

FOOTNOTES

Footscray Mechanics' Institute Inc. Library Newsletter

#6 OCTOBER 2022



*FIRST WORLD WAR POETS
OWEN, BROOKES,
SASSOON, McRAE et al
FMI collections for Armistice
Day reading*

Welcome to issue #6 of FOOTNOTES newsletter

In this issue we pay our Armistice Day homage to the poets of the Great War (World War One, 1914-1918). You will find these poets represented in the FMI Library's non-fiction collection, and available for loan to our members.

Continuing this theme, we also have a review of "*Ghost Road*" contributed by FMI Member Alan Trigellis-Smith, many thanks for taking time for your contribution.

Irish crime writer Brian McGilloway is also highlighted, with thanks to FMI Committee member Neil Farren for his contribution.

Thanks to the interest in the Haiku poetry sessions we held earlier this year at the FMI. These sessions held in the Reading Room, drew an online audience of several 2K+ hits, so we present some of the session notes here for your enjoyment, especially if you were unable to attend the sessions.

Rounding out this issue is the list of Top Ten Crime Fiction titles borrowed from the FMI library over the past two years. Crime Fiction books account for 62% of our loans over the past year, with classic out of print titles, and also the latest releases, making up our extensive collection.

As usual there is also a review of recent books, purchased and added to our library collection in the past month.

The Billiards Room is available for use by FMI members at the rate of \$1 per person, per hour. Two tables are available, please phone to make a booking.

I also have great pleasure in announcing the library is now open five days per week, with all covid restrictions lifted, in line with recent revisions by the Victorian State Govt to their legislative health orders.

For membership enquiries please visit between Weds-Fri, bringing ID - it is still only \$10 for your yearly membership subscription to join the FMI.

Members can borrow and return books Mon-Fri 10am-4 pm - please bring your membership card with you.

Please keep a lookout for our "*Little Library*", a community book swap project, with FMI officially joining the "*Little Libraries*" movement within Australia. Drop off unwanted books, and pick up books withdrawn from the FMI collection, and books dropped of by other members of the Footscray community, for free exchange.

