Wade Center.