

1-1-2011

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### Recommended Citation

Soto, Fernando (2011) "MacDonald, George. At the Back of the North Wind. Edited by Roderick McGillis and John Pennington. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview, 2011. 406 pp.," *North Wind: A Journal of George MacDonald Studies*: Vol. 30 , Article 7. Available at: <http://digitalcommons.snc.edu/northwind/vol30/iss1/7>

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**MacDonald, George. *At the Back of the North Wind*.  
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**T**his is a very good book for almost any adult reader, ranging from the very learned to those who are just beginning their journey into MacDonald's rich texts. The physical aspects, such as binding and paper used, are of good quality, making for a long-lasting volume, while the substantive parts are excellent. The preface by Stephen Prickett, the annotations of the text, and the multiple explanatory appendixes should all interest those new to MacDonald's great book, as well as inform further those who are students of this or his other works. The learned editors of this book chose many informative components for their text, while they seem to have put a lot of work into researching the possible explanations they place in their notes. Many of the hidden, or partially obscured, references to Christianity or the Bible in *At the Back of the North Wind* are identified and sometimes explained. This is also done with MacDonald's numerous references to other writers and books (including his own), while many notes are devoted to the explanations of several Victorian customs, and sayings, as well as to the now little-used names of a horse's anatomy and the components of horse-drawn carriages. Knowing the meaning of many of MacDonald's many references and terms should enrich further the reading experience of modern readers. The helpful and interesting appendixes, which tend to place *At the Back of the North Wind* in a historical/literary matrix, I am sure will be welcomed by most readers and students, while the bibliographies should benefit those interested in further study of this wonderful, complex, work.

This reviewer would have loved to have seen more notes devoted to the Hyperborean and folky aspects of the book. For instance, in the Greek tradition it was believed that the Hyperboreans sent gifts to Delphi wrapped in hay, to make sure they reached their destination intact after their long, bumpy journey. Moreover, it was known that they sometimes sent children to accompany these gifts. MacDonald, it seems to me, is probably merging these two ideas by describing a Hyperborean Diamond in the midst of hay during his nightly conversations with North Wind (Boreas), while he sleeps surrounded by hay directly above Old Diamond (another "personification of North Wind or Boreas). The fact that a tubercular child is placed within a stable is also likely related to the fact that many Victorians believed that the breath of horses was a cure for consumption. Thus in future editions it may prove informative for readers to be given these possible clues to some other

of the more mysterious parts of the book. At a much more superficial level, in the explanation given for Carroll's Raven and Writing Desk Riddle, in the first note in The Introduction, it should read, like the original, "nevar"—"raven" in reverse.

I recommend highly this edition of *At the Back of the North Wind*.