



Amelia Robertson Hill (1821–1904), née Paton, was a prominent female Scottish sculptor of the 19th century.

Amelia's work stands in some of the most public locations in Scotland, and includes the statues of David Livingstone in Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens and Robert Burns in the centre of Dumfries. She was one of only two female artists chosen to contribute to the famous Scott Monument in Edinburgh, portraying characters from Sir Walter Scott's books. Her statues of Magnus Troil and Minna Troil can be seen on the south-west buttress, and Richard the Lionheart (Coeur de Lion) on the south-east buttress.

Born in Dunfermline, daughter of Joseph Neil Paton the damask designer, Amelia was the elder sister of Sir Joseph Noel Paton and Waller Paton, also well-known artists of the 19th century. She married pioneer photographer David Octavius Hill in 1862 and they lived at his studio, Rock House on Calton Hill, Edinburgh. Other former residences of theirs include 33 George Square and Newington Lodge in Mayfield Terrace.

Amelia's career took off in her early 40s, with her marble busts of eminent (and sometimes controversial) figures such as historian Thomas Carlyle, artist Sir George Harvey and physicist Sir David Brewster. She was then commissioned to carry out several public statues, rare for a female artist of the period. Despite her professional achievements and exhibiting over 60 sculptures between 1860 and 1882, Amelia was denied membership to the Royal Scottish Academy due to Victorian attitudes at the time towards gender equality. However, things are very different now and had Amelia been an artist today she would have certainly been elected as an Academician. Undeterred, she helped to found an alternative arts society, the Albert Institute (1877), which welcomed aspiring artists regardless of gender. Amelia's figures of 'Painting and Poetry' can still be seen above the elaborate entrance to the building (now offices) on Edinburgh's Shandwick Place.

After the death of husband D.O. Hill in 1870, Amelia sculpted a bronze bust for his grave in Dean Cemetery. She was later buried with him. Spot the mistake of her birth date on the gravestone!

Amelia is remembered as an inspiration to other artists who have faced discrimination. Her legacy remains in her statues which serve as a 'permanent exhibition', free for all to view in and around the city of Edinburgh. Enjoy the tour!



The Amelia Trail

*A FREE walking tour of the sculptures of
Amelia Robertson Hill (1821–1904),
in and around the beautiful city of Edinburgh.
Approx 2.6 miles in total.*



The Amelia Trail



The Royal Scottish Academy



The Scottish National
Portrait Gallery



The National
Museum of Scotland

The outdoor statues are available to view 365 days of the year in all Scottish weathers! Others may vary according to public holidays, renovation work or pandemic lockdowns. Please check opening times of galleries and museums, and book as necessary to avoid disappointment.

THIS TOUR HAS BEEN COMPILED
BY CAT BERRY,
DESCENDANT OF AMELIA ROBERTSON HILL.

© COPYRIGHT C. BERRY 2021



The Amelia Trail

*A FREE
walking tour
of the sculptures of
Amelia Robertson Hill
(1821–1904)*



Magnus Troil, Minna Troil & Richard the Lionheart on the Scott Monument.

Edinburgh