

In response to the deluge of requests for information on "Gypsy-related" stories, Roma linguist, historian, and political advocate Ian Hancock routinely issues a reading list and asks that it be read before any dialogue takes place. For Hancock maintains that society cannot hope to understand the contemporary situation of Roma unless a particular knowledge becomes commonplace and part of a continuum reaching back into shared histories. Only when Roma history is perceived as our own can Roma value to society be recognized and embraced.

We have asked Hancock to tailor his list to the context of this reader as a stand-alone statement that acts as a conceptual—perhaps even artistic—gesture, but also represents a powerfully complex symbolic response to the often facile approach adopted by many when it comes to Roma. The above list, which contains the minimum requirement to get to the place from *which to know*, allows insight into scholarship devoted to Roma issues whilst functioning as a point of departure in order to speculate about the possibilities for our collective future.

## Ian Hancock Required Reading

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Ian Hancock Required Reading

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