



Handheld
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The Handheld Newsletter

June 2019

Our new website is live

We have a shiny, clean, spacious, expansive [new website](#). Each book has its own page, and each can be ordered now even if it's not even printed yet. We are also planning a new subscription and gift card, to be unrolled and vacuumed in front of a curious crowd à la a West End première, sometime in the summer.

We also have coupon functionality! Because we now sell our books using the WooCommerce program, we can offer special offers via coupon codes, and we are delighted to be able to offer this to you, our loyal newsletter readers. Please use the codes **JUNEDEBUT** to receive £2.99 off any of our books, as many as you like. The postage will be added to your order in the normal way at the checkout. This offer will expire at the end of June, so shop now!



We sell stories. Fabulous, tremendous, wonderful stories.

Handheld Press sells handpicked stories from the past and the present, because they are remarkable and wonderful. We publish the novels that we can't put down, and the stories we want to give to our friends as presents. Handheld Press books are beautiful objects, designed and sold out with care.

Handheld Classics experts together fiction and authors who need to be rediscovered, with introductions by experts and astoundingly careful notes. Handheld Research presents stories from scholarly research, in plain English. Handheld Modern brings you excellent modern fiction and non-fiction from living authors.

Blitz Writing

Working in a writers' party factory in north London during the Blitz, serving as a SMO in a London hospital, surviving a bomb blast that resulted in a basement full of German Jewish refugees: Inez Holden's forgotten tales of the Blitz are mesmerising.

Read it now!



Blitz Writing is out

Our latest book, Inez Holden's *Blitz Writing*, was launched with a fascinating conversation at The Second Shelf bookshop in London. Ariane Bankes, the daughter of Inez's cousin and her literary executor, spoke about her memories of Inez, and about Inez as a hard-working writer and flamboyant conversationalist. She also brought the famous Augustus John portrait of Inez to hang in the shop for the evening.





Blitz Writing will be reviewed by DJ Taylor in the *Literary Review* in its July issue, and a review has also been commissioned by the *Times Literary Supplement*.



Margaret Drabble reviews our Rose Macaulay

We were slightly flabbergasted to read that Margaret Drabble had reviewed our edition of Rose Macaulay's *What Not* in the *Times Literary Supplement* of 7 June: 'It is a more sombre work [than *Brave New World*], with a sense of end-of-war fatigue that has more in common with the mood of Orwell ... full of interesting sociological and historical observations, about the status of women newly enrolled in government employment by the war machine (Macaulay herself had worked in the Ministry of Information, as had Wells and Arnold Bennett) and about minor points of etiquette, such as whether "you can suitably go to church with a dog in your muff".'





Rose Macaulay

What Not

***Kingdoms of Elfin* discussion review**

The notable science fiction magazine *Strange Horizons* did us the honour of hosting a round table discussion on *Kingdoms of Elfin*: 'a conception of Fairy that is dominant in English-language writing - a magical land populated by strange beings who look like humans and act like sociopaths. Terry Pratchett's elves, for example, who are terrific and beget terror. Warner's kingdoms obviously belong to this tradition of Fairy'.

It's so interesting to read a discussion review, in which different perspectives play off and respond to each other, giving a more rounded impression of the book.



Sylvia Townsend Warner

Kingdoms of Elfin

Hardcover Classic 5

We got a grant, but we can't use it

A strange thing happened to us on the way to what we thought was a translation deal. We applied to English PEN for a grant to translate the recently rediscovered Spanish author Luisa Carnés, as her novel *Tea Rooms* was so good: it's about working-class women

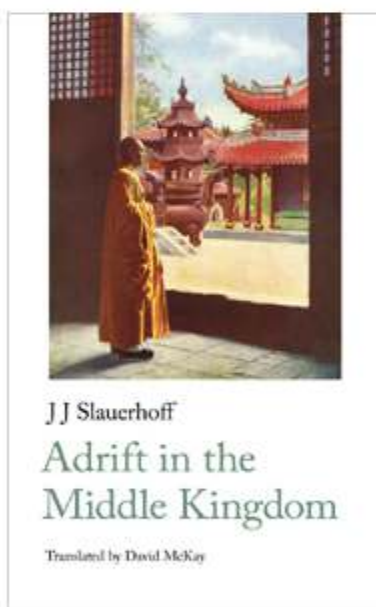
working in a Madrid tea shop in the years before the Spanish Civil War. To our amazement and delight PEN awarded us the grant, but when we rushed to tell the Spanish publisher concerned, who owns the rights, we discovered that they had already sold the US rights to a US publisher, because US PEN has given a grant to a US translator, some months earlier. (Different branches of PEN are independent from each other.)

'But,' said the Spanish publisher, 'you can still buy the UK rights and publish a UK translation. Spanish translations into English are often in Latin American and Spanish editions. We're sure it's the same for English too.'

Well, it's not. Our translator, and PEN and we agreed that there is no point in making a second English translation. The grant can't be used for anything other than a translation, so we have the great privilege of a lot of money to spend, and we can't spend it. Which is very sad. The book will eventually appear in a US edition, but we can't even afford to license it and buy the UK rights, so it will be up to another, fatter publisher to distribute it in the UK. Back to the drawing board

Adrift in the Middle Kingdom: coming soon

Our edition of Jan Jacob Slauerhoff's remarkable travelogue and adventure novel will be published on 5 August. We sold several copies at a book stall we were running recently: shoppers just had to pick it up because of the marvellous vintage cover, and once they had read a few lines, they wouldn't give the book back.



Off on your holidays?

If you're taking a Handheld book with you on your holidays, take a snap of it on the beach, in the mountains, at the bar, in the souk, and send it to us!

A budget of bird news from Handheld Towers. We've fought off the marauding jays and crows by putting a plastic plant pot over the fatball feeder, so they can't get a grip on the wire to demolish the balls, as they've been doing for weeks. The small birds can now peck away undisturbed. We've seen a sparrowhawk take a bird beyond the shed halfway up the garden, which was unexpected, but we do live on the side of a wooded hill, so it's the right territory, and our bird feeder is attracting so many small birds it's inevitable that the predators will be interested. Two greater-spotted woodpeckers feed regularly with us, and the goldfinches are back. The squirrels remain utterly baffled by the feeder baffle, and now that we've got a galvanised bin for the bird food, they no longer gnaw through the lid to get at the peanuts. We have no pity: they're creating a bald spot in the grass where they constantly grub about for the bird food thrown down by the messy eaters above.

Kate & David

Handheld Press

The Handheld newsletter is only sent to readers who have expressed an interest in receiving news from us. Our aim is to be informative and useful, and to keep you in the picture about what we're up to, offers and promotions.

Please rest assured that your details will never be passed on to any third parties nor used for any other purpose.

Should you wish to not receive any further email newsletters from us then we'll be disappointed, but we'll understand.

This e-mail has been sent to mike@siserone.co.uk, [click here to unsubscribe](#).