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The George MacDonald Society

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The George MacDonald Society Newsletter No. 13, May 1988

1. We are much saddened to hear of the death, after a long illness, of Joyce Hines in New York on November 26 1987. She was a student of George MacDonald's works for a very long time, and was a founder of the Society.

2. In April Kathy Triggs spoke about George MacDonald to the Bingley Children's Book Group, a local society for parents interested in the books children read. She began with a reading of "Little Daylight", the haunting quality of which was much appreciated – along with the humour. We rarely think of MacDonald as a humorous writer; it's interesting, is it not, that his slightly self-conscious whimsicality (apparent particularly in the exchange between the good Fairy and the Prince) should have such appeal.

Small local groups such as this one are a good vehicle for extending awareness of George MacDonald and his works. Kathy Triggs has, in the past, spoken on George MacDonald to a Methodist Ladies Group. Incidentally, "Oh Lord of my Life" ("Morning Hymn" from Organ Songs) appear in the Methodist Hymn Book.

3. This summer's Ilkley Literature Festival would have been a prestigious occasion for lecturing on George MacDonald. Kathy and Tony Triggs approached the organiser with the offer of one or two lectures to be given by Society members. Unfortunately we have not had the courtesy of a reply, and we understand that a Festival programme (presumably omitting MacDonald) has now been prepared. Disappointments like this are a price that we are prepared to pay as we promulgate MacDonald both widely and unapologetically.

4. We exchange news (letters) with the 1662 Society, the Lewis Carroll Society, and the C S Lewis Society. For anyone who is in London on Monday July 4 the 1662 Society is hosting a talk by Cyril Skinner, Curator of Wesley's House and Museum of Methodism, on Susanna Wesley. The venue is Trinity Congregational Church, St Matthew's Road, London SW2. Proceedings are due to start at 7.30 but cold supper, tea and coffee will be served from 7.00pm.

5. The Lewis Carroll Society's summer outing on July 9 will celebrate the centenary of "Isa's visit to Oxford". Detail from the Secretary Catherine Richards, Flat 7, Avondale, 109 Truro Road, Wood Green, London N22 4DP.

6. There will be a tri-centennial John Bunyan Exhibition for the whole of August in Bedford Central Library. George Macdonald's "Mr. Greenheart" coat of mail, painstakingly restored by Rachel Johnson, will be on display.

7. The Southern California C S Lewis Society is holding its 11th annual summer workshop on August 9 – 13 at St Andrew's Priory, Valyermo, California.

The topic is "George MacDonald – Storyteller and Spiritual Guide", and it will be directed by Michael Phillips and Dr. Rebecca Ankeny. Tuition, room and board are \$275. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$50. Deadline for reservation and full payment, June 27th. Cheques payable to the Southern California C.S. Lewis Society at 1212 West 162nd St, Gardena, California 90247. When booking, please include name, full address and telephone number. We hope all who attend have a great time. Perhaps you'll kindly let us have a report when it's all over? Address below.

8. The Anglo-Ligurian Club of Bordighera will be closed for July and August, but reopens in September. On Sunday 18th Sept they will hold a remembrance service for George MacDonald, and therefore the meeting on the Thursday preceding (15th Sept) will take form of a preparation for the service. It will be held at the Hotel Bordighera from 4 to 6 p.m..

9. If there is anyone who has still not paid their subscription for 1988 will they please send it to Rachel Johnson, 97 Hykeham Rd, Lincoln, LN6 8AD, U.K. Rates are £6 or \$15 single; £10 or \$19 joint; and £9 for overseas members. Don't forget, U.S. members may send their subscriptions to Randall and Emily Tobias, 2528 Glendale Avenue, Durnham, NC 27704. Otherwise it should be £9 sterling to Rachel.

10. **Book Exchange**

J. Joseph Flynn is republishing in paperback the sermons of George MacDonald. The Miracles of Our Lord and The Hope of the Gospel are already available at \$14.95 + \$1 p&p. Orders to J. Joseph Flynn, PO Box 3855, South Pasadena, CA 91030, USA.

Sunrise Publishing are embarking on a centenary edition of all the works of GMD. Alec Forbes of Howglen is the first to be released, and is available at \$27.50 or \$23.75 (inc p&p) to subscribers. To order or to inquire about subscription write to Sunrise Book Publishers, 1707 E. Street, Eureka, CA 95501, USA.

John Kinnare, 52 St Clements St. Oxford, OX4 1AG, UK, has a first edition of A Threefold Cord for sale at £55, post free.

Kathy & Tony Triggs (address below) offer The Poetical Works of George MacDonald in 2 vols, fine-paper edition, Chatto & Windus 1911. Spine of Vol 2 slightly damaged. £15 post free.

Aidan Mackey, Bookseller, 15 Shaftsbury Avenue, Bedford, MK40 3SA, UK (telephone (0234) 57760) is currently issuing a new stocklist including the following:

David Elginbrod: 1st edition in 3 volumes; Hurst & Blacket 1863; original marbled boards respined in leather with gilt applied: £170.

The Marquis of Lossie: Routledge & Kegan Paul 1892 Signed by MacDonald on the title page and enclosing a letter by H Vian-Williams referring to his "dear friend George MacDonald": £70.

There and Back: 2nd edition (1st 1-vol edition) 1891; original marbled boards professionally respined. Signed by MacDonald on the title page. £60.

11. Please note that the Society cannot take responsibility for transactions arising from feature in “Orts”.

12. “Orts” is published by the George MacDonald Society, The Library, King’s College, The Strand, London WC2R 2LS, UK.

The editors are Tony and Kathy Triggs, 22 Sherwood Close, Bingley, W Yorks, BD16 3EL, UK. Brief notes for inclusion are always welcome.