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Reginald Hill
*On Beulah
Height*

by John Lennard

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Reginald Hill: *On Beulah Height*

John Lennard

A Note on the Author

John Lennard took his B.A. and D.Phil. at Oxford University, and his M.A. at Washington University in St Louis. He has taught in the Universities of London, Cambridge, and Notre Dame, and for the Open University, and is now Professor of British & American Literature at the University of the West Indies—Mona. His publications include *But I Digress: The Exploitation of Parentheses in English Printed Verse* (Clarendon Press, 1991), *The Poetry Handbook* (1996; 2/e, OUP, 2005), with Mary Luckhurst *The Drama Handbook* (OUP, 2002), and the Literature Insights *Hamlet* (2007).

He is the general editor of the *Genre Fiction Sightlines* and *Monographs* series, and has written *Sightlines* on works by Octavia E. Butler, Ian McDonald and Walter Mosley. His critical collection *Of Serial readers and other essays on genre fiction* (2007), published simultaneously with this e-book, launches the Monographs Series.

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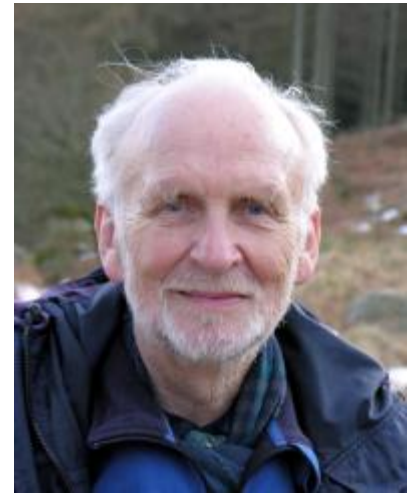
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1. Notes

1.1 Reginald Hill

Reginald Charles Hill was born in 1936, in West Hartlepool in Northern England. His mother, Isabel née Dickson (1907–98) was a factory worker who loved Golden-Age crime writing, and his father was a professional football (soccer) player at a time when sportsmen were poorly paid, so his background was very proletarian but reading was privileged. The family moved to the Lake District in 1939, and Hill later attended Carlisle Grammar School, from which he won a place to read English at St Catherine's College in Oxford. He did National Service without distinction or danger 1955–7, went up in 1957, graduated in 1960, and immediately married his childhood sweetheart, Patricia Ruell.



© Reginald Hill

After some odd jobs Hill became a teacher, in Essex (1962–7) and then at Doncaster College of Further Education, in Yorkshire (1967–81), where he rose to Senior Lecturer before becoming a full-time writer in 1981. Hill had begun writing prose fiction in the mid-1960s, and from 1970 published prolifically, producing (to date) more than 50 novels and collections of short stories under four names. In addition to the 20 Dalziel & Pascoe novels, Hill writes superior stand-alone crime and supernatural tales, while 'Patrick Ruell' has written eight thrillers, 'Charles Underhill' two historical romances, and 'Dick Morland' (in Hill's early days) two political thrillers. All the work is enjoyable, and from the mid-1970s increasingly substantive as well as richly comic and intertextual, so that Hill's career as a whole strongly bears out his avowed intention of writing crime novels to high literary standards.

Since retiring from teaching at 45 Hill has preferred to let his books do the talking, but he has over the years published a number of critical essays and introductions that reveal a wise, wry, and thoughtful critic of his chosen genre/s. There are also some excellent interviews, but Hill is also a wise, wry, and very elusive interviewee, who sensibly prefers not to analyse himself when others have such fun doing it for him. He now lives in the Lake District, is a keen fell-walker, and remains, as he has always been, an avid reader.

1.2 The Dalziel and Pascoe Series

1.2.1 The Series

The 20 Dalziel & Pascoe (D.-&-P.) novels are, in order of publication¹:

A Clubbable Woman (1970).

An Advancement of Learning (1971).

Ruling Passion (1973).

An April Shroud (1975).

A Pinch of Snuff (1978).

A Killing Kindness (1980).

Deadheads (1983).

Exit Lines (1984).

Child's Play: a tragi-comedy in three acts of violence with a prologue and an epilogue (1987).

Under World (1988).

Bones and Silence 1990). (CWA Gold Dagger, Best Crime Novel, 1990.)

Recalled to Life (1992).

Pictures of Perfection: A Dalziel and Pascoe novel in five volumes (1994).

The Wood Beyond (1996).

On Beulah Height (1998). (Barry Award, Best Novel, 1999.)

Arms and the Women: an Elliad (2000).

Dialogues of the Dead: or Paronomania! ~~an aged worm for wept royals a warm doge for top-lawyers~~ a word game for two players (2001).

Death's Jest-Book (2002).

Good Morning, Midnight (2004)

The Death of Dalziel (2007)²

There is also one D.-&-P. collection, *Asking for the Moon* (1994), containing two novellas, 'Pascoe's Ghost' & 'One Small Step', and two stories, 'Dalziel's Ghost' & 'The Last National Serviceman'. There are also seven uncollected D.-&-P. stories written for newspapers, magazines, and anthologies—'Auteur Theory', 'Where the Snow Lay Dinted', 'A Candle for Christmas', 'Brass Monkey', 'A Gift for Father Christmas', 'The Game of Dog', and 'Fool of Myself'.³

¹ Full details in the Bibliography.

² Don't worry! The title's a tease.

³ The stories have been variously published; full details in the Bibliography.