RAPT IN PLAID

Canadian Literature and Scottish Tradition

Rapt in Plaid combines reflection, criticism, and memoir to illustrate a curious and long-lasting connection between Scottish and Canadian literary traditions. Examples drawn from genres including lyric poetry, narrative romance, war fiction, children's literature, sentimental fiction, thrillers, domestic novels, and short stories link Canadian writers such as John Richardson, Isabella Valancy Crawford, Sinclair Ross, Hugh MacLennan, Margaret Laurence, and W.O. Mitchell to Scottish writers such as Robert Burns, Walter Scott, Thomas Carlyle, J.M. Barrie, Robert Louis Stevenson, John Buchan, and George Mackay Brown.

Each chapter traces the connections from directly imitative nineteenth-century Canadian writers to modern Canadian works where Scottish tradition persists, sometimes transformed and sometimes distorted. Lively biographical sketches and close analysis of particular passages by Scottish and Canadian writers are set in the context of multicultural, narrative, postmodern, and post-colonial theories. This study illuminates the way Scottish ideas and values still wield surprising power in Canadian politics, education, theology, economics, and social mores.

Although Professor Waterston's method is that of a literary historian, she frames each section in this new work with affectionate memories of reading, researching, and teaching Scottish and Canadian literature over a sixty-year period.

ELIZABETH WATERSTON is Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph. A lifetime member of the Association of Canadian Studies and a former National President of the Humanities Association of Canada, she is also a co-founder and former editor of *Canadian Children's Literature / Littérature canadienne pour la jeunesse*.

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