

Orts: The George MacDonald Society Newsletter

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The George MacDonald Society

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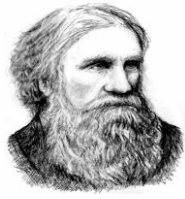


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Orts

The George MacDonald Society Newsletter No. 33, September 1994



On Saturday, September 24th we welcome all members and interested friends to join us for a day at Hastings, East Sussex. Edward Preston, a society member and Int. President of the Charles Dickens Society, will be conducting a walk around the houses and locations connected with George MacDonald during his residence in the area. Please meet outside St. Clements Church, All Saints Street, in Hastings old town, at 11.30 am. We will find a place for lunch and then proceed on the conducted walk.

Further details can be obtained from *Phil Streeter*:- daytime, 0702431458; and evening 0708 706178.



The Christian Socialist Movement

(Editorial Note: We are occasionally publishing details of societies and movements which have links with MacDonald's writings and beliefs; the following account deals with Christian Socialism. If members would like more on this subject, we will provide it in "North Wind".)

Although Christian Socialism has existed since the time of primitive Christianity, the term was first coined in the 19th century. In 1848, F.D. Maurice, Charles Kingsley and others, founded "politics for the people" with the express aim of Christianising socialism and socialising Christianity. This movement did not last very long but can none the less claim some of the major British institutions as it's progeny, including the Co-operative movement and the National Trust.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Church Socialist League, Archbishop William Temple, Conrad Noel, George Lansbury, Richard Acland and R.H.Tawney, all maintained the essential connection between faith and politics. It was not until 1960 however that the Christian Socialist Movement took its present shape. Under the guidance of Donald Soper, Edward Charles and Peter Dawe, it has grown into a national organisation, with local branches, national conferences, a quarterly magazine, and a distinctive voice in the life of the nation.

In March 1993, the late John Smith addressed the Movement's annual general meeting, and C.S.M. published a book of essays on the future of Christianity and socialism entitled

Reclaiming the Ground. A year later a major appeal was launched which has led to the opening of an office with a full-time coordinator. This will be a springboard for more challenging consultations and the publication of innovative work.

Enquiries can be directed to the office of “**The Christian Socialist**” which is published from **51, Weoley Avenue, Belly Oak, Birmingham. B29. 6PP.**

“Seven Magazine”

The next issue of the American magazine *Seven* will be devoted mainly to MacDonald as part of the 1995 *Lilith* centenary celebrations, and if anyone wishes to contribute they should contact the **Editor** at the **Marion Wade Centre, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, 60187-5593.**

Also from the U.S.A. Nancy Mellon informs us that the *Adela Cathcart* workshop on working therapeutically with MacDonald’s tales will be held in the Boston area next year. Details will be available soon.

“Political Correctness”

The Society is concerned about the effect of the “political correctness” sickness leading to the removal of some of MacDonald’s books from schools and public libraries. For example, the two Princess books are thus censored because many of these fanatics will not tolerate any children’s books with “princess” in the title. We would be grateful for well documented evidence of as many of these sort of cases as possible.

Donations to the Library

We note two of these added to the collection at Kings College, London:
George MacDonald, un disengnono bibliografica ed. G. Spina, and,
An Expression of Character: the Letters of George MacDonald, ed. Glenn Sadler, both donated by the respective editors.

New Reprints

The Johannesens in California, U.S.A. continue to produce MacDonald reprints in the formats they have established:

The Portent and other Stories.

Stephen Archer and other Tales.

Adela Cathcart. (reprint of the 1st edition).

Phantastes.

The Flight of the Shadow.

Lilith “A”, first draft together with *Lilith, 1896 edition*, (a duplex).

The first edition of *Adela Cathcart* is very different from, and much superior to, the later edition. It has not been republished since 1864. The equally important first draft of *Lilith*

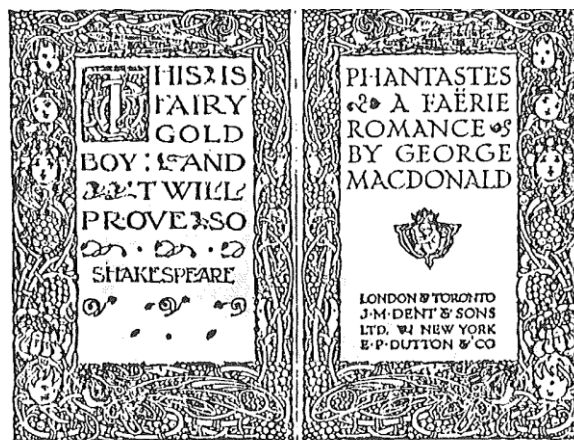
has never before been published.

