



presents

“Stone Over Storms”:
A City of Literature Built
on Volcanic Rock

Dr Harriet MacMillan

Director

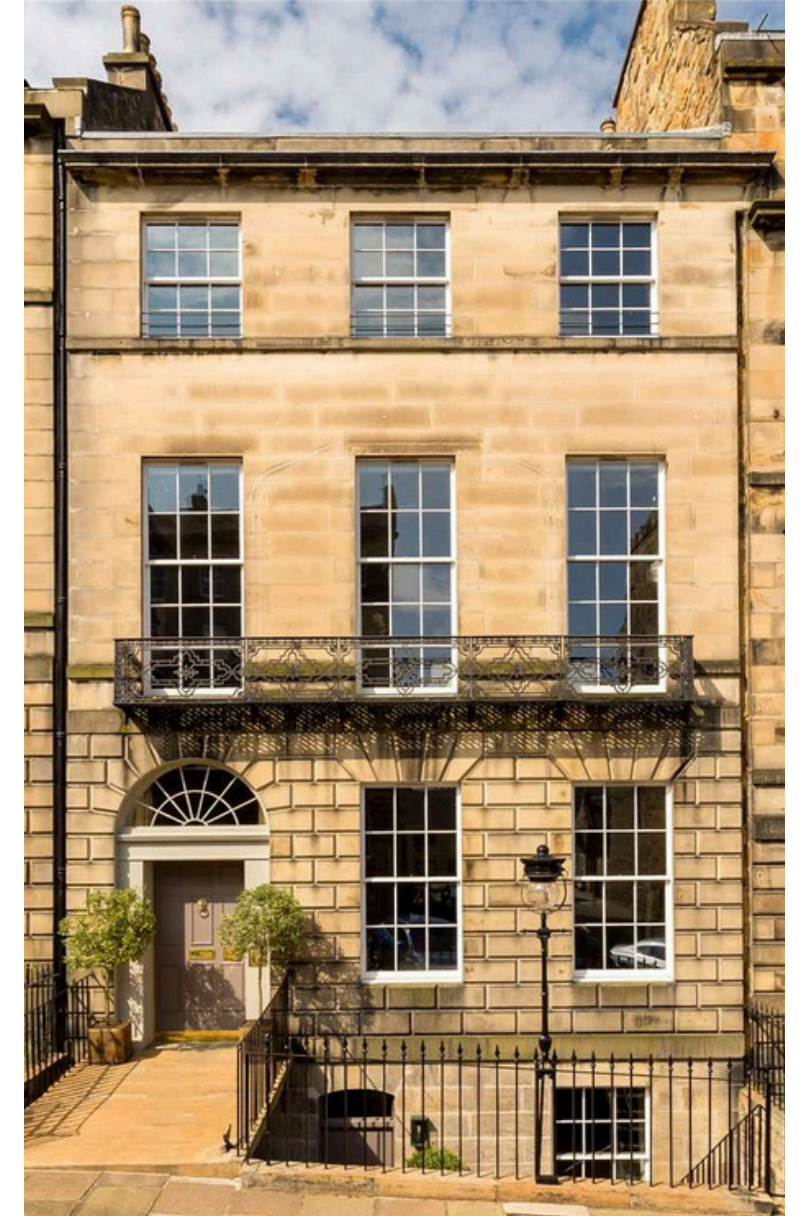


Presentation Structure

- Introduction to Edinburgh
- Nine Centuries of Story
- Edinburgh City of Literature: Partnerships and Projects
- The Next Chapter

Edinburgh: the first UNESCO City of Literature

- Capital of Scotland
- Home to c.530,000 people
- Built on seven hills
- Medieval 'Old Town' and Georgian 'New Town'





