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The George MacDonald Society

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We regret that there has been some delay in the production of this newsletter, and we hope to do better in [the] future. North Wind No. 3 is out and we hope that you have received your copy and found it interesting. We owe Kathy Triggs a debt of gratitude for not only editing it so skillfully, but also for undertaking the onerous task of typing it and seeing it through the press. She would welcome your comments, contributions, letters, etc.

1. **Publications** There are a number of publications that have come to our notice recently and may be of interest to members.

i) *George MacDonald: The Seeking Heart* by Kathy Triggs (published by Pickering and Inglis in paperback, £1.25). It is a short biography and a useful introduction to MacDonald’s life and work.

ii) *Seven* is an Anglo-American Literary Review published yearly by Wheaton College, Illinois. The journal focuses on seven authors (George MacDonald, G.K. Chesterton, Dorothy Sayers, C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Charles Williams and Owen Barfield) in whose religious thought the editors find an affinity. Each issue contains at least one article by a specialist on each writer. Volume 5 (April ‘84) has two on MacDonald: “The Psychology of the Self in MacDonald’s *Phantastes*” by Max Keith Sutton and “Worlds Apart - the Importance of Double Vision for MacDonald Criticism” by Kathy Triggs. Martin Moynihan (also a member of the Society) contributes “C.S. Lewis and T.D. Weldon” to the same issue. Copies of *Seven* (and we strongly recommend it) can be obtained from Mrs. P. Andrews, c/o Heffers Printers Ltd., Kings Hedges Road, Cambridge CB4 2PD (price £5.50) or from the English Department, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois 60187 U.S.A ($11)

iii) We have been fortunate in that Professor Giorgio Spina of the University of Genoa was able to attend the AGM on the 7th September and was kind enough to give a most illuminating talk on MacDonald as a Ligurian resident, a more detailed account of which we hope to give you in the future. Prof. Spina is a MacDonald enthusiast and has published *Il Realismo di George MacDonald* and *George MacDonald - Il Vittoriano Dimenticato*. Copies may be obtained (no English translations) from Prof. Giorgio Spina, via Caffa 5/18, Genova Italy.

iv) The first issue of an Anglo-German yearbook *The Inklings* has recently appeared - articles in German or English with summaries in the other language. As the title implies, the journal deals primarily with Lewis, Tolkien and the other members of the Inklings group, but this first issue contains frequent references to MacDonald. Copies may be obtained from Martin Moynihan, 5, The Green, London SW19 5SZ.
v) Several new American condensations of MacDonald’s novels are appearing. The latest we have seen is *The Tutor’s First Love*, a reduced version of *David Elginbrod* and it is reviewed in *North Wind* No. 3 by Rachel Johnson. Copies should be obtainable from the Church House Bookshop, Great Smith Street, London SW1B 3BN.

vi) We hear from Wheaton College that Mrs. Mary Jordan has finished her massive George MacDonald bibliography. This handsomely produced volume is now available for researchers and collectors. The price is $50.00.

2. **Talks** In addition to Prof. Spina’s talk to the Society, our chairman Phil Streeter gave a talk to the Oxford C.S. Lewis Society on “An Introduction to the Life and Thought of George MacDonald.” The meeting was well attended and considerable discussion followed.

3. **Future Events**

   i) Dr. Rolland Hein of Wheaton College will be delivering the 1984 Wade Lecture on George MacDonald on November 2nd at Wheaton. We hope to give you further news of this later.

   ii) The 1662 Society has two lectures arranged which may be of interest to members: “The Christian Church in China” by Boris Anderson at Dr. Williams Library, Gordon Square WC1 on Tuesday 6th November and “Renaissance Painting in Manuscripts” by Janet Backhouse, Assistant Keeper of MSS at the British Museum, at Trinity Congregational Church, St. Matthew’s Road, Brixton SW2. Phone 01-274-5541 for further details.

   iii) The Lewis Carroll Society: “Again and Again gives a Gain: Two exercises in persistence” by Denis Crutch and Mark Richards (the former a member of the Soc.) and “Was Lewis Carroll the Marrying Kind?” by Edward Wakeling and “A Tangled Tale Symposium” - on 19th October ‘84, 6th Nov. ‘84 and 8th March ‘85 respectively and all at County Hall Westminster on Fridays at 6pm for 6.30pm.

4. **Subscriptions** The AGM decided with regret that in view of the rising cost of postage and printing, our subscription rates would have to be raised. For 1985 they must be: Individual Membership £6.00; Husband and Wife jointly £10.00 and Students and OAF’s £4.00.

5. **MacDonald Headstone** The MacDonald family headstone stands in Drumblade Churchyard outside Huntly rather forlorn and neglected. The inscription has been worn smooth by the elements and is hardly possible to read. The Committee wonders whether members would care to contribute to the cost of recutting the stone, so that visitors to the area who complain that they cannot find the plot (and there is a steady number) can trace something of the MacDonald family history. If there is enough interest in this proposal, the committee would plan and cost the renovation and let members know the result. Please let the Secretary, Bill Raeper, 18 Buckingham Street, Oxford, (Tel (0865)247300) know what you think about this.
6. **Wanted: At the Back of the North Wind**  Jane Giscombe, The Flat, Trinity Congregational Church, St. Matthew’s Road, Brixton SW2 (01-274-5441) who is studying book-binding wants to buy a copy in good condition to bind. If anyone can help her, please get in touch with her direct.