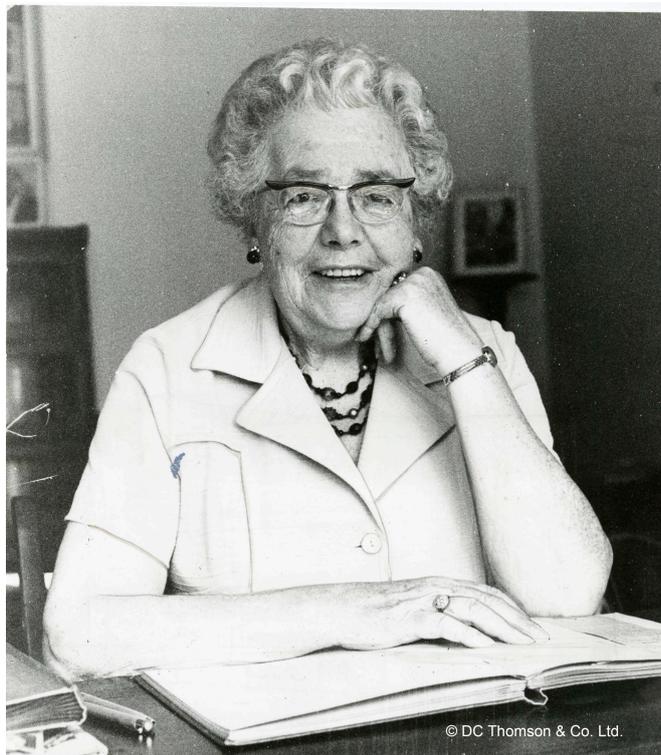


MIMA ROBERTSON (1901-1985)

SI DUNFERMLINE

Mima was born in 1901 into a well-known Dunfermline family. The family traded under the name of Hay and Robertson Ltd. At one point the company owned three linen factories in Dunfermline and helped put Dunfermline Linen on the world map. Mima's father, John W Robertson and her mother Jemima Simpson Robertson nee Taylor, also had a daughter Margaret and a son William. As was normal for the daughters of well to do Dunfermline Manufacturers, Mima attended Roseberry House School on the New Row in Dunfermline prior to going to boarding school. Whilst at boarding school Mima started her own school magazine. Her writing progressed and she received her first payment for an article in 'Punch'. In the 1930s as the Depression started, the linen industry in Dunfermline was almost killed off reducing the family fortunes. At this point it was important that Mima was writing and able to bring in cheques regularly, although she could not be sure how much they would be. She was fortunate to start writing serials for Leng Publications, the best known being the People's Friend.



Mima was a prolific writer who wrote romantic and historical novels under her own name and that of Alison Taylor. She had a great interest in the history of Dunfermline her hometown. Many of her historical novels were set in Dunfermline.

In October 1953 Miss Robertson, then President of SI Dunfermline, presented a gavel to Miss Maxwell, President of the new Kirkcaldy club, daughter club to Dunfermline. SI Dunfermline did not have a "President's" charity at this time looking to identify and support the needs of deprived children in the town. One of the projects was provision of food parcels and toys for the children at Christmas.

Mima Robertson addressed the Soroptimist Club of Kirkcaldy in June 1954, giving an interesting account of her life as an authoress. The Fife Free Press reported that "Miss Robertson's career started in early life when she wrote fairy 'tales'. Later she became well known as a serial writer for the "People's Friend". The vicissitudes of the author's life were clearly brought out, as Miss Robertson described the repeated submission of manuscripts to publishers, before having a work accepted and the satisfaction of seeing it in print. In connection with her historical novels, Miss Robertson has travelled extensively to obtain local colour and background. Her most recent historical novel "The Castilian" tells the story of Kirkcaldy of Grange and is an outstanding work with strong local interest!"

Mima died in 1985, in her home town of Dunfermline, aged 83.