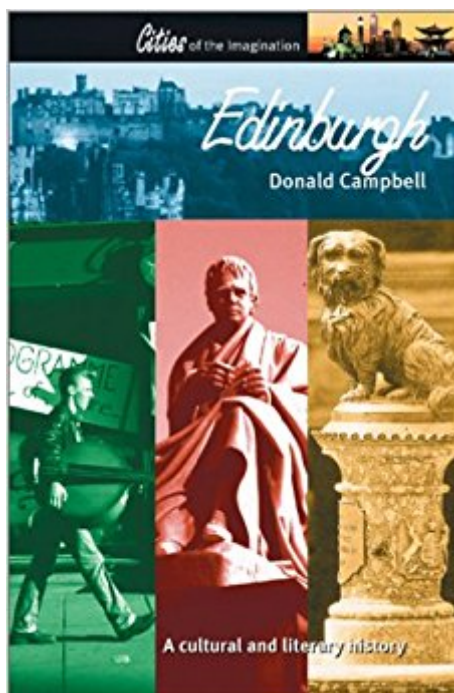


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Edinburgh: A Cultural And Literary History (Cities Of The Imagination)



Synopsis

In-depth cultural, historical and literary guide by a lifelong native to Scotland's vibrant capital and home to one of the world's greatest arts festivals.

Book Information

Series: Cities of the Imagination

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Customer Reviews

Donald Campbell has undertaken a vast task and has achieved his purpose with clarity and brevity, and also with wit and compassion which is a much less common combination. The result is not a history of Edinburgh, though there is a good deal of that, of course, but a study of the cultural and literary aspects of the city. (The Scots Magazine) As a poet, playwright, theater historian and umwhyle editor o "Lallans" magazine, it wad be ill to finnd oniebody better suitit to wryte a wark like this. Th'r sumthing here for awbody, in a buik wi eleivin chapters that daels wi ilka aspect o Embro, frae fuitbaw ti leiterature an architecture. Even the braw new Parliament biggin is daelt wi, tho this epic haes yit ti be played oot til the end.(Lallans magazine) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Donald Campbell is a poet, playwright and theater historian who has lived in Edinburgh all his working life.

After visiting the impressive city of Edinburgh, I wanted to learn more about it. The city was not heavily bombed during the WWII, becoming a refuge for many Europeans and soldiers, where they

received a warm welcome from the natives, organizing dances and other social events. This was one of the roots giving the beginning of the Edinburgh International Festival. And this is one of the many origins of Edinburgh Festivals described by the author. For me every city comes alive with its festivals and legends. This book separates the myth from facts for many legends surrounding the city. The book is divided into eleven chapters, concentrating on different parts of the city and giving its history: Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Mile, the Old Town, the New Town, Calton Hill, the West End, the Southside, Leith and the Coast, Holyrood, Culture and Festival.

I was born and went to school in Edinburgh, but have been an exile for 30 years, visiting as often as I can. My library on Edinburgh and its history is extensive, yet every chapter of this book gave me new and fascinating details about the city, past and present. The reading style of the book is lively and approachable, with interesting quotations, and I plan to acquire my own copy as soon as this one goes back to the library, so that I can add personal notes. The information is accurate, as assessed by my visit at Easter, and the illustrations good, if a little sparse. The only addition I would suggest is a map showing how Campbell divided the city into regions, marked with the appropriate chapter numbers.

Finished this book a few months ago but wanted to write a quick recommendation. If you are thinking about purchasing this book, do it! The author gives the reader a wonderful tour through some neighborhoods that the average guide might not touch (like my great old neighbourhood of Comely Bank). I'm sure reading the book before going to Edinburgh would still be wonderful - but for one who has walked her streets for years and misses her dearly, the book brings back the thoughts, sights and smells that make the city great.

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