

In this ground-breaking account of life on two massive container ships, award-winning writer Horatio Clare uncovers the hidden realities of life in the globalised world of 21st-century merchant shipping.

Joining the crew as a pioneering shipboard writer-in-residence, he first travels to Los Angeles via the Mediterranean, Suez and the Far East, before exchanging tropical heat for the freezing north Atlantic on a journey from Antwerp to Montreal.

With captains and crew as his teachers he not only begins to comprehend the endless labour which dominates life within the noisy confines of these enormous vessels, but also gains insight into the practical consequences of global trade, with its dependence on market-led consumerism and structural socio-economic inequality. And like sailors in every generation, he experiences not only dramatic and terrifying storms, and extremes of heat, cold and physical discomfort, but also moments of peace, elation and quiet companionship.

As Clare weaves into his own log-book incidents from maritime history and the stories that seamen still tell, he finds that despite modern technology, the

Horatio Clare

Down to the Sea in Ships

‘What a magnificent book this is: vast in its range, keen in its passions, brilliant in its styles.’

sailor’s relationship with the all-powerful sea remains largely unchanged and still as little understood by landlubbers.

Travelling through time as well as across oceans, this gripping but sensitive account takes its place in the great tradition of seafaring literature.

‘Stupendous and extraordinarily exciting.’ *The Times*

‘Both romantic and realistic, written from the heart but crafted with a seafarer’s passionate precision.’ *The Independent*

‘Acutely observed and surprisingly moving...Clare’s writing everywhere is of the highest order, assured, probing and alert. But it is his ability to convey the strange effect on the human spirit of being at sea that raises the book above the ordinary.’ *The Spectator*

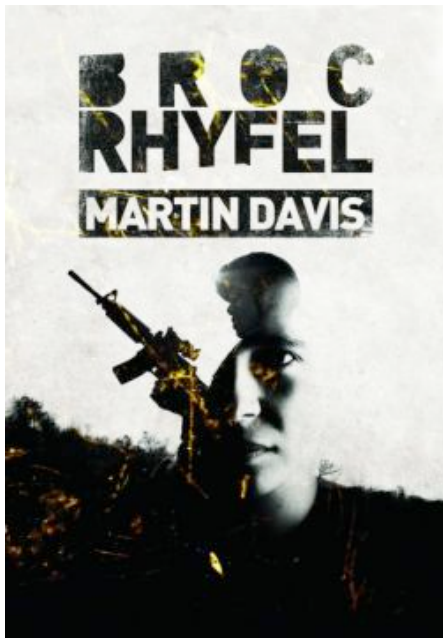


Horatio Clare is an award-winning author of one novella and several works of non-fiction, including the bestselling *Running for the Hills* and *A Single Swallow*. Raised on a sheep farm in Wales, he is variously a journalist, broadcaster, lecturer, teacher and Fellow in Creative Writing at the University of Liverpool. His essays and reviews appear regularly in *The Financial Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Independent*.

Publishing details
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Martin Davis

Broch Rhyfel (Dealers)

'This powerful novel takes us on a journey to some of Europe's darkest and most dangerous corners.'

War brings chaos and horror to the disintegrating former Yugoslavia, but for Welsh arms-dealer Keith Jones at first it is simply another lucrative business opportunity.

Then, after he meets the Bosnian militant Michela, he finds himself drawn ever further into the dangerous conflict zone where loyalties are ambiguous and constantly shifting. Eventually, broken in body and spirit, he manages to return to Wales, but finds it hard to come to terms with the past.

Revisiting his childhood home in the rural north-west, he struggles to comprehend the sequence of events and relationships which determined the disastrous course his life has taken. Meanwhile, Nina, a young girl from Sarajevo, falls victim to a smooth-talking Irishman who traffics her into the sex trade, eventually smuggling her into north Wales. When their paths cross, Keith at last finds a way to make amends for his past and achieve some degree of personal redemption.

