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# The Bottle Imp

**Issue 10, November 2011**  
**New Publications: Criticism & Non-Fiction**

## **Scottish & International Modernisms: Relationships and Reconfigurations**

eds. Emma Dymock & Margery Palmer McCulloch

*Association for Scottish Literary Studies, 2011*  
The twentieth-century Scottish renaissance—the literary and artistic revival which followed the end of the First World War—advanced a claim for a distinctive Scottish identity: cultural, political and national. Unlike earlier nineteenth-century Celtic revivals, this renaissance was both outward-looking and confidently contemporary; it embraced continental European influences as well as those of Anglophone writers such as Eliot, Joyce, Pound and Lawrence, and contributed to the development of what we now call modernism. This collection of essays, from fourteen scholars, illustrates the strongly international and modernist dimension of Scotland's interwar revival, and illuminates the relationships between Scottish and non-Scottish writers and contexts. It also includes two chapters on the contribution made to this revival by Scottish visual art and music. These essays are based on papers originally presented at the 38th ASLS Annual Conference, 'Scottish and International Modernism', held at the University of Stirling, 6–7 June 2009.

## **Scotland as Science Fiction**

by Caroline McCracken-Flesher  
*Bucknell University Press, 2011*

Out of the mainstream but ahead of the tide, that is Scottish Science Fiction. Science Fiction emphasizes "progress" through technology, advanced mental states, or future times. How does Scotland, often considered a land of the past, lead in Science Fiction? "Left behind" by international politics, Scots have cultivated alternate places and different times as sites of identity so that Scotland can seem a futuristic fiction itself. This book explores the tensions between science

and a particular society that produce an innovative science fiction. Essays consider Scottish thermodynamics, Celtic myth, the rigors of religious "conversion", Scotland's fractured politics yet civil society, its languages of alterity (Scots, Gaelic, allegory, poetry), and the lure of the future. From Peter Pan and Dr. Jekyll to the poetry of Edwin Morgan and the worlds of Muriel Spark, Ken Macleod, or Iain M. Banks, Scotland's creative complex yields a literature that models the future for Science Fiction.

## **Uneasy Subjects: Postcolonialism and Scottish Gaelic Poetry**

by Silke Stroh

*Rodopi (SCROLL series), 2011*

Scottish and "Celtic fringe" postcolonialism has caused much controversy and unease in literary studies. Can the non-English territories and peoples of the British Isles, faced with centuries of English hegemony, be meaningfully compared to former overseas colonies? This book is the first comprehensive study of this topic which offers an in-depth study of Gaelic literature. It investigates the complex interplay between Celticity, Gaeldom, Scottish and British national identity, and international colonial and postcolonial discourse. It situates post/colonial elements in Gaelic poetry within a wider context, showing how they intersect with socio-historical and political issues, anglophone literature and the media. Highlighting the centrality of Celticity as an archetypal construct in colonial discourses ancient and modern, this volume traces post/colonial themes and strategies in Gaelic poetry from the Middle Ages to the present. Central themes include the uneasy position of Gaels as subjects of the Scottish or British state, and as both intra-British colonised and overseas colonisers. Aiming to promote interdisciplinary dialogue, it is of interest for scholars and students of Scottish Studies, Gaelic and English literature, and international Postcolonial Studies.

## **The Edinburgh Companion to Scottish Romanticism**

by Murray Pittock

*Edinburgh University Press, 2011*

Bringing together an international group of experts, this companion explores a distinctly Scottish Romanticism. Discussing the most influential texts and authors in depth, the original essays shed new critical light on texts from Macpherson's Ossian poetry to Hogg's *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*, and from Scott's Waverley Novels to the work of John Galt. As

well as dealing with the major Romantic figures, the contributors look afresh at ballads, songs, the idea of the bard, religion, periodicals, the national tale, the picturesque, the city, language and the role of Gaelic in Scottish Romanticism.

### **The Doctor Dissected: A Cultural Autopsy of the Burke and Hare Murders**

by Caroline McCracken-Flesher  
*Oxford University Press, 2011*

A series of bizarre killings filled the citizens of early nineteenth-century Scotland with terror. When the perpetrators were finally apprehended in 1828, their motive roiled the nation: William Burke and William Hare had murdered for profit. The cadavers supplied a ready pay-out, courtesy of Dr. Robert Knox, who was desperate for anatomical subjects. Nearly two hundred years later, these scandalous murders continue to fire imagination in Scotland and beyond. Featuring over thirty images and canvassing a wide range of media—from contemporary newspaper accounts and private correspondence to Japanese comic books and videogames—*The Doctor Dissected* analyzes the afterlife of this national trauma and considers its singular place in Scottish history.

### **Dead Sharp**

ed. Les Warner  
*Two Ravens Press, 2011*

So much more than just a collection of in-depth interviews with Scotland's bestselling crime writers, *Dead Sharp* is also a distinctive and edgy investigation of Scotland as a changing nation. Brimming with pithy, witty and sometimes just plain weird revelations, these interviews provide a unique and unforgettable insight into how writers think, and into the professional secrets of some of the genre's greatest exponents. *Dead Sharp* includes interviews with: Ian Rankin, Stuart MacBride, Allan Guthrie, Karen Campbell, Neil Forsyth, Christopher Brookmyre, Paul Johnston, Alice Thompson, and Louise Welsh.

