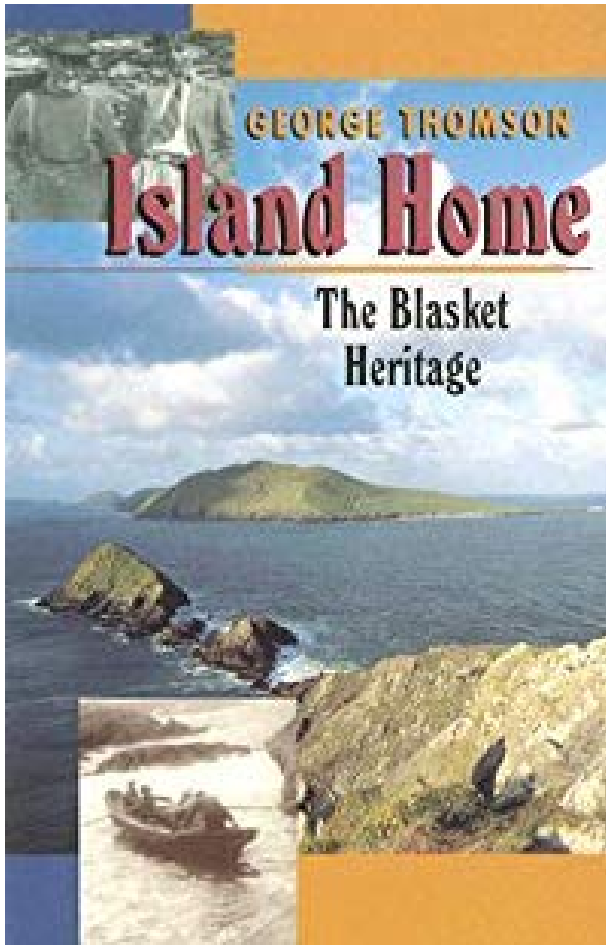


Island Home: The Basket Heritage



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The Blasket Islands off the west coast of Kerry produced some of the richest literature in 20th century Ireland -- books translated from the Irish such as *The Islandman*, *Twenty Years a Grown'*, *A Pity Youth Does not Last* and *Peig: An Old Woman's Reflections*. Taken together, they give us a comprehensive and intimate picture of the life of the islanders. George Thompson's account explores how the Blaskets and their inhabitants came to make so distinguished a contribution to contemporary literature. He writes of life on the Blaskets before the Famine and after; of the art of storytelling; of particular literary forms such as the prose poem and the Aisling, of town and country, and of buying and selling.