

The Handheld Newsletter

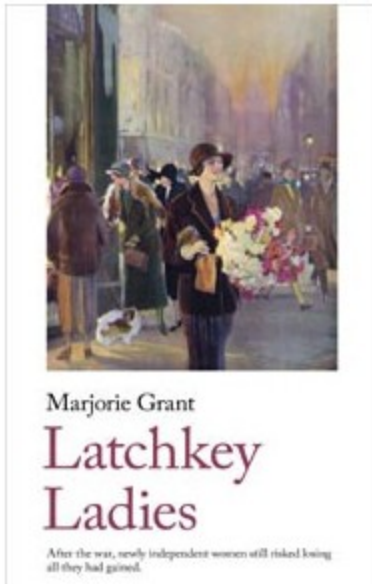
April 2022

Raising money for Ukrainian Refugee Relief

Thank you to all who bought tickets for Kate's talk on Women Writing War, which raised £527.18 for the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for Ukrainian refugee relief. The Vimeo link to the video was sent to ticket-holders and will stay there until the end of April, and then it will disappear, forever ... If you'd like to donate to the appeal anyway you can [do that here](#).

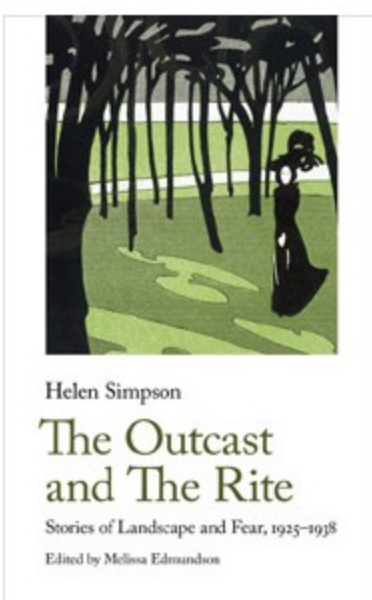
Latchkey Ladies launched

On Tuesday 15 March Kate and Sarah LeFanu, who wrote our Introduction for *Latchkey Ladies*, had a thoroughly enjoyable conversation live at the Guildhall Library, London, for both an in-person audience and streaming for viewers online. Then they did it all over again the next day, talking about women in Bohemian London, for the Westminster Libraries, which was recorded. Due to staff shortages the video hasn't yet been edited, but we'll let you have the link when it is. This was a great start to *Latchkey Ladies'* career in our new edition, followed pretty smartly by a wholly unexpected review in *The Times*, on 19 March.



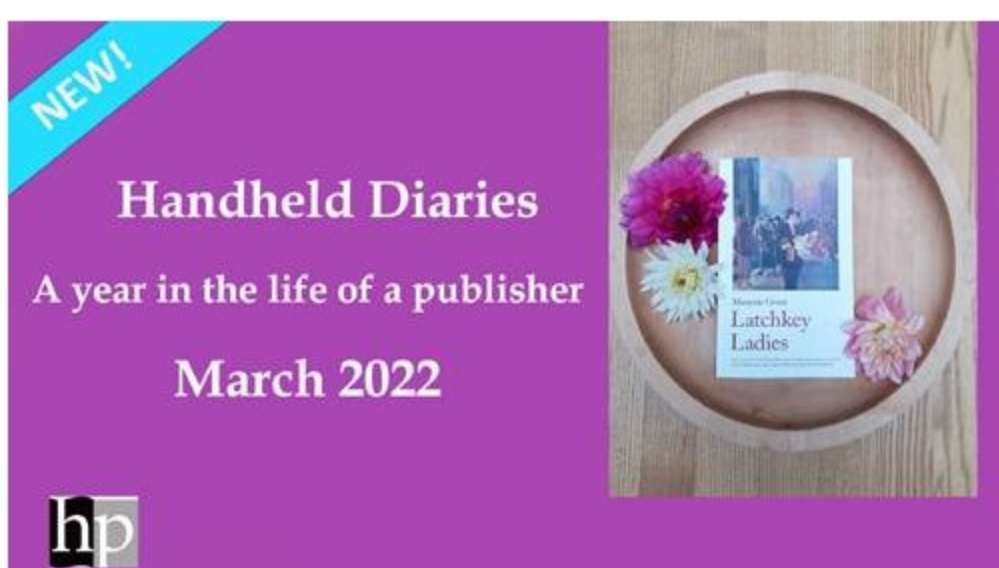
Next up ... Simpson!