### **All Made Up**

by Janice Galloway  
*Granta Books, 2011*

In the second volume of her memoirs, the prize-winning author Janice Galloway reveals how the awkward child introduced in *This is Not About Me* evolved through her teenage years, living with her stoical mother and domineering older sister. In visceral descriptions of puberty, sex and school-room politics, Galloway casts her extraordinary gaze on the morals and am-

bitions of one small-town through the stories of three generations of women. When she entered secondary school, Galloway was still sharing a bed with her mother. Her awareness of the opposite sex was limited; she was more excited by Latin and the school orchestra than make-up or boys. Under the wing of one exceptional teacher, music was her passion. But as she struggled to make sense of the physical and emotional changes of adolescence, almost everything she thought she knew began to change. By turns absurd and tender, this is the story of a family's secrets brought to light, revealing the bonds beneath. Now one of our most celebrated writers, Galloway is here at her most personal, defiant and eloquent.

### **Narrative, Social Myth and Reality in Contemporary Scottish and Irish Women's Writing: Kennedy, Lochhead, Bourke, Ní Dhuibhne, and Carr**

by Tudor Balinisteanu  
*Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009*

This book offers an original interdisciplinary analysis of the relations between myth, identity and social reality, involving elements of narratology theory, linguistics, philosophy, anthropology and social theory, harnessed to support an argument firmly located in the area of literary criticism. This analysis yields a fairly extensive reinterpretation of the concept of myth, which is applied to the examination of the relationship between narrative and social reality as represented in texts by contemporary Scottish and Irish women writers. Studied here for the first time together, the writers whose texts form the interest of this book continue the revisionist work begun by other women writers who engage with the male generated literary, philosophical and humanist tradition. They share a view of narratives as tools for continually negotiating our identities, social worlds and socialisation scenarios. While the high-level theoretical discourse of the first part of the book requires specialised knowledge, the second part of the book, offering close readings of the texts, is both lively and accessible and should engage the interest of the general reader and academic alike. This book is written for all those who are interested in the power words have to hold sway over our inner and outer (social) worlds.

## **Essays on David Hume, Medical Men and the Scottish Enlightenment: 'Industry, Knowledge and Humanity'**

by Roger L Emerson

*Ashgate, 2009*

The Scottish Enlightenment was a period of intellectual and scientific progress, in a country previously considered to be marginal to the European intellectual scene. Yet the enlightenment was not about politeness or civic humanism, but something more basic—the making of an improved society which could compete in every way in a rapidly changing world. David Hume, writing in 1752, commented that 'industry, knowledge and humanity are linked together by an indissoluble chain'. Collectively this volume of essays embraces many of the topics which Hume included under 'industry, knowledge and humanity': from the European Enlightenment and the Scots relation to it, to Scottish social history and its relation to religion, science and medicine. Overarching themes of what it meant to be enlightened in the eighteenth century are considered alongside more specific studies of notable figures of the period, such as Archibald Campbell, 3rd Duke of Argyll, and David Hume, and the training and number of Scottish medical students. Together, the volume provides an opportunity to step back and reconsider the Scottish Enlightenment in its broader context and to consider what new directions this field of study might take.

## **A History of Scottish Philosophy**

by Alexander Broadie

*Edinburgh University Press, 2009*

This book is unique in that it provides the first-ever substantial account of the seven-centuries-old Scottish philosophical tradition. The book focuses on a number of philosophers in the period from the later thirteenth century until the mid-twentieth and attends especially to some brilliantly original texts. The book also indicates ways in which philosophy has been intimately related to other aspects of Scotland's culture. Among the greatest philosophers that Scotland has produced are John Duns Scotus, Francis Hutcheson, David Hume, Adam Smith and Thomas Reid. But there were many other fine, even brilliant philosophers who are less highly regarded, if they are noticed at all, such as John Mair, George Lokert, Frederick Ferrier, Andrew Seth, Norman Kemp Smith and John Macmurray. All these thinkers and many others are discussed in these pages. This clearly written and approachable book gives us a strong

sense of the Scottish philosophical tradition. A History of Scottish Philosophy was the winner of the Saltire Society Scottish History Book of the Year 2009, and was shortlisted for the Saltire Society Scottish Research Book of the Year 2009.

## **Scotland and the British Empire**

Eds. John M MacKenzie and T M Devine

*Oxford University Press, 2011*

The extraordinary influence of Scots in the British Empire has long been recognised. As administrators, settlers, temporary residents, professionals, plantation owners, and as military personnel, they were strikingly prominent in North America, the Caribbean, Australasia, South Africa, India, and colonies in South-East Asia and Africa. Throughout these regions they brought to bear distinctive Scottish experience as well as particular educational, economic, cultural, and religious influences. Moreover, the relationship between Scots and the British Empire had a profound effect upon many aspects of Scottish society. This volume of essays, written by notable scholars in the field, examines the key roles of Scots in central aspects of the Atlantic and imperial economies from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries, in East India Company rule in India, migration and the preservation of ethnic identities, the environment, the army, missionary and other religious activities, the dispersal of intellectual endeavours, and in the production of a distinctive literature rooted in colonial experience. Making use of recent, innovative research, the chapters demonstrate that an understanding of the profoundly inter-active relationship between Scotland and the British Empire is vital both for the understanding of the histories of that country and of many territories of the British Empire.



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