

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-60470-4 - The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval
and Renaissance Literature

By C. S. Lewis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE DISCARDED IMAGE

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-60470-4 - The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval
and Renaissance Literature

By C. S. Lewis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

To

ROGER LANCELYN GREEN

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-60470-4 - The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval
and Renaissance Literature

By C. S. Lewis
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE DISCARDED IMAGE

AN INTRODUCTION TO
MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE
LITERATURE

BY

C. S. LEWIS



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-60470-4 - The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval and Renaissance Literature

By C. S. Lewis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.orgInformation on this title: www.cambridge.org/

© Cambridge University Press 1964, 2013

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First edition

Reprinted ,

First paperback edition

Reprinted , , , , , , ,

, , , ,

Canto edition

th printing

Canto Classics edition 2012

th printing

Printed in the United States of America by Sheridan Books, Inc.

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library**Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 67-21961*

- - - - Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-60470-4 - The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval
and Renaissance Literature

By C. S. Lewis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	page ix
I THE MEDIEVAL SITUATION	I
II RESERVATIONS	13
III SELECTED MATERIALS: THE CLASSICAL PERIOD	22
A <i>The Somnium Scipionis</i>	23
B Lucan	29
C Statius, Claudian, and the Lady <i>Natura</i>	34
D Apuleius, <i>De Deo Socratis</i>	40
IV SELECTED MATERIALS: THE SEMINAL PERIOD	45
A Chalcidius	49
B Macrobius	60
C Pseudo-Dionysius	70
D Boethius	75
V THE HEAVENS	92
A The Parts of the Universe	92
B Their Operations	102
C Their Inhabitants	113
VI THE <i>LONGAevi</i>	122
VII EARTH AND HER INHABITANTS	139
A The Earth	139
B Beasts	146
C The Human Soul	152

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-60470-4 - The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval
and Renaissance Literature

By C. S. Lewis
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

D	Rational Soul	<i>page</i> 156
E	Sensitive and Vegetable Soul	161
F	Soul and Body	165
G	The Human Body	169
H	The Human Past	174
I	The Seven Liberal Arts	185
VIII	THE INFLUENCE OF THE MODEL	198
	<i>Epilogue</i>	216
	<i>Index</i>	224

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-60470-4 - The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval and Renaissance Literature

By C. S. Lewis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

This book is based on a course of lectures given more than once at Oxford. Some who attended it have expressed a wish that its substance might be given a more permanent form.

I cannot boast that it contains much which a reader could not have found out for himself if, at every hard place in the old books, he had turned to commentators, histories, encyclopaedias, and other such helps. I thought the lectures worth giving and the book worth writing because that method of discovery seemed to me and seems to some others rather unsatisfactory. For one thing, we turn to the helps only when the hard passages are manifestly hard. But there are treacherous passages which will not send us to the notes. They look easy and aren't. Again, frequent researches *ad hoc* sadly impair receptive reading, so that sensitive people may even come to regard scholarship as a baleful thing which is always taking you *out of* the literature itself. My hope was that if a tolerable (though very incomplete) outfit were acquired beforehand and taken along with one, it might lead *in*. To be always looking at the map when there is a fine prospect before you shatters the 'wise passiveness' in which landscape ought to be enjoyed. But to consult a map before we set out has no such ill effect. Indeed it will lead us to many prospects; including some we might never have found by following our noses.

There are, I know, those who prefer not to go beyond the impression, however accidental, which an old work

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-60470-4 - The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval and Renaissance Literature

By C. S. Lewis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

makes on a mind that brings to it a purely modern sensibility and modern conceptions; just as there are travellers who carry their resolute Englishry with them all over the Continent, mix only with other English tourists, enjoy all they see for its 'quaintness', and have no wish to realise what those ways of life, those churches, those vineyards, mean to the natives. They have their reward. I have no quarrel with people who approach the past in that spirit. I hope they will pick none with me. But I was writing for the other sort.

C. S. L.

MAGDALENE COLLEGE

July 1962