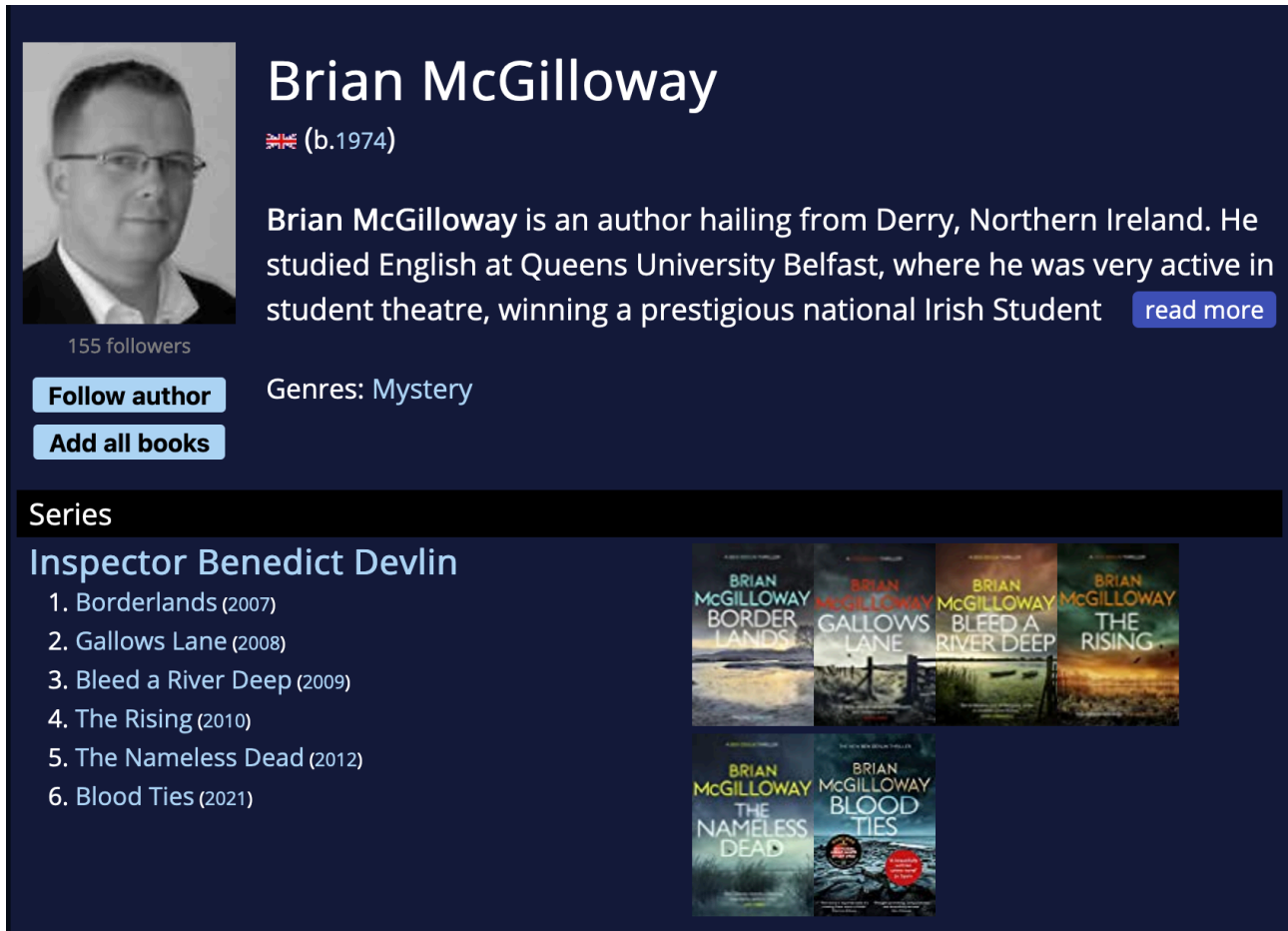
Editor: Cameron Borg

Contributions: Neil Farren, Elizabeth Balfour, Alan Trigellis-Smith

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Brian McGilloway - Crime Fiction Author - Review

Brian McGilloway is an Irish crime writer. His crime books are set in the borderlands of Donegal and Tyrone in NW Ireland. His protagonist is Inspector Ben Devlin of the Garda, the Irish police. A character imbued in his faith and oriented with family he seeks to serve his community. There are 5 books in the series and 'The Rising' is the fourth.



Brian McGilloway
🇮🇪 (b.1974)

Brian McGilloway is an author hailing from Derry, Northern Ireland. He studied English at Queens University Belfast, where he was very active in student theatre, winning a prestigious national Irish Student [read more](#)

155 followers


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Series

Inspector Benedict Devlin

1. Borderlands (2007)
2. Gallows Lane (2008)
3. Bleed a River Deep (2009)
4. The Rising (2010)
5. The Nameless Dead (2012)
6. Blood Ties (2021)



[Screenshot c/- www.fantasticfiction.com]

In this novel mystery surrounds the death of men involved in the drug trade. Devlin seeks answers, while sub plots involve his young daughters health and the death of a ex colleagues son, are accentuated by description of rugged scenery of the area. That the drug scene interfaces with a paramilitary group adds authenticity to the tale. Heavy handed policing complement this realism. As does the conflict with senior officer trope which runs through the story. And yes it rains.

