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The George MacDonald Society

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1. Many of you may have been wondering what has been happening to us! We are alive and well and, after a period of re-evaluation over these past months, are now ready to stride on into 1988 and beyond. Some people say that no news is good news. In our case no news has simply been no news. Suddenly, however, a lot is beginning to happen and we promise that we will be more regular with our newsletters from now on.

2. Money always has to come onto the list somewhere. We were finding that American members were having to pay large charges on bankers drafts converted into sterling, thus pushing up the cost of their subscriptions. A solution to this problem has been proposed by two of our members, Randall and Emily Tobias. From now on, if American members send their subscription cheques in dollars to them, then they can convert the whole lot into sterling at one go and send the money to us. We hope that American members will welcome this.

   Dr. Randall and Mrs. Emily Tobias’s address is: 2528 Glendale Avenue, Durham NC 27704.

3. The Anglo-Ligurian Club in Bordighera held its annual ceremony at the grave of George and Louisa MacDonald at the English cemetery there on September 18th. Recently in Bordighera, on September 26th, there was a one-day conference entitled: La Narrativa Fantastica Inglese/Renaissance of Wonder, with talks on Yeats, Tolkien, and George MacDonald. One of our members, Professor Spina of Genoa University gave a talk on “Allegory and Symbols in George MacDonald.”

4. Recently William Raeper gave a talk to the 1662 Society on “MacDonald’s Theology.”

5. Talking about talks – an important event is about to come up. The George MacDonald Society and the Lewis Carroll Society are getting together for a joint meeting on October 16th. This will take place in the North Room, Conway hall, Red Lion Square. Please be there at 6.00 for 6.30pm. There will be two talks given on aspects of the relationship between Carroll and MacDonald. This will be an important chance for members of the Society to meet each other as well as member of another society to whom we are closely allied. We hope that many of you will be able to come.

6. Freda Levson, Bill Raeper, Tony Richardson, and Margaret Troup braved the August rain just a few weeks ago to meet round the MacDonald family gravestone at Drumblade cemetery near Huntly. The stone (which has been illegible for many years) has recently been treated with a special solution which makes the gothic script now barely decipherable. It is hoped to recut the
stone fairly soon and perhaps put up a plaque in the family plot giving George and Lousia’s dates and where they are buried.

7. Several publications are due to appear on MacDonald. Elizabeth Saintsbury’s book has still not been published, but should appear soon. David Robb of Dundee University has completed a short book on MacDonald’s fiction and this is ready to be published this autumn. Meanwhile, William Raeper’s large biography of MacDonald, entitled *George MacDonald* (published by Lion Publishing, cost £14.95 and, in the States $26.95) came out on September 25th. It has 392 pages of text and eight pages of photographs.

8. Finally, the George MacDonald Society Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday November 27th at 58a Westbourne Park Villas W2 at 7.30. We hope to have a speaker for this occasion and light refreshments will be served.