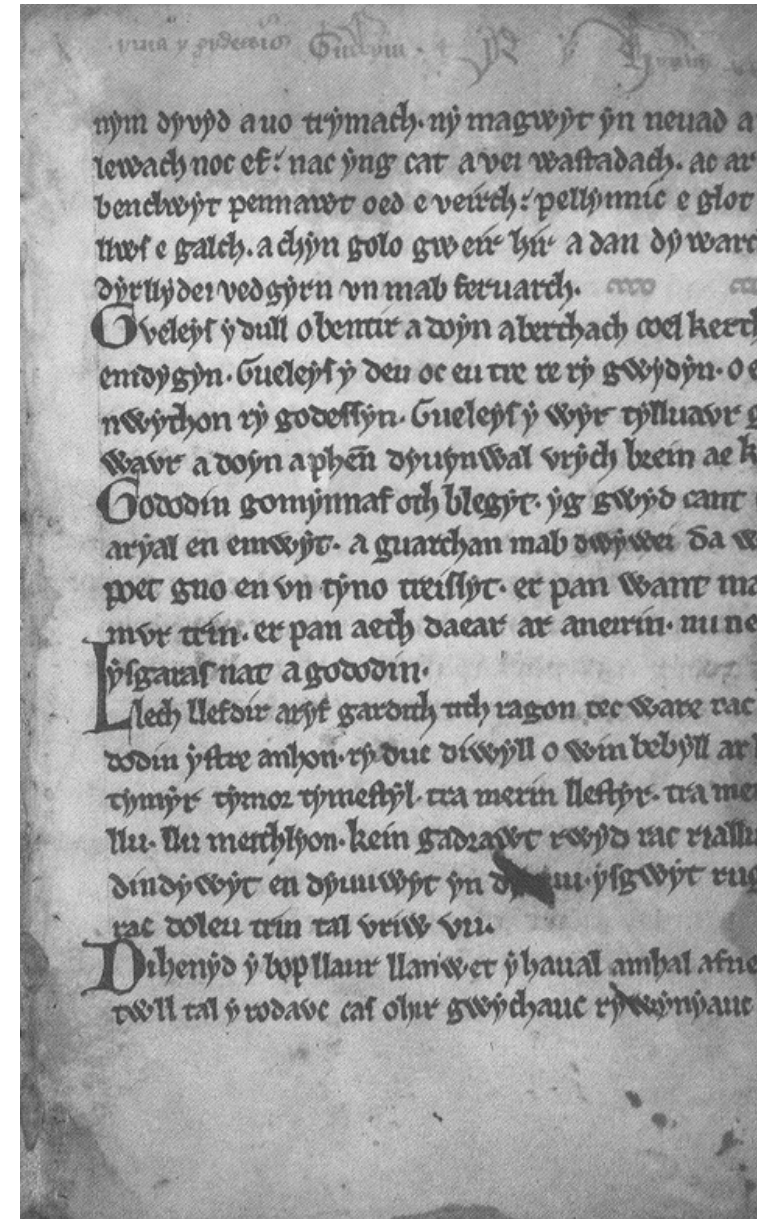
“To Edinburgh”

