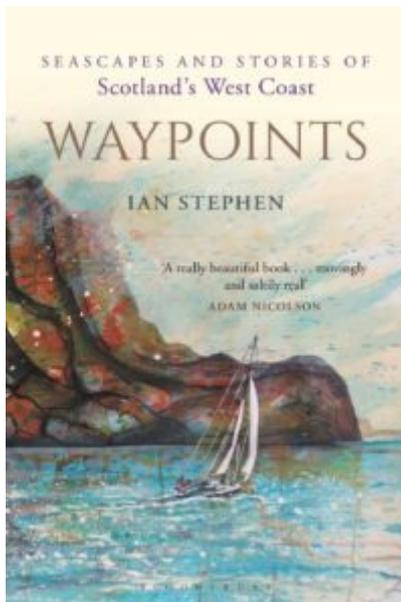


LONG LIST FOR HIGHLAND BOOK PRIZE 2018

The Highland Book Prize, established in 2017, celebrates the finest published work that recognises the rich landscape and cultural heritage of the Highlands. This annual prize is open to work in fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

Presented by the Highland Society of London and facilitated by Moniack Mhor Writers' Centre, this literary prize aims to bring recognition to books created in or about the Highlands. The winner will be announced at the Ullapool Book Festival 11th-13th May, 2018 and receive prize money of £1000 and a writing retreat at Moniack Mhor.

We are delighted to be able to reveal the books on the Long List for the 2017 Highland Book Prize:



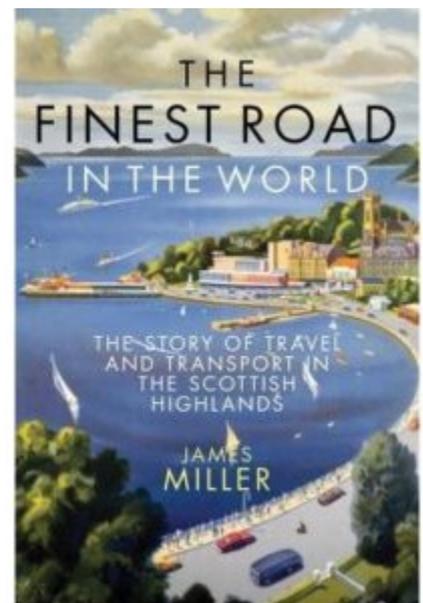
Waypoints by Ian Stephen

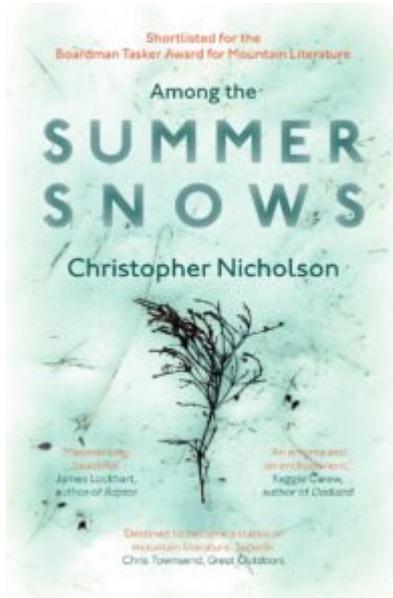
Adventure, memoir, storytelling and celebration of all things maritime meet in *Waypoints*, a beautifully written account of sea journeys around Scotland's west coast. Ian Stephen reveals a lifetime's love affair with sailing; each voyage honours a seagoing vessel, and each adventure is accompanied by a spell-binding retelling of a traditional tale about the sea. Ian's writing is enchanting and lyrical, gentle but searching, and is accompanied by pen and ink illustrations of each vessel by artist Christine Morrison.

Waypoints is an absorbing read for anyone with a passion for sailing and the seas, Scotland's landscape and coastlines, stories and the origins of language and literature.

The Finest Road in the World by James Miller

Trains and stagecoaches stuck in the snow, wild storms driving sailing ships off course, traffic pile-ups on so-called 'killer' highways – stories about the horrors of travel in the Highlands and Islands, and have done for as far as the records go back. James Miller tells the dramatic and sometimes surprisingly humorous story of travel and transport in the Highlands. Some of the figures in the story are familiar – General George Wade, Thomas Telford and Joseph Mitchell – but there are a host of others including the intrepid Lady Sarah Murray, who offered sound advice for travellers ('Provide yourself with a strong roomy carriage, and have the springs well corded'). This thought-provoking book will appeal to all who like stories of travel and transport, and are interested in how changing modes of transport have affected the ways of life in the Highlands and remain crucial to the future of the region.





