

Mourning Scotland: In Memoriam Susan Manning

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The beginning of the year 2013 found the Edinburgh academic community in mourning, following the passing, within a fortnight, of two of its dearest and most dedicated senior members, late Professor Susan Manning and Dr. Gavin Wallace, leading figures in Scottish literary culture, whom I've both had the enormous privilege of knowing. Profoundly committed to the cause of Scottish arts and studies, they were an inspiration to, and acted as intellectual catalysts for the Edinburgh literary and artistic circles. If ever human character and professional excellence found themselves in symbiotic relationship, it was in these unique scholars who touched the lives of so many of their peers, leaving an indelible mark on their community. The news of their passing greatly saddened Scottish academia and publishing industry, Professor Manning and Dr. Wallace being continuously honored in countless tributes for their exemplary work as researchers, public servants and educators since.

Born in Glasgow, on 24th December 1953, Susan Manning died in Edinburgh, on 15th January 2013. She was Grierson Professor of English Literature and, for the past 7 years, Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) at the University of Edinburgh. A sparkling literary critic and historian, she was an authority on Eighteenth century literature and Scottish-Transatlantic relations, serving as a mentor to several generations of young scholars. She was a Board Member and President of the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society and with Dr. Nicholas Phillipson, she directed a three-year research project on The Science of Man in Scotland, funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, and a Trustee of the Kennedy Memorial Trust, Professor Manning also fulfilled the role of member of the Press Committee of Edinburgh University Press and of the Gifford Lectureships Committee, as well as that of Deputy Chair of the Research Committee of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. She served among other on

the Advisory Boards of the Edinburgh Edition of the Waverley Novels and the Stirling/South Carolina Edition of the Works of James Hogg. A veritable comparatist, throughout her career Susan Manning sought the advancement of Arts and Humanities at Edinburgh through cross-cultural exchange. A rare talent spotter, she was immensely supportive of and gave genuine credit to overseas researchers involved in Anglophone studies. Her welcoming spirit and the wide-mindedness of her research outlook were vividly felt at IASH that, under her capable directorship, became a cradle of international scholarship and interprofessional dialogue. Ever the interdisciplinary thinker, Susan Manning coordinated the Carnegie funded STAR (Scotland's Transatlantic Relations) project, her recent research initiatives including a new Edinburgh University Press series on Transatlantic Literatures, an enquiry into the methodologies and rationale of transnational studies.

Her research contributions are too numerous to do justice to with a mention, the vaster part being in the fields of the Scottish Enlightenment and in Scottish-American literary affiliations. Susan Manning authored several prominent reference works in her field, of which *The Puritan-Provincial Vision* (Cambridge University Press, 1990), and the transatlantic study *Fragments of Union* (Palgrave, 2002). She is the editor of some of the most seminal collections of essays in Enlightenment studies, as well as of the works of Henry Mackenzie (including a new edition of *Julia de Roubigné*), of Sir Walter Scott's *Quentin Durward*, Washington Irving's *The Sketch-Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.*, and Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur's *Letters from an American Farmer*. She was one of the co-editors of the three-volume *The Edinburgh History of Scottish Literature* (2006), and (with Andrew Taylor) of the first *Reader in Transatlantic Literary Studies* (2007). Her edition of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Marble Faun* was published by OUP in 2002.

Professor Manning will be greatly missed for the invaluable part she played in the world of learning and, above everything else, for her tremendous generosity, altruism and kindness.