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The George MacDonald Society

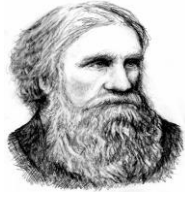
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Orts

The George MacDonald Society Newsletter No. 8, November 1985

1. The first thing to report is that the Drinks Party held on 4th July at the Heinz Gallery, Portman Square was a great success. There was a sizeable number of people there and the talk given by Dr. Neil Jackson was both interesting and informative. Freda Levson tried to explain the close ties between the Troups and the MacDonalds, but some of us got lost in the genealogy. It is easiest to think of F.W. Troup whom the exhibition at the Heinz Gallery was honouring, as a king of “nephew” of MacDonalds. Troup was a distinguished architect in his own day, designing among other buildings, “Howglen” in Gladstone Road, Huntly.
2. Professor Spina writes from Italy that there was a commemoration of the eightieth anniversary of George MacDonald’s death in Bordighera on the 18th September 1985. A group of Italian and English friends gathered round the grave of MacDonald and his wife in the Protestant Cemetery and remembered MacDonald with “flowers, crowns of laurel and speeches.”
3. It is our sad news to tell you that the plans to turn Kelmscott House in Hammersmith into a museum have been abandoned after the government decision to deny the GLC the power to purchase the building after a long, three year battle. This means that the public are now unlikely ever to see inside it. The property has been bought by a private individual. Kelmscott House was formerly “The Retreat” where MacDonald and his family lived for many years till illness forced them to Italy. As such, it is of great interest to the Society and its members.
4. F.W.Troup (mentioned above) designed another house in Gladstone Road called “Rowanlea” where a woman called Madge Lobban was born in 1897 and lived there all her life till she died earlier this year. Madge was a great source of local history in Huntly and was very interested in the MacDonalds. Her father knew them slightly. She was quite active and had a keen mind although she was very ill for the last year of her life. She will be missed.
5. We commend Rachel Johnson who has bravely taken two of the Pilgrim’s Progress costumes worn by the MacDonald family for their performances to be mended. We wish her many happy hours sewing the sequins back onto Greatheart’s costume!
6. We regret to inform you that Seven is no longer available in the UK. If you would like a copy, apply directly to Wheaton College, Illinois.