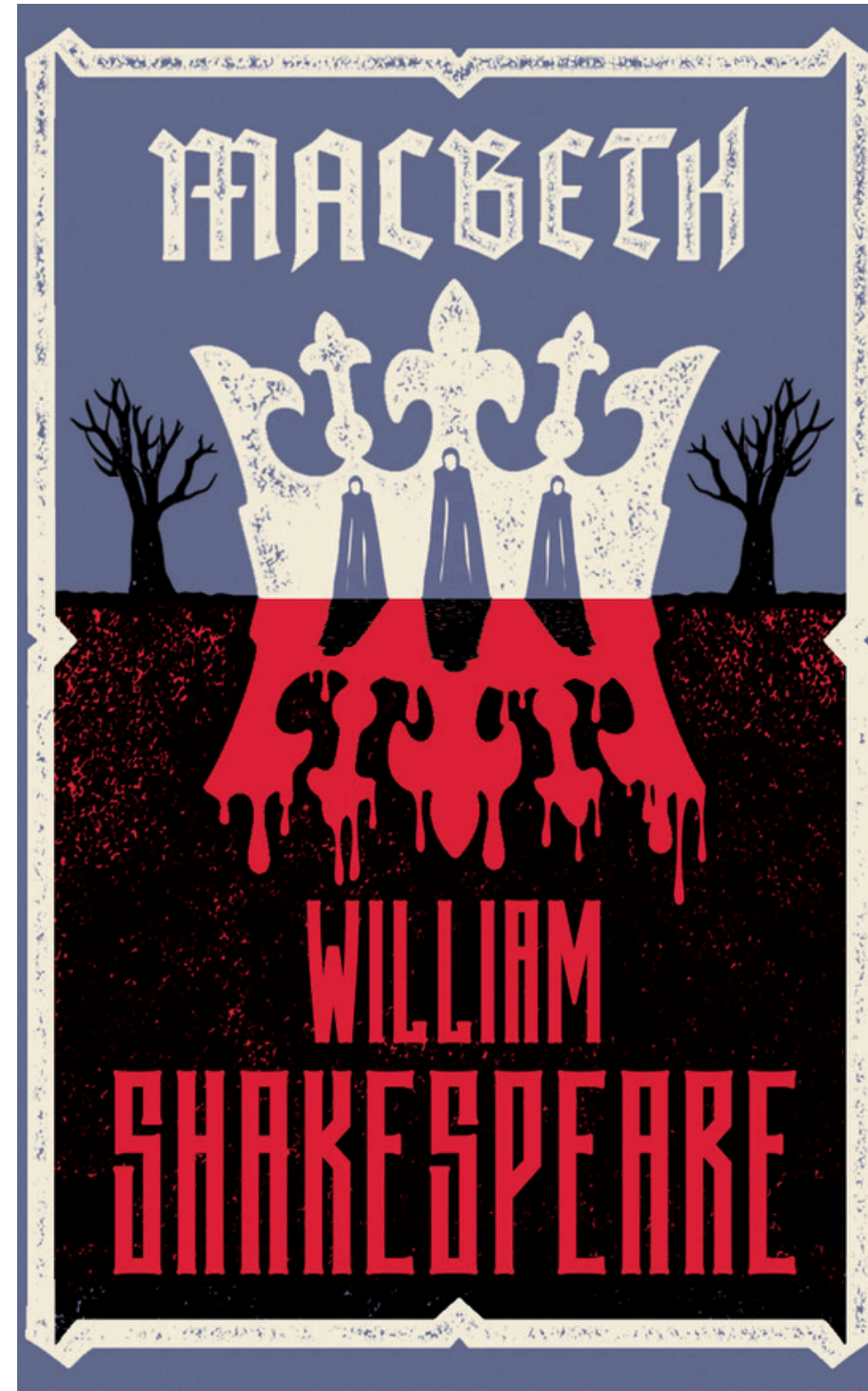
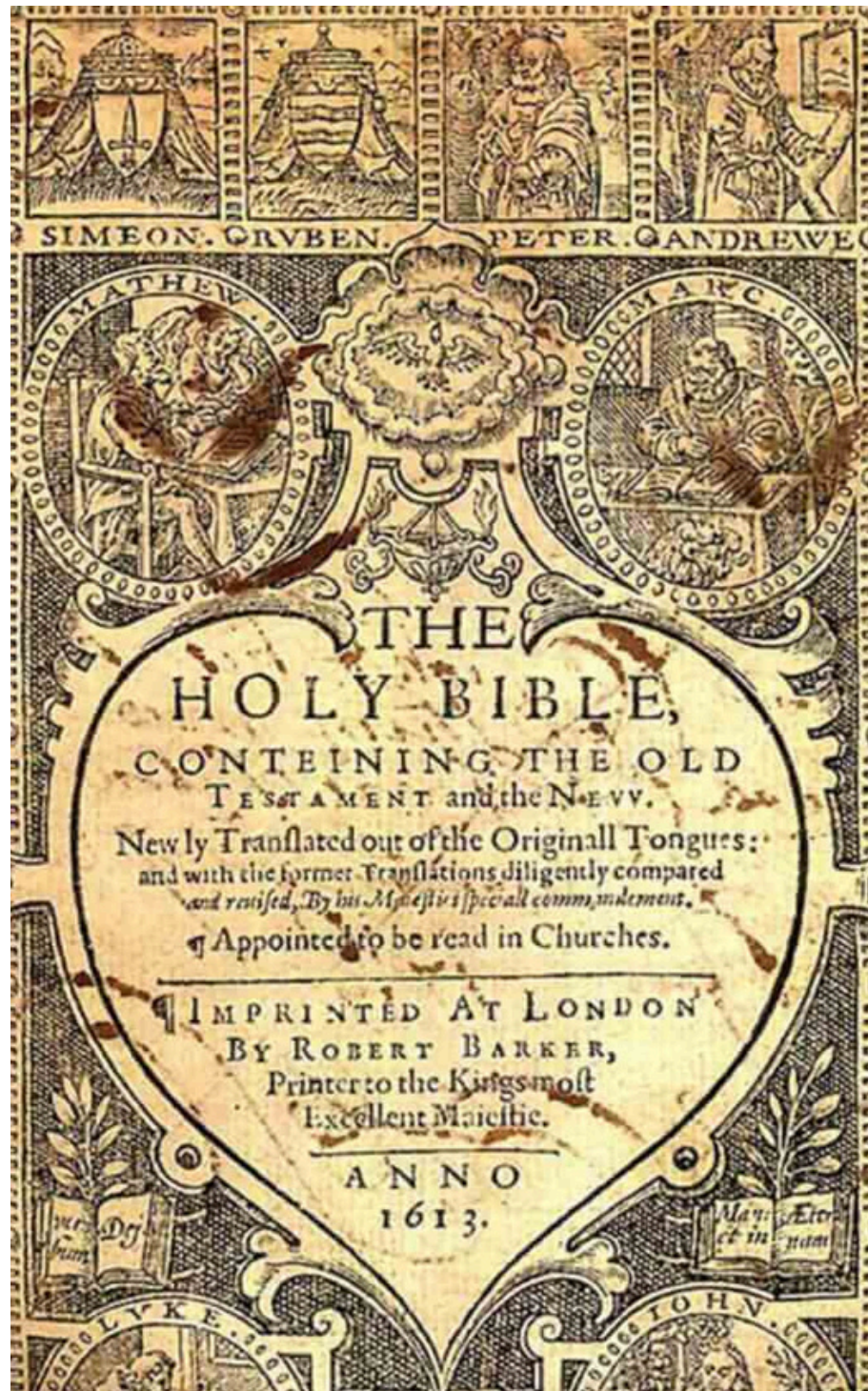
Stone over storms; you rear upon the
ridge:
we live on your back, its crag-and-tail,

spires and tenements all stacked on your
spine,
the castle and palace linked by one rope.

Poetic Beginnings

- First mention of Edinburgh in medieval Welsh poem *Y Goddodin*
- Features ravens, drinking to excess and grisly descriptions of death
- Important role of the medieval poet - a tradition of reverence we still uphold