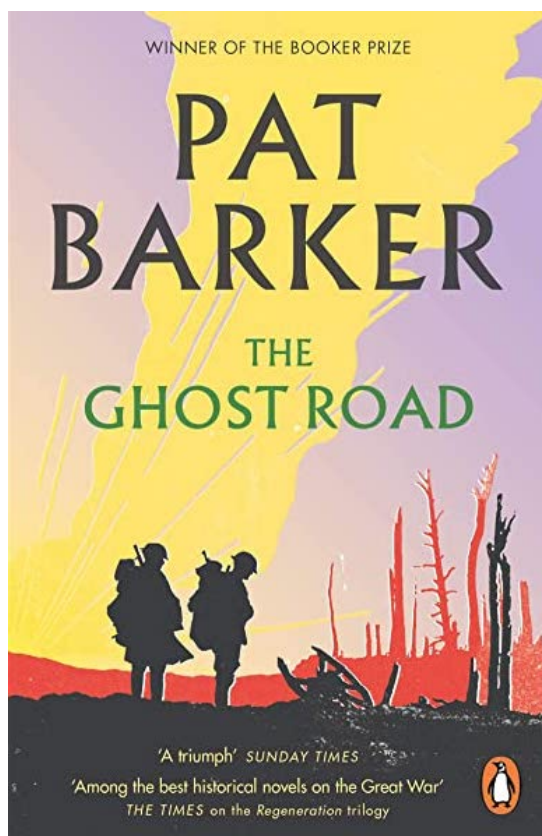
Good read for crime fiction aficionados.
Neil

FMI MEMBER BOOK REVIEW

"The Ghost Road" by Pat Barker

Set toward the end of the Great War, the Ghost Road is a compelling and very unusual novel. Its characters interweave real people with fictional, and its chapters mix past and present, first and third person.

W.H.R. Rivers, one of the real characters, spent time in the Torres Strait and the Solomon Islands as an anthropologist, and arrived back in England to find the country at war with Germany. His contribution to the war effort was to enter service as a psychologist, to treat soldiers, in hospital with dreadful physical and psychic wounds, for 'shell shock'. His treatments, unusually humane for the times, help soldiers deal with the slaughter and misery they have been through, and heal some of their wounds, perhaps. Healed enough, only to return to battle, to the hell that damaged them in the first place.



The mixture of historical and imaginative characters and events is developed with such artistry as to strike the reader as utterly authentic; the style is effortless and spare and stark, giving the narrative great force, and pulling the reader relentlessly to the tragic end.

I'm not alone in being so impressed: the novel won the Booker Prize in 1995.

Read this book.

ATS

THE FOOTSCRAY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE INC. LIBRARY

<https://www.fmi.org.au>

Our official website with links to FMI Library's online catalogue

<https://www.facebook.com/FootscrayMechanicsInstituteLibrary/>

The FMI facebook page. News, book reviews, events. Please follow us online.

https://www.instagram.com/fmi_library/

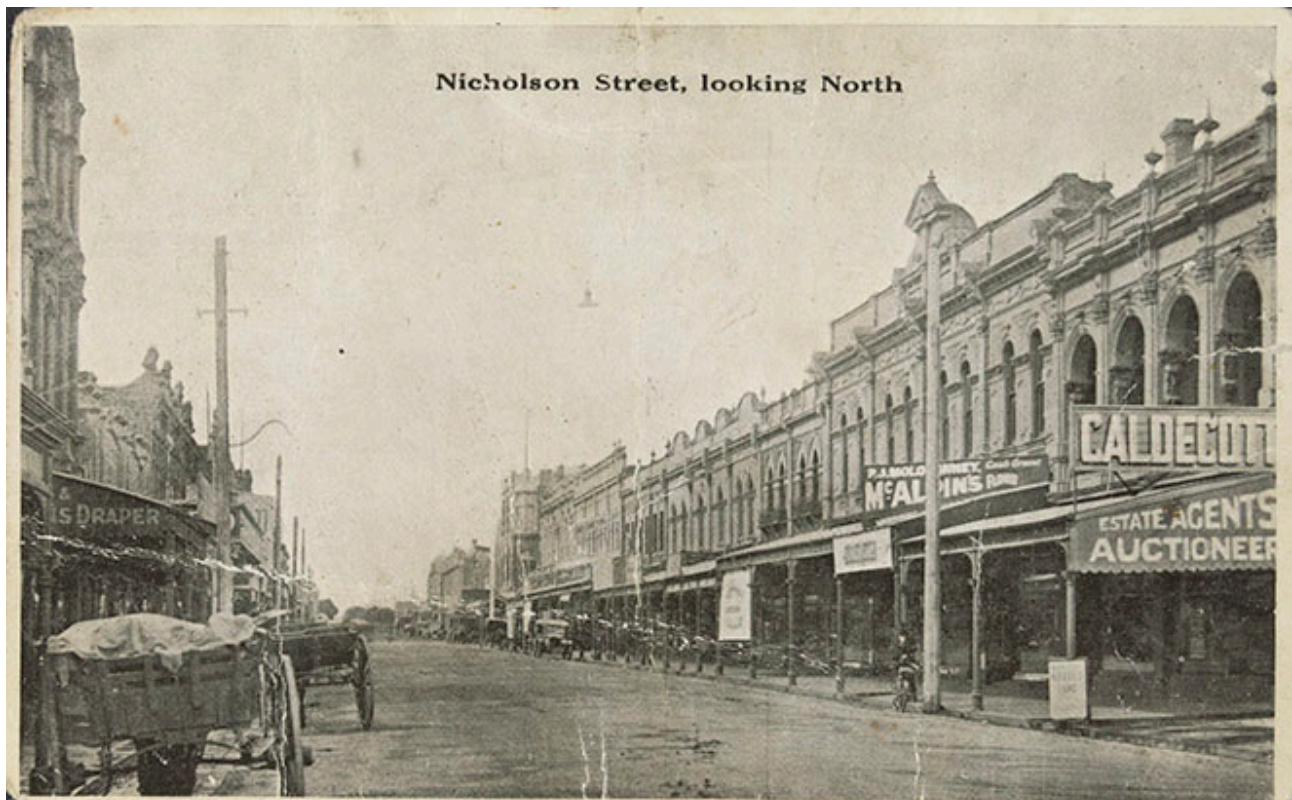
FMI Secretary Liz Balfour posting photos, and documenting the visual events and changes within the FMI.