Selected as the Welsh Books Council's 'Book of the Month', *Broch Rhyfel* takes the reader into the darker corners of modern Europe, from the war-torn Balkans to the present day abuse and exploitation of women.

Martin Davis's latest novel is a page-turning but thoughtful thriller with a strong political theme, informed by a deep humanity.

'This powerful novel takes us on a journey to some of Europe's darkest and most dangerous corners.' Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan



Martin Davis was brought up in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, but spent regular periods as a child in Llanrwst and Porthmadog, north Wales. He has lived for many years now near Machynlleth in mid-Wales where he works as a freelance translator and writer. In addition to his fiction and poetry, he has written for television and radio, as well as for children.

Publishing details

Broch Rhyfel (2014)

Y Lolfa

240pp

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Cynan Jones

The Dig

'The Dig turns the reader into a helpless animal; transfixed, waiting for that blow to the skull.'

Beyond the picturesque views of tourist Wales life on the farms can be hard and cruel. A sheep-farmer, numbed with grief at the shocking, accidental death of his wife, struggles on alone through the lambing season. Still unable to grasp the finality of his loss or plan for the farm's future, he doggedly, sleeplessly continues the exhausting ritual of bringing lambs safely into life.

Meanwhile a rat-catcher and badger-baiter plies his violent, illegal trade, seeking out setts for strong boars to fight against trained dogs. The local magistrate turns a blind eye while the baiter covers his tracks and pockets his cash. Tension increases as the police become suspicious but badgers are still needed for the distant, secret fights where men drink, place bets and cheer at first blood. Gradually the parallel lives of the widowed farmer and the hunter draw closer and overlap, with disastrous consequences for both.

Through small, telling details award-winning writer Cynan Jones subtly conveys the bonds of man's relationship with the land and the realities of life in rural west Wales.

Written in his characteristic understated yet poetic style, *The Dig* is a powerful, unforgettable novel.

Winner of the Jerwood Fiction Uncovered Prize 2014.

'The Dig turns the reader into a helpless animal; transfixed, waiting for that blow to the skull. The first, unexpected emotional whump is actually the worst, but the story that unfolds from this shock is like a badger bait: you can root for the underdog but the game is rigged - there can only ever be one outcome.'
The Guardian

'It is a book that will get in your bones, and haunt you.'
The Telegraph



Cynan Jones was born in 1975 near Aberaeron, Wales where he now lives. His work includes the novels *The Long Dry* (Parthian, 2006), *Everything I Found on the Beach* (Parthian, 2011), and *Bird, Blood, Snow* (Seren, 2012). Further work has appeared in *Granta Magazine*, *New Welsh Review* and various anthologies.

Publishing details

The Dig (2014)

Granta

176pp

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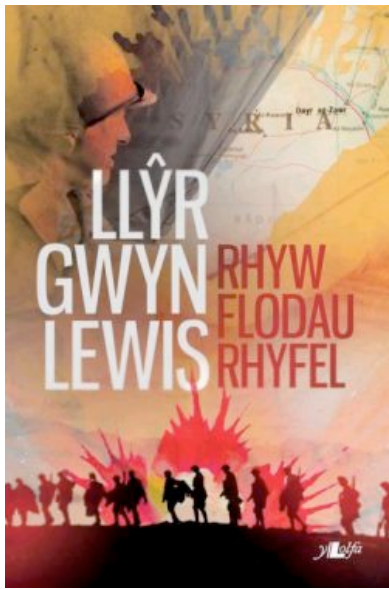
France - Joëlle Losfeld

Germany - Liebeskind

Netherlands - Koppernik

Spain - Turner Publicaciones

Turkey - Yapi Kredi



When the author is given a small package, containing letters and papers relating to his grandfather's brother, who was killed in Syria during the Second World War, it leads him on an extended personal journey.

In trying to uncover and understand his Uncle John's life and personality and the circumstances of his death, the narrator begins not only to realise more fully the human impact of wars but also to question and trace connections with his own experiences and feelings in the present and the past.

