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The George MacDonald Society

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The George MacDonald Society Newsletter No.4

1. It is with deep regret that we announce the death in Edmonton, Canada, of Richard (Dick) MacDonald, at the age of 83.

Dick was the youngest child of Benard, tenth child and fifth son of George MacDonald, and his wife Belinda Bird. He was educated at St Edward's School, Oxford, and at St Paul's School, London, and he served with the Imperial Army from 1917 to 1919. With his wife, Inez Thomson, he emigrated to Canada in 1920 and joined the Soldiers' Settlement Board in Edmonton with which he remained for nine years.

But the older MacDonald's love of the theatre was deep in his being and he has a long and distinguished career in radio and theatre, being Alberta's first cultural director. He and his wife were prominent in the Edmonton Little Theatre and The Edmonton Civic Opera. He took charge of the CKUA radio station and after three years in the Canadian Army in World War II, returned with the rank of Captain to the CKUA as announcer and director.

During the 1949 Drama Festival, Dick MacDonald was Regional Chairman of Drama Adjudication for the four Western Provinces and was known across Canada for his work as a drama adjudicator. He was also an instructor of stagecraft and make-up at the Banff School of Fine Arts. He served as director of the Dominion Drama Festival from 1952 until his retirement in 1965. He received the Canadian Medal for Drama and one of Alberta's 75th anniversary awards.

Dick's wife and elder daughter predeceased him, but he is survived by his youngest daughter Daphne Abram, and his sons Richard and Donald, thirteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

2. The Committee

The Society now has a full acting (and very hard working) committee, and the names of the members will be presented for formal election at the next AGM. They are as follows:-

Chairman:- The Revd. Phil Streeter,

66 Clydesdale Road,

Hornchurch, Essex. 70 41945

Hon. Secretary:- Bill Raeper,

18 Buckingham Street,

Oxford. 24 7300

Hon. Treasurer:- Christopher MacDonald,

46 New Cavendish Street,

London, WI 01 935 5155

Membership Secretary:- Rachel Johnson,

97, Hykeham Road,

Lincoln LN6 8AD 0522 24085

Editor:- Kathy Triggs,

22 Sherwood Close, Eldwick, Bingley,

W. Yorkshire. 0274 563936

Freda Levson,

58A Westbourne Park Villas

London W2 5EB 01 221 0982

Raphael Shaberman, 10 Cleland House, Sewardstone Road,

London E2. 01 980 7963

3. Talk by Mlle. Lormant.

Mlle. Georgette Lormant, of Paris, has kindly offered to give a talk on the subject of her recent thesis on Fernand Fabre and George MacDonald, Two Novellists for our Time.

This will take place at 58A Westbourne Park Villa's, London, W2, on Friday 17th February at 7.30 pm. All members are invited with their friends but please notify Freda Levson on 01 221 0842, if you can come as wine and biscuits will be provided.

4. Relations with other societies

We are hoping to arrange an exchange of information with other societies so that members of each may learn of the others' activities and functions. <u>The Dorothy Sayers Society</u> (Chairman: Col. R. Clarke, Roslyn House, Witham, Essex.) has arranged the following conventions:

1984- 22 July at Witham. Subject: DLS as playwright.

1985- 5 August at Oxford. Subject: <u>Gaudy Night</u> (& Murder at Pentecost): accommodation, including Saturday night dinner, at Somerville.

<u>The 1662 Society</u> (Secretary: Christine Denwood, Trinity Congregational Church. St. Matthews Road, London SW2. 01 274 5541): March 5th "The Story of Writing", by Donald Jackson. At above address 7.30 pm.

5. Talk by our Chairman

Phil Streeter, to the Oxford C.S. Lewis Society on "Introduction to the life and thought of George MacDonald". On Tuesday 22 May at 8.15 pm in the Fred Hood Room, Pusey House.

President: Ben Robertson of Baliol. It is hoped that members will try to attend.

By now all our members should have received the second volume of North Wind. If by any chance your copy has not reached you please let us know and I will forward another.

Our gratefull [sic] thanks are due to Kathy Triggs for all her efforts on the editing of this volume. And to Freda Levson for her expert negotiations with our printers.

To Mrs Levson must go the thanks of us all for her long period of "Acting" Hon. Secretary, a post she held with great enthusiasm and indeed determination. The committee is sad to lose her but we hope that she will continue to give us all moral support.

Bill Raeper is our new secretary and we welcome him to the fold and hope that he will enjoy himself.

The Rev. Geoff Pearson, Redeemer Vicarage, 200 Old Bank Lane, Blackburn, BB1 2HU. Tel. 0254 52782, has asked us to help find copies of the following books by MacDonald. If you can help, please contact him direct as above.

Guild Court, Castle Warlock,
Exotics, The Tragedie of Hamlet,
Mary Marston, What's Mine's Mine,

Home Again
The Elect Lady,
A cabinet of Gems.