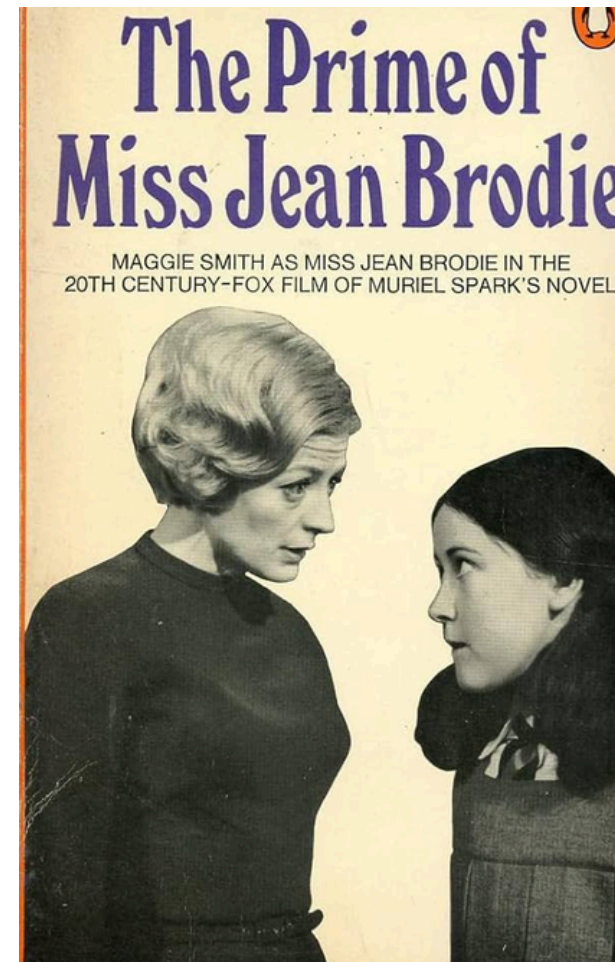
International Bestsellers

Estimates project over **1 billion copies sold** of the King James Bible since its publication in 1611

King James I and VI's *Daemonologie* also inspired Shakespeare's *Macbeth*



Strange Case of
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
Robert Louis Stevenson



“Man is not truly one, but truly two”

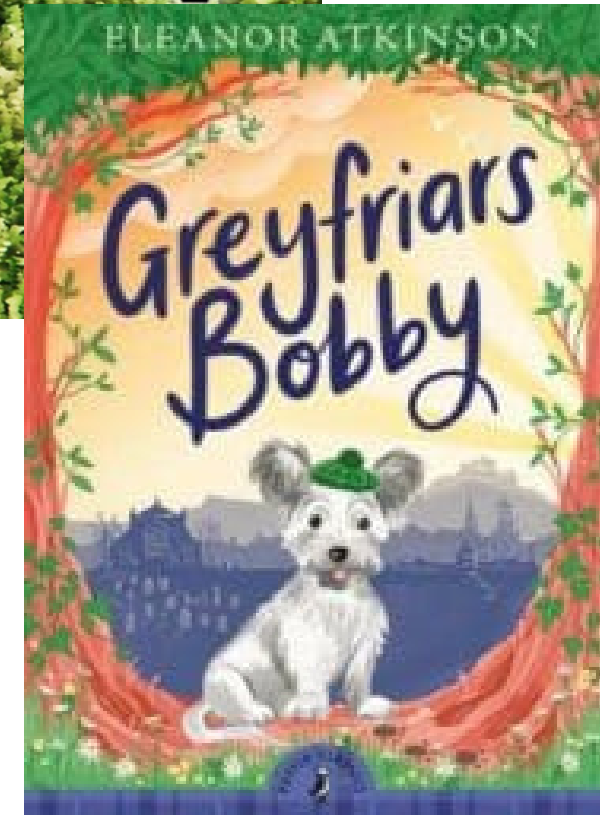
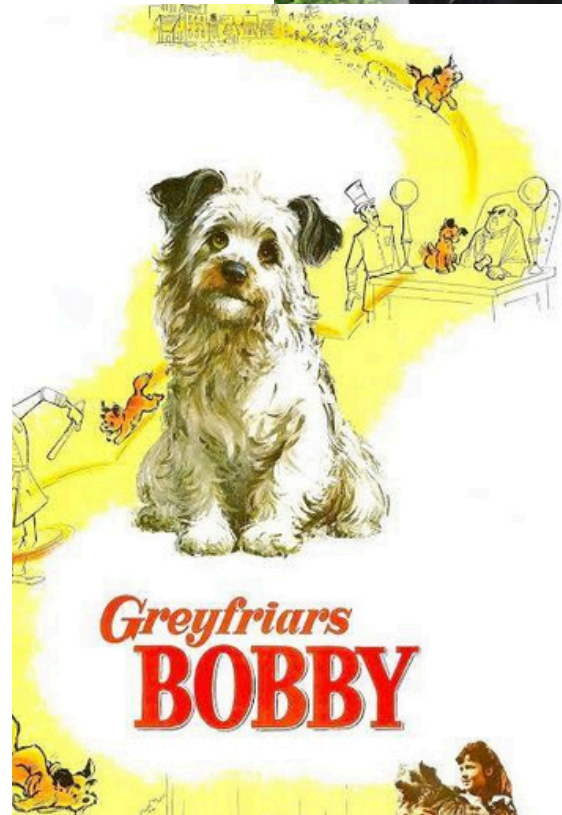
- Good vs evil
- Old vs new
- Urban vs rural
- Civilisation vs chaos
- Light vs dark
- Art vs science

Greyfriars Bobby: International Icon

Inspired:

