

Orts: The George MacDonald Society Newsletter

Volume 29

Article 1

1993

Orts 29, 1993

The George MacDonald Society

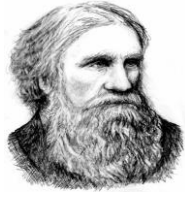
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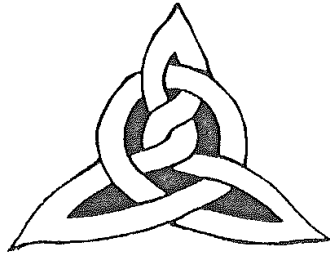
The George MacDonald Society (1993) "Orts 29, 1993," *Orts: The George MacDonald Society Newsletter*: Vol. 29, Article 1.
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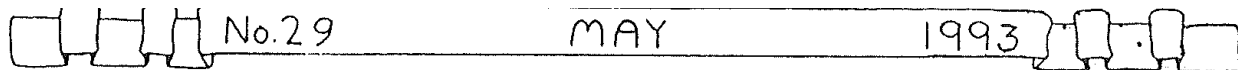
The George MacDonald Society Newsletter No. 29, May 1993



The Charity Commissioners have now agreed to grant Charitable Status to the George MacDonald Society subject to modifications to the existing draft Constitution of the Society being accepted by the membership of the society. Accordingly:

an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 5th JULY AT 7.30 P.M. AT 58A WESTBOURNE PARK VILLAS, LONDON W2 5EB.

The sole Resolution to be considered at the Meeting will be the adoption of the enclosed draft Constitution, which has been modified in accordance with the requirement of the Charity Commissioners. Members intending to be present should notify Mrs F. Levson at the above address.



WINGFOLD Celebrating the works of George MacDonald.

The first issue of Wingfold, a quarterly publication devoted to promoting the works of George MacDonald, has recently been published. The journal makes extremely interesting reading for all admirers of MacDonald and contains the first chapter of A Rough Shaking, an extract from A Dish of Orts, a poem, the first part of an article about Letters to Louisa as well as letters and other news. Wingfold will be dependent for its survival on whether or not enough material is received to continue publishing. Articles of all kinds are urgently needed. Please send letters, inquiries and material to Barbara Amell, 5925 S.E. 40th, Portland, Oregon 97202, #503-774-1205.

LILITH CENTENARY: Preliminary Notice

1995 will be the centenary of the publication of Lilith, regarded by many people as

MacDonald's masterpiece. Amongst other celebrations the society hopes to be able to arrange one or more short (one or two day) symposia. The Society would like to hear from potential contributors with an indication of whether they would prefer a venue in England, Scotland, Germany, Italy, E. USA or W. USA.

Index – Would any member be willing to compile an index to the first ten issues of North Wind? Anyone interested in helping with this project should contact the Secretary, John Docherty.

APOLOGIES to Mme Lormant Maury, one of our first members listed as a new member in the last issue of Orts.



This issue sees the start of a regular feature on related societies. A number of societies have contributed short articles on their origins and activities and these will be included in subsequent issues. We begin the series with:

THE TOLKIEN SOCIETY

The Tolkien Society was founded in 1969 with the aim of furthering interest in the life and works of the late Professor J.R.R. Tolkien, CBE, the author of "The Hobbit", "The Lord of the Rings", "The Silmarillion" and other works of fiction and philological study. Based in the United Kingdom and registered as an independent non-profit making charity, the Tolkien Society boasts a worldwide membership.

The Tolkien Society holds three national meetings a year which all members may attend. In the Spring there is the AGM/Annual Dinner which is held at a different location in the UK each year. At the AGM, the committee members are elected and the aspects of the Society are discussed. At the Dinner, which is formal, a well known guest speaker is invited. The Seminar, the second of the national meetings, is held in the Summer. It is an academic symposium at which a Tolkien-related topic is considered. Like the AGM, it is held at a different location each year. The third event, and the highlight of the Tolkien Society's year, is held in the Autumn, This is Oxonmoot, a weekend in Oxford. At Oxonmoot a number of events take place, from the scholarly to the frivolous.

