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**Barfield and Plotinus: Emanation and Evolution**

**Date**: 14th September 2024

**Place:** Lightfoot Room**,** Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge (25 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP)

**Organizing Committee**: Jeffrey Hipolito (The Owen Barfield Society), Gareth Polmeer (Royal College of Art), Mateusz Stróżyński (Director of the Institute of Classical Philology, Adam Mickiewicz University), Douglas Hedley (Director of the Cambridge Centre for the Study of Platonism).

Owen Barfield had been interested in Neoplatonism throughout his long life. One of the aspects of his vehement criticism of materialism and scientism was that “we have transformed Plotinus’s emanation into evolution” and ceased to conceive of progress in terms of ascent and return to “the world of archetypes behind the symbols”. Barfield, however, prophetically saw the reemergence of the cultural interest in the traditional Western metaphysics, when he noticed “an increased and deepened interest in the system of psychology and cosmology (the two were hardly separable) generally called Neoplatonism”. For Barfield, it was a continuous tradition, including as seemingly diverse figures and worldviews as Plotinus, St Augustine, the Kabbalah, Johannes Kepler, William Blake, Friedrich Schelling and Georg Hegel. In the Second Annual Barfield Conference we’d like to delve into Barfield’s relationship with this tradition, whose unquestionable father was Plotinus (204-270 AD).

**Zoom link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83321325592>

Those interested in presenting or participating, please, contact the organizers: [mateusz.strozynski@amu.edu.pl](mailto:mateusz.strozynski@amu.edu.pl); [gp515@cam.ac.uk](mailto:gp515@cam.ac.uk); [jnhipolito@gmail.com](mailto:jnhipolito@gmail.com).

**Programme:**

**9h30** Opening of the conference (Douglas Hedley, Director of the Cambridge Centre for the Study of Platonism; Owen Barfield, The Owen Barfield Literary Estate).

Session 1:

**10h00** Mateusz Stróżyński (Adam Mickiewicz University), “Parts, Wholes, and Persons: from Plotinus to Owen Barfield”.

**11h00** Gareth Polmeer (Royal College of Art), “Inspiration and Consciousness: Barfield on the Difference Between Plato and Plotinus”

**12h00** Andreea-Maria Lemnaru (University of Vienna), “Nature’s Consciousness in Plotinus”.

**13h00** lunch break

Session 2:

**16h00** Johan N. Prinsloo (University of Pretoria), “Mirrors of Arcadia: Neoplatonic participation in classical mythopoeic gardens”.

**16h30** Szymon Majewski (Adam Mickiewicz University), „Plotinus and Owen Barfield: a potential for comparative research”.

**17h00** Mateusz Stróżyński, Gareth Polmeer, „Before the Inklings: Platonism in the Early Works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and O. Barfield (1917-1933)” (presentation of the research grant, the National Science Centre in Poland, 2024-2028).

**17h30** Closing remarks.

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