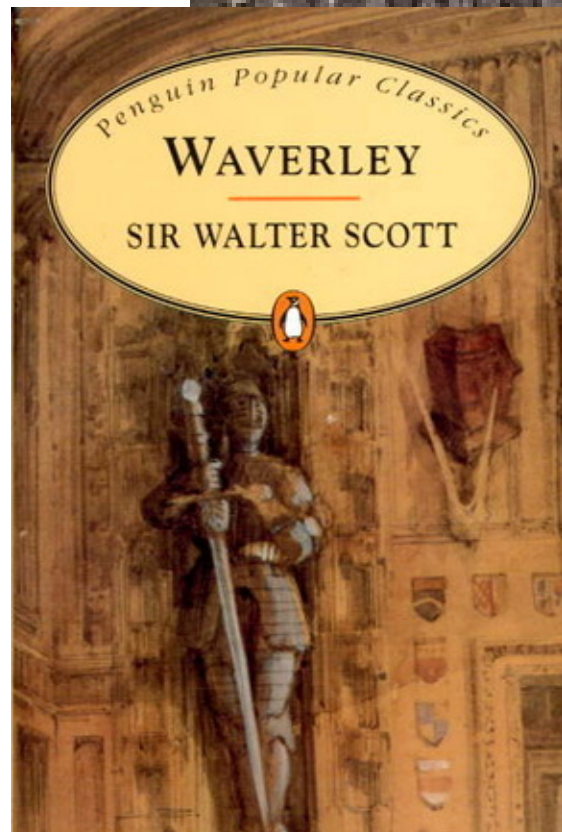
- 1902 historical work by Hutton
- 1912 novel by Atkinson
- 1961 film by Disney
- 2004 film
- Character in Terry Pratchett's *Discworld*

A loyal friend for Momotarō?



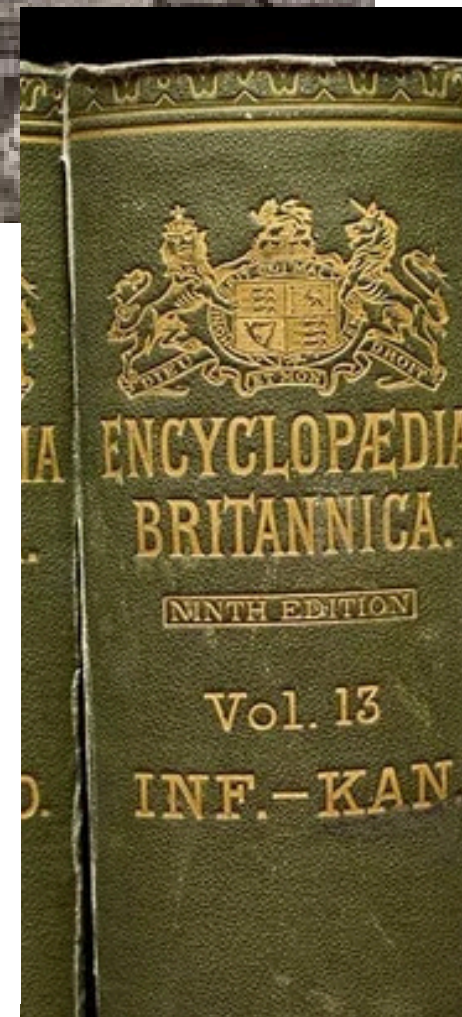
World firsts

- First **circulating public library** (1726)
- First **university English Literature department** (1762)
- First **encyclopaedia** in English (1768)
- First **historical novel in the English language** (1814)
- First **UNESCO Creative City!!!!** (2004)



unesco

Member of
Creative Cities Network





“Perfect witchcraft.

I shouldn't wonder that anyone living in Edinburgh should write poetically.”

Washington Irving

Edinburgh today

- Not just the home of Harry Potter!
- 55 publishers
- 28 council libraries
- National Library of Scotland
- 50 literature and creative writing courses across 4 universities
- Largest book festival of its kind in the world
- Vibrant network of independent bookshops