The books are available from John Docherty, Hon. Sec., at £10 each inclusive of postage and packing for U.K. members, and direct from the Johannesens for N. American members. (Incidentally, the firm of Gracewing, who handle *An Expression of Character* [MacDonald's Letters] in the U.K., is situated at Leominster, Herefordshire.).

Financial Note

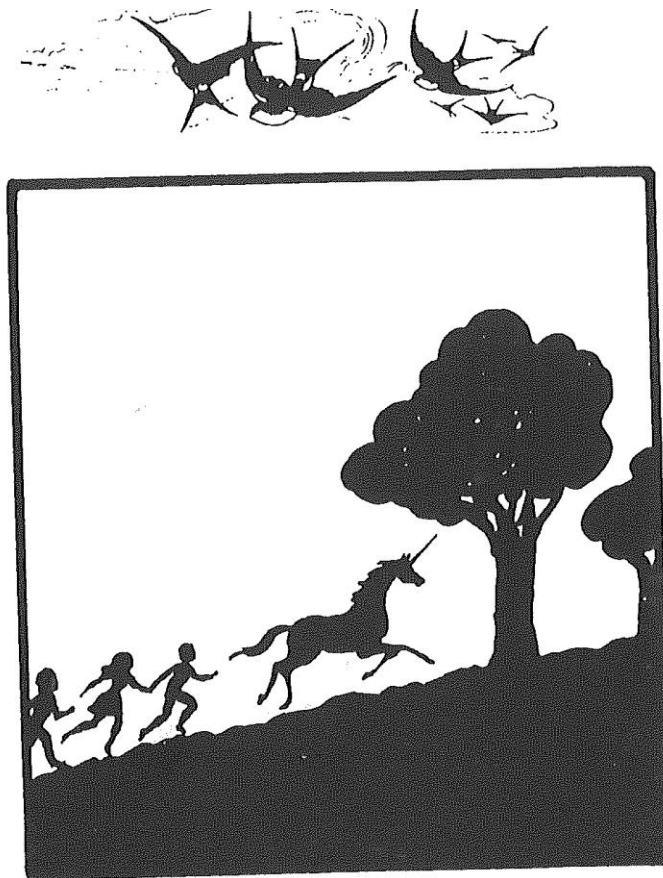
When the MacDonald Society became a charity we hoped we would be able to obtain assistance from **REACH**, an organisation that finds volunteer helpers for charities. To our dismay we find that their rules effectively bar any small charity, (where all the hon. officers work from their own homes), from receiving any assistance. We particularly need someone accustomed to negotiating on financial matters in other than a private capacity, who could search out and approach grant-making trusts on behalf of the Society to obtain some assistance with the funding of publications, conferences and so on. If any member has the necessary experience and would like to help in this way, either in Britain or the U.S.A., could they please contact the Hon. Secretary.

Please note that any queries, questions, or information required in relation to the Society should also be directed to the Hon. Secretary.



Title page (+ facing page) of the Everyman edition (1915) of *Phantastes*. It was this edition that so captivated the young C.S. Lewis.

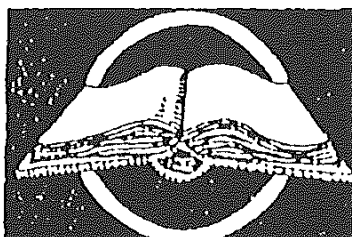




The Secretary: John Docherty, 9 Medway Drive, Forest Row, Sussex. RH18. 5NU.

ORTS Editor: William Webb, 116, Pierrefondes Ave. Empress Park, Farnborough, Hants, GU14. 8NZ.

Deadline for the next issue is 15th November 1994.





The bookplate of MacDonald's son Greville, adapted from an engraving by William Blake which was a favourite of his father's.

Greville MacDonald