The Society produces two main publications a year; Amon Hen a regular bulletin which features short Tolkien-related reviews, news, letters and articles, and Mallorn, an academic annual journal. The Tolkien Society enjoys friendly relations with both the late Professor's family and his publishers, who have allowed the Society to reprint his first published poem. This will hopefully continue with other *rare* pieces. Academic studies of Tolkien are encouraged by the Society and bona fide scholars can have access to the Society's archives and may be referred by the Society to private collections for reference and research in to Tolkien's life and works.

For further details on the Tolkien Society and its membership, please contact: C.D. Oakey, Membership Secretary, Flat 5, 357 High Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50

3HT.

THE CHARLES WILLIAMS SOCIETY

The Charles Williams Society exists to promote interest in, and to provide a means for, the exchange of views and information on the life and work of Charles Williams. Regular Society meetings are held in London. Local reading and discussion groups are held, and new groups have been set up wherever there is sufficient interest. It is intended that these shall spread outside London. The Society was founded as a result of the successful conference held at the Royal Foundation of St. Katharine in October 1975.

Charles Williams lived from 1886 to 1945. He worked all his life in the Oxford University Press. At the same time, he lectured extensively, particularly on literature and religious ideas, and was a prolific correspondent. From his work at the Press, and otherwise, he was acquainted with contemporary writers, particularly C.S. Lewis, Tolkien Eliot and Dorothy Sayers, but he was entirely original in his own work.

His writings consist of poetry, plays, literacy, criticism and reviews, religious works, biographies and seven unusual novels. His Arthurian cycle of poems Taliesin Through Logres and The Region of the Summer Stars, his verse plays – Seed of Adam and Cranmer of Canterbury, his books on God's emergence into our life and history – He Came Down from Heaven and The Descent of the Dove to name but a few are gradually becoming recognised for the spiritual insights they entail.

Facilities for members include a postal lending library containing nearly all his writings and works relevant to the books. There is also a quarterly newsletter and a reference library housed at King's College Strand WC2. Society meetings are held in London and there are reading groups in London and Oxford.

For further details contact The Membership Secretary, Mrs. L. Kornicka 12 Amherst Avenue Ealing London W13 8NQ.

THE PRINCESS AND THE GOBLIN

This animated film is now available for rental as a video and features the voices of Joss Ackland Claire Bloom and Peggy Mount.



ROBERT GEORGE TROUP

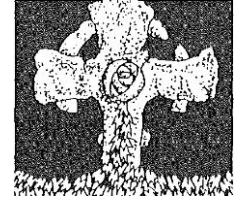
It is with great sadness that we learn of the death of Robert George Troup who at the age of 92, the oldest surviving member of the MacDonald/Troup clan, unveiled the George MacDonald memorial in Drumblade graveyard in October.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

It is encouraging that this year there are fewer members who needed second reminders for subscriptions. Those who have recently received reminders are encouraged to act on them.

GEORGE MACDONALD MEMORIAL

Included with this issue is a description the unveiling ceremony and records of the tributes by George Troup and Ewen MacDonald.

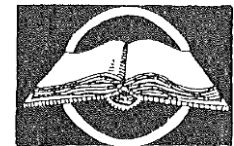


The Society would like to express its thanks to the Richardsons for all their efforts and hard work in connection with the memorial.

Dr. Anthony Barker has compiled for us an elegant volume containing a list of Doners to the Memorial Fund, written in his beautiful calligraphy. It includes the speeches of Ewen MacDonald and George Troup and is for permanent placement in the church of Drumblade. We owe him tremendous gratitude.

BOOK NEWS

The Secretary showed two local bookshops a copy of Glen Sadler's The Lost Princess and both agreed to stock it. Perhaps this will encourage other members to try this with their local bookshops.



How Like An Angel Came I Down published by Lindisfame Press, Hudson, New York. £12.00 – First published 1836-9.

This book records childrens' discussions on religious topics and is amongst the best evidence ever collected that in MacDonalds phrase "The child-like is the divine".



