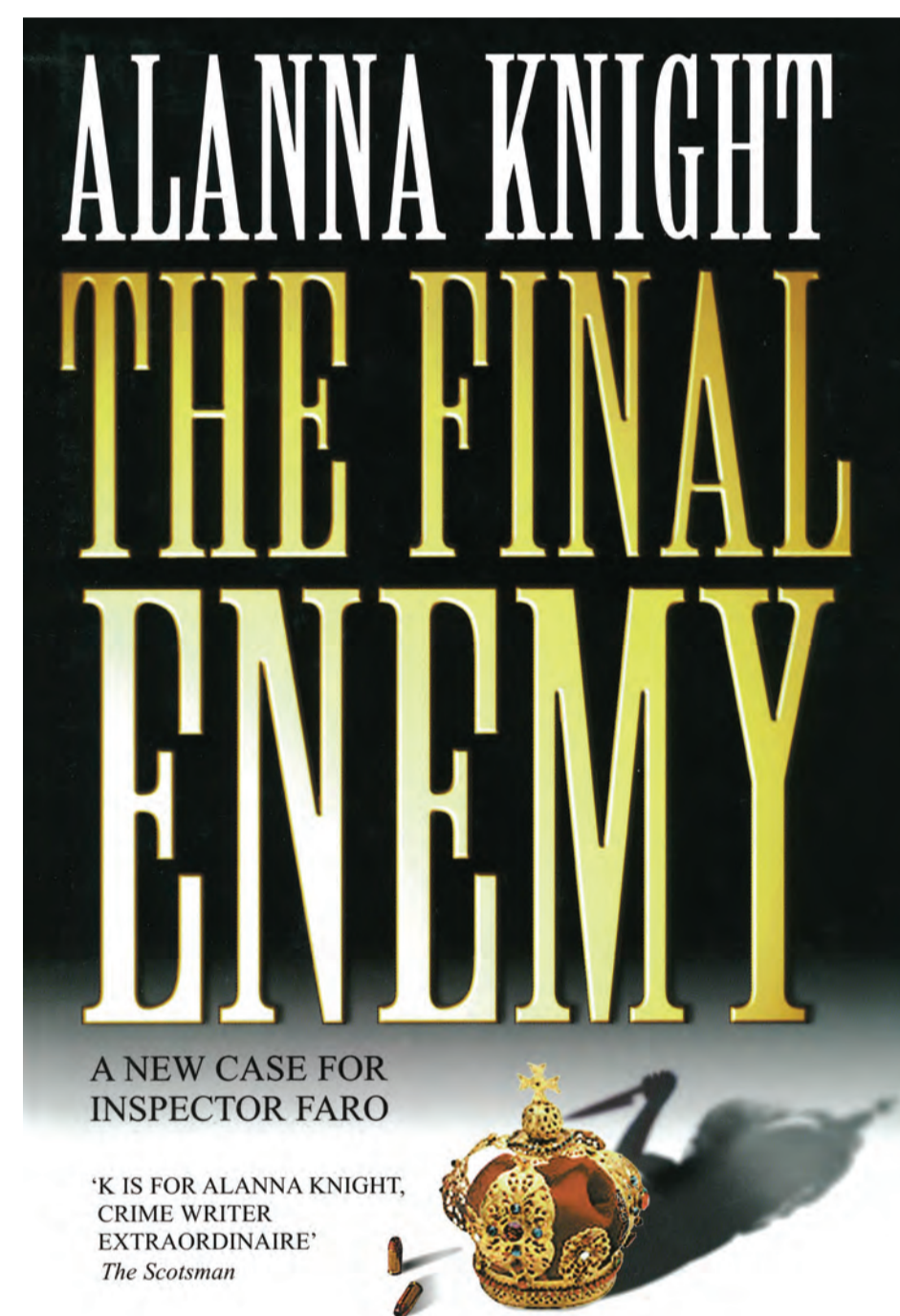


# Crime

40 YEARS OF  
SCOTTISH  
PUBLISHING  
1974-2014



Scottish crime fiction (sometimes dubbed Tartan Noir) has been in vogue for some time but the roots of the genre stretch back into the early 20th century. The Glasgow-based William Collins and Sons saw great returns from their decision to publish Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* in June 1926. Between 1930 and 1994 Christie would become a cornerstone of the Collins Crime Club lists, which would feature over 60 of her detective works.

Scottish publishers have continued this tradition of finding and featuring innovative and popular crime fiction. Edinburgh-based publisher Polygon Press brought to public attention the work of Ian Rankin, whose first novel, *The Flood*, came out under the Polygon imprint in 1986. The same company also launched Alexander McCall Smith's internationally-recognized series with the *No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* in 1999.

For 35 years, until its absorption by Random House in 2014, Mainstream Press maintained a strong presence in Scottish crime publishing. More recently, Blasted Heath has moved Scotland into the digital domain as its first digital-only publisher, featuring local crime writers such as Ray Banks, Douglas Lindsay and Tony Banks, while Canongate has given a new impetus to Laidlaw by William McIlvanney, first published in 1977.