Membership of the FMI includes not only library membership, with loan privileges, use of Reading Room and in-house wifi, but also access to the historic Billiards Room for social playing or solo practice.

Membership fees are \$10 per annum, due each March, please apply at the FMI Library for an Application for Membership form, showing current ID, and payment of \$10. Payment may be by cash or EFTPOS. Visit the library Weds-Fri to apply for membership.

Currently billiards room hire fees are set by FMI Committee at the rate of .50c per person per half hour for exclusive use by FMI members

Please phone the Librarian on 9687 1935 for bookings of the Billiards Room, and for further information



FIRST WORLD WAR POETS in the FMI Collection

As we approach armistice day on November 11th each year, we can remember the conflict which ended just over a hundred years ago. The period 1914 to 1918 was a time of great conflict in Europe. Seared into the memories of English, French, German and Australian society as result of the incredible loss of human life as result of mechanisation of human conflict. It is known as the First World War.

This period saw the enunciation of the trauma via the writings of some of the people involved thru medium of poetry. Most famously in the English case by the lines from Wilfred Owen "*Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*". Drawn from a classic line by the Roman poet Horace, it can be translated as 'how sweet and fitting to die for one's country'. French poets such as Appolanaire; Germans Stamm or Flex; Australians like Gellart, whose work was illustrated by Norman Lindsay, English - Sassoon or Thomas and many others of differing national origin. Famous and obscure; from the scribbler to the proficient; the survivors and the dead. These works are still available to us 100 plus years on.

Some exalted in their service to the state of their birth - others often initially keen to serve came to regard the war as futile. This article will focus on the English poets. Most focus will be on Owens work. Why? - because he was against the war despite his service as part of it. Owen served in the British army throughout the war, wounded he recovered, and returned to be killed one week before the armistice! During his convalescence he was treated in Craigenlock Hospital and was influenced by Sassoon who as result of his opposition to the war had been sent to the hospital. Owens representation of the true horror of modern war in his poem cited above reflects on the troops and the death of one unfortunate who "*knock kneed and cursing thru sludge*" is victim of poisonous gas and who dying is "*flung*" upon a wagon with face like '*devils sick of sin*' with phrase '*bitter as the cud*' contrasting with dulce in the title. The poem has such a horrific rendition of the soldiers fate I will leave you to look it up yourselves and not shock my gentle readers.

