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Literary Catholicity

An Alternate Reading of Influence in the Work of C. S. Lewis and G. K. Chesterton

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The influence of G. K. Chesterton on the outlook and work of C. S. Lewis has long been a passing note for critics of Lewis's adaptation of Chestertonian insights, others have made his mimesis the grounds for a general dismissal. No one has directly examined the nature of this influence itself. This essay addresses this critical omission by establishing how Lewis purposefully imitated his predecessor's particular way of being a Christian who writes. From Chesterton, Lewis borrowed an influence that not only rejects originality as an ultimate measure but also elevates deliberate literary imitation of Christian writing. In doing so, both writers drew on a common tradition, reworking and rearticulating it, and there

and insights to it.

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