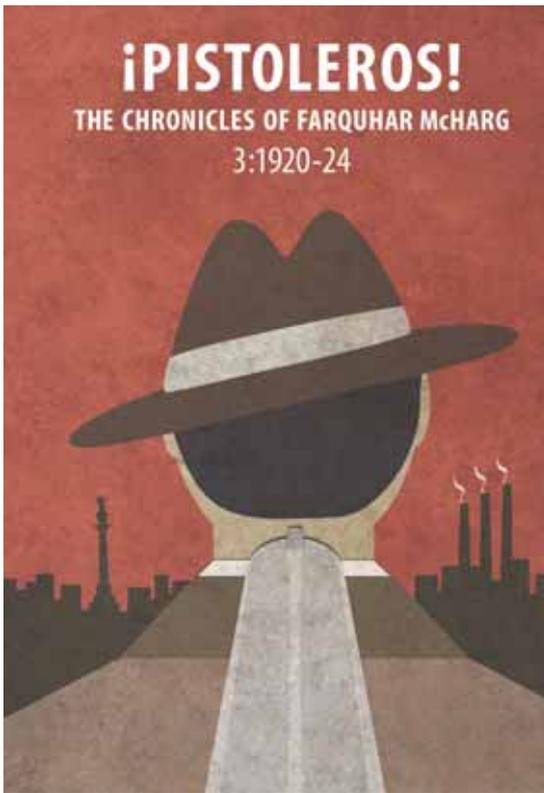




# New from **ChristieBooks**



5 December, 2011



Farquhar's *Chronicles* are folk history, bringing the changes that shook the political and social landscape of Spain (and the world) between 1918 and 1977 into the framework of a contemporary adult lifetime. They make a vexatious but fascinating story that explains the spirit and Idea that moved the selfless, generous, occasionally naïve and recklessly idealistic people involved in the bitter social struggles that marked the hectic insurrectionary and utopian aftermath of the great imperialist war of 1914-18.

This third volume of Farquhar McHarg's journal focuses on the remarkable adventures of the Glaswegian anarchist during the period 1920-24 as a member of the anarchist action groups: Los Justicieros ('the Avengers'); Crisol ('Crucible'); Los Solidarios ('Solidarity'), and the armed clandestine defence cadres of the CNT, the anarcho-syndicalist labour union. Their militants faced extermination from the calculated violence of the security services of a vicious semi-feudal state, and the mercenary killers employed by landed grandees and an equally savage industrial and commercial bourgeoisie.

Farquhar's *Chronicles* also tell a parallel narrative of plot and counterplot, ranging from 1936 to 1976, exploring the background to the murder of Farquhar's comrade, the notorious anarchist counterfeiter and facilitator Laureano Cerrada Santos, and the subsequent attempts to kill the seventy-six-year-old Farquhar himself. It is a compelling and dramatic tale of the Govan man's attempt to ferret out the identity of a long-term traitor within the Spanish émigré anarcho-syndicalist organisation, the CNT-MLE (Spanish Libertarian Movement), a *confidente* known only as 'The Priest'.

This story unfolds against the backdrop of machinations by Spanish and other Western spymasters obsessed with the idea that post-Franco Spain might go 'Red'. To pre-empt this eventuality they deployed deep-penetration agents of influence, traitors at the highest level of the Spanish émigré anarcho-syndicalist movement. By inducing fear and paranoia through acts of treachery, their objective was to demoralise, disrupt and neutralise the effectiveness of that small band of anarchist militants who had fought relentlessly to topple the old regime by aggressive action and who might thwart their plans for a post-Francoist Spain. These puppetmasters also sought to extend and consolidate their proxy control over the influential anarcho-syndicalist organisation inside and outside of Spain during the 'disease-prone' transition period to democracy' (communism being defined as a 'disease of transition'). It was the height of the Cold War and, with Spain's dictator dead, the West's geopolitical agenda-setters needed to ensure NATO hegemony over the Mediterranean, and the continuity of the Francoist agenda (and elite) at a time when they believed Spanish society would be particularly susceptible to social breakdown as it underwent modernisation.

TITLE:	¡PISTOLEROS! — 3: 1920-24 THE CHRONICLES OF FARQUHAR McHARG
AUTHOR:	FARQUHAR McHARG
ISBN-13:	ISBN 978-1-873976-50-0
PAGES	370
SIZE:	230MM X 153MM
PUBLISHER:	CHRISTIEBOOKS
PUBLISHED:	01 JANUARY, 2012
BINDING:	PAPERBACK
PRICE:	£12.95 (+ £3.00 P+P UK)
EDITION:	PAPERBACK
MARKET:	FICTION



Available from ChristieBooks: PO Box 35, Hastings, East Sussex, T4341ZS  
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## What they've said so far...

"Having known Farquhar McHarg in his prime, and despaired of him ever putting down on paper his extraordinary experiences, I am delighted that he has finally done so. Glasgow's answer to Victor Serge has produced a document of remarkable value, so grippingly written that one might almost think it was a novel."

*Professor Paul Preston, historian, Hispanist and Principe de Asturias Professor of Contemporary Spanish Studies, LSE*

"Written with tremendous brio, this is a passionate and gripping tale of an idealist's 'coming of age'. McHarg's gripping narrative convincingly taps the rich historical seams of intrigue, protest and conflict of an age in which many of the streets of Barcelona, like those of many other European cities, became stained with blood due to the struggle between the defenders of the established order and those who dreamed of overthrowing it."

*Dr Chris Ealham, historian, Hispanist and author of Class, Culture and Conflict in Barcelona 1898-1937*

"The first volume of memoirs from Farquhar McHarg, is a highly charged narrative that fires from the hip in its scattergun treatment of revolutionary politics. It made me think of Marx's Herr Vogt meets Roddy Doyle's *A Star Called Henry*. Punchy as a bare-knuckle boxer, the writing in this vivid 'red noir' captures the craziness and complexity of the period, as well as exploring the big issues of commitment, faith and violence. In its heady brew of poetry and polemics and its dynamic depiction of the anarchist version of revolution it also does what it says in the title, and offers an explosive account that is as anarchic as the worldview it espouses. A book you'd want to carry in your bandolier!"

*Professor Willy Maley, Professor of Renaissance Studies, University of Glasgow*

"A fact-packed history of anarchist struggle against the Spanish Catholic Church and state written by a Glaswegian whose revolutionary syndicalism is felt to be partly the inheritance of 'the Presbyterian and Covenanting tradition' in which he was brought up. As such this instructive and entertaining memoir is not only both a kind of retrospective 'prequel' to the story and ideas of Stuart Christie's excellent *Granny Made me an Anarchist*, but its Scottish antecedents also take in not only the anarchism of Guy Aldred, but the polemical and committed covenanting history of John Galt's great novel *Ringan Gilhaize*!"

*Tom Leonard, poet, professor and author of outside the narrative. Poems 1965-2009*

"...A rare plunge into the dark whirlpool of politics, passion and intrigue that swirled around the docks, bars and tenements of Barcelona in 1918. B. Traven would be envious of McHarg's skill in re-creating the dangers and treachery of the times with such historical accuracy. The story is a fascinating *bildungsroman*; a young Scots seaman has hardly set foot on shore before he is caught up in the maelstrom. Chance encounters with charismatic characters of Barcelona's anarchist movement combined with tests of his resolve bring about the dawning of his own political consciousness and commitment. It is above all a richly-textured adventure story, refreshing in its humour and in its illuminating depiction of life in a period and place that will be unfamiliar to many readers of British fiction. *Pistoleros!* is a crack shot that rings out to remind us of times that were less bland!"

*Pauline Melville, writer, actress and author of Shape-Shifter, The Ventriloquist's Tale, The Migration of Ghosts and Eating Air*

