

# Orts: The George MacDonald Society Newsletter

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## Orts 12, 1988

The George MacDonald Society

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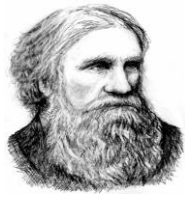
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# Orts

## **The George MacDonald Society Newsletter No. 12, January 1988**

1. We have a new look to the Newsletter to go with a change of personnel. Bill Raeper, who has hitherto edited the Newsletter, will in future be editing North Wind. Tony and Kathy Triggs are now responsible for Orts, and any contributions, remarks or information should be sent to them at 22, Sherwood Close, BINGLEY, W Yorks. BD 16 3EL. UK.

2. The AGM for 1987 was held on Friday November 27. Nine people attended. The Treasurer's report was accepted; the revision of roles noted in 1 above was approved; and it was confirmed that American members could send their subscriptions direct to Rachel Johnson if they wished (see 9 below). Gillian Avery spoke on the American Fairy Tale tradition. Her well-researched talk helped to put some of MacDonald's writings in their context. Our thanks to Freda Levson for her hospitality in hosting the meeting.

3. The joint meeting with the Lewis Carroll Society scheduled for October 16 was drastically affected by the weather. Floods, fallen trees and cancelled trains kept many people at home, including John Docherty, the intended speaker. Three of our members made it, however, and munched jam tarts with the Lewis Carroll Society.

4. Have you noticed the pun near the start of Paul Faber, Surgeon? In "North Wind" 6 Kathy Triggs points out that MacDonald based the name "Faber" on the Latin for "maker". However, he, also had in mind the Latin for "bean", which is faba; hence the Rector's remark in chapter 1, "You don't seem to feed that horse of yours upon beans, Faber."

5. A "squib": Why is MacDonald's verse so full of images used without thought or control? For example, in "Rest" MacDonald tells us, contradictorily,

. . . round the earth the Father's hands  
Have gently drawn the dark;  
[And] Sent off the sun to fresher lands . . .

It is hard to find much MacDonald verse which rises above this dismal standard, and it is certainly part of MacDonald's output which needs explanation.

6. We are sorry to report the death of one of our members. Mr. Roger Lancelyn Green was well known for his work in children's literature and his biographies of (among others) J M Barrie, C S Lewis and Lewis Carroll. We welcome his son Richard as a

new member.

7. Too late for mention in North Wind 6 came the following new books:

Michael R Phillips: George MacDonald: Scotland's Beloved Storyteller;  
Bethany House, Minneapolis, 1987.

David Robb: George MacDonald; Scottish Academic Press, Edinburgh, 1987.

Elizabeth Saintsbury: George MacDonald: A Short Life; Canongate, Edinburgh, 1987.

8. **Book Exchange.** Any spare MacDonalds you want to sell? Any particular wants?  
Let us know and we will publicise them for you. The following books are currently being offered  
for sale:

Fairy Tales ed. Greville MacDonald; Allen and Unwin 1924. (Centenary reprint of 1897 edn.  
with illustrations by Arthur Hughes.) Good Condition. £12.50. Contact Rachel Johnson, 97  
Hykeham Road, Lincoln. LN6 8AD UK.

Robert Falconer and Alec Forbes of Howglen; Cassell & Co, 1927. £10 each or would exchange  
either book for Paul Faber, Surgeon or Unspoken Sermons, 3rd series. Contact Kathy Triggs, 22  
Sherwood Close, BINGLEY, W Yorks. BD16 3EL. UK.

Note: If sending a book to another member in response to an offer of exchange kindly enclose a  
sum to cover the cost which the member will incur either in sending his or her volume or in  
returning yours if his or her need has already been met.

The following books are being offered by Aidan Mackey, Bookseller, 15 Shaftesbury  
Avenue, BEDFORD. MK40 3SA. UK. Telephone (0234)57760. Prior enquiry regarding  
continued availability and terms of business may be advisable.

David Elginbrod; Hurst and Blackett (c1898?). £15.

The same signed on title page by G. MacDonald. £65.

Alec Forbes of Howglen with signature snipped from letter "Yours very truly, George  
MacDonald" pasted to title page. £55.

Alec Forbes of Howglen in different (slightly earlier?) edn. £15.

History of Gutta-Percha Willie; Blackie and Son (1887?). £18.

Robert Falconer; no date. £15.

The Fantasy Stories of George MacDonald; boxed set of 4 pbacks, Eerdmans, 1987. £17.

Lilith; Lion 1986. £2.50.

Phantastes; Boydell, 1982. £5.

The Princess and the Goblin; Blackie and Son (c1890?). £8.

Gathered Grace: A Short Selection of G. MacDonald's Poems; Heffer (early 1920s?). £18.

Joseph Johnson: George MacDonald . . . Pitman, 1906. £14.

9. Please don't forget that subscriptions for 1988 are now due. Rates are £6 or

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\$15 single; £10 or \$19 joint; and £9 for overseas members. US subscribers may if they wish send their subscription to Randall and Emily Tobias, 2528 Glendale Avenue, Durham, NC 27704. USA. Otherwise they should send subscriptions (at the overseas rate of £9 sterling) to Rachel Johnson, 97 Hykeham Road, LINCOLN. LN6 8AD. UK.

Please note that the Society cannot take responsibility for transactions arising from the “Book Exchange” feature.

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The editorial address is given in item 1 above.