

Puir Bliddy Swaddies

Scottish Poets of World War II

in readings and song

hosted by the Second World War Network (Scotland)

at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, 14 November 2022

Welcome from Dr Wendy Ugolini, University of Edinburgh

Robyn Marsack, introducing and reading poems by

William Montgomerie (1904-94)

'The Edge of War'

Olive Fraser (1909-77)

'The Home Fleet'

Edwin Morgan (1920-2010)

from *The New Divan*

'North Africa', *Sonnets from Scotland*

Marcas Mac an Tuairneir, introducing and reading poems by

Somhairle MacGill-Eain / Sorley MacLean (1911-96)

'Glac a' Bhàis' / 'Death Valley'

'Latha Foghair' / 'An Autumn Day'

Màiri M. NicGhill-eathain / Mary M. MacLean (1921-?)

'Am Blàr-Cath' / 'The Battlefield'

Deòrsa Mac Iain Dheòrsa / George Campbell Hay (1915-84)

'Bizearta' / 'Bizerte'

Hamish Henderson (1919-2002)

'First Elegy - End of a Campaign', read by Morag Anderson

'Lament for the Son', the original Italian by Corrado Govoni, read by Pino Mereu

'Lament for the Son', translated by Hamish Henderson, read by Jim Mackintosh,

accompanied by Pipe Major Callum Douglas playing 'Lament of the Father' on the border pipes

'The 51st Highland Division's Farewell to Sicily' sung by Hamish MacGregor,

accompanied by Callum Douglas

'So Long' read by Jim Mackintosh

'Tenth Elegy - The Frontier', read by Morag Anderson

You are cordially invited to stay on for refreshments and to chat after the event.

See overleaf for participants

Dr Wendy Ugolini, Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Edinburgh, together with Professor Tobias Kelly, co-founded the Second World War Network (Scotland), which was set up in 2021 with support from the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Wendy is a social and cultural historian of the Second World War. Her study *Experiencing War as the 'Enemy Other'* was awarded the Royal Historical Society's Gladstone Prize. *Wales in England 1914-1945. A Social, Cultural, and Military History of the Two World Wars* is forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

Dr Robyn Marsack was Director of the Scottish Poetry Library from 2000 to 2016, and is a Trustee of the Edwin Morgan Trust. She is a critic, editor and translator, with a particular interest in the literary and cultural history of the First World War in Europe and her native New Zealand. Among other publications, she has edited and introduced the *Selected Poems of Edmund Blunden* (2018).

Marcas Mac an Tuairneir (Mark Spencer Turner) is a poet, editor, translator and singer-songwriter, whose fourth collection, *Polaris*, was published by Leamington Books this year. He won the Wigtown Gaelic Poetry Award in 2017 with 'Òran na Cille', which went on to form the basis of a ColmCille 1500-funded project including poetry, translation, music and film, linking Gaelic-speaking communities in Scotland, Ireland, and Man, in 2021. Marcas is the Gaelic Editor of *The Poets' Republic / Poblachd nam Bàrd*, now in its tenth issue, having nurtured and mentored a host of emergent Gaelic poets in the role. Since 2020 he has been the Gaelic Editor of *Northwords Now*.

Morag Anderson, an award-winning poet, is one of Scotland's most in-demand poets. Her pamphlet *Sin is due to open in a room above Kitty's* has gained much acclaim since its publication in 2021 by Fly On The Wall Press. Morag has been a regular contributor to many of the Hamish Matters events, celebrating the life and legacy of Hamish Henderson.

Pino Mereu lives in Rome, where he met Hamish Henderson, and founded and organises the activities of the Hamish Henderson Folk Club. He is a poet, a composer and a scholar of folk traditions. For over twenty years he has published the folk music and culture magazine *Kilmarnock Edition*. Among his books are *Anzio Pipe Band* (2014), translated by Tom Hubbard and included in the collection *At hame wi freedom* (Grace Note Publications, 2012), *Turas* (2016) and *L'antro di Hamish* (2020).

Jim Mackintosh is a poet, editor and producer based in Perthshire. He is the current Makar of the Catechan EcoMuseum in East Perthshire and the Angus Glens. He has published six collections of poetry, most recently *Flipstones* (2018). He has also edited or co-edited four anthologies, including *The Darg* (Drunk Muse Press, 2019) - contemporary poems celebrating the centenary of Hamish Henderson - and *Beyond The Swelkie* (2021), a celebration in poetry and prose marking the centenary of George Mackay Brown, co-edited with Paul S Philippou. Jim was one of the creators of the Hamish Matters Festival in Blairgowrie, which aims to celebrate the life and legacy of Hamish Henderson, who was born in the town. *The Banes o the Turas*, published this month by Tippermuir Books, is an owersett in Scots and an engagement with *Turas Viaggio*, by Pino Mereu.

Pipe Major Callum Douglas, a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire, is one of the youngest to hold the title of Pipe Major in the Coupar Angus Pipe Band.

Hamish MacGregor, the minister at the Life Plus Church in Blairgowrie, is a weel kent face in the trad folk scene in east Perthshire and beyond, along with his brother Ian. Hamish has the most precious of upbringings in folk song and especially the music and stories of the Travellers, having learned so much from his mother, Sheila Stewart.

For more information on the Second World War Network (Scotland) and to join the Mailing List, please email eforth@exseed.ed.ac.uk