Other authors in the British genre include Graves who not only wrote poetry, but also an autobiography of their wartime experience, which gives context to the poetry. The Footscray Mechanics library has biographies of Owen and Sassoon as well as copy of Owens poetry.

Other avenues to contextualise events are thru fiction. One author is Pat Barker whose book *Ghost Road*, recently acquired by the FMI library, focuses on the English poets mentioned above, albeit in somewhat fictionalised form. The book, a winner of the Booker Prize for fiction, tells the story of Billy Prior and his experiences in the wartime. This fictional character is seen interfacing with the real-life individuals of the time Barker quotes Edward Thomas' *Roads*' in frontispiece of the book.

*Now all roads lead to France
And heavy is the tread
Of the living: but the dead
Returning lightly dance*

Lest We Forget

NF - With thanks to all sources electronic and otherwise.

FIRST WORLD WAR POETS IN THE FMI COLLECTION

The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry

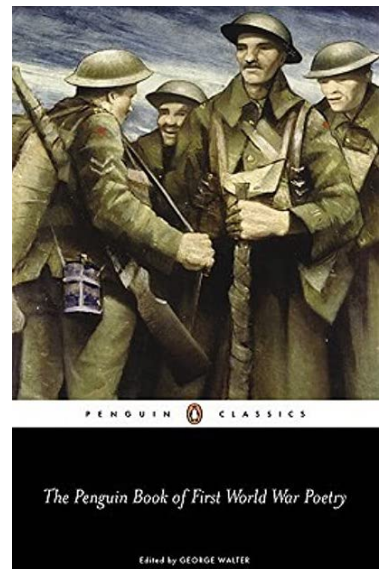
Rupert Brooke by John Lehmann

The War Poems by Wilfred Owen

Wilfred Owen by Guy Cuthbertson

The Works of Rupert Brooke

Siegfried Sassoon by Jane Moorcroft Wilson



NOTES to the FMI Haiku Sessions held earlier this year

HAIKU - EVENT - an introduction

Poetry is of interest to several members of the FMI Committee –

Of interest to me is a genre of poetry known as Haiku: this is a Japanese form of poetry which was refined in the 17th century. Today still is the subject of newspaper competitions in Japan.

This form of poetry is popular in English also. Of note is the use by 'beat' poets such as Jack Kerouac.

Haiku is based on the use of 17 syllables or more in a 5,7,5 stanza; for example, the classic and best known of the haiku is by Basho in the 1680s about a frog jumping into an old well.

In Japanese–

fu ru i ke ya - 5 syllables

ka wa zu to bi ko mu -7 syllables

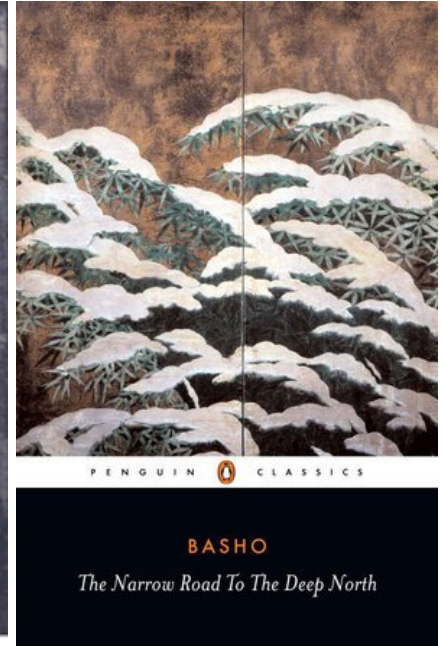
mi zu no o to –5 syllables

A translation into English

The old well

the frog jumps

the sound of water



Basho was one of the masters of Haiku. He lived at end of 17th into early 18th century. Famous for his peregrinations, he travelled by foot and horse around the north of Honshu Island and wrote poetry as he went. The FMI library has a copy of a one of the translations of "Narrow Road to the Deep North" for those that are interested.

