Scottish Modernism and its Contexts 1918-1959
Literature, National Identity and Cultural Exchange
Margery Palmer McCulloch

May 2009
Hb ◦ 978 0 7486 3474 3 ◦ £60.00
240pp ◦ 234 x 156 mm

The first study of a Scottish modernism extending in its impact to the 1950s and drawing on influences from British and European modernism

Description
This innovative book proposes the expansion of the existing idea of an interwar Scottish Renaissance movement. The book demonstrates its international significance as a Scottish literary modernism interacting with the intellectual and artistic ideas of European modernism, as well as responding to the challenges of the Scottish cultural and political context.

Topics covered include: the revitalisation of the Scots vernacular as an avant-garde literary language in the 1920s; the interaction of literature and politics in the 1930s; the fictional re-imagining of the Highlands; the response of women writers to a changing modern world; and the manifestations of a late modernism in the 1940s and 1950s. Writers featured include Hugh MacDiarmid, Lewis Grassic Gibbon, Neil M. Gunn, Edwin and Willa Muir, Catherine Carswell, Naomi Mitchison, Sydney Goodsir Smith and Sorley MacLean.

Key Features
- Original perspectives on the literature of the period through discussion of a range of writers and writing genres
- Detailed consideration of the work of women writers in the context of modernism and in their response to social change
- A contribution to the expansion of the idea of modernism in its focus both on the modernist artist’s role in social and national renewal and on writing from the peripheries of small town, rural and island cultures in contrast to metropolitan culture

The Author
Margery Palmer McCulloch has published widely on Scottish Literature. Her previous books include monographs on Edwin Muir and Neil M. Gunn, a co-edited collection of essays on Lewis Grassic Gibbon and most recently Modernism and Nationalism: Literature and Society in Scotland 1918-1939, an edited collection of source documents for the interwar literary revival. She is Senior Research Fellow in Scottish Literature at the University of Glasgow and Co-editor of the scholarly journal Scottish Literary Review.

Readership
Literary Studies
British & Irish History

Academics, postgraduates and upper level undergraduates in Scottish Literature and Modernism.