

Hail to Priorsford

Anna Buchan, John's sister, was a successful novelist in her own right, publishing twelve novels (using the nom-de-plume O Douglas) during her lifetime as well as her chronicle of the Buchan family, *Unforgettable, Unforgotten*. However, books about Anna have been few and far between. *Farewell to Priorsford*, published in 1950, contained a biographical sketch and also brief appreciations by family and friends. It also included several short stories by Anna and the first 8 chapters of an unfinished novel. In 1995 Wendy Forrester published *Anna Buchan and O Douglass*, a literary biography rather along the lines of David Daniell's work on JB's writing. A year later, Sheila Scott produced a short biographical booklet simply entitled *O. Douglas*. Other than brief references in a couple of other booklets about Kirkcaldy, that is about the sum of it.

However, the John Buchan Story have now published a delightful book which is a series of vignettes about Anna. It begins with a biographical article by her great-niece, Deborah Stewartby and this is followed by another piece by Deborah Stewartby, the foreword from the Greyladies 2009 reprint of *Pink Sugar*. There are then 2 pieces by Dr. Andrena Telford, *O. Douglas and the Sense of Place* and *Gone but Not Forgotten: O. Douglas and the Great War*.

The aforementioned edition of *Pink Sugar* included an introduction by Shirley Neilson of Greyladies entitled *Her Own Beloved Border Country – Anna Buchan's Peeblesshire* and this is included in the book, which ends with a conversation between Deborah Stewartby and Shirley Neilson about the completion of Anna's unfinished novel, *The Wintry Years*, which was published by Greyladies in 2019.

This is an interesting book, well worthy of a place of anyone interested in Anna's writing and the wider Buchan family. It contains a good number of illustrations and is printed on gloss paper. The price is £9.00 including UK postage and it can be ordered through Crask Books – the whole of the price goes to the John Buchan Story. It is also available as a downloadable e-book at a price of £4.50. The e-book can be ordered only from the John Buchan Story, not via Crask Books. Payments to the John Buchan Story may be made by credit/debit cards; this facility is not available if ordered through Crask Books.

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1. Directly from the John Buchan Story

- Visit <http://www.johnbuchanstory.co.uk/news.htm>
- Click on the link (BOOK) at the foot of the news item about *Hail to Priorsford* and follow the instructions from there.

2. Via Crask Books

- Telephone, email or write to Crask Books (see below) giving your name and address and the number of copies you would like.
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