Our May title, as you all know, is *The Outcast and The Rite* by Helen de Guerry Simpson. We'll be celebrating the publication of these subtly supernatural stories with a Zoom launch online, on Tuesday 10 May at 7.30pm, UK time. Melissa Edmundson, who curated the collection and wrote the Introduction, will be in conversation with Kate. [You can register for your free ticket here](#).



The March episode of the Handheld Diaries

The latest addition to the Handheld Diaries is now available, in which Kate spills the beans about what happened in March, which includes footage of unexpected night-time arrival (more on this below). You can [see the video here](#). What she didn't say because we didn't know it then, was that March was our best month for sales yet. Long may this continue!



From the Abyss and Strange Relics are in the house

Our August and September books are now in the office, in our UK warehouse in Milton Keynes and on their way to our US warehouse in Jackson, Tennessee. (We share these warehouses with thousands of other publishers; we don't maintain them just for ourselves!) D K Broster's *From the Abyss* and Amara Thornton and Katy Soar's *Strange Relics* have already been sent to some early US review outlets, and other review copies will be despatched after Easter. Pre-orders will be posted to customers in late June and early August. In the meantime, please enjoy their unboxing.

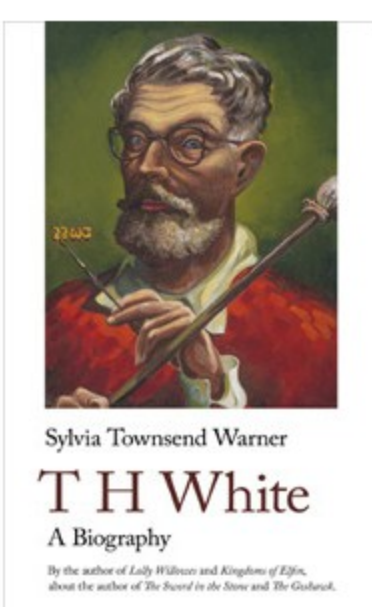


Our new cover: T H White, by Sylvia Townsend Warner

T H White, author of *The Goshawk* and *The Sword in the Stone*, was one of Kate's early literary passions, probably due to the Disney cartoon of *The Sword in the Stone*. By the time she was twenty she owned nearly all White's works, and everything she knew about him then came from Sylvia Townsend Warner's 1967 biography. On moving from publishing to academic work in the early 2000s her first research publication was a chapter on White's only detective novel, *Darkness at Pemberley*, in a book of scholarly essays.

White was an extraordinary person: teacher, conscientious objector, falconer, aviator, poet, novelist, scholar, a lonely man with a wary, difficult personality. His writing is idiosyncratic and eccentric, slathered in learning. He revelled in learning new skills, even if he didn't practice them much once he had mastered them. *The Sword in the Stone*, *The One and Future King*, *Mistress Masham's Repose*, *England Have My Bones*: these are stupendous works from a publishing a properly edited new edition of his biography by Sylvia Townsend Warner. Our cover uses a self-portrait of and by White, kindly supplied by the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. The introduction is by Gill Davies, editor of that book of scholarly essays on White and also a Warner specialist.

We will be publishing *T H White* on 17 January 2023, and [you can pre-order your copy now](#).



Garden news

The first cuckooflower (lady's smock) has arrived beside the washing line, the white violets are looking really rather good in amongst the late daffodils, and the deer have not eaten the primroses. The rhubarb is amazing, and the cardoons are gearing up for yet more growth as they burst out all over the meadow. The birds continue to perform extremely risky flight patterns around the bird feeders. But the real natural history excitement this month was the Handheld toad.

Kate was walking back from the pub along a dry and quite dusty residential street at ten at night, with no-one else about, and she saw a toad. It was dragging itself along the pavement, not at all in the right place for spawning eggs, and seemed to have an air of desperate exhaustion about it. So she picked it up and took it home to the garden pond. Daughter 2 filmed the introduction of the toad to water, and you can see this in [the March Diaries video](#). No toad spawn as yet has been seen, but when the weather warms up we may yet hear the baby toads.

Enjoy the spring break!

Kate & David

Handheld Press