

Eastern Illinois University

From the Selected Works of Sarah L. Johnson

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Hot Topics and Themes in Historical Fiction

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/sarah_johnson/17/

HOT TOPICS AND THEMES IN HISTORICAL FICTION

Historical Novel Society Nashville Chapter Meeting, July 2014
List prepared by Sarah Johnson (sljohnson2@eu.edu)

World War I

P.S. Duffy, *The Cartographer of No Man's Land*
Anna Hope, *Wake* (also 1920s)
Allegra Jordan, *The End of Innocence*
Thomas Keneally, *The Daughters of Mars*
Mary-Rose MacColl, *In Falling Snow*
Jennifer Robson, *Somewhere in France*
Anita Shreve, *Stella Bain*
April Smith, *A Star for Mrs. Blake*
Charles Todd, Ian Rutledge series (latest is *Hunting Shadows*)
Jacqueline Winspear, *The Care and Management of Lies*

The Roaring '20s

Duncan Alderson, *Magnolia City*
Jamie Ford, *Songs of Willow Frost*
Therese Anne Fowler, *Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald*
Suzanne Hayes and Loretta Nyhan, *Empire Girls*
Mary Miley, *The Impersonator* and *Silent Murders*
Adele Parks, *Spare Brides*
Deanna Raybourn, *A Spear of Summer Grass* and *City of Jasmine*
Suzanne Rindell, *The Other Typist*
Erika Robuck, *Call Me Zelda*
Renee Rosen, *Dollface*
Genevieve Valentine, *The Girls at the Kingfisher Club*
Sarah Waters, *The Paying Guests*

For more details, see Tammy McCann's article on the Fashionable 1920s on the HNS website:
<http://historicalnovelsociety.org/the-fashionable-twenties/>

Downton Abbey-style Sagas (see also WWI)

Barbara Taylor Bradford, *Cavendon Hall*
T.J. Brown, *Summerset Abbey* series
Sherri Browning, *Thornbrook Park*
Cate Campbell, *Benedict Hall* and others
Elizabeth Cooke, *Rutherford Park* and *The Wild Dark Flowers*
Daisy Goodwin, *The American Heiress*
Judith Kinghorn, *The Last Summer*
Rosemary McLoughlin, *Tyringham Park*
Fay Weldon, *Habits of the House*
Lauren Willig, *The Ashford Affair*

Gothic Sagas, Mysteries, and Thrillers

Jessica Dotta, *Born of Persuasion* and *Mark of Distinction*
Essie Fox, *The Goddess and the Thief* and others
John Harwood, *Asylum*
Anna Lee Huber, Lady Kiera Darby mysteries (*A Grave Matter*)

Susanna Kearsley, *The Firebird*
Kate Morton, *The Secret Keeper*
Charles Palliser, *Rustication*
Lucinda Riley, *The Midnight Rose*
Diane Setterfield, *The Thirteenth Tale*, *Bellman and Black*
Simone St. James, *The Haunting of Maddy Clare*, *An Inquiry into Love and Death*, *Silence for the Dead*

World War II

Charles Belfoure, *The Paris Architect*
Sarah Bird, *Above the East China Sea*
Anthony Doerr, *All the Light We Cannot See*
Alan Furst, *Midnight in Europe*
Lucretia Grindle, *Villa Triste*
Pam Jenoff, *The Winter Guest*
Brian Payton, *The Wind Is Not a River*
TaraShea Nesbit, *The Wives of Los Alamos*
Alyson Richman, *The Garden of Letters*
Liz Trenow, *The Last Telegram*
Jennifer Vanderbes, *The Secret of Raven Point*
Various Authors, *Grand Central*
Susan Vreeland, *Lisette's List*

Magic, Magicians, Circuses, and Fairs

Steven Galloway, *The Confabulist*
Alice Hoffman, *The Museum of Extraordinary Things*
Greer MacAllister, *The Magician's Lie*
Timothy Schaffert, *The Swan Gondola*
Rosie Thomas, *The Illusionists*

Parallel Narratives / Dual-Time Novels

Jessica Brockmole, *Letters from Skye*
Anne Fortier, *The Lost Sisterhood*
Kimberly Freeman, *Ember Island*
Sarah Jio, *Goodnight June*
Christina Baker Kline, *Orphan Train*
Stephanie Lehmann, *Astor Place Vintage*
Beatriz Williams, *The Secret Life of Violet Grant*
Lauren Willig, *The Ashford Affair* and *That Summer*

Lesser-Known Historical Characters

Alix Christie, *Gutenberg's Apprentice*
Kimberly Elkins, *What Is Visible*
Anne Girard, *Madame Picasso*
Sandra Gulland, *The Shadow Queen*
Sheila Kohler, *Dreaming for Freud*
Laila Lalami, *The Moor's Account*
Sally O'Reilly, *Dark Aemilia*
Allison Pataki, *The Traitor's Wife*
Stephanie Thornton, *Daughter of the Gods*
Louisa Treger, *The Lodger*