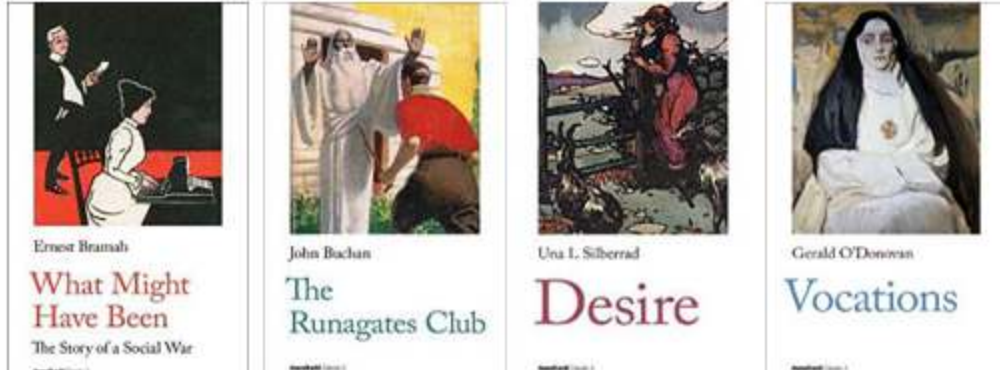


The Handheld Newsletter

October 2019

Celebrate two years in print with book discounts!

We have been in print for two years now: our first books were published on 30 October 2017. To celebrate we are offering a 50% discount through our website on the first four Classics: Ernest Bramah's *What Might Have Been*, John Buchan's *The Runagates Club*, Una L Silberrad's *Desire* and Gerald O'Donovan's *Vocations*. The offer runs from 15 October to 15 November: buy now while stocks last!



So Lucky IS so lucky!

We were delighted to get the news at the weekend that Nicola Griffith's most recent novel, *So Lucky*, which we published in its UK edition in November 2018, won the 2019 Washington State Book Award! Nicola says that she never expected to win, and gabbled something disjointed when she was handed the mic.

She posted [a more polished speech on her own website today](#), in which she thanks '... my editor, Sean McDonald, at FSG who found a way to publish a weird thing as an actual novel, and to do it in a vast great hurry because I felt it was urgent; Kate Macdonald, publisher and chief energy source at my UK publisher, Handheld Press (ditto) ...'



A bundle of new reviews

The *Times Literary Supplement* did us proud in September, with a review of our edition of *Zelda Fitzgerald's Save Me the Waltz* (only nine months after publication, folks, but we're still grateful) in Joanna Scutt's essay 'Team Scott vs Team Zelda'.

Two weeks later, Oxford professor of English Rod Mengham described our edition of *Inez Holden's Blitz Writing* in the *TLS* as 'essential documents of the Blitz.'

Reviews like this aren't only good for sales; they show that we're still publishing books that need to be back in print because they're important, or delightful, or both.



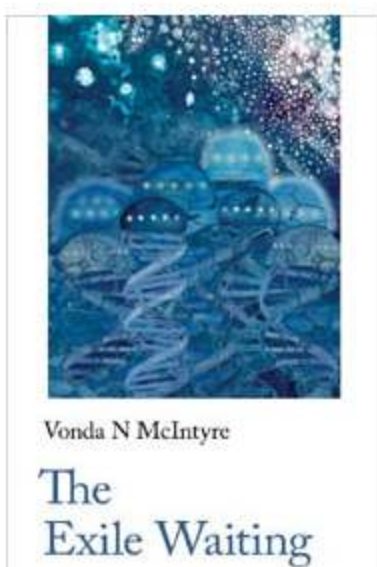
Retreat to write with us

We are also interested in nurturing living writers, and to that end have set up a writing retreat for people looking for protected writing time to work on their science fiction and fantasy stories or non-fiction. The retreat includes optional masterclasses from two acclaimed sff authors, Una McCormack (who wrote the Introduction for our forthcoming *The Exile Waiting*), and Helen Marshall, both creative writing tutors at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge. Handheld will also be offering a workshop on How to Pitch Your Book. The retreat will be full board, in Malvern in Worcestershire, on 1-4 July 2020, and [all details can be found here](#). There are limited places (two have already gone within a week of launching it) so if you are interested, do book, or get in touch.



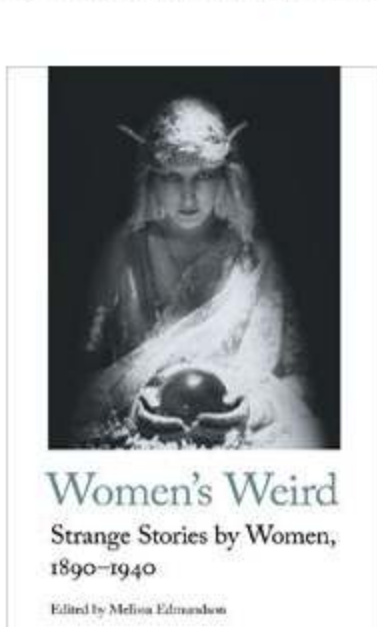
Launching *The Exile Waiting*

We are currently packing our books and wrapping our bookmarks and leaflets for FantasyCon on 18-20 October in Glasgow. (Apparently we need to start driving from Bath at six am on Friday morning.) We have to get to Glasgow (that's 436 miles) by four in the afternoon at latest, as that's when Kate's speaking on a panel about indie publishing. And then in the evening we have our book launch for *The Exile Waiting*, with Una McCormack doing a reading, and a Q&A about Vonda N McIntyre's legacy. We are VERY pleased that this is happening.



Launching *Women's Weird*

Our book launch of *Women's Weird: Strange Stories by Women, 1890-1940* will be on Wednesday 30 October at The Second Shelf in London, our third launch at this delightful and very necessary feminist antiquarian bookshop. [Tickets are available here](#), and there aren't many of them (it's a small shop), so do book now if you'd like to attend. Neil Gaiman tweeted to say that he'd be there if he could make it, which caused a bit of a flutter.



Remember our Gift Card!

We now offer Handheld Press Gift Cards. These can be [bought from the Shop](#), in £20 or £30 denominations, and you can buy as many as you need to reach the total you want to spend on a present for yourself or a friend. (Hint: Christmas is coming.)

The REALLY good thing about our Gift Cards is that they give exclusive early access to all our forthcoming titles. If a Gift Card is used to pre-order a book that isn't yet published, then it will be posted to the recipient as soon as we have the copies from the printer, which can be as early as two months ahead of publication. No other gift card has this superpower. Use it wisely, and make your friends and family happy.



News from the garden of Handheld Towers includes the installation of a rather nice hanging bird feeder made from willow. Kate went on a one-day basketry workshop with the Women's Institute, and has, finally, discovered her inner weaver (her mother is a weaver and until now it was feared that the gene had not been passed on). The bird feeder holds three fat balls and so far has not yet been demolished by the jays. The long-tailed tits are back in gangs, looking adorable and feeding in a very selfish way: their tails hinder the smaller birds from getting at the food. Not many deer have been sighted this month, but the squirrels are coming back, making exploratory diggings in the grass, looking for goodness knows what.

Kate & David

Handheld Press