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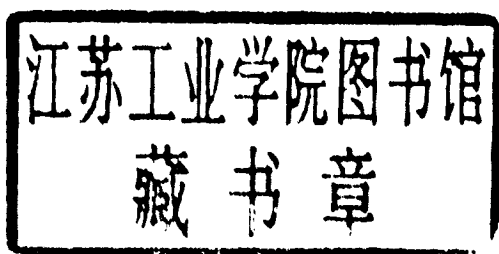


THE MODERNIST NOVEL

Edited by Morag Shiach

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CHRONOLOGY

SUZANNE HOBSON

- 1890 **James George Frazer**, *The Golden Bough* (1890–1915), suggests a historical progression from magic through mythology to science.
William James, *Principles of Psychology*, introduces ‘mind-wandering’, a precedent for ‘stream of consciousness’.
- 1891 **Oscar Wilde**, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, fictionalizes the pleasures and dangers of decadence.
Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*, depicts a heroine destroyed by Victorian moralities.
George Gissing, *New Grub Street*, laments state of contemporary journalism.
Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes stories begin to appear in *Strand* magazine.
- 1893 **Sarah Grand**, *The Heavenly Twins*, and **George Egerton**, *Keynotes*, describe emergence of New Woman.
- 1894 Circulating libraries in Britain issue an ultimatum rendering three-volume novel obsolete. Between 1894 and 1897 the number published falls from 184 to 4.
Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish officer on the French General Staff, is accused of treason. His case is taken up by **Emile Zola** and others and he is acquitted in 1906.
- 1895 Trial of **Oscar Wilde** in London puts issue of homosexuality on public stage.
Listing of ‘best-sellers’ begins in *The Bookman* magazine in the USA.
Lumière brothers’ first projection of film to a paying audience in Paris.

- 1896 Alfred, Lord Northcliffe founds *Daily Mail* in London.
First modern Olympiad in Athens.
- 1897 **Joseph Conrad**, *The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'*, published with an 'Author's Note' in which Conrad describes his impressionist aims.
Thomas Hardy, *The Well Beloved*, is his last and least realist novel.
- 1898 **H. G. Wells**, *War of the Worlds*, the most famous of his popular science fiction novels.
Isolation of radioactive element radium by Pierre and Marie Curie.
- 1899 Anglo-Boer War (1899–1902). Disastrous campaign throws ideals of British imperialism into doubt. Problems with recruitment lead to reports that British men have become physically degenerate.
- 1900 **Sigmund Freud**, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, demonstrates how to 'read' dreams.
Joseph Conrad, *Lord Jim*, concentrates on the 'invisible world' described in 'Note' to *Nigger of the 'Narcissus'*.
Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*, a naturalistic novel describing transformation of a working-class girl into an actress.
Max Planck elaborates quantum theory.
- 1901 **Rudyard Kipling**, *Kim*, his only well-known novel, describing adolescence of an Irish orphan in India.
B. Seebohm Rowntree, survey of poverty in York.
Death of Queen Victoria; Edward VII succeeds to the throne.
- 1902 **Joseph Conrad**, *Heart of Darkness*, portrays violence at heart of the colonial enterprise.
Frank Lloyd Wright's Willits House, one of his 'prairie houses', typifies geometric and organic emphases of his architectural style.
- 1903 **Samuel Butler**, *The Way of All Flesh*, attacks Victorian moral mores.
W. E. B. DuBois, *Souls of Black Folk*, describes 'double consciousness' of black Americans.
Henry James, *The Ambassadors*, anticipates point-of-view narration used by later modernist novelists.

- Edward S. Porter**, *The Great Train Robbery*, is first film to have a full-length narrative.
Foundation of Women's Social and Political Union by Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia.
Wright brothers make first manned flight.
- 1904 Opening of Dublin's Abbey Theatre, a key moment in the Irish Literary Revival.
Outbreak of Russo-Japanese War (1904–5).
- 1905 **Albert Einstein** publishes 'On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies' introducing what will later be known as his special theory of relativity.
Fauvist exhibition in Paris includes works by Henri Matisse.
First movie-house opens in Philadelphia; 10,000 more open over next three years in the USA.
Russian Revolution forces Tsar to establish Duma.
- 1906 **John Galsworthy**, *The Man of Property*, is first novel of *Forsyte Saga* (1906–28) following in naturalistic tradition of Zola and Fyodor Dostoevsky.
Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* is his first major novel, exposing conditions in the US meat-packing industry.
San Francisco earthquake.
- 1907 **Henri Bergson**, *Creative Evolution*, develops his theory of time as 'duration'.
Pablo Picasso, *Les Femmes d'Alger*, marks beginning of Cubism.
Scout Movement founded in Britain.
- 1908 **Gertrude Stein** publishes her first novel, *Three Lives*.
Ford Madox Ford begins *The English Review* which publishes Henry James, Wells, E. M. Forster, Wyndham Lewis and others.
Arthur Schoenberg enters 'expressionist' or 'atonal' phase of his music.
National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People formed in America.
Aeroplane advertising used for first time to promote a Broadway play.
- 1909 **Sergei Pavlovich Diaghilev** begins Ballets Russes in France.
Henry Ford perfects assembly-line technique for Model-T Ford. By 1929 23 million cars are registered in the USA.

