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Rolland Hein and Michael Phillips are familiar names to those interested in George MacDonald. They may have done more to make MacDonald accessible to the general reader than anyone else since C. S. Lewis. In fact, both men have played a role similar to that of C. S. Lewis, who claimed in *George MacDonald: An Anthology* (1946) that MacDonald baptized his imagination, which led Lewis to call MacDonald his “master.” The anthology, Lewis admits, “was designed not to revive MacDonald’s literary reputation but to spread his religious teaching.” *Through the Year with George MacDonald: 366 Daily Readings* and *Hell and Beyond* do precisely this—they showcase (in Hein’s book) MacDonald’s spiritual speculations and (in Phillip’s novel) how MacDonald has inspired many to contemplate the complex workings of God.

Hein has been influential in the evolution of MacDonald scholarship. His *The Harmony Within: The Spiritual Vision of George MacDonald* (1982) positioned MacDonald as an important Victorian writer, particularly of fantasy and fairy tales, whose messages create a “‘harmony within’—how thoroughly the symbolic terrain of his imaginative prose is shaped by his theological convictions, and hence by his understanding of the Bible.” Hein’s scholarly treatise, however, also had cross-over appeal—*The Harmony Within* is one of those rare scholarly books that can be enjoyed by the general reader, those fans of George MacDonald. In that spirit, Hein has published other books on MacDonald, edited several volumes of MacDonald’s theological writings and, recently, has collaborated with Larry Fink on *George MacDonald: Images of His World* (2004), a coffee-table book that melds photography by Fink with Hein’s prose descriptions that provides readers with a vivid portrait of MacDonald. And there is much more that can be said about Hein’s contribution to MacDonald studies. This paragraph, alas, is quite insufficient in its overview of his importance to MacDonald studies!

Through the Year with George MacDonald: 366 Daily Readings, which includes a Foreword by Lewis’s stepson Douglas Gresham, is a

direct descendent of Lewis's *George MacDonald: An Anthology*. In the Introduction, Hein suggests that the book can be used in two fundamental ways: 1) as a "handy tool" for discovering the power of MacDonald's spiritual and devotional thinking, and 2) as a "devotional calendar" for those desiring "a guide for daily meditation." On both front Hein succeeds. Most of Hein's selections, understandably, come from *Unspoken Sermons* (3 volumes); *The Hope of the Gospel*; *The Miracles of our Lord*; and his realistic novels, particularly *Robert Falconer*; *Thomas Wingfold, Curate*; *Paul Faber, Surgeon*; and *What's Mine's Mine*. Each selection is given a particular date, urging you to read one selection each day of the year, but the collection also welcomes the reader to skip around and randomly select a reading for the day. Followers of MacDonald will find a feast in *Through the Year with George MacDonald*.

Hein admits in the Introduction that MacDonald's "creative efforts are at their best in his fairy tales, his fantasies for youth, and his fantasies for adults," but suggests that these works do not lend themselves as well to MacDonald's "provocative handling of spiritual truths." Those truths are best found in MacDonald's theological sermons and realistic novels. Though Hein is correct in this assessment generally, one could argue that part of MacDonald's spiritual imagination is expressed in his "fantastic imagination," in the joy of perceiving the world in a new way. Readers of MacDonald's fantasy works become like Anodos in *Phantastes* or Mr. Vane in *Lilith* as they enter fairyland or the "regions of the seven dimensions." Vane even tells us that he was "lost in a space larger than imagination" Though the fantasies and fairy tales rarely depict characters discussing spiritual matters, or show the narrator inserting his theological observations on the action, these works do demonstrate the power of this fantastic imagination to probe otherworldly spiritual concerns. But I quibble here—the fact remains that Rolland Hein has once again published a work on MacDonald that will enlighten readers—at any level of engagement—of George MacDonald.