Woven seamlessly together, these strands are patterned into the fabric of a more general exploration of history, imagination and the process of memory, shifting imperceptibly from autobiography to travelogue, from letters and diaries to official records, from text to visual image. The engaging, almost stream-of-consciousness, style draws us in, guiding us unerringly along unexpected paths through changing scenes, times and moods, now grounded, now dreamlike and mysterious.

Yet nothing is accidental in this carefully crafted narrative: haphazard experiences and

Llŷr Gwyn Lewis

Rhyw Flodau Rhyfel (Some Flowers of War)

'A novel which attempts to document a period of great change...a period only now explored by a writer with such intimacy and honesty.'

memories are gradually linked and reassessed, until finally a new narrative of the past emerges to inform and elucidate the present. In his first prose work Lewis reveals a rare and consummate literary talent.

Deeply rooted in his Welsh identity, this young writer locates his own and his family's experience within the wider European world in a thoughtful, mature and highly original book.

'Mature, adventurous, intelligent.' Jon Gower

'A novel which attempts to document a period of great change, a coming to terms with mortality - a period not until now described or explored by a poet or writer with such intimacy and honesty.' *Taliesin*



Rhyw Flodau Rhyfel (Some Flowers of War) is Llŷr Gwyn Lewis's first work of fiction. His first poetry collection, *Storm ar Wyneb yr Haul* (Storm on the Face of the Sun) was published by Barddas in 2014. He won the Urdd National Eisteddfod Chair in 2010 and 2011, and the Emyr Feddyg Scholarship in 2012. Raised in Caernarfon, North Wales, Llŷr studied at Cardiff and Oxford, before completing a doctorate on the work of T. Gwynn Jones and W.B. Yeats. Following a period at Swansea University, he is now a lecturer at the School of Welsh at Cardiff University.

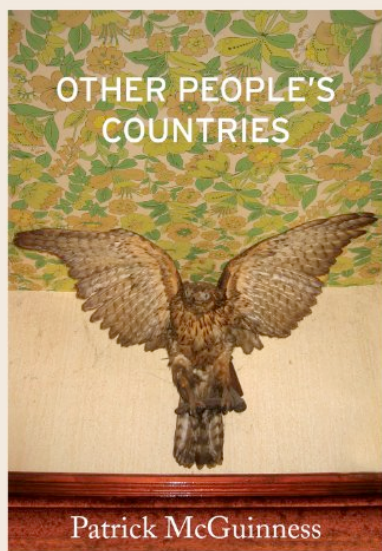
Publishing details

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Patrick McGuinness

Other People's Countries

'McGuinness writes of the other country of childhood with Proustian élan and Nabokovian delight, but his version of the past is entirely his own.'

and playful reinvention of the genre of memoir, written with humour and lyricism, the style encompassing every mood from the earthy to the elegiac.

As the short, almost self-contained, narratives accumulate, they form a sustained and vivid meditation on the nature of memory and Proustian recovery of past time.

Longlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize 2014.

'McGuinness has written the great book on Belgium and modern memory, or even Belgium and modern being. He takes his place among those singers and painters of the haunted, the melancholy, the diminished, the caricatural, the humdrum: Ensor, Rodenbach, Sax, Huysmans, Simenon and Magritte.'

The Guardian

'This book had a powerful effect on me [...] a meditation - sometimes hilarious, sometimes freighted with tragedy - on times past [...] I understand why Patrick McGuinness goes back and back to the old, damp, quiet house in Bouillon.'

The Literary Review



Patrick McGuinness was born in 1968 in Tunisia, grew up in Belgium, Iran and Ireland, and now lives in Caernarfon, north Wales. His poems, translations, essays and reviews have appeared in the *London Review of Books*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, *The Independent*, *PN Review*, *Poetry Wales*, *Leviathan*, and *New Writing 10*. His first novel, *The Last Hundred Days* (Seren, 2011) has been long-listed for the Man Booker Prize 2011 and won the Wales Book of the Year Award 2012. He is a fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford, where he is a Professor in French.

