

## The Handheld Newsletter

February 2021

### Staff news

Handheld doesn't have staff as such, but we do have a network of excellent freelance specialists, who do the things we can't do ourselves. The latest addition to our roster is Emer, our new Instagram manager. She's taking over from Kat, who will be doing more work on our videos. You can welcome Emer by messaging her @handheldpress on Instagram. We are delighted to have her!

### In the TLS again

Michael Caines in the *Times Literary Supplement* publicised our two forthcoming non-fiction titles in the January 22 issue, mentioning both *Dreaming of Rose* and *Valentine Ackland* as worthy of the attention of readers weary of the big name books trumpeted by the big name newspapers from big name publishers. We are grateful.



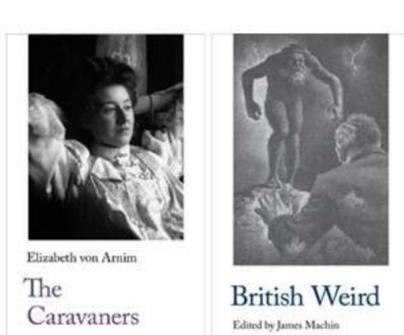
### At the British Library again

Kate was a guest speaker at the British Library's three-day online festival Creative Feminisms in January, speaking in the session How To ... Reprint A Lost Feminist Classic. You can watch the hour-long session [here on the BL's Youtube channel](#).



### Let's catch up with the Handheld Book Club!

We've uploaded a couple of new videos from the Handheld Book Club. You can see the [British Weird discussion](#) here, and the session on [The Caravaners](#) here, both on our YouTube channel.



### The March Book Club: *Blitz Writing*

On 2 March at 19.00 UK time / 14.00 EST we'll be enjoying a discussion between Kristin Bluemel of Monmouth University, who wrote the introduction to Inez Holden's *Blitz Writing*, and Jerry White of Birkbeck College and a noted historian of London. Tickets are free, and [available here](#).



### A book launch for Inez and Margaret

On 22 March at 19.30 UK time we'll be holding an online book launch for our two March titles, Inez Holden's *There's No Story There*, and Margaret Kennedy's *Where Stands A Winged Sentry*. Both the authors of the introductions, Lucy Scholes and Faye Hamill respectively, will be in attendance, and you can [register for a free ticket here](#).



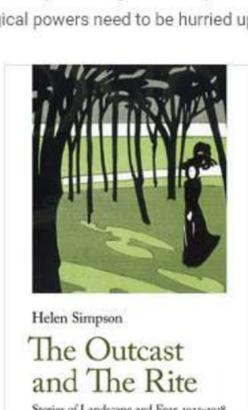
### We made a packing video

It was a very cold and snowy day, so we made a video about our plastic-free \* wrapping. There's been a lot of love lately for our old-fashioned paper parcels of books, so we decided to show the world how it's done. It's quite a short video, but folk [seem to like it](#).

\* All our parcels of books use 100% paper-based packing, from tissue to tape. But in one case recently we had to use plastic tape to secure a box of 12 books being sent to Colorado. We are still wracked with guilt about this. But we had no choice: that needed industrial-scale packaging that we don't have the kit to do otherwise.

### We made a new book cover

Here's the cover for our March 2022 title, *The Outcast and The Rite. Stories of Landscape and Fear, 1925-1938* by Helen Simpson. You might remember her name from our first *Women's Weird* volume, which featured her very alarming short story 'Young Magic', in which a young girl decides that her emerging magical powers need to be hurried up a bit.



Helen Simpson was a distinguished Australian writer who specialised in writing unsettling short stories that were not horror, or ghostly, or even particularly supernatural, but were definitely Weird. She died tragically young from cancer during the Second World War. She and her husband had a close friendship with Margaret Kennedy, with whom their daughter lived for the period of the war described in Kennedy's *Where Stands A Winged Sentry*.

We love Helen Simpson's work so much that Melissa Edmondson has curated a definitive collection of her short supernatural fiction (including 'Young Magic' again, because it is just so good).

The cover image is from the Mary Evans Picture Library, from a French magazine of the Edwardian period, by Louis Popineau. We considered quite a few illustrations for this collection, of lonely landscapes, and people loitering in moody surroundings, and this is what Melissa said when we decided on the Popineau, number 8:

I LOVE #8. The mood, color contrast, and background is just spot on. Some of the others made me laugh out loud – sorry – they are just too "Come See Britain!" like a tourism poster. It just doesn't capture the mood. Many of the stories are also interior ones, so the extra emphasis on outdoors on the cover tends to misrepresent that nice balance within. Cover #8 is outdoors, but there's an intimacy and mysterious quality in that image as well, and that's why I think it strikes the perfect balance.

### News from the garden

This month, the camera trap has been back in action, and we have seen many foxes and badgers trotting away from the camera. Also a mouse, and many ubiquitous muntjac deer. David has re-erected the fencing around the shrubs because they were being devoured in the bitter cold we had in the middle of February. The camellia is now in its own pot at the bottom of some steps, safely away from the teeth that come by night. But the real excitement of the camera clips was this one. No blood is visible, but something is definitely [being eaten for a late breakfast by a buzzard](#).

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.