

Orts: The George MacDonald Society Newsletter

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Orts 28, 1993

The George MacDonald Society

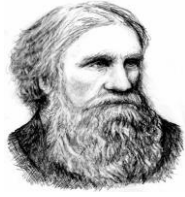
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Orts

The George MacDonald Society Newsletter No. 28, February 1993

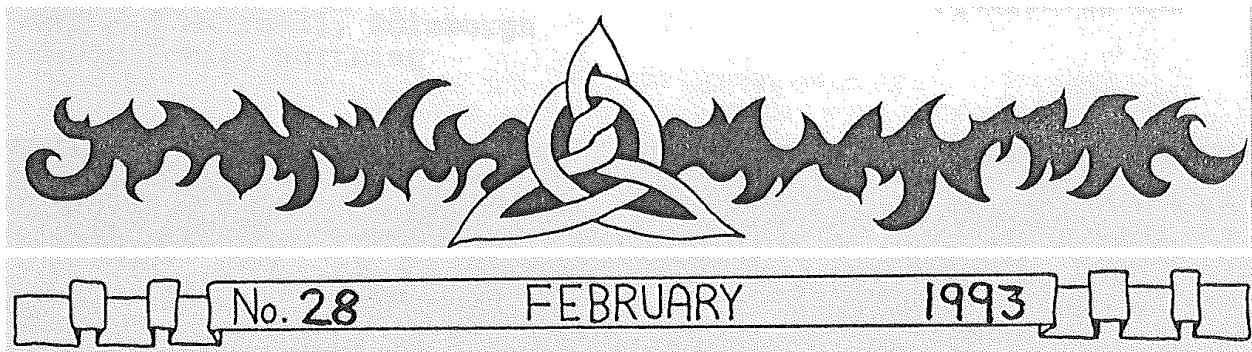
THE PRINCESS AND THE GOBLIN (PG)

The recently released animated film, *The Princess and the Goblin* – directed by Jozef Gemes, is reviewed in the January issue of *Sight and Sound* by Leslie Felperin Sharman. The Review is preceded by a plot summary and a list of credits.

Although the “excellent draughtsmanship of the final flood sequence” is admired, the rest of the film is said to contain a “welter of clumsy work”. Unfortunately this production is said to be similar to *My Little Pony* and about as enjoyable, due to a predictable plot and cast cutting animation techniques.

The film contains one song *A Spark Inside Us* and lasts 111 minutes.

I have not seen the film myself but apparently it was on general release in the U.K over the Christmas holiday period. It would be interesting to hear other comments from those members who have been able to see the film, especially those who accompanied children.



1992 AGM

Last years AGM was held on Friday November 20th 1992 at 58a Westbourne Park Villas. London. 13 members and 2 observers attended the meeting. Apologies were received from 8 members.

After the minutes of the previous AGM were approved and signed, the secretary said he had found out that it was preferable for the society to make formal application for **charitable status** before approving the constitution as it stands. The decision to go forward with a formal application was agreed unanimously. The secretary said that it had been necessary to reorganise

the **essay competition** as described in *Orts* 27.

In the **Chairman's Address** the Chairman welcomed all present and asked that more attention be given to the aspect of the MacDonal as a more modern version of the mediaeval "holy fool". Enlarging on this theme, he showed how the late Bill Raeper had shared such qualities.

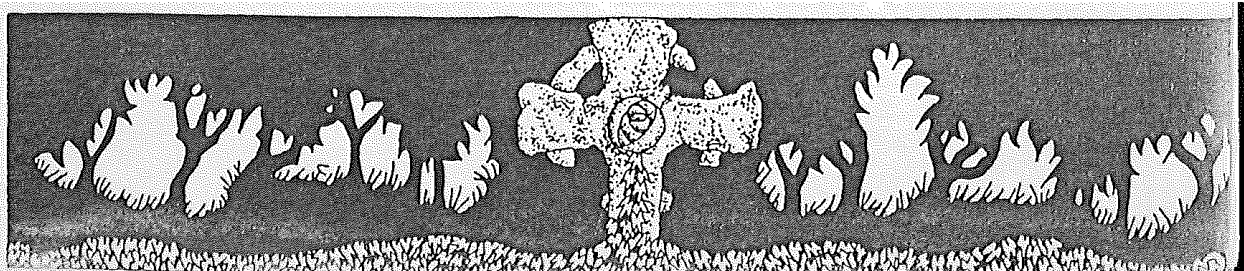
The Secretary summerized the **treasurer/membership secretary's report**. The total number of members remained as last year. Last year the society's expenditure increased and totaled more than its receipts. Although the society remains in credit the subscriptions will have to be increased next year. The increase in expenses is wholly due to postage costs having almost doubled since the last increase in subscriptions.

