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# Hot Topics and Themes in Historical Fiction

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## 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*