

HALLIDAY REVIEW

HIEROLOGY • ART • RELIGION • PHILOSOPHY • SCIENCE

The 'In-House' magazine of Friends of Ishval
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EDITORIAL

DAVID MAHLOWE

ACTOR



This is our second issue of the Halliday Review, in which we celebrate the life and work of its founder, David Mahlowe. Actor, artist, craftsman, writer, poet; good friend, loving husband, a real human being. In this issue we celebrate David's many years' close study of both Shakespeare and Boehme in his lecture from 1973. As a companion piece, we include Eugene Halliday's short essay on Shakespeare's 'Wooden O' and the art of playwriting, which links into David's lecture and reflects the involvement of both of them in the theatre.

Attending the theatre in Manchester in the 1950s was an exciting and enlightening experience. The Library Theatre Company had as its director, from 1954, David Scase, who had worked with Joan Littlewood. The company included many fine actors, including David Mahlowe and Zero Mahlowe (under her stage name of Marah Stohl), Oliver Neville (later head of Rada) and John Franklyn Robbins (still appearing in film and on TV).

Not only was this a young and vibrant company, but the cast here mentioned spent a large part of their off-stage time studying the work of Shakespeare and the meaning of acting with Eugene Halliday. Late into the night, they explored the art of acting, learning to feel the inner motivation and drive of their characters, experiencing the interactions within the plays as the interactions of real beings, dynamic and alive. Ably directed in the theatre by David Scase, they yet lived dangerously on the stage, following anew the responses of their living characters to each situation - which may not be quite the same from one performance to another. This could be disconcerting to other members of the cast, but made for dynamic and memorable performances.

We celebrate also David's poetry and his craftsmanship, with photographs of chessmen which he carved, and his calligraphy. He was a skilled jeweller, carpenter, and gardener, meticulous organiser, and publisher of Eugene Halliday's work, and a perfectionist in everything he did. Ten years on, the world is still not the same without him.

Hephzibah Yohannan



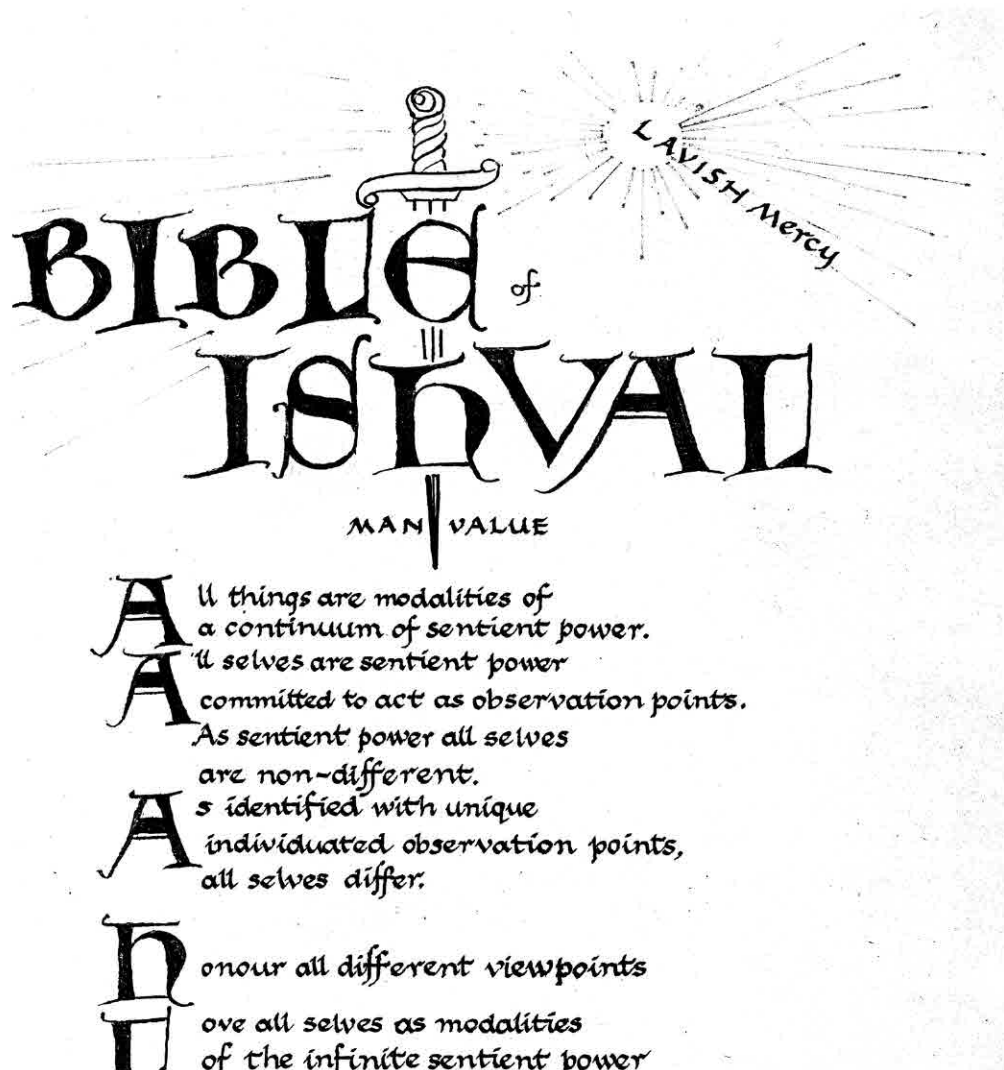
Parklands panorama photo courtesy of Shibat Whardell