The committee were confirmed in office and John Docherty who had been acting secretary and editor while Bill Raeper was abroad was confirmed in these posts. The resignation of Margaret Richardson, due to rapidly increasing pressures of other work, was accepted with regret.

The chairman spoke of how much Margaret's energy and common sense will be missed. Nicholas Bolton and John Docherty were congratulated for their production of *Orts* and *North Wind*. Freda also was warmly thanked for her hosting of the AGM and all committee meetings.

Freda described the *memorial unveiling* ceremony at Drumblade and displayed photographs. All aspects of the event went very well, in large measure due to the thorough preparatory work carried out by Huntly members. The book recording subscribers, lettered by Anthony Baker, to be placed in Drumblade Church, will also contain photographs, press cuttings etc.

(Copies of the minutes and audited accounts are obtainable from the secretary)



DEAN'S HUNTLY BROCHURE

Included in the larger packs of Dean's shortbread is a picture brochure on Huntly, with a well-written central paragraph on MacDonald. The leaflet is produced by Gordon District Council.

RELATED SOCIETIES

The future *Orts* will contain a regular feature on related societies. A number of societies who have close connections with our own are being approached and will hopefully be willing to contribute a short article and other news of interest to members.

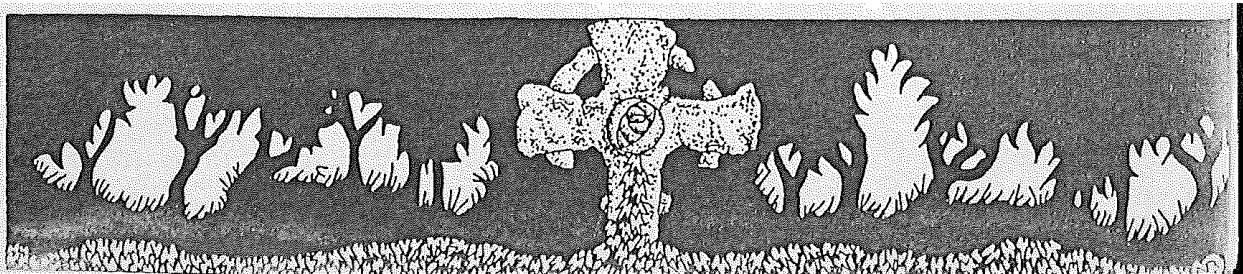
NEW AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

The society is pleased that J.J Flynn is happy to take on the job of N. American Agent and thanks Emily Tobias for all her work in the past.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined the society in the last year:

Carla Badgett, Houston, USA
Brenda Faust, Vancouver, Canada
Adrian Gunther, Arindale, Australia
Mrs. D Lord, Lutterworth
Mme G Lormant-Maury, Versailles, France
Daniel McGehee, Lompoc, USA
Mrs M.C Mitchell, Edinburgh
David Poole, Worthing



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER FOR 1993

Annual subscriptions are as follows:

£6	Individual membership
£10	Family membership (receiving one copy of journal)
£4	Student, Pensioners and unwaged

£9 Overseas individuals
£10 Affiliated organizations

U.S. and Canadian subscriptions are \$15 individual and \$19 joint. They can be sent either in dollars to J.J Flynn, P.O.Box 3855 South Pasadena, CA 91031, USA or in sterling to Mrs Rachel Johnson, 61 Long Dales Road, Lincoln, LN2 2JS.

