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The George MacDonald Society

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1. Already the damp autumn weather has arrived and thoughts are turning towards Christmas. A little Mediterranean respite was granted to Freda Levson, Jean Schurer and Bill Raeper, however, when they travelled to Bordighera in Italy from the 13th to the 20th September at the invitation of the Anglo-Ligurian Club to join in their annual celebrations commemorating the death of George MacDonald on September 18th. The club itself flourishes under the energetic presidency of Miriam Masterton and seeks to unite Italians and English speakers adopting the principles that MacDonald himself used at Casa Coraggio. Certainly the warmth and generosity of our hosts was overwhelming and we were treated like VIPs.

The celebrations on the 18th September this year had a special touch. After laying laurel wreaths on MacDonald’s grave and hearing professor Spina of Genoa University recite a sonnet he had written in MacDonald’s memory, we went to Casa Coraggio where Freda Levson, and Malcolm MacDonald (who was there from San Diego, with his father Dick MacDonald and his wife) unveiled a plaque. Both professor Spina and the Mayor of Bordighera made speeches and afterwards there was a champagne reception at the Hotel Aurora close by.

Bordighera still retains a great deal of its charm, surrounded by olive-clad hills and standing by the inviting blue of the Mediterranean – and even today the memory of George MacDonald is still stamped upon it.

2. North Wind 5 will shortly be coming your way. This should be an interesting issue with long articles by David Robb of Dundee University and Mlle. Lormant, who has written a long thesis on MacDonald.

We have had several requests for North Wind 1 – but there are unfortunately none left. The Committee plan to photocopy some more NW ls cheaply however, so if anyone would like one please write to Bill Raeper, 18, Buckingham Street, Oxford OX1 4LH.

3. The Annual General Meeting of the George MacDonald Society will take place on Friday, 5th December 1986 at 58a Westbourne Park Villas at 7.30pm. Light refreshments will be provided. Instead of the usual talk, members are urged to come with a poem or reading from MacDonald’s work to add to an evening of informal discussion as well as the more formal business. New members are especially urged to come as we would like to meet you!

4. News from other Societies is that the 1662 Society are having two meetings in the near future. On Tuesday 4th November, Prof. Ulrich Simon will be speaking on “Dr. Faustus Revisited” at the City Temple Holborn Viaduct EC1. And on Tuesday 2nd December 1986, Janet
Backhouse of the MSS Department at the British library will be speaking on “Mediaeval Strip Cartoons or Thirteenth Century Illustrations of the Saints” at Trinity Congregational Church, St. Matthew’s Road SW2. Ring (01)-274-5541 for further details.

5. And, stop press there is to be an International Charles Williams Conference in Essen from November 6th-8th 1986. Speakers from England and Germany will be taking part. For more details write to: Katholische Akademie Die Wolfsburg, Falkenweg 6, D-4330 Mulheim/Ruhr (Tel. (0208) 50110/54110).