

# Orts: The George MacDonald Society Newsletter

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Volume 78

Article 1

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2023

## Orts 78, 2023

The George MacDonald Society

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### Recommended Citation

The George MacDonald Society (2023) "Orts 78, 2023," *Orts: The George MacDonald Society Newsletter*. Vol. 78, Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.snc.edu/orts/vol78/iss1/1>

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# ORTS

The George MacDonald Society Newsletter

Number 78, Winter 2023

**GEORGE MACDONALD**  
&  
**THE PROPHETIC IMAGINATION**  
A BICENTENARY CONFERENCE  
(1824-2024)

**May 29-31, 2024**  
WHEATON COLLEGE (WHEATON, ILLINOIS)

*Featuring an evening event with*  
**Malcolm Guite**

ORGANIZED BY THE GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY IN COORDINATION WITH THE MARION E WADE CENTER

[www.george-macdonald.com](http://www.george-macdonald.com) • [macdonaldconference@gmail.com](mailto:macdonaldconference@gmail.com)

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## Introduction

The main purpose of this edition of *Orts* is to give our George MacDonald Society members and friends early notice that registration for our 2024 George MacDonald Conference at Wheaton College has now gone live. You can see the current line up of Keynote Speakers on the registration page, and more speakers and participants will be added over the coming weeks. We have some exciting plans that we truly hope will make this a celebration worthy of George for everyone. We anticipate this event will prove popular and spaces are limited, so we would encourage you to take full advantage of the early bird discount rates. Look forward to meeting many of you there!

Mike Partridge

## 2024 Bicentenary Conference

Together with the Marion E. Wade Center at Wheaton College, the George MacDonald Society is excited to announce a conference on MacDonald's 'Prophetic Imagination'. 2024 is the bicentenary of MacDonald's birth (1824-1905), and to celebrate this significant event and promote MacDonald's legacy we are planning an exciting three-day gathering (29-31 May 2024) which will include an evening lecture event with Malcolm Guite, panel discussions, and papers on various aspects of MacDonald's life and works, displays of MacDonald memorabilia and books, and artistic events that creatively respond to MacDonald's works. Attendees will also have the opportunity to see and use the Wade Center's extensive collection of MacDonald resources. This will be the first major conference on MacDonald in North America in over fifteen years--not one to miss!

Registration is now open here:

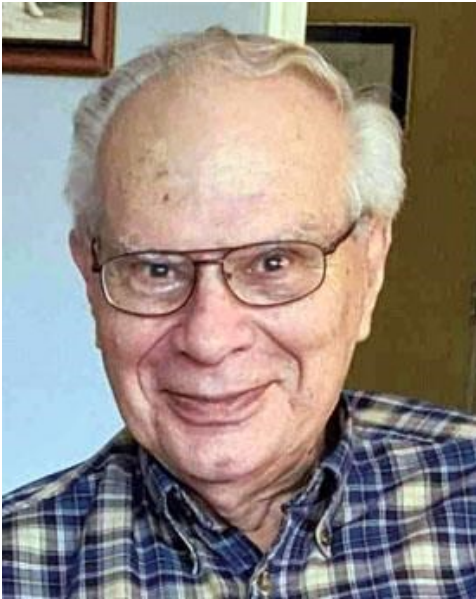
<https://www.george-macdonald.com/gms/2024Conference.html>

You can download the call for papers here:

<https://www.george-macdonald.com/resources/Prophetic-Imagination-CFP.pdf>

## A Tribute to Rolland Hein

We are sad to announce that another great advocate of George MacDonald has recently passed away. Rolland Hein died peacefully at his home in Illinois on 10 March 2023 at the age of 90. Rolland was one of the pioneering MacDonald scholars in the 1970s and 80s who helped to resuscitate MacDonald's reputation and promote his legacy. He wrote four books on MacDonald, including *The Heart of George MacDonald* and *The Harmony Within*, but perhaps the most



important of which is his comprehensive biography, *George MacDonald: Victorian Mythmaker*. After his retirement from Wheaton College in 1997, he continued to write and think about MacDonald, publishing his final book on MacDonald (*The Fairytale World of George MacDonald*) just four years ago. He was one of the foremost scholars of *Lilith*, MacDonald's final adult fantasy novel, editing both the Johannesen volumes on *Lilith* (*First and Final*, and *Variorum Lilith*) which together include all known manuscript versions of the text. In addition, he led regular reading groups on MacDonald at the Wade Center helping to guide students through all of MacDonald's works from the novels to the sermons to the fantasies.

