The Afterlives of Walter Scott: Memory on the Move

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Author: Murray Pittock
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Main content

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Ann Rigney’s recent work has been turning increasingly towards theories of memory and the formation of cultural frameworks for memory. As Principal Investigator of the major 2006-11 Dynamics of Cultural Remembrance project, she has written some key articles, which, building on scholars and theorists such as Halbwachs, Foucault and Assmann, have helped to redefine the importance of cultural memory as the source of what she (creatively following Billig) dubs ‘banal canonicity’ (p.45). In this book, this ‘banality’ becomes the realm in which the ‘lived environment’ (p.217) is peopled with a monumentalism, tourism, fiction and even cinema ultimately derived from Scott.

Scott's presence in cultural celebration and representation from the Eglinton tournament to the Deep South, from paddle steamers to tall tourist tales, from celebratory dinners to the instant cliches of invented traditions, makes him a most suitable subject for the theoretical tools Rigney has to bring to bear. What results is both an extraordinarily wide kind of reception study, and a deep and intricate awareness of what made Scott important in so...

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Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) was once a household name, but is now largely forgotten. This book explores how Scott's work became an all-pervasive point of reference for cultural memory and collective identity in the nineteenth century, and why it no longer has this role. Ann Rigney breaks new ground in memory studies and the study of literary reception by examining the dynamics of cultural memory and
the ‘social life’ of literary texts across several generations and multiple media. She pays attention to the remediation of the Waverley novels as they travelled into painting, the When I taught Sir Walter Scott's Waverley (1814) in an upper-level undergraduate course on the British novel at Rice University, I would refer my students to the nearby cul-de-sac "Waverly [sic] Court" as a material emblem of the time when Scott's now-obscure fame, like a colossus, bestrode the narrow world. The most compelling quality of Ann Rigney's The Afterlife of Walter Scott: Memory on the Move is how she makes the nature of Scott's reputation—his rise, fall, and uncanny presence in popular and material cultures—central to a valuable intervention in cultural-memory studies. Acknowledgements The multiple; afterlives of Walter Scott have taken me into the most unexpected of intellectual places and lured me into odd corners of multiple libraries and odd regions of the Internet. In the process I have incurred debts to many individuals and several institutions. out on an experiment in prose fiction at a time when novels had rather a bad name, this was a canny move. It was a gesture designed to clear an imaginative space for an experiment in memory-making beyond existing generic categories and traditions, and out of reach of the possible prejudices of his readers. Request PDF | On Jul 1, 2014, Andrew Monnickendam and others published John Galt: Observations and Conjectures on Literature, History and Society; The Afterlives of Walter Scott: Memory on the Move | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. Observations on certain ancient Pillars of Memorial, called Hoar-Stones. By the late William Ham January 2012.