

Orts: The George MacDonald Society Newsletter

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The George MacDonald Society

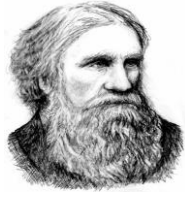
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Orts

The George MacDonald Society Newsletter No. 18, December 1989

1. The Society held its AGM on November 24, and the Committee were confirmed in office. We hope to carry a fuller report in "Orts" 19.

2. The Society still has tentative plans for a gathering in Huntly at the end of September 1990. Costs are estimated at £120 for a shared room, £140 for a single room and £70 if you want to follow the day programme only. (Events would extend from a Monday evening dinner and welcome to a Friday departure.) Further details should reach members soon. In the meantime it is good to report that enquiries regarding this event have led to some useful MacDonald publicity: the Press and Journal (the regional paper) has accepted an article on MacDonald and Huntly, and the District Tourist Office are keen to bring out a leaflet on MacDonald.

3. **Orts Postbag:** We have received three comments from members on the proposed Huntly gathering: two were in favour and one was lukewarm. We have not received any response at all to our sounding-out of members about the Society's future direction and purpose. Should it be a literary society, a celebration of George MacDonald and his family line – or what? Why not have another glance at "Orts" 17 and then let the editors have your views. We will try to find room for your letters – on any MacDonald topic – if you wish us to do so.

4. **BOOK EXCHANGE**

Kathy Triggs has the following books for sale surface post free

Malcolm 8th Edn 1886 (with plate of GMD) £25; "New Edn." 1927 £15;

David Elginbrod ?1st 1-vol. edn. ?1871 printed Bradbury, Agnew £45;

early edn. printed Clay & Sons (+ cutting 1894 re vivisection) £38;

A Forbes of Howglen n.d. fr. by E Hughes £30; crudely repaired £15;

Wilfrid Cumbermede 4th edn. 1886 illustrated throughout £40;

"New Edition" 1891 worn hinges £20;

Thomas Wingfold Curate 4th edn. 1887 printed Turnbull & Spears £20;

4th edn. 1887 printed W Clowes (+ publisher's list) £20;

The Marquis of Lassie 3rd edn. 1879 rather poor condition £15;

6th edn. 14 some damage to hinges etc £20;

Donal Grant 2nd edn. 1884 cover crudely repaired £15; better copy £20.

The Stars and the Stillness (A biography of GMD by Kathy Triggs)

c190 pages (cased); last few from limited signed edition @ £15.

Rachel Johnson, 97 Hykeham Road, LINCOLN LN6 8AD, ENGLAND has the following books for sale postage extra:

A Forbes of Howglen n.d. published by Hurst & Blackett v. poor condn. £5;

Home Again 1900 published by Kegan Paul £15;
Phantastes 1970 (paperback edition without the poems) £1.

Book exchange items are subject unsold. Currency payments are at sender's risk. Money will be refunded promptly if item unavailable. The Society does not take responsibility for transactions arising from the Book Exchange feature. It is available, free of charge, for all members who wish to advertise their private GMD "wants" and offers for sale. (It is hard to despatch all copies of "Orts" on the same day and the editors try to send out overseas copies just ahead of the rest. It is hoped that this will compensate for the longer transmission times to distant destinations and give all members an equal chance of purchasing bargains!)

5. A new book on GMD, provisionally entitled The Gold Thread: Essays on George MacDonald, is due to be published by Edinburgh University Press in the spring. Contributors include Stephen Prickett, Colin Manlove, David Robb and Roderick McGillis. Like other academic books it'll be very expensive!

6. The Society of Indexers recently wrote and asked Kathy what she thought about indexing works of fiction. Taking her views as those of the GMD Society they published the following in the October 1989 edition of their journal The Indexer: "The George MacDonald Society . . . mentions the large number of "quotable" remarks on moral and spiritual matters by the author which would be of interest to students, as well as the more straightforward matters of characters and places. They feel that students would appreciate an index. It would be a massive undertaking... The Dorothy L Sayers Society has undertaken its own indexing of certain aspects such as roads and bridges, firearms and cars, among many others."

7. According to the Marion E Wade Center Newsletter, the 1989 Clyde S Kilby Research Grant has been awarded to Dr. Rolland Hein, Professor of English, Wheaton College, for a major biography of GMD.

8. Rachel Johnson, address above, pleads with all members to save the Society the heavy cost of sending reminders by renewing their subscriptions at the earliest possible opportunity (preferably now!).

9. From Osbert Sitwell Left Hand Right Hand:

As for the stage, my grandmother Sitwell abhorred it . . . When entertaining my father at Renishaw, at the time of his coming-of-age, she so far relaxed as to allow a theatrical entertainment of a kind. A cousin, who was there in 1881, has written to tell me of it: "More house-parties at Renishaw . . . and on one occasion George MacDonald and his whole family, who acted the Pilgrim's Progress. The scenery was most simple. Beulah, I think, was just tall lilies beside a blue curtain. The cry from the Slough of Despond I thought I should never get out was most realistic." This act must . . . have been a permanent one with the members of the MacDonald family. For some five years earlier, in 1887, I find an account of it in the memoirs of Augustus Hare (The Story of My Life): "On the 19th [of July] I went to Lady Dulcie's, to see

the MacDonald family act the Pilgrim's Progress. They go through the whole of the 2nd part, GMD, his wife, his 12 children and two adopted children. Christiana (the eldest daughter) was the only one who acted well. Nevertheless, the whole effect was most touching, and the whole audience cried most sympathetically as Christiana embraced her children to go over the river.”

10. “Orts” is published by the George MacDonald Society and edited by Tony & Kathy Triggs, 22 Sherwood Close, Bingley, W York BD16 3EL ENGLAND.