



Theatres of Memory: Island Stories - Unravelling Britain v. 2

By Raphael Samuel

Verso Books. Paperback. Condition: New. 416 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 6.2in. x 1.1in. A luminous sequel to the highly acclaimed first volume of Theatres of Memory, *Island Stories* is an engrossing journey of discovery into the multiple meanings of national myths, their anchorage in daily life and their common sense of a peoples destiny. Raphael Samuel reveals the palimpsest of British national histories, offering a searching yet affectionate account of the heroes and villains, legends and foibles, cherished by the four nations that inhabit the British Isles. Samuel is interested by the fact that traditions can disappear no less abruptly than they were invented. How is it, he asks, that the Scots have lost interest in a British narrative of which they were once a central protagonist Why is the celebration of Britons thriving today just as its object has become problematic *Island Stories* marvelously conveys the mutability of national conceits. Samuel calls as witness a galaxy of authorities Bede and Gerald of Barri, Macaulay and Stubbs, Shakespeare and Dickens, Lord Reith and Raymond Williams, Margaret Thatcher and Tony Benn each of whom sought to renew the sense of national identity by means of an acute sense of the past. *Island Stories* is...



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