Our writers



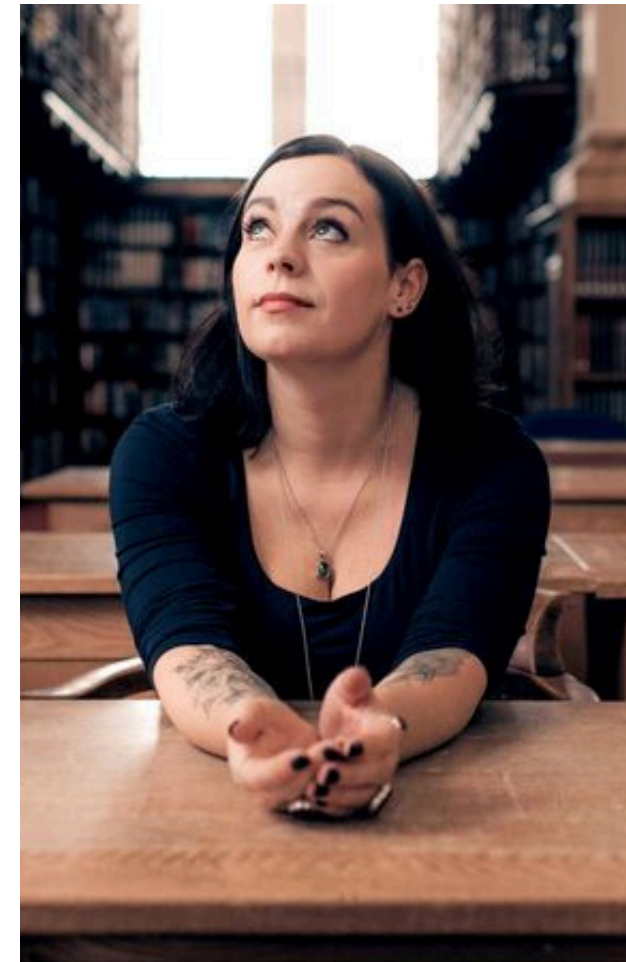
SIR IAN RANKIN



VAL MCDERMID



KATHLEEN JAMIE



JENNI FAGAN



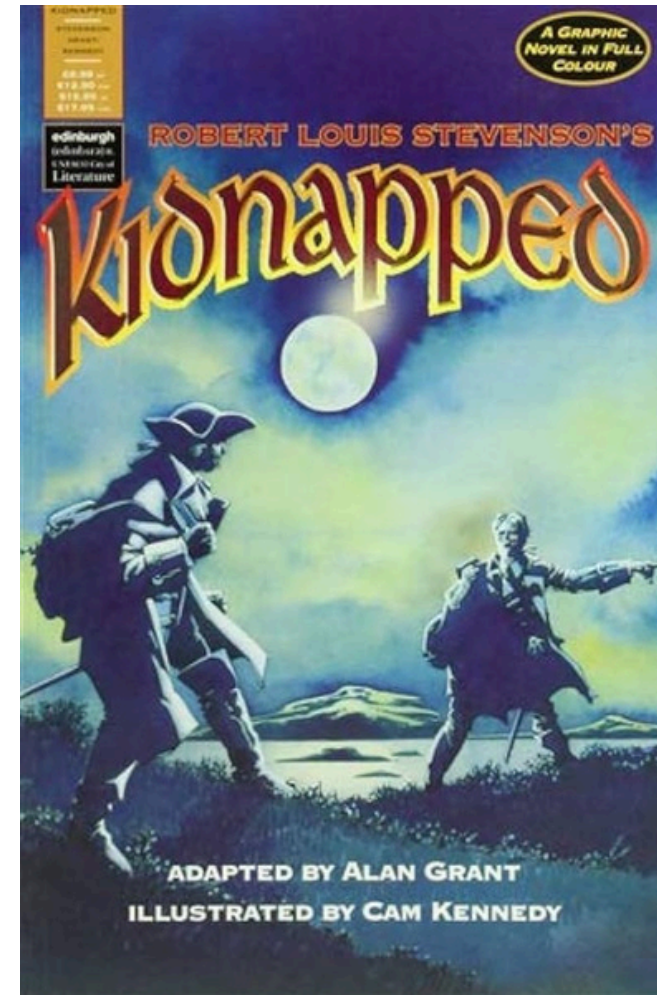
TL HUCHU

900 YEARS OF STORIES

...and many more!