NF

THE TOP TEN CRIME FICTION BOOKS LOANED AT FMI

THE AFFAIR - Lee Child

COLD EARTH - Ann Cleeves

LET IT BLEED - Ian Rankin

HEADLINE MURDER! - Godfrey Rayne

STONE DEAD - Addington F. Symonds

THE GIRL NEXT DOOR - Ruth Rendell

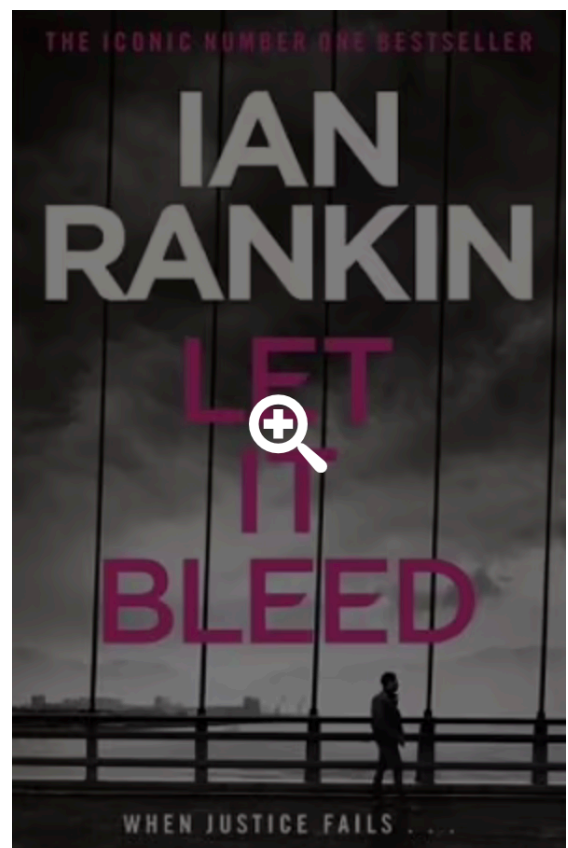
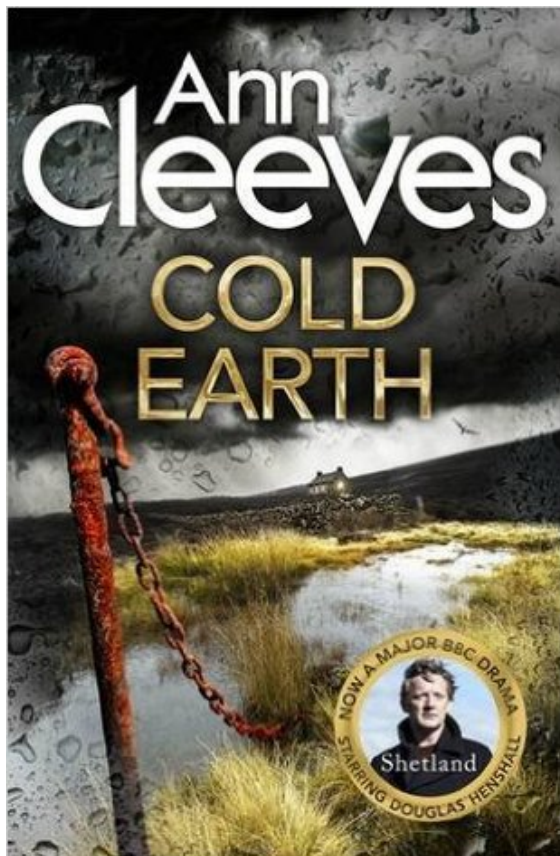
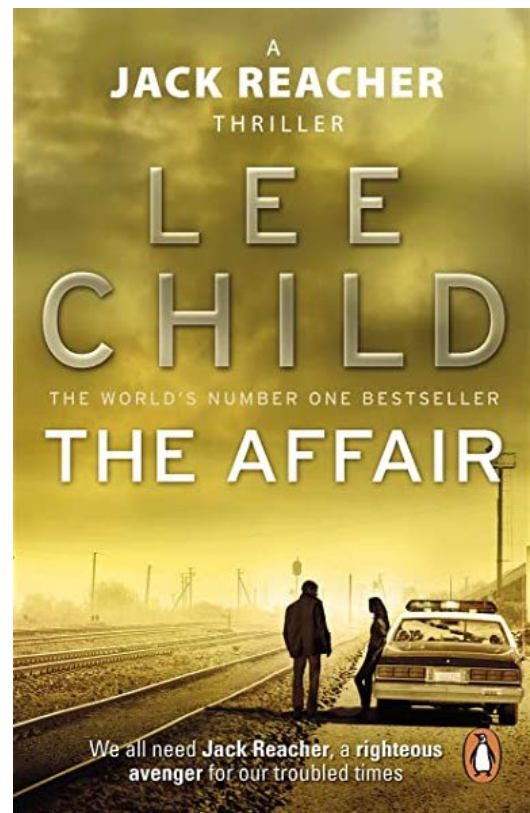
THIRD GIRL - Agatha Christie

