

The Inklings

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At Oxford C.S. Lewis was often surrounded by a group of friends who referred to themselves as The Inklings. They got together twice weekly, usually Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings. The morning meetings were often held at a local pub – The Eagle and the Child – although sometimes meetings were held at The Lamb and the Flag or other places. The Thursday evening meetings were held in Lewis's rooms at Magdalen College. Since there was no formal membership, many people attended over the years, but some of the regulars included Charles Williams, Warren Lewis (C.S. Lewis's brother), and J.R.R. Tolkien.

During the meetings different people would often share things they had written, and the group would critique (sometimes strongly) the work. Lewis read sections of *The Chronicles of Narnia* and Tolkien excerpts from *The Lord of the Rings*. This community of scholars and writers not only developed deep friendships with each other, but the constant give-and-take inevitably sharpened their thinking and ability to communicate it well.