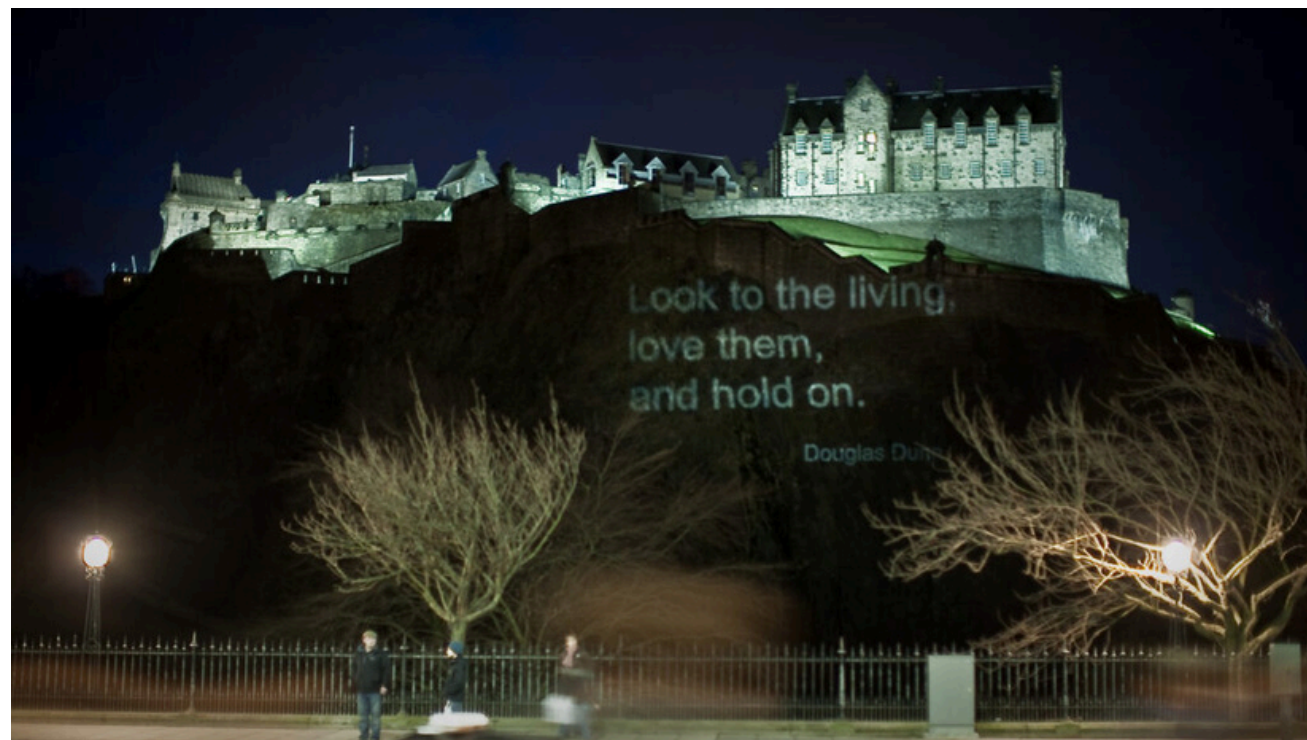
20 years of partnership

- 250 partners over 20 years
- Scotland's first citywide reading campaign
- First graphic novel in Scots and Gaelic
- Words of Sir Walter Scott in Waverley station





- Literary projections across the city's landscape
- Making literature visible in public spaces
- Plaques commemorating forgotten female writers





EDINBURGH ZINE LIBRARY

- Community fund supported Craigmillar Books for Babies and Edinburgh Zine Library
- Writers' Room project installed authors inside the Writers' Museum and the City of Literature office
- Story Shop with Edinburgh International Book Festival - 136 writers and over 50% subsequently published





Cities of Literature Annual Conference

- Edinburgh 2024
- Okayama 2027!

物語を伝えるのは複数の言語がいります。
歓迎。
一つの言語は決して十分ではありません。
ようこそ。

“It takes more than one language to tell a story.”

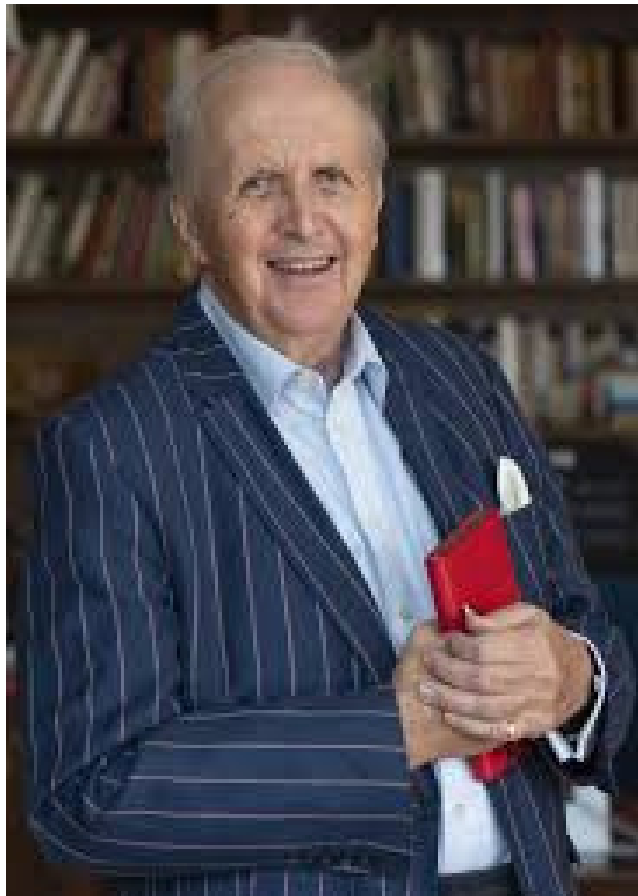
‘Threshold’ by Jackie Kay

The importance of the network





- # The next 20 years
- Reading campaign
 - Tramlines
 - Edinburgh Literature Forum
 - Continued advocacy
 - Writer development labs
 - Residency opportunities
- ...and so much more!



This is a city of shifting light, of changing skies,
of sudden vistas. A city so beautiful it breaks
the heart again and again.

Sir Alexander McCall Smith

Och! Edinburgh is not a place, it is a story.

It's 'Once upon a time...'

Rock resting on sediment. Life upon life.

