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Kathy Triggs. George MacDonald: The Seeking Heart. Pickering & Inglis 1984. £1.25.

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**Kathy Triggs. *George MacDonald: The Seeking Heart*.  
Pickering & Inglis 1984. £1.25.**

**Rachel E. Johnson**

“**G**eorge MacDonald was born at a time when religious differences were strongly felt.” So runs the first sentence of this short biographical study of George MacDonald. Having read the book, one realises how this first sentence is built upon and woven into the book as a whole. Without its being too obtrusive, MacDonald is firmly placed in his contemporary religious atmosphere.

The family background given in the first section (1824-1853) whilst providing the necessary information as briefly as possible, tends to give the book a slightly indigestible start. This, however, is unavoidable in a study such as this, which sets out to introduce the reader to the whole man. Included here is MacDonald’s marriage and his placement as the minister of Arundel Congregational Church. The problems he met with are clearly explained, his reaction to them being a typical example of his large, and caring nature and of his trust in God as the perfect father.

The following section takes the reader from MacDonald’s resignation through the difficult years during which he established himself as an author, lecturer, and, to a lesser extent, preacher. The final section (1869-1905) deals with the last phase of MacDonald’s life. His acquaintance with suffering in the form of illness and bereavement, and his **[end of page 42]** sympathy with those whose faith was being undermined, enabled him to write directly to people’s needs. MacDonald’s faith could never be shut up into one department of his life.

Throughout the book the author has interwoven comments on MacDonald’s works with the outline of his life, to indicate their birth or their growth. This should prove helpful to those not yet familiar with the works, in that an unobtrusive guideline is given as to where they may start reading. This is a compact and coherent introduction to George MacDonald. **[43]**