

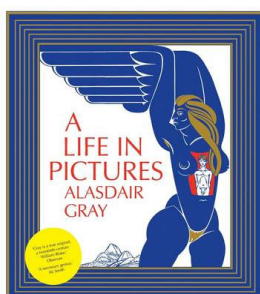
2011 Saltire Society Literary Awards Announced

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2.00pm 1st DECEMBER 2011

The Saltire Society has presented its prestigious Literary Awards at a high profile ceremony in the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh on Thursday 1st December.

SALTIRE SOCIETY SCOTTISH BOOK OF THE YEAR

The 2011 Scottish Book of the Year Award was presented to:

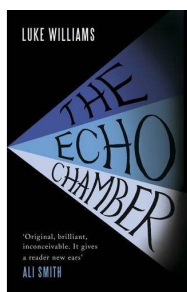


A Life in Pictures by Alasdair Gray published by Canongate

A Life in Pictures: Alasdair Gray, born in 1934 in Glasgow, could not live by practicing a single art so became jack of many. His novels are known outside Scotland. This autobiography shows his portrait, mural and graphic work and tells how these were made and how friends helped to make them.

SALTIRE SOCIETY SCOTTISH FIRST BOOK OF THE YEAR

The 2011 Scottish First Book of the Year Award was presented to:

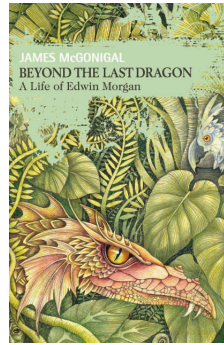


The Echo Chamber by Luke Williams published by Hamish Hamilton

The Echo Chamber: Taking us from Nigeria in the 1950s to 1970s America and finally on to Scotland in the early twenty-first century, The Echo Chamber tells us the strange story of Evie Steppman and her unique sensory gifts. It is a story of colonialism and empire, of love and death, of hope and fear, of mystery and strangeness, and above all, of sound and an unwanted, but inevitable, silence.

**SALTIRE SOCIETY SCOTTISH RESEARCH BOOK OF THE YEAR
in association with National Library of Scotland**

The 2011 Scottish Research Book of the Year was presented to:

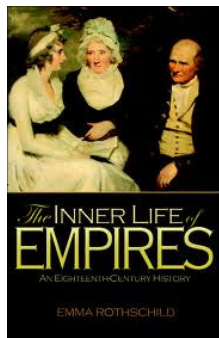


***Beyond the Last Dragon* by James McGonigal published by Sandstone Press**

Beyond the Last Dragon: Written with the full support of Edwin Morgan, explores hitherto unknown archive resources and creative work. It recounts an amazing and sometimes troubled career, using the poet's own letters, poems and plays to uncover the often local origins of his still remarkable inventiveness and flair.

SALTIRE SOCIETY SCOTTISH HISTORY BOOK OF THE YEAR

The Scottish History Book of the Year was presented to:



***The Inner Life of Empires: An Eighteenth Century History*
by Emma Rothschild published by Princeton University Press**

The Inner Life of Empires: An Eighteenth Century History: In *The Inner Life of Empires*, Emma Rothschild tells the intimate family history of the Johnstones, a family who lived in Scotland and around the globe during the fast-changing eighteenth century. Using multiple archives, documents, and letters, Rothschild looks at the family's complex story to describe the origins of the modern political, economic, and intellectual world.

Lorimer Mackenzie, Chairman of the Saltire Society said: "The Saltire Society's long tradition of celebrating the best of Scottish endeavours in many fields culminates in the announcement of our literary awards to coincide with the celebrations for our National Day. The judge's task has been stimulating and rewarding. There is little doubt that once again the high quality of imagination, research, scholarship and literary excellence displayed by our authors has been confirmed."

Martyn Wade, National Librarian and Chief Executive of the National Library of Scotland, said: "The Saltire Society Literary Awards bring together the very best of Scottish literature, from the writings of established and new authors through to the accomplishments of researchers and historians, and is a wonderful way of celebrating this important aspect of our rich cultural heritage. We are once again delighted to play host to the awards for the 14th consecutive year and offer our warmest congratulations to the winners."

2011 Saltire Society Literary Awards Shortlists

SCOTTISH BOOK OF THE YEAR

A Summer of Drowning by John Burnside (Jonathan Cape)

A Life in Pictures by Alasdair Gray (Canongate)

There but for the by Ali Smith (Hamish Hamilton)

Reading Shakespeare's Sonnets by Don Paterson (Faber and Faber)

Fiere by Jackie Kay (Picador)

The Blue Book by A. L. Kennedy (Jonathan Cape)

An Cuilithionn 1939 – Somhairle MacGill-Eain edited by Christopher Whyte (Association for Scottish Literary Studies)

SCOTTISH FIRST BOOK OF THE YEAR

Island of Wings by Karin Altenberg (Quercus)

This Road is Red by Alison Irvine (Luath Press)

Let Not the Waves of the Sea by Simon Stephenson (John Murray)

The Echo Chamber by Luke Williams (Hamish Hamilton)