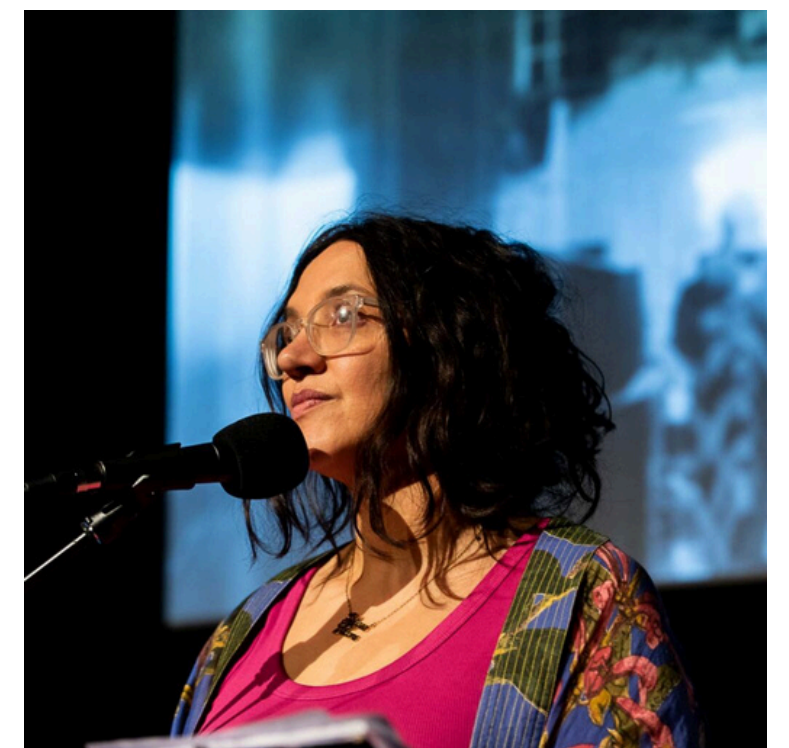
Layer upon layer, upon layer
stories made to be remade.

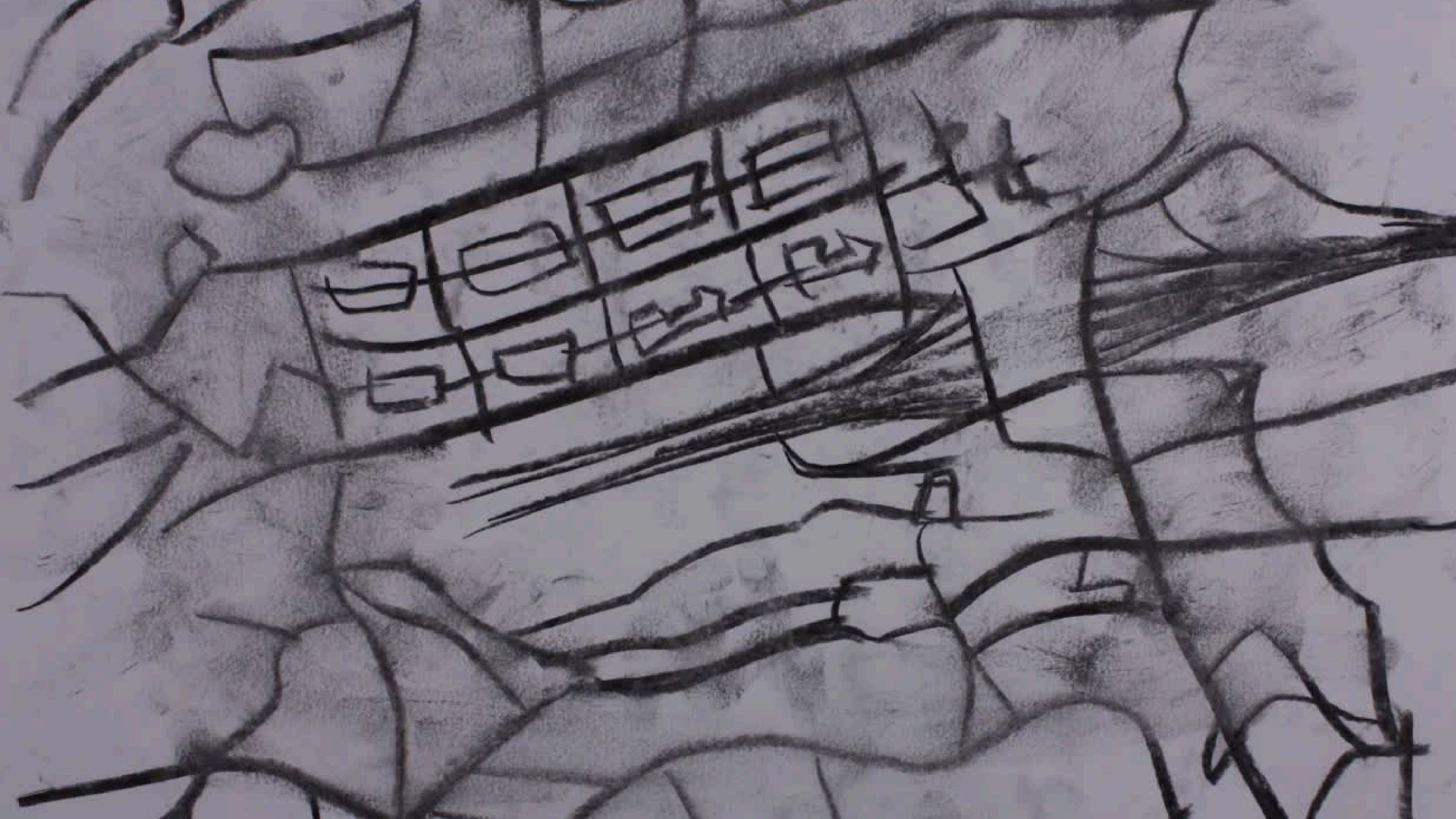
Story told to be retold.

Story lost, story found.

And on it goes and on it goes.

Hannah Lavery





Thank you very much.

皆さん、本当にありがとうございました。

Dr Harriet MacMillan

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