



Crossing frontiers: the 1980s

Literature knows no frontiers - PEN International charter

Scottish PEN has played its part in linking Scotland with writers all over the world.

Scottish PEN members regularly attended International PEN's annual Congresses, hosted by centres in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Americas as well as Europe. PEN's Writers for Peace and Writers in Prison conferences were also opportunities for rewarding cultural exchange. Scottish PEN was helping to ensure Scotland's place in the wider literary world.

Edwin Morgan, for many years Scottish PEN's honorary president, wrote poetry that reflected an international context. He translated prominent European poets such as Lorca and Pasternak. Writer and publisher John Calder had since the 1960s been publishing translations of the work of French, German and Russian writers.

Meanwhile, Scottish writing burgeoned, and a younger generation of poets and novelists was becoming known beyond Scotland's borders.

Ronald Frame, Kathleen Jamie, Bernard MacLaverty, William McIlvanney, Dilys Rose, Douglas Dunn, aonghas macNeacail, Stewart Conn and many other members of Scottish PEN, were putting Scotland on the world map of fiction and poetry.