SCOTTISH RESEARCH BOOK OF THE YEAR

In Association with the NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

Noble Power in Scotland from the Reformation to the Revolution by Keith M. Brown (Edinburgh University Press)

The History of the Scottish Parliament by Keith M. Brown & Alan R. MacDonald (Edinburgh University Press)

Scottish Ethnicity and the making of New Zealand Society, 1850-1930 by Tanja Bueltmann (Edinburgh University Press)

To the Ends of the Earth: Scotland's Global Diaspora, 1750-2010 by T. M. Devine (Allen Lane/Penguin)

George Mackay Brown: The Wound and the Gift by Ron Ferguson (Saint Andrew Press)

Beyond the Last Dragon by James McGonigal (Sandstone Press)

Domination and Lordship Scotland 1070-1230 by Richard Oram (Edinburgh University Press)

SCOTTISH HISTORY BOOK OF THE YEAR

Scottish Ethnicity and the Making of New Zealand Society by Tanja Bueltmann (Edinburgh University Press)

To the Ends of the Earth: Scotland's Global Diaspora, 1750-2010 by T. M. Devine (Allen Lane/Penguin)

Elite Women and Polite Society in 18th Century Scotland by Katharine Glover (Boydell & Brewer Ltd)

Andrew Melville and Humanism in Renaissance Scotland 1545-1622 by Ernest R. Holloway III (Brill)

Men Of Spirit And Enterprise by Suzanne Rigg (John Donald)

The Inner Life of Empires: An Eighteenth Century History by Emma Rothschild (Princeton University Press)

Reading the Scottish Enlightenment: Books & their Readers in Provincial Scotland, 1750-1820 by Mark Towsey (Brill)

Enlightened Evangelicalism - the life and thought of John Erskine by Jonathan M. Yeagher, (Oxford University Press)

ABOUT THE AWARDS

SCOTTISH BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD

Established in 1982, the Book of the Year Award is given to a book by a living author/authors of Scottish descent or residing in Scotland or the book subject must be the work or life of a Scot or with a Scottish question, event or situation. Nominations may be a novel, a play, poetry or other work of imaginative literature, biography, literary criticism or a study of any Scottish issue. Books of multiple authorship would not normally qualify.

Adjudication Panel:

Professor Ian Campbell (Convener), Mr Allan Boyd, Dr. Ann Matheson, Ms Joyce McMillan, Dr. David Robb, Professor Claire Squires.

SCOTTISH FIRST BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD

In 1988 the Literary Awards were extended to include the Scottish First Book of the Year Award. The Award is given to a book by a living author/authors, who has not previously been published, of Scottish descent or residing in Scotland or the book subject must be the work or life of a Scot or with a Scottish question, event or situation. Nominations may be a novel, a play, poetry or other work of imaginative literature, biography, literary criticism or a study of any Scottish issue. Books of multiple authorship would not normally qualify.

Adjudication Panel: As for Scottish Book of the Year

SCOTTISH HISTORY BOOK OF THE YEAR

In memory of Agnes Mure Mackenzie

Established in 1965, the Award is for a work of Scottish Historical Research. Editions of texts are not eligible. Nominations are invited from professors of Scottish History and editors of historical review publications.

Adjudication Panel: Professor Ted Cowan, Dr Catriona Macdonald, Professor Richard Oram.

SCOTTISH RESEARCH BOOK OF THE YEAR

Established in 1998, the Award is made jointly with The National Library of Scotland. Overall, the awarded book will add to the knowledge and understanding of Scotland and the Scots. The Award may be given to any book by an author or authors of Scottish descent or living in Scotland. It may also be given for any book which deals with the work or life of a Scot – or with a Scottish question, event or situation. Books being entered should represent a significant body of research and offer new insight or dimension to the subject.

Adjudication Panel: Professor Tom Bryce (Convener), Dr. Darryl Mead, Ms Cate Newton plus Saltire Society panel Conveners and invited specialists.

ABOUT THE SALTIRE SOCIETY

The Saltire Society was founded in 1936 to encourage everything that might improve the quality of life in Scotland and restore the country to its proper place as a creative force in European civilisation. It seeks to preserve all that is best in Scottish tradition and to encourage new developments which can strengthen and enrich the country's cultural life. It has wide ranging interests including architecture, arts & crafts, civil engineering, history, literature, music, and science – and promotes excellence in many fields through a series of national awards.

The Society also seeks to revive the memory of famous Scots and to make the nation conscious of its heritage. It seeks to influence decision makers in Scotland through its committees. As well as working at national level the Society has members in branches throughout Scotland, working to promote the Society's aims within their own communities. Membership of the Saltire Society is open to all individuals and organisations that support the aims of the Society.

The Saltire Society is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2011.

THE SALTIRE SOCIETY

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SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC004962

Notes for Editors

Images of all book covers are available from Saltire Society Headquarters

At 1.45pm, there will be a photo-call & opportunities to interview the winners and adjudicators of the Awards.

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Other -

Saltire Society Website - www.saltiresociety.org.uk

Photo Credits

Luke Williams credit – Lucy Steeds

James McGonigal credit – Alex Boyd

Emma Rothschild credit - Kris Snibbe / Harvard University