

# Alison Light

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## Alison Light publications

### Books:

2014 *Common People: The History of an English Family* (Fig Tree/Penguin Press )  
Shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize in Non-fiction. Book of the Year in *The Times*,  
*Telegraph*, *Scottish Herald*, *Spectator*, *History Today* and the *Financial Times*. (It will be  
published in the USA by Chicago University Press in the autumn of 2015.)

2007 *Mrs Woolf and the Servants*, (Fig Tree/Penguin Press; Bloomsbury USA 2008)  
Longlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize; runner up for the Longman/History Today prize

1991 *Forever England: Femininity, Literature and Conservatism between the Wars*,  
(Routledge)

### Editions:

2007 *The Lost World of British Communism* (essays by the historian, Raphael Samuel), with  
Preface, (Verso).

2000 *Flush* by Virginia Woolf, with introduction and notes (Penguin Classics)

1998 *Island Stories: Unravelling Britain* (essays by the late historian, Raphael Samuel), with  
biographical preface, introduction and extensive notes, (Verso).

### Chapters in Books:

2014, 'Family History: History's Poor Relation?', in *Emancipation and the Remaking of the  
British Imperial World*, eds. C. Hall, N. Draper and K. McClelland (Manchester University  
Press)

2014, 'Pie in the Sky', in *Virginia Woolf and December 1910*, ed., M. Makiko-Pinkney,  
(Illuminati Press)

2004 'Biography and Autobiography since 1970', *Cambridge History of Twentieth-Century  
English Literature*, eds., P. Nicholls and L. Marcus, (Cambridge University Press)

2004 Preface to Daphne du Maurier, *The Rebecca Notebooks and Other Memories*, (Virago)\*

2004 entry for 'Lupino Lane', *New Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press)

2003 Preface to the memoirs of Yvonne Kapp, *Time Will Tell*, (Verso)

1994 Preface to third edition of *Twentieth-Century Romance and Historical Writers*, (St James  
Press, London and New York)

1990 'Returning to Manderley', printed in *British Feminist Thought*, ed., T. Lovell,  
Blackwell, Oxford

1989 'Putting on the Style?: Feminism and Postmodernism' in *From My Guy to Sci-Fi*,  
ed., H. Carr, (Pandora).

1989 'Two Cheers for Liberal Education', in P. Brooker and P. Humm (eds), *Dialogue and  
Difference: English into the Nineties*, (New Accents)

1989 'Doing the Lambeth Walk', in R Samuel (ed.), *Patriotism: the Making and Unmaking of  
British National Identity* (Routledge)

1987 'Fear of the Happy Ending: *The Color Purple*', in M. Green and R. Hoggart, (eds.),  
*Broadening the Contest: English and Cultural Studies* (John Murray)\*\*

1986 'Writing Fictions: Femininity and the 1950s' in J. Radford (ed.), *The Progress of Romance*  
(Routledge)

\* reprinted in *The Daphne du Maurier Companion*, ed., H. Taylor (Virago 2007) together with  
my 'Hitchcock's *Rebecca*', *Sight and Sound*, May 1996

\*\*reprinted in *Plotting Change: Contemporary Women's Fiction*, ed., L. Anderson (Edward  
Arnold 1990)

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## Articles in Refereed Journals:

- 2013 'Le Siecle Instable?', Revue D'Histoire du XIXeme Siecle, 47, 2  
2009 'A Child's Sense of the Past', New Formations, no.67, Summer  
1998 'The Word Made Flesh', History Workshop Journal, no.46, Autumn  
1996 'Art and Power' (with Raphael Samuel), History Workshop Journal, Spring  
1994 'Outside History? Stevie Smith, Women Poets and the National Voice', English, Vol.43, no. 177, Autumn  
1994 'Against Empathy', The English Review, Autumn  
1989 'Young Bess': Historical Novels and Growing Up', Feminist Review, no 33, Autumn  
1987 'Feminist Cultural Studies?', Englisch Amerikanische Studien, March  
1984 'Returning to Manderley: Romance Fiction, Female Sexuality and Class', Feminist Review 16\*  
1983 'A Disciplinary Inquiry', Screen, Special Issue on English and Media, Vol.24, May/June  
1983 'Feminism and the Literary Critic', Literature Teaching Politics, 2\*\*

\*reprinted in *Feminism and Cultural Studies*, ed., M. Shiach, (OUP 1999)

and in *British Feminist: A Reader*, ed., T. Lovell, (Blackwell 1990)

translated: 'Zurück Nach Manderley', in K. Nolle-Fischer, *Mit Verscharftem Blick* (Frauenoffensive, Munich 1987)

\*\* extracts from 'Feminism and the Literary Critic' and 'Returning to Manderley' were also anthologized in *Feminist Literary Theory*, ed., M. Eagleton, (Blackwell 1986)