He will be remembered by many MacDonald scholars and enthusiasts as a generous soul who was giving with his time, enthusiasm and assistance (both academic and pastoral). Like Mr Raven (and many other MacDonald characters), he was an avid gardener who delighted in all growing things. He followed in MacDonald's footsteps as a teacher who taught his students to read both with their minds and with their hearts. Our condolences go out to his wife of 67 years, Dorothy, and to all his family and friends.

Danny Gabelman - GM Society Academic Rep

## North Wind Journal

As you know our academic journal North Wind, edited by /John Pennington, is now published online.

### Current Volume: Volume 41 (2022)

#### Articles

[PDF](#)

[Beguiling Time in Wonderland, Neverland and Fairyland](#)

*Daniel Gabelman*

[PDF](#)

[A Relational Literary Geography of George MacDonald's The Wise Woman](#)

*John Pazdziora and James Thurgill*

PDF

Mr. Vane's Confessions: The Unexpected Play of Augustine in Lilith's Bibliographic Vision  
*Michael Wayne Wilhelm*

PDF

Death as Birth and the Mutuality of Life: Being Born into the World through the Female Body as a Door in At the Back of the North Wind  
*Ayumi Kumabe*

## **Membership Subscriptions/ Renewals**

Membership subscriptions are due on the 1st January each year and are currently:

- Reduced rate for Students and the Unwaged \$15
- Standard Membership \$30
- Life Membership \$500 (one-off payment)

You can do this online at:

<https://www.george-macdonald.com/gms/membership.html>

If anyone joins/ renews midway through the year their subscription will continue to be valid for a full 12 month period from the date of their joining.

## **Encouraging Our Friends**

We are always pleased to support our friends and we would like to highlight two regular online groups and a podcast, which many of our members are already involved with, that feature George MacDonald.

## **Making Friends with George MacDonald Podcast**

<https://makingfriendswithgeorgemacdonald.substack.com/>

## **George MacDonald Reading Groups on Facebook**

This is a relaxed and friendly online group. They meet at 8pm EST on Mondays, which is 1am in the UK, so this will primarily be of interest to this of you who are in North America. You can request to join the Facebook Group [here](#).

## Inklings Friday Fellowship on Zoom

This is a weekly group that meets each Friday on Zoom at 4pm Eastern Standard Time (9pm UK) for approximately two hours. You can find out more at:

<https://www.facebook.com/InklingFolkFellowship/>

They describe themselves there as:

“A rather informal, friendly, but thoughtful literary conversation circle, focusing primarily on the writings of C. S. Lewis, George MacDonald, Dorothy L. Sayers, J. R. R. Tolkien, Owen Barfield, Charles Williams, and others of their ink-ilk.”

To get the Zoom link each week and be added to their mailing list, please contact Joe Ricke ([jsricke@outlook.com](mailto:jsricke@outlook.com)).

## GMS Board Members

*The current officers of the Society are:*

<b>Officer(s)</b>	<b>Name</b>
President:	Malcom Guite
Co-chairpersons:	Kirstin Jeffrey Johnson Mike Partridge
Treasurer:	Mike Partridge (Acting)
Membership Secretary:	Mike Partridge (Acting)
North Wind Editor:	John Pennington
Academic Representative:	Daniel Gabelman
Society Historians:	Rachel Johnson John McNeill
Online:	Mike Partridge
North American Representative:	Bonnie Gaarden

Central & Eastern European Representative:	Denise Vasiliu
Board Members:	John Flynn Jess Lederman Robert Trexler

## The George MacDonald Society online

Some useful links to keep in touch with us are:

- Web Site: <https://www.george-macdonald.com>
- Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GeorgeMacDonaldSociety>
- YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm8XNU9-oQe4FErFXf-yvOw>