

MARY C GLADSTONE

My career over the past two decades can be divided into four distinct areas:

- I) researching and writing of small publications
- II) Creative writing: short stories, poetry and play-writing
- III) Reviewing and criticism: literature and theatre in newspapers, literary journals and on radio.
- IV) Teaching, tutoring:

RESEARCH AND WRITING OF PUBLICATIONS

I have conducted research on and written a number of small publications and resource material for the Scottish Development Agency, Small Businesses Division (when it was still in existence). Work included research and the writing of a small publication, "A Visitor's Guide to Craft Workshops in Scotland". I have also researched and written exhibition guides and resource packs on the Harris Tweed industry for Highland Craftpoint (an organisation set up to encourage local industry in the Highlands).

I have researched and written other booklets and guides for exhibitions (also resource packs).

In 2000 I worked as a ghost writer researching and writing the memoirs of an Edinburgh restaurant owner. Apart from the writing, I edited the book and arranged the printing and publishing of it (including the acquisition of an ISBN)

CREATIVE WRITING

Please see attached list of publications. I have been writing fiction, poetry and plays for twenty years and have over this period been awarded two Writers' bursaries from the Scottish Arts Council. Invited to join PEN by an enthusiastic sponsor, I declined but joined instead the Society of Authors and have been a member of the NUJ for many years.

FEATURE WRITING, REVIEWING AND CRITICISM

I was feature writer and main reporter for "Craftwork", a bi-monthly house magazine of the Scottish Development Agency's Small Business Division. I also wrote many profiles and interviews for "Artwork", an independent quarterly on the Scottish arts; additionally, many features and articles on a diverse range of subjects for The Scotsman, The Herald, The Scottish Field and In Britain travel magazine. Radio journalism includes the writing and presenting of programmes on the arts, talks, interviews and many reviews for BBC Radio Scotland.

I have also written extensively on theatre and literature in the Scottish press, particularly in The Scotsman under editors Ian Bell, Simon Berry and Catherine Lockerbie. These were full page reviews on authors as diverse as Virginia Woolf (a new collection of her letters), Elizabeth Smart (a biography) and Sylvia Plath (a new biography). I have specialised in gender issues, contemporary fiction and Scottish literature. I reviewed theatre for The Scotsman's arts editor, Allen Wright where I covered a variety of genres in both Scottish and British theatre.

More in depth literary criticism appeared regularly in Chapman, Cencrastus and Harpies and Quines. Many Scottish authors and poets were covered: Margaret Elphinstone, Alison Fell, Dilys Rose, Colin Mackay, Gerald Mangan, Stanley Roger Green, Ken Morrice, George Mackay Brown, Ian Stephen, Derek Thomson and Candia MacWilliam.

For radio, I reviewed theatre and books and attended seminars at the BBC on writing radio plays.

TEACHING AND TUTORING

I have taught creative writing for a number of years to adult students from a variety of backgrounds:

- 1984 Craigmillar Festival Society
- 1985-1987 New Horizons at Edinburgh University
- 1986 Workers' Educational Association
- 1985-6 Theatre workshop
- 2000- Office of Lifelong Learning, Edinburgh University
- 2000 Livingston Writers' Group, West Lothian
- 2002- City of Edinburgh Council, Adult Education Department

In the mid eighties, I introduced at the "Women Live" Festival, a journal-writing workshop. I taught creative writing in Musselburgh Grammar School under the "Writers in Schools" scheme (instituted by the Scottish Arts Council Literature Department and the Lothian Regional Council's Education Department).

More recently I facilitated creative writing groups for survivors of mental health problems with Writing off the Wall, a sister group of Survivors' Poetry Scotland, based in Glasgow. With WOW, I attended a three day seminar for would-be facilitators in creative writing in June 2000.

In January 2000 I took up employment as a part-time tutor in creative writing at Edinburgh University's Office of Lifelong Learning where I tutor a number of courses including "Writing for Radio" and "Writing for Publication: Freelance Journalism" and have proposed a new course for next year, "Fiction Workshop". I tutor two courses, Guided Writers' Workshop and Writing for Radio.

OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES

Because of my interest in Danish writer, Isak Dinesen (Karen Blixen), I attended lectures at the Danish Cultural Institute in Edinburgh. Finn Andersen, the director, asked me, with Tessa Ransford (who was director of The Scottish Poetry Library) and Joy Hendry (editor of Chapman), to organise a weekend seminar for Danish/Scottish women writers.

Volunteer work at The Scottish Poetry Library. Helped to compose a literary map of Edinburgh for the Library and I wrote an article on the poet, T.S. Law.

More recently, after participating in a community play (1999) at the Theatre Workshop, I was invited to research the life of Naomi Mitchison for a future community play.

Education and Biographical Details

BACKGROUND

Born in Berkshire, England of Scottish parents. Moved to Galloway (Newton Stewart) when I was 5 years old. Attended Penninghame Primary School in Newton Stewart but was sent, aged 10, to Badminton School in Bristol.

1971-74 Attended Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, School of Drama and Glasgow University. Graduated with what was then termed a DSD (Diploma of Speech and Drama). The equivalent qualification is now a BA in Contemporary Theatre Practice.

QUALIFICATIONS

Ordinary level GCE - English literature, English language, Latin, French, Spanish, Biology, Art, History

Advanced level GCE - French, English literature

DSD (Diploma of Speech and Drama)
International Phonetics Association (Proficiency Certificate)
Cert. Dramatic Studies (Glasgow University Drama Dept.)

Centres d'Entrainement aux Methodes D'Education Active -- Certificat de Stage. An interest in French earned me this qualification when I attended a course in France on dramatic art.

Royal Society of Arts - English as a Foreign Language (Preparatory Certificate)
For a couple of terms I taught English as a foreign language in a school in Italy. Back in Edinburgh I taught English to Italian students during the summer months.

National Union of Journalists - attended a feature writing course that included sub-editing and reporting in 2002 and a script-writing course in 2006