## Reviews/journalism/other:

- 2014 'Unruly Sweet Peas', review of Margaret Willes, *The Gardens of the British Working Class* London Review of Books, December 18  
2014 'Book for Life: John McGahern's *That They May Face the Rising Sun*', Independent 23 October  
2014 'In Defence of Family History', The Guardian, 11<sup>th</sup> October  
2011 'All Change Downstairs', review of Lucy Delap, *Knowing Their Place: Domestic Service in Twentieth-Century Britain*, Times Literary Supplement September 30  
2010 review of 'Dreamers of a New Day' by Sheila Rowbotham, Independent, May 21  
2010 'The Baptists of Shrewton: Diary', London Review of Books, 8 April  
2009 'The Age of Anxiety', review of Richard Overy's *The Morbid Age*, The Guardian, 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
2008 'Lady Talky', review of *Bloomsbury Ballerina: Lydia Lopokova, Imperial Dancer and Mrs John Maynard Keynes*, London Review of Books, 18 December  
2008, entry for 'Nellie Boxall', cook to Virginia Woolf, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography  
2008 'Portsmouth and Family History: Diary', London Review of Books, 7 February  
2007 obituary of literary critic, Julia Briggs, The Guardian, Aug 30  
2007 'A maid of one's own' (feature), The Times Higher, August 17  
2007 'Regular Terrors', (review-essay), *Rebel Women*, Jill Liddington, London Review of Books, 25 January  
2005 'Working for Bloomsbury', Canvas, Issue 12 April  
2004 entry on entertainer, Lupino Lane, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography  
2003 'Behind the Green Baize Door', The Guardian 8 November

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- 2003 'City of Lost Children' (on workhouse archives), The Guardian, 9 August; reprinted in Family History, October 2003
- 2002 'Rereading *Great Expectations*', The Guardian, 21 September 2002 'Harnessed to a Shark', review of American edition of Virginia Woolf's *Three Guineas*, London Review of Books, 21 March
- 2001 'Diary', London Review of Books, February 22 (on mourning)
- 1999, Obituary of the composer, Minna Keal, The Guardian, November 24
- 1999 'Among the Antimacassors', review of Virginia Woolf's *Flush* and Paul Auster's *Timbuktu*, London Review of Books, November 11
- 1996 extracts from 'Tidemarks' (fiction), London Quarterly, March
- 1996 'Hitchcock's *Rebecca*', Sight and Sound, May
- 1994 Review of Susan Fraiman, *Unbecoming Women: Women Writers and the Novel of Development*, Victorian Studies, Vol.37/4
- 1994 extracts from 'Tidemarks' (fiction), Casablanca, Summer issue
- 1994 Review of Rebecca Abrams, *Woman in a Man's World*, OralHistory, Autumn
- 1994 'Masks and Faces: the Photography of Angus McBean', Sight and Sound, November
- 1993 'The Importance of Being Ordinary', on Kenneth Branagh, Sight and Sound, September
- 1993 'The Mighty Mongrel: on Biography', New Statesman and Society, 17/31 December
- 1993 'The History of Indoors', on the Ideal Home Exhibition, New Statesman, 26 March
- 1993 Review of Mandy Merck, *Perversions*, Sight and Sound, September
- 1993 'Sense and Sensitivity: Anita Brookner/Joanna Trollope', New Statesman, 9 July
- 1993 'The girls who will be boys', review of Margaret Forster, *Daphne du Maurier*, The Guardian, 8 May
- 1992 'The importance of being vulgar', review of Barbara Reynolds, *Dorothy L. Sayers*, The Guardian, 17 April
- 1992 Review of Norma Clarke, *Ambitious Heights: The Jewsbury Sisters, Felicia Hemans and Jane Carlyle*, History Workshop Journal, Autumn
- 1992 'A Dream of Three Continents: Merchant Ivory Productions', Sight and Sound, March
- 1991 Review of Caryl Churchill, *Mad Forest*, Feminist Review 39
- 1991 'Talking Heads', Sight and Sound, October
- 1991 Review of Mary Evans, *A Good Life: Life at a Girl's Grammar School*, New Statesman, 31 May.
- 1990 'Making Theoretical V Signs', Artscribe, Sept/October.
- 1990 'Murder in Suburbia: Agatha Christie', New Statesman, 14 September
- 1989 'That Blithe English Spirit - Mrs Miniver', The Guardian, 7 September
- 1989 '1939 50 Years On', New Statesman, 1st Sept.
- 1989 'You'll Always Walk Alone' (on the Hillsborough disaster), New Statesman, 21st April
- 1988 'Don't Dilly-Dally on the Way!' review of 'The Edwardian Era', exhibition, History Workshop Journal, Autumn 26
- 1987 'Art and Life Consigned to the Wastebin', Times Higher Education Supplement, 18 December
- 1986 (with Raphael Samuel), 'Pantomimes of Class', New Society, 19/26 December
- 1985 'No-Man's Land: On Living Alone', The Guardian 18 October
- 1984 Review of Edward Said, *The World, the Text and the Critic*, Criticism Vol.26
- 1982 'The Facts of Life' (fiction), Spare Rib issue 117, April