- Lloyd George's 'People's Budget' rejected by House of Lords, leading to parliamentary reform.
- 1910 **E. M. Forster**, *Howards End*.
First Post-Impressionism exhibition in London.
Edward VII dies; George V succeeds to the throne.
- 1911 **Arnold Bennett**, *Hilda Lessways*, later provides Virginia Woolf with a key example of the 'Edwardian' novel.
Frederick W. Taylor, *The Principles of Scientific Management*, outlines theory of offering economic rewards to ensure greater productivity.
Complete English translation of **Friedrich Nietzsche** becomes available for first time.
- 1912 **Thomas Mann**, *Death in Venice*, a short novel tracing degeneration of an art lover.
1,500 die in sinking of *Titanic*.
- 1913 **D. H. Lawrence**, *Sons and Lovers* is his first popular success.
Marcel Proust, *Swann's Way*, first volume of *In Search of Lost Time* (1913-27).
Jacob Epstein, *Rock-Drill* sculpture portrays the 'Frankenstein's monster' that man has become.
Igor Stravinsky, *Le Sacre du Printemps* marks a controversial turning point in music, placing emphasis on rhythm rather than harmony.
Armory Show in New York shows Fauvists, Expressionists, Primitives and Cubists.
- 1914 *The New Freewoman* becomes *Egoist* (1914-18), which serializes James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, parts of *Ulysses* and Lewis's *Tarr*.
Outbreak of First World War.
- 1915 **Virginia Woolf**, *The Voyage Out*, her first novel.
D. H. Lawrence, *The Rainbow*, traces development of modern consciousness over three generations of a family.
Ford Madox Ford publishes his most celebrated novel, *The Good Soldier*.
Dorothy Richardson, *Pointed Roofs*, first of thirteen volumes of *Pilgrimage* (1915-67).
First transcontinental telephone call from New York to San Francisco.

- 1916 **James Joyce**, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.
H. G. Wells, *Mr Brittling Sees It Through*, a patriotic war novel serialized in the *Nation*.
Georg Lukács, *The Theory of the Novel*, makes an influential diagnosis of the novel as a bourgeois form.
 Easter Rising in Dublin.
 Dada performances begin in Zurich.
 Beginning of Great Migration in the USA in which 4.9 per cent of black population in the South move to the North.
- 1917 Leonard and Virginia Woolf found Hogarth Press as a diverting occupation which goes on to publish Freud, Eliot, Forster and Wells.
 The USA enters the war on the Western Front.
 Bolsheviks take power in Russia. Vision of popular revolution haunts literary imagination for some time to come.
- 1918 **Willa Cather**, *My Ántonia*, portrays pastoral life on prairies.
Wyndham Lewis, *Tarr*.
May Sinclair first applies the term 'stream of consciousness' to literature.
Marie Stopes, *Married Love*, introduces mechanics of sex to an ill-informed audience.
 Armistice signed between Allies and Germany on 11 November.
 Representation of the People Act in Britain extends vote to women over thirty.
 Influenza pandemic in Britain (1918–19).
- 1919 **May Sinclair**, *Mary Olivier: A Life*, in which she follows Richardson in recreating the workings of the inner mind.
Virginia Woolf, 'Modern Novels', appears in *Times Literary Supplement*. Revised and retitled as 'Modern Fiction' in 1925.
William Somerset Maugham, *The Moon and Sixpence*, an 'outsider' novel following a painter's escape to South Seas.
 Scofield Thayer and J. S. Watson purchase *The Dial*, which goes on to publish works by Lawrence, Eliot and Mansfield in the USA.
- 1920 **D. H. Lawrence**, *Women in Love*, a 'sequel' to *The Rainbow*.
Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*, describes passing of an old generation in the USA.