A QUESTION OF BLOOD - Ian Rankin

ONE CORPSE TOO MANY - Ellis Peters

RESURRECTION BAY - Emma Viskic

Based on Loan Statistics FMI (2020-2022)



NEW ACQUISITIONS TO FMI LIBRARY LOANS COLLECTION

We are pleased to present the following titles of new books for loan to members from our developing library collection.

MUSIC & POETRY

HEAVIER THAN HEAVEN

The definitive biography of Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain

THE FOOD OF THE GODS

Science-Fiction classic by H.G. Wells

BOOK OF LONGING

Poetry by the late, great Leonard Cohen

SYD BARRETT - A Very Irregular Head

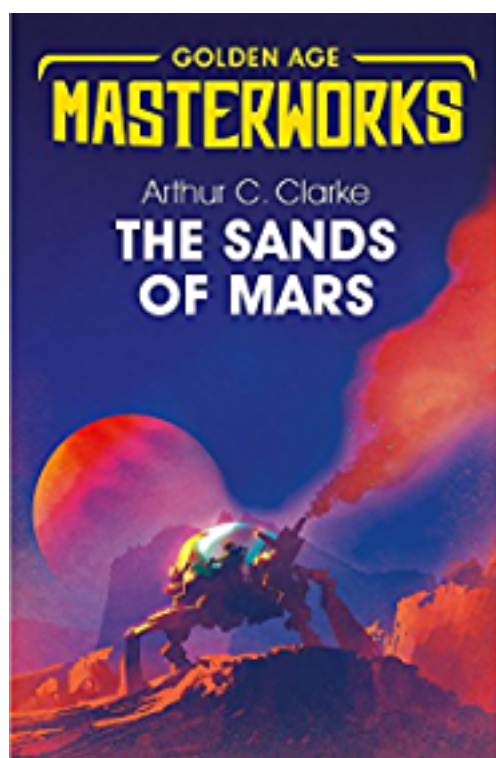
Biography on PINK FLOYD founding member Syd Barrett

ALSO:

COLLECTED WORKS OF JIM MORRISON

THE CLASH: ALL THE ALBUMS - ALL THE SONGS

THE WAR POEMS OF WILFRED OWEN



SCIENCE FICTION

A FALL OF MOONDUST

GREY LENS MEN

GATEWAY

DYING OF THE LIGHT

I, ROBOT

THE SANDS OF MARS

Classic Science-Fiction added to our FMI collection

CRIME FICTION

THE PLAGUE MAIDEN
THE SKELETON ROOM
ALL THAT'S DEAD
PRIME SUSPECT 2
JUDAS HORSE

Most recent additions to FMI Crime Fiction collection

CLASSIC FICTION

DESOLATION ANGELS
NAKED LUNCH
THE ISLAND OF DOCTOR MOREAU
THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JECKYLL & MR HYDE
JAMAICA INN
THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ
OF MICE AND MEN

Latest additions to our Classic Fiction collection

HISTORICAL FICTION

SHARPE'S ASSASSIN
SHARPE'S TRIUMPH
THE RED QUEEN
MARLENE: A NOVEL

And many more titles added since this issue has gone to press! Please pop in and see what amazing books our collection has to offer to our valued FMI members

FOOTSCRAY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE INC. LIBRARY

209 Nicholson Street FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011
(03) 9687 1935 Librarian: Cameron Borg

