



Contemporary Scottish Writing

This handout was made for the Area and Cultural Studies Scotland class.

- (1) What I mean by “Contemporary Scottish Writing“
- (2) A list of book titles with author and publication date

(1) Scottish? What is Contemporary Scottish Writing?

All the books on this list have some kind of Scottish connection. The writers were born in Scotland or came to live and feel at home there e.g. Michel Faber, or their forefathers were Scots e.g. Alistair MacLeod. The setting may be Scotland or places scattered across the world – or fantasy. The themes, I think, are of interest all round the world, but they may also have a specifically Scottish perspective. Read them and see! They are all in the university library.

Most of the titles are fiction as most of the people interested in Contemporary Scottish Writing are students of English Literature. The oldest on this list was first published in 1936 (included here as it is stunningly relevant and modern). All the writers have written many books.

If you want to know more about these books and the writers please contact me. You will also find plenty information on the Internet.

If you want to know more about older Scottish writers please see the Bibliography for the Area Studies Scotland class.

(2) Titles

Non-Fiction:

Cooper, Derek: Hebridean Connection (1977)

Steel, Tom: The Life and Death of St. Kilda (1975)

Miller, Christian: A Childhood in Scotland (1989)

MacKinley, William: Karluk (2000)

Fiction:

Please note that the titles here are only examples. These writers have produced many books – some more recent than the titles given here - and we are lucky to have many of them in the library.

Banks, Iain: The Bridge (1986)

Barker, Elspeth: O Caledonia (1991)

Boyd, William: The New Confessions (1987)

Brown, George Mackay: Greenvoe (1972)

Burnside, John: The Locust Room (2001)

Cannon, Michael: Lachlan's War (2006)

Clews, Alan: A Child of Air (1995)

Cowan, Alan: Pig (1995)

Crumey, Alan: Music in a Foreign Language (1994)

Davie, Elspeth: Creating a Scene (1971)

Davis, Margaret: Daughters and Mothers (1989)

Donovan, Ann: All that Glisters (in Scottish Short Stories) 2000

Elphinstone, Margaret: An Apple from a Tree (1991)

Faber, Michel: Under the Skin (2000)

Fitt, Matthew: But n Ben A-Go-Go (2000)

Frame, Ronald: The Lantern Bearers (2001)

Friel, George: A Glasgow Trilogy

Galbraith, Douglas: The Rising Sun (2000)

Galloway, Janice: The Trick is to Keep Breathing (1989)

Gray, Alasdair: Lanark (1981)

Greig, Andrew: Electric Brae (1992)

Gunn, Neil M.: The Silver Darlings (1941)

Henderson, M: Chasing Angels (2000)

Jauncey, James: The Witness (2007)

Jenkins, Robin: The Cone Gatherers (1955)

Kay, Jackie: Trumpet (1998)

Kelman, James: The Busconductor Hines (1984)

Kennaway, James: Tunes of Glory (1989)

Kennedy, A. L.: So I am Glad (1995)

Kesson, Jessie: Another Time, Another Place (1983)

Legge, Gordon: The Shoe (1989)

MacColla, Fionn: And the Cock Crew (1945)

MacDougall, Carl: The Lights Below (1993)

Mackay, Colin: The Sound of the Sea (1989)

MacKenzie, David: The Truth of Stone (1991)

MacLeod, Alistair: No Great Mischief (1999)

Macpherson, Ian: Wild Harbour (1936)

Massie, Alan: The Sins of the Father (1991)

McGinness, Iain: Inner City (1987)

McGrath, John: The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil (1974)(A play)

McIlvanney, William: The Papers of Tony Veitch (1983)

McLean, Allan Campbell: The Hill of the Red Fox (1955) (Children's)

McWilliam, Candia: Wait till I tell you (1998)

Mail, Michael: Coralena (2002)

Mina, Denise: Exile (2000)

Mitchison, Naomi: The Big House (1950) (Children's)

Moon, Lorna: The Collected Works (1926)

O'Farrell, Maggie: The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox (2006)

O'Hagan, Andrew: Our Fathers (1999)

Rankin, Ian: The Naming of the Dead (2006)

Robertson, James: The Fanatic (2000)

Rowling, Joanne: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (2000) (Children's)

Sharp, Alan: The Wind Shifts (on order)

Smith, Ali: Hotel World (2001)

Smith, Iain Crichton: In the Middle of the Wood (1987)

Smith, Iain Crichton: The Dream (1990)

Spark, Muriel: The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (1961)

Spence, Alan: Way to Go (1998)

Strachan, Zoe: Negative Space (2002)

Temperley, Alan: Murdo's War (1988) (Children's)
Tennant, Emma: Two Women of London (1989)
Thomson, Alice: Pharos (2002)
Torrington, Jeff: Swing Hammer Swing! (1993)
Trocchi, Alexander: Young Adam (1954) (has just been filmed)
Warner, Alan: Morvern Callar (1995)
Welsh, Irvine: Trainspotting (1993)
Welsh, Louise: The Cutting Room (2002)
William, Gordon: From Scenes Like These (1987)

This list will keep on growing!

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