Scotland’s Global EmpirE
A Chronicle of Great Scots

Jock GallaGher

Highlights a vast array of lesser-known Scots and the staggering number of their contributions to the world. These include science, technology and engineering, medicine, military endeavour and courage, politics, exploration, education, sport and literature.

Scotland’s Global Empire is a tribute to some of the lesser-known great Scots and their contribution to the world. Jock Gallagher was encouraged in his epic enterprise by quotes from Voltaire:

“We look to Scotland for all our ideas of civilisation and Winston Churchill:

‘Of all the small nations on earth, perhaps only the ancient Greeks surpass the Scots in their contribution to mankind.’

‘I believe our small nation has punched well above its weight and has earned this generous compliment,’ says Gallagher. Is that a fine conceit or an extravagant claim by a journalist talking in headlines? You will have to read the book to find out!

This is an engrossing and enlightening read as it races through the exploits and achievements of an astonishing gallery of the Scots who make up his Scottish empire. Only abbreviated reminders of household names such as Andrew Carnegie, Alexander Graham Bell, John Logie Baird and Charles Rennie Mackintosh are mentioned to underpin the strength and breadth of the empire but with them are a thousand or more lesser-known names. It is the story of human endeavour in its many forms and encompasses everything from the spirit of pioneering to the mystical qualities of leadership.

‘It’s luckily not dependent on a seat of power and nor is it affected by the bruising arguments about Scotland’s place within the UK or as an independent state.’

Gallagher brings together an astonishing array of characters who may not have made headlines but are essential elements in his illusory empire with a heady mix of extraordinary vision, creativity, energy, leadership, diplomacy, skill, artistry, sometimes pure genius and, more often, downright doggedness. This is an unmissable read for all Scots, whether at home or part of the wider Scottish diaspora, and anyone with an interest in Scotland and its history.

‘The author begins by quoting Voltaire. … He goes on to prove it comprehensively in this moving testament to Scottish influence and achievement.’

Kenneth Roy, editor, The Scottish Review

‘…so many captivating life stories… a remarkable cultural feat. Every page is a revelation.’

Neville Farmer, editor, Bulten

‘What a masterwork! … It’s a brilliant achievement.’

Gill Paul, novelist and biographer

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This index relates to the bulk of the Scottish names mentioned in the text. It is arranged by surname and first name, ignoring titles and ranks but these are included to help readers who may be looking for a family member known to be in the services for example.

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