UK members can obtain the Johannesen editions at £11 each and should contact the Secretary

available titles

- What's Mine's Mine*.....
- Sir Gibbie*.....
- Donal Grant*.....
- Castle Warlock*.....
- A Rough Shaking*.....
- There and Back*.....
- Paul Faber, Surgeon*.....
- The Vicar's Daughter*.....
- Guild Court, A London Story*.....
- Home Again/ A DUPLEX with*.....
- The Elect Lady*,

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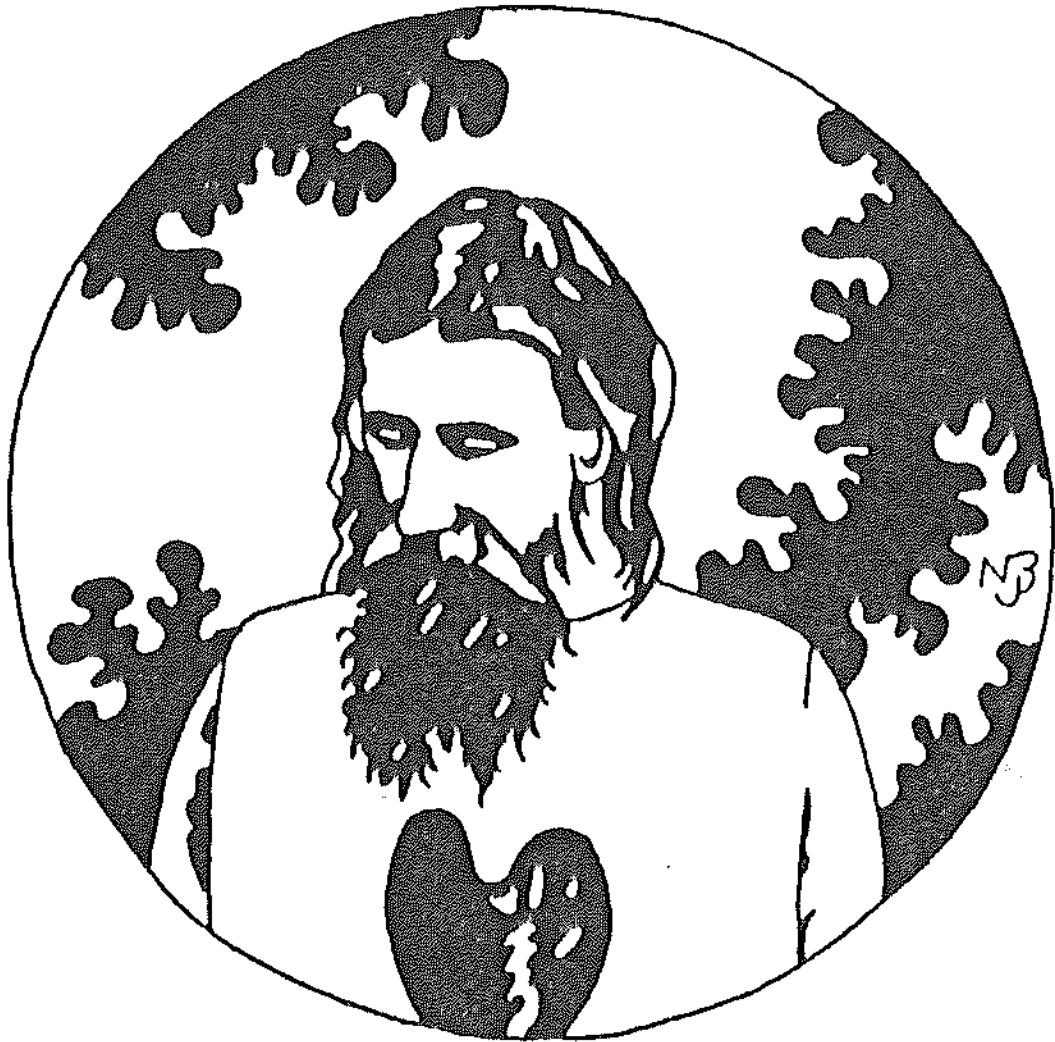
Deadline for next issue: April 20th

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