Publishing details

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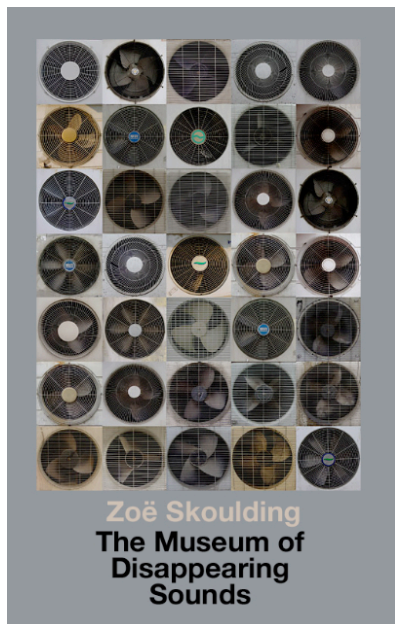
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France - Grasset

In this atmospheric prose work poet and novelist Patrick McGuinness embarks on a journey of rediscovery around the French-speaking Belgian town of Bouillon, home of his mother's family and of his own childhood.

Starting in the stories he tells his Welsh-speaking children about their Belgian relatives, he retraces his own early years through a series of affectionate but sharply observed vignettes, peeling away layers of memory like fading wallpaper. In exploring the roots of his own identity he also uncovers and reappropriates the complex, remarkable life of this apparently unremarkable town in a too-often disregarded corner of western Europe.

Extraordinary, even Rabelaisian, characters leap off the page, comfortable in their eccentricities, their voices reaching us through the atmospheric distortion of time past, but their echoes redolent of the fast-disappearing history of individuals, buildings, businesses, dialect and tradition. Photographs of places and artefacts anchor the narrative visually and deepen the sense of mystery, loss and love. This 'journey into memory' is no mere personal odyssey, but an original



Zoë Skoulding

The Museum of Disappearing Sounds

‘A profound orphic journey - one which asks you to travel through the traffic, to listen and look again.’

In this new collection established poet Zoë Skoulding leads her readers unerringly through a journey along mysterious paths, where the familiar suddenly becomes uncertain, and heavy with potential or unexpected meaning. The past seeps in to the present, as everyday objects retain the imprinted memories of their earlier lives, but at the same time whole areas of sense and lived experience seem to fade and disappear.

To Baudelairean correspondences of sound and colour the modern computerised world adds new layers of slippage and overlap in the intangibility and new ambiguities of virtual existence. The disjunctions between digital and real life are subtly paralleled in phrases left suspended and open-ended, questioning whether endings still exist or are simply interruptions in a sequence, to be resumed later.

Words and images, objects and experiences dissolve into each other, changing and re-forming in the flow, as unpredictable as a voyage in Rimbaud's drunken boat. Lost and forgotten voices are rediscovered in abandoned places as borders and boundaries of life and language are pushed apart, only to coalesce into new, still-shifting patterns.

Individual words take on a new intensity as language itself becomes uncertain in these haunting, mysterious and deeply moving poems.

Shortlisted for the 2013 Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry.

‘A profound orphic journey - one which asks you to travel through the traffic, to listen and look again.’ Carol Watts

‘These are poems of disappearing sounds, of the fugitive and durable energy of sound itself, and the richness of the sonic environment; poems in which words and sounds and voices and traces of speech are re-discovered; rooms in which ‘a pattern unfolding’ gathers energy from the half-life of sounds into a reconstruction of song; both a collection of poems and a museum of collections.’ Sean Borodale



Zoë Skoulding's previous collections of poems include *Remains of a Future City* (Seren, 2008), and *The Mirror Trade* (Seren, 2004). Her work as a poet also encompasses criticism, translation and cross-media performance; she has been involved in several projects combining poetry with music or experimental soundscape, particularly as a member of Parking Non-Stop. She lives in north Wales, where she is Senior Lecturer in the School of English at Bangor University.

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