We have included this photograph of Parklands (the building) as a reminder of 'the place' associated with the time in which David & Zero lived and worked with Eugene and where, every last Sunday of the month, talks or theatrical performances were held. David, as Hephzi has already commented, was a perfectionist - he was responsible for the upkeep of the buildings and grounds. Such was his commital to this that he painted the exterior of the building single handed - and it is a very big intrecate building! Being a sagittarian David Mahlowe's way was always to learn how to do it, by doing it. Usually I am told in his best suit!

Shibat Whardell

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The Bible of ISHVAL - calligraphy by David Mahlowe

CHRISTMAS 1993

HERE STAND WE, WAITING
FOR THAT HOUR TO COME
WHEN JESUS, LORD-TO-BE
OF ALL THIS WOEFUL SPHERE
IS BORN.

WHAT WILL IT MAKE OF
DIFFERENCE WHEN, FOR TIMES
TWO THOUSAND ONCE AGAIN
HE COMES IN STRAW AND GLITTER,
ONCE AGAIN?

ONCE AGAIN, AGAIN, AGAIN
MOUTH WE IN JOY GLAD
SALUTATIONS TO THE EVER-
NEWLY BORN, GOOD WILL
TO MEN.

AND NEVER EVER, HARDLY,
SAY IT, SEE IT, GREET IT
AS IT SADLY CRAWLS ACROSS
THE BLOOD-SOAKED YEAR
TO DIE,

UNHEEDED MOSTLY, ON A LONELY
HILL COMPOS'D OF HALLELUJAHS,
JOYS DISCARDED, BROKEN PRESENTS,
VICTIMS OF THE WORKADAY.
WHAT THEN?

ONLY THIS, UNTIRINGLY;
HE COMES AGAIN, AGAIN, AGAIN,
UNDAUNTED IN HIS BABY
INNOCENCE TO BRING HIS PEACE
TO MEN.

HIS CLEAR EYE SEEKS THAT
TENDER PLACE IN EACH OF US,
WHICH IF HE REACHES, 'SPITE
OF TINSELL'D WALLS OF CHRISTMAS
CHEER,
SHALL ONCE,

JUST ONCE, AND ONCE FOR ALL,
STAY HIM FROM EASTER DEATH;
KEEP HIM IN US, KEEP HIM
FOREVER 'GAINST THE NEED TO COME
AGAIN.

DAVID MAHLOWE