BOOK NEWS

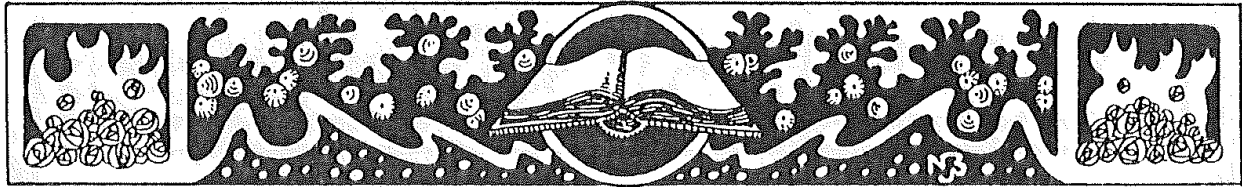
THE LIBRARY, KINGS COLLEGE, STRAND, LONDON, WC2 R2LS

Recent acquisitions:

- * C Marshall Ed *Essays on C.S Lewis and George MacDonald* (Mellen) – donated by the publishers
- * N .Needham *Thomas Erskine of Linlathen* (Rutherford House) – donated by the distributors (Mellen)
- * Colin Manlove *Christian Fantasy* (Macmillan) – donated by the publishers
- * Gordon Reid Ed *The Wind From the Stars* (Harper Collins) – donated by the anthology editor
- * G MacDonald *The Lost Princess* illustrated by Bernhard Oberdick (Eerdmans/Gracewing) – donated by the publisher
- * Italian translations of *The Light Princess* (Solfanelli) and *The Golden Key and The Carasoy* (Manago) – donated by the translator Prof. Giorgio Spina
- * A set of Johannesen's editors of MacDonald – donated by the publishers
- * Sunrise Books U.S have now reprinted *Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood*

RECENT AND FOURTHCOMING GMD TITLES

- * Prof. Giorgio Spina of Genoa University is currently at work on an Italian translation of *The History of Photogen and Nycteris*.



- * Sunrise Books U.S have now reprinted *Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood*
- * The Glen Sadler edition of *The Lost Princess* has been highly praised by those who have seen it and is recommended as a present for any child. This edition should help the story to achieve its rightful place alongside the *Curdie* books and *At the Back of The North Wind*.

(The following two reviews have been slightly shortened for Orts)

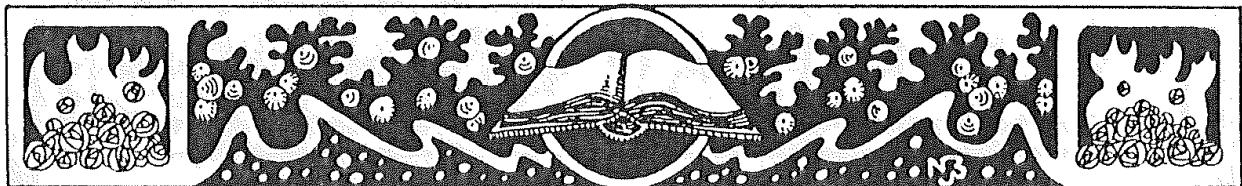
The Pattern in the Web. The Mythical Poetry of Charles Williams by Roma A King Jr (The

Kent state University Press) 1990 15BN 0873384121.

I am sure that I am typical of many people in that I first came to Charles Williams by way of his novels or spiritual thrillers. Only later did I pass on to his theology and literary criticism and even later still to his poetry. I have to confess that I have always found the poetry rather more difficult to approach than his other work and at times it seems almost unnecessarily complex. Charles Williams saw himself primarily as a poet. On his grave in Oxford are written the words "Poet Under the Mercy". Many of us will require help in our approach to the late Arthurian poetry of Charles Williams. The main sources for such help up to now have been the comments by C.S Lewis in "Arthurian Torso" and the recent commentaries that appeared as supplements to the newsletter of the Charles Williams Society. These supplements were written by those who knew Charles Williams and who discussed the poetry with him. The commentaries have recently been made available in an attractive booklet and copies are obtainable from 14a Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RW at £4.60 including postage and packing. A most welcome addition to the understanding of this complex poetry is now given by Roma King in his recent book. The book is a detailed commentary on the two volumes of poems. I greatly benefited from reading this book which I read through slowly and with much enjoyment.

