

## **Analytical Index to *The Image of the City and Other Essays***

In 1958 Anne Ridler published *The Image of the City and Other Essays*, an important collection of articles, reviews, and occasional pieces which, apart from the excerpts from the *Commonplace Book* (c. 1912-1916), were written by Charles Williams (1886-1945) over about the last seven years of his life. The book is valuable because it conveniently brings together a wide range of material previously scattered throughout numerous periodicals that addresses many of the key themes in Williams's thought including Romantic Theology, the Incarnation, Arthurian myth, and the doctrine of Coinherence. As one of Williams's earliest and most insightful critics, Ridler's introduction is also very helpful.

It is not surprising that readers and scholars have found this collection indispensable in their efforts to interpret Williams's novels, poetry, and plays. Its very comprehensiveness, however, makes the fact that it appeared without an index most regrettable. I have here attempted to provide for this lack. Page references are to the original 1958 edition available through out-of-print sources as well as many major research libraries.

An index can point strictly to words as they are employed in the author's text, or it can be formulated in a more analytical fashion. Williams wrote that "An index is a list of various subjects, with reference to those places where, in the text of the volume, they are treated at greater length. But, at least, the words naming the subjects are the same; and a really good index will give some idea of the particular kind of treatment offered on the separate pages" (Ridler 81). Because Williams tended to assign special meanings to some words and to substitute idiosyncratic terms for words and phrases otherwise in common use, a traditional index employing a word for word correspondence would lack conceptual integrity and ultimately fail to "give some idea of the particular kind of treatment offered." This is perhaps chief among the reasons why Ridler did not include an index in her original publication. In this Index, therefore, readers will find entries to denote subjects that Williams addresses without naming them as such. A few among the many possible examples are theodicy, Christology, and historiography. This approach demands more of the reader but also offers greater rewards. Finally, references to places where Williams discusses his most fundamental doctrine, Coinherence, whether he names it expressly or not, are also included under that heading. All works, including books and shorter works such as poems and articles, appear under the name of the author in italics. Ridler's introduction is not indexed.

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