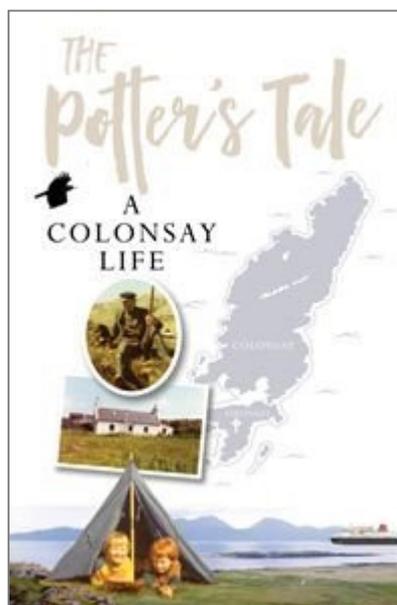
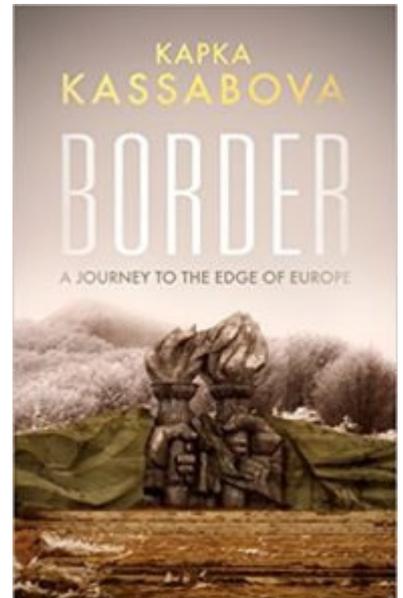
Among the Summer Snows by Christopher Nicholson

As the summer draws to a close, a few snowbeds – some as big as icebergs – survive in the Scottish Highlands. Christopher Nicholson’s *Among the Summer Snows* is both a celebration of these great, icy relics and an intensely personal meditation on their significance. A book to delight all those interested in mountains and snow, full of vivid description and anecdote, it explores the meanings of nature, beauty and mortality in the twenty-first century.

Border by Kapka Kassabova

One of the most celebrated books of the year, *Border* is a vivid journey through the haunted borderlands that once made up the easternmost stretch of the old Iron Curtain and today mark the outer reaches of Europe.

As Kapka Kassabova explores this region in the company of border guards and treasure hunters, entrepreneurs and botanists, psychic healers and ritual fire-walkers, refugees and smugglers, she traces the physical and psychological borders that criss-cross its villages and mountains, and goes in search of the stories that will unlock its secrets.



The Potter's Tale by Dion Alexander

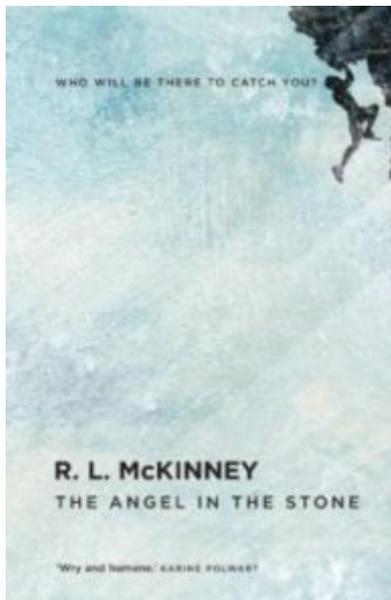
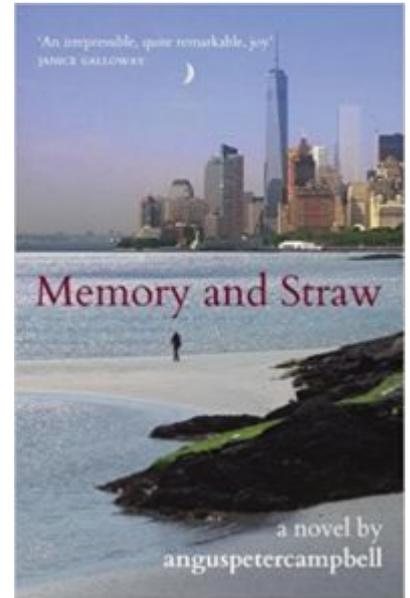
The Potter's Tale is a story of one man's journey of discovery and self-discovery on one of the most beautiful islands on the Hebrides – Colonsay. Dion Alexander was 'the Colonsay Potter' through the 1970s and his own story is interwoven with that of some of the legendary characters of the islands in that period, one of the last in which Gaelic came naturally to the community. It is also the story of beginning to think about how to keep a small remote community dominated by a landed estate alive and viable in the face of modern pressures. The book is an autobiography, a reflection of a world still close in time but in some ways very distant, and a moving account of the trials, triumphs and tribulations of a small community. Above all it is woven with a deep love of the magical place that is Colonsay.