- Sigmund Freud**, *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*, revises his model of the psyche to include the 'death drive' that he had identified in his study of war trauma.
Prohibition comes into effect in the USA.
- 1921 *The Little Review* prosecuted for obscenity over publication of *Ulysses*.
Shuffle Along using jazz music and dance is a huge Broadway hit.
Creation of Irish Free State.
Emergency Quota Act in the USA restricts immigration from Europe.
- 1922 **Virginia Woolf**, *Jacob's Room*, attempts to refashion *Bildungsroman*.
James Joyce, *Ulysses*, published in France in a luxury limited edition.
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Beautiful and Damned*, shows the corrupting influence of inherited wealth on the New York chic set of the 1920s.
T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*.
Report of War Office Committee of Enquiry into 'shell-shock' introduces the term to a wide audience in Britain.
Opening of Tutankhamen's tomb in Egypt.
Mussolini leads march on Rome and becomes Italian Prime Minister.
- 1923 **Jean Toomer**, *Cane*, a 'novel' comprised partly of poetry and drama, often described as literary high point of Harlem Renaissance.
Le Corbusier, *Towards a New Architecture*, describes buildings as 'machines for living'.
- 1924 **E. M. Forster**, *A Passage to India*.
Thomas Mann, *The Magic Mountain*, traces coming of age of hero alongside that of human race.
Virginia Woolf gives a talk to the Heretics in Cambridge, later published as 'Mr Bennett and Mrs Brown'.
First Labour government in Britain.
British Empire exhibition in London.
- 1925 **Virginia Woolf**, *Mrs Dalloway*.
Gertrude Stein, *The Making of Americans*, attempts to record every known human type.

- F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, shows dark side of 'American Dream'.
 Franz Kafka, *The Trial*, published posthumously.
 Exhibition of Arts Décoratifs in Paris.
 Launch of first miniature camera, the Leica, at Leipzig fair.
- 1926 Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*, is his first success, describing life among expatriates in Paris.
 André Gide, *The Counterfeiters*, reworks realist and naturalist traditions as represented by writers such as Dostoevsky and Honoré de Balzac.
 BBC created by Royal Charter.
 Imperial conference declares Australia, Canada, Irish Free State and South Africa 'autonomous communities' within Commonwealth.
 General Strike raises 'spectre of communism' in Britain; *Daily Mail* describes it as a 'revolutionary movement'.
 Chiang Kai-shek becomes President of China following revolution.
- 1927 E. M. Forster delivers Clarke lectures at University of Cambridge, published as *Aspects of the Novel*.
 Hermann Hesse, *Der Steppenwolf*, a novel heavily influenced by psychoanalysis.
 Wyndham Lewis, *Time and Western Man*, questions originality of modernist techniques.
 Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, analyses mode of being-there in the world (*Dasein*).
 Al Jolson stars in first successful 'talkie' film, *The Jazz Singer*.
 German economy collapses.
- 1928 D. H. Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, published privately in Italy.
 Djuna Barnes, *Ryder*, describing women's suffering under patriarchy, is a bestseller.
 Claude McKay, *Home to Harlem*, becomes first bestseller by a black writer.
 Kellogg-Briand pact between fifteen nations rejects war as a policy.
 Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin.
- 1929 Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*, and Robert Graves, *Good-Bye to All That*, describe their wartime experiences.

William Faulkner, *Sartoris*, transforms his hometown, Oxford, Lafayette County, Mississippi, into Jefferson, Yoknapatawpha County.

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*, is a key moment in feminist literary criticism.

Nella Larsen, *Passing*, describes black people who 'pass' for white in order to succeed in American society.

Edwin Powell Hubble demonstrates that the universe is expanding.

Wall Street Crash heralds Great Depression 1931–2. Average incomes in the USA decline by half.

1930 **Evelyn Waugh**, *Vile Bodies*, portrays postwar 'fast set' in 1930s London.

John Dos Passos, *U.S.A.* (trilogy 1930–6), provides a survey of American society 1900 to 1936.

Ford Madox Ford, *The English Novel*.

Private ownership of motor cars in UK passes a million, up from 200,000 in 1920.

Mahatma Gandhi begins campaign of civil disobedience against British rule in India.

1931 **Virginia Woolf**, *The Waves*, her most experimental novel.

Samuel Beckett, *Proust*.

Salvador Dali, *The Persistence of Memory*, in which his recurrent image of the clock makes its first appearance.

Oswald Moseley leaves Labour Party to found British Union of Fascists.

1932 **Aldous Huxley**, *Brave New World*, a dystopian novel.

Q. D. Leavis, *Fiction and the Reading Public*, criticizes effect of bestsellers on literary standards.

Atom split and neutron discovered at Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England.

1933 **Gertrude Stein**, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*.

Claude McKay, *Banana Bottom*, his last novel, records conflict of local and European values in Jamaica.

Hitler becomes Reich Chancellor in Germany.

1934 **Jean Rhys**, *Voyage in the Dark*, mixes a woman's memories of childhood in Dominica with stark realities of her life as a chorus girl in London.

- Mao Zedong leads Long March and becomes leader of Chinese Communist Party.
- 1935 **