The book recognises the contribution that the occult made to Charles Williams and the occult is seen as part of the data with which the poet worked. Charles Williams recognised the authenticity of the occultist's poetic vision and of the evocative power of his images but, at the same time, was aware of the danger. In the novels of Charles Williams the occultists are presented as figures of evil. Roma King indicates the profound nature of this esoteric influence on Charles Williams. He gives a detailed account of the Kabbalah and of the symbolism of the sacred Tree of the Sephiroth which was such an important influence on Williams. Those who are less familiar with the esoteric background will find this discussion very helpful. The esoteric zodiacal doctrines found in the novel *That Hideous Strength* by C.S Lewis presumably came from the influence of Williams since C.S Lewis was usually hostile to occultism and to mystical religion generally.

Reviewed by Adrian Thomas.

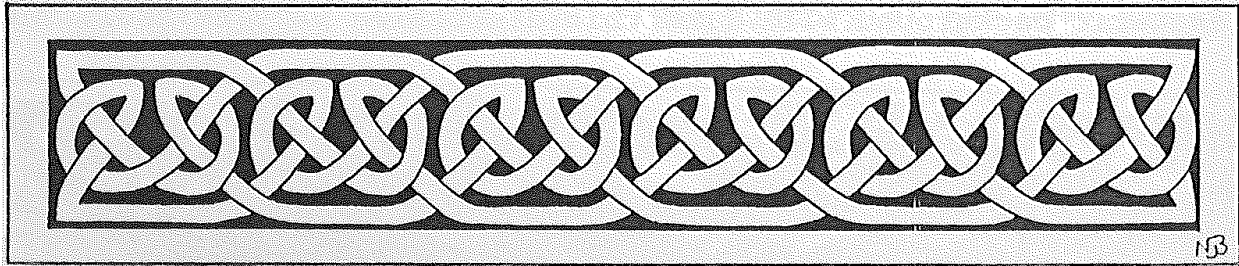


Boehme: An intellectual Biography of the seventeenth century Philosopher and Mystic by Andrew Weeks. (Albont: State University of New York Press, 1991)

The sanity sage of MacDonald's first published novel, *David Elginbrod*, makes much of Jacob Boehme, and two decades later, MacDonald's clergyman – hero Mr Walton, in *Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood*, is also appreciative of Boehme. Greville MacDonald indicates that his father himself, Coleridge – like, "conjured over" Boehme.

MacDonald, reading Boehme, would have liked his belief that “the ubiquitous divine spirit weaves its way through all creation toward revelation” (P.78) and that the imagination can apprehend “the existence of all things such as a highly mysterious and meaning-laden state of affairs”(P.87), to use Andrew Weeks summations MacDonald would have approved of Boehme’s rejection of the traditional Christian doctrine of creation “*exDeus*”, out of God (P105) and his employment of the microcosm – macrocosm concept (PP.112-114). Also MacDonald would have saluted Boehme’s confidence that salvation is not restricted to those who know the name of Christ (P. 63). MacDonald appears ready to discount the words of scripture when they conflict with his intuitions; this is true of Boehme (P.115). “The “innerword” and “spirit” overshadow the external letter in matters of faith” (P.38).

This is not the first work that people who are curious about Boehme should read, but for those who have struggled a bit with his writings, and maybe some of William Law’s treatises, it will be helpful. It is much, to be preferred to vademecums such as are commonly encountered when one investigates Boehme, which propose to explain Boehme by reference to occultism and Eastern religion.



DOROTHY SAYERS

Lion have recently published a new biography of Dorothy Sayers called *A Careless Rage For Life*. This excellent new biography by David Coomers brings out the spiritual pilgrimage and struggle at the heart of Sayer’s life story. The book includes new material including Sayer’s letters, a bibliography, notes and index.

The Dorothy Sayers society have recently opened a Sayer’s centre in the library at Witham, only a few doors from Sayer’s home.

JOHANNESSEN REPINTS

Below is a list of the last titles that the Johannesens need to reprint all the George MacDonald works listed in Cambridge’s bibliography of English Authors. Andy writes “The condition of the binding is unimportant, and I can rebind and return them (with new e.p’s thread and glue) if you do not want to give them up (or sell) ownership. The printing of the last set of six titles (unspecified). I expect to take place in December, 1994”.

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Want list:

The Light Princess and other Fairy Tales G.P Putnam Sons, 1893, N.Y

The Portent and other Stories 1909, Fisher Unwin – as No.4 in Adelphic Library

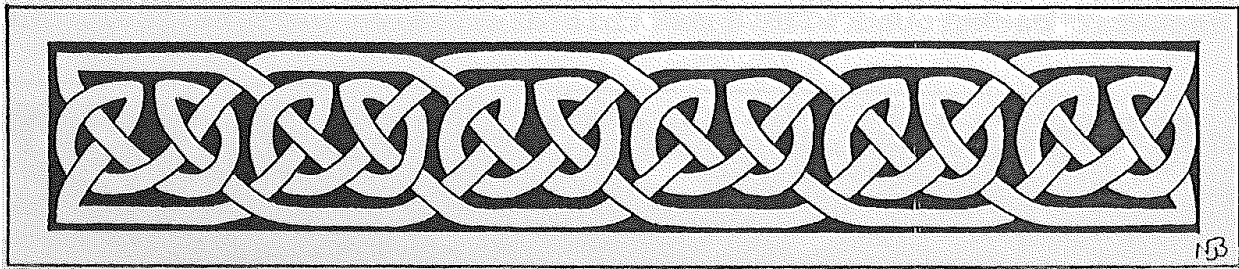
The Songs of Novalis as included in *Exotics, Rampoli*, or the June 1905 version of *Diary of an Old Soul*, or *Lilith*, Chatto and Windows or Dodd, Mead & Co in 1895.

The Miracles of Our Lord. 1870 Stahan or Randolph, or 1886 by Longmans or N.D by Lippincott or Rouledge

Weighed and Wanting, Lothrop or Rouledge

Far above Rubies (not listed in Cambridge's) 1899 by Dodd, Mead or 1913 by Barre & Hopkins

Johannesen Printing and Publishing, P.O.Box 24, Whitehorn, C.A 5589. USA



MINISTERS MANUAL

The Minister's Manual for 1993 (Harper Collins) edited by James W Cox contains the following quotation from MacDonal on page 12. "God hides nothing. His very work from the beginning is revelation – a casting aside of veil after veil, a showing unto men truth after truth".

BOOKS FOR SALE

Kathy Triggs has the following books for sale, post free, sterling only, she can be contacted at 22 Sherwood Close, Bingley, West Yorkshire. BD16 3EL

Alec Forbes of Howglen Frontspice by Arthur Hughes. Hurst and Blackett, dated (but may refer to frontspice only) 1867 £30

Thomas Wingfold Curate Kegan Paul, Trench, Triber and Co Ltd 1906.

The Lost Princess, a Double Story (Also pub as *The Wise Woman*) illus. D Watkins. Pitchford J.M Dent and Sons, 1967. (Library stamp on title page) £5

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The Princess and Curdie illus. Charles Folkard. J.M Dent and Sons 1967 reprint of 1949 ed (Library stamp on title page) £5

4 Uniform volumes of poetry £50 the set

Within and Without, A Hidden Life Dalry, Isbisher & Co 1874

The Disciple and other poems as above

Violin Songs Though uniform and marked volume III, is published by Strahan (nid)

Parables and Ballads Dalry, Isbisher & Co, 1874

Deadline for next issue: April 16th

Contacts:

ORTS editor: Nick Bolton, Flat 2, 39 Pevensey Road, Eastbourne East Sussex, BN21 3HR.

The Secretary: John Docherty, 9 Medway Drive, Forest Row, East Sussex, RH18 SNV.

The secretary always welcomes MacDonald pilgrims from abroad. He usually has several spare bedrooms and is within easy cycling distance from Hastings and Arundel.