1. **A Visit to George MacDonald Country.** Preparations are all but complete for this event (24 – 27 Sept), and we hope the participants will have a happy and uplifting visit. A tour of Huntly is scheduled, plus coach-trips to the Cabrach (the setting for Castle Warlock); Leith House; Haddo House; the North East of Scotland Agricultural Heritage Centre (to see farming life as depicted in MacDonald’s novels); Portsoy and Cullen, where Malcolm is set; the Wow o’ Rivven at Ruthven; and Drumblade Church, where the MacDonald family are buried. There will also be an official reception, a lecture (by David Robb), a sermon (by Fr. Ian Prior) and a ceilidh. The Society’s advance preparation has had the happy result of rousing a great deal of interest in and around Huntly. A beautiful “parchment effect” brochure has been produced by the Gordon District Council, with text by our Bill Raeper, and fine illustrations by Kate Robinson. It describes a “Town Trail”, gives a brief life of MacDonald, and has a section on MacDonald and Huntly. The Huntly Express has given the event a write-up, and there was a half-hour programme on local radio about MacDonald, which included an interview with Bill Raeper. The District Council is funding the reception at the Brander Library (this is where the MacDonald MSS are kept, under a copy of the medallion of MacDonald by Munro. The centenary celebrations of 1924 took place there).

2. **Hastings Exhibition.** Edward G Preston is mounting an exhibition about MacDonald and his associations with Hastings in Hastings Old Town Museum (High Street, Hastings, East Sussex). It is on NOW, ie, during August and September. Do go and see it if you possibly can.

3. **A Challenge to Members.** We have had queries about 2 people connected with George MacDonald, and wonder if members can help us with information. First is Julie Sutter, who translated David Elginbrod into German, dedicating the work to MacDonald. She also translated into English a work by Karl Emil Franzos, *For the Right* (1888); and probably Valdemar Thisted’s *Letters from Hell* (1885). Both these works had an Introduction by MacDonald. Does anyone know any more about her? Secondly, it has been suggested that the German writer Frederick Rolf, Baron Corvo, may have met MacDonald during his stay in Algiers in 1856. Can any member enlighten us?

4. **Books.** J Joseph Flynn (PO Box 3855, South Pasadena, CA 91031, USA) has two important MacDonald works for sale:-

i) **The Renaissance of Wonder in Children’s Literature** by Marion Lochhead. Mr. Flynn has purchased the remaining stock of this work, published in 1977 by Canongate, Edinburgh. Six of the sixteen chapters focus on the life and work of MacDonald, while others are devoted to such authors as Nesbit, Lewis and Tolkien. Hardbound, with dust jacket. Payment may be made in US Dollars or Sterling as follows: $14.95 + $1.50 postage (California residents add 6.75% sales tax) or £9.00 + £1.50 postage.
ii) **Far Above Rubies.** MacDonald’s very last work, a short story first appearing in *The Sketch* 1898 and never published in book form in the UK. It was published by Dodd, Mead, New York, in 1899. Mr. Flynn is offering a facsimile reprint of this 1899 edition, hardbound in a binding of 1/4 cloth and marble paper. First printing is limited to 150 hand-numbered copies. Price $39.95 + $1.50 postage (+ sales tax for CA residents) or £25 + £1.50 postage.

5. **The Library.** John Docherty reports with thanks that some 40 titles have been added to the Library. Most urgently needed now are *The Portent* and the 1864 *Adela Cathcart* (not the later edition, which has a different collection of stories). 
Do visit the Library when in London. It is housed in the main Library of King’s College, in the Strand, next to the new Courtauld Gallery. The Library is only some 50ft from the main College entrance. The more our collection is used, and the more donations we receive, the better position we are in to obtain grants from charitable bodies. It would be worthwhile to have a collection of those books which strongly influenced MacDonald, but are not readily obtainable today, eg. the fiction of E.T.A. Hoffman. We have few of MacDonald’s volumes of poetry, and few of the modern critical works on (or with sections on) MacDonald. However, we do have a copy of Joyce Hines’ PhD thesis on the influence of MacDonald on Charles Williams. See next section.

6. **Two Notions of Hell.** Combined meeting with the Charles Williams Society, Sat. Nov. 24th, 2.30 at Lyddon House, 24 South Audley St, London W1. Members intending to come to this meeting might benefit from a visit to the Library beforehand, to look at Joyce Hines’ thesis on MacDonald and Charles Williams.

7. **Kelmscott House.** This is the “old house by the Thames” (at Ham­mersmith) where George MacDonald lived before William Morris moved in and changed its name from “The Retreat”. The William Morris Society maintains it, and they have repaired and improved the coach house, renewing the front door, damp-proofing and redecorating.
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