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| Muir, Willa (1890–1969) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Willa Muir was born Wilhelmina Anderson in Montrose in the north-east of Scotland. Her parents were immigrants from Shetland, and she early learned to be bilingual, an activity which may have developed her later linguistic skills. After graduating with a first class degree in Classics from St. Andrews University in 1912 and teaching educational psychology in London, she married the poet Edwin Muir in 1919, travelled with him in Europe in the 1920s, and became the principal linguist in their translations of the fiction of Franz Kafka. She also translated German works on her own under the pen-name of Agnes Neill Scott. Her two novels *Imagined Corners* (1931) and *Mrs Ritchie* (1933) made a significant contribution to Scottish fiction and especially to new writing by women; while her Hogarth Press essay *Women: An Inquiry* (1925) and the later *Mrs Grundy in Scotland* (1936) explored feminist issues of the time. After Edwin’s death she published *Belonging* (1969), her personal perspective on their life together. |
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| Further reading:  (Christianson) |