Memory and Straw by Angus Peter Campbell

A face is nothing without its history. Gavin and Emma live in Manhattan. She's a musician. He works in Artificial Intelligence. He's good at his job. Scarily good. He's researching human features to make more realistic mask-bots – non-human 'carers' for elderly people. When his enquiry turns personal he's forced to ask whether his own life is an artificial mask.

Delving into family stories and his roots in the Highlands of Scotland, he embarks on a quest to discover his own true face, 'uniquely sprung from all the faces that had been'. He returns to England to look after his Grampa. Travels. Reads old documents. Visits ruins. Borrows, plagiarises and invents. But when Emma tells him his proper work is to make a story out of glass and steel, not memory and straw, which path will he choose? What's the best story he can give her?

A novel about the struggle for freedom and personal identity; what it means to be human. It fuses the glass and steel of our increasingly controlled algorithmic world with the memory and straw of our forebears' world controlled by traditions and taboos, the seasons and the elements.



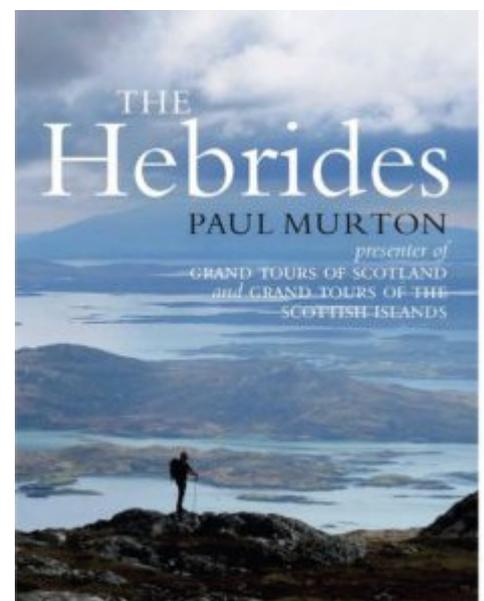
The Angel in the Stone by R. L. McKinney

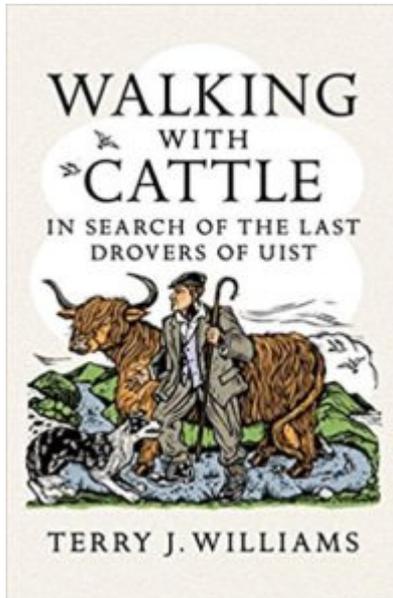
Having returned to his childhood home in the West Highlands, Calum leads a quiet life. More than two decades after his brother Finn fell to his death, he still relives the event and struggles to find peace of mind. It isn't so easy, however: his mother, Mary, has Alzheimer's Disease and his estranged daughter Catriona has arrived out of the blue.

Unexpectedly, Calum has his mother and daughter living with him and the house becomes a crucible of old resentments, disappointments, unspoken revelations and fragile but enduring love. Together and separately, Calum, Mary and Catriona retrace the events that have brought them to this point and made them who they are.

The Hebrides by Paul Murton

Paul Murton has spent half-a-lifetime exploring some of the most beautiful islands in the world – the Hebrides. He has travelled the length and breadth of the Scotland's rugged, six-thousand-mile coast line, and sailed to over eighty islands. In this book Paul visits each of the Hebridean islands in turn, introducing their myths and legends, history, culture and extraordinary natural beauty. He also meets the people who live there and learns their story. He has met crofters, fishermen, tweed weavers, Gaelic singers, clan chiefs, artists, postmen and bus drivers – people from every walk of life who make the islands tick. This blend of the contemporary and the traditional creates a vivid account of the Hebrides and serves as unique guide to the less well known aspects of life among the islands.





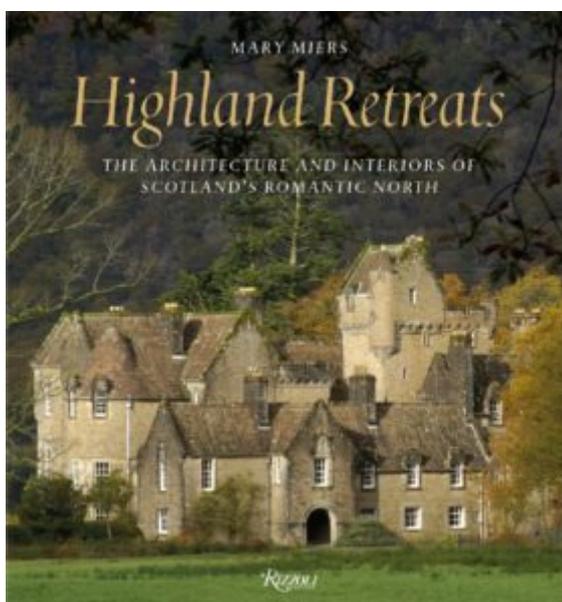
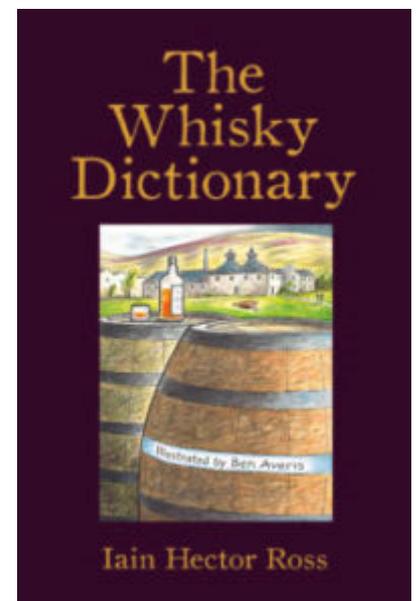
Walking with Cattle by Terry J. Williams

Droving was once the lifeblood of Scotland's rural economy, and for centuries Scotland's glens and mountain passes were alive with thousands of cattle making their way to the market trysts. With the Industrial Revolution, ships, railways and eventually lorries took over the drovers' trade, and by the twentieth century, the age-old droving tradition was all but dead. Except, however, in the Western Isles, where droving on foot continued until the mid-1960s. In this book, Terry J. Williams follows the route of the drovers from Outer Hebrides to the Highland marts. Travelling by campervan and armed with a voice recorder, a collection of archive photographs and a set of maps marked with the old market stances, she seeks out the last surviving drovers. The resulting narrative is an extraordinary insight into a lost world, told through the voices of the few remaining individuals who remember the days of walking with cattle.

The Whiskey Dictionary by Iain Hector Ross

The Whisky Dictionary is both a celebration of the world of whisky and a window into it.

Iain Hector Ross has ranged deep, far and wide into the industry to capture whisky speak in a single guide. He has literally climbed inside the distilling process to feel the heat, savour the aromas and absorb the words that swirl around the making and sharing of Scotch whisky. Now this language itself has been 'casked' between the covers of this delightful guide, and whisky enthusiasts the world over can understand, explore and enjoy Scotch in all its wondrous diversity in a single publication.



Highland Retreats by Mary Miers

Mary Miers tells the story of how the Highlands were 'reinvented' by early tourists and appropriated as a holiday paradise for the rich. She explores the influence of the romanticised North on architecture and taste within the framework of a vividly portrayed social history that scotches many myths. The book features breathtaking photographs from the Country Life Picture Library, as well as specially commissioned photographs and rare historic images, and is beautifully designed by Robert Dalrymple. But it's also the first serious study of a significant body of architecture that has hitherto been largely overlooked, and its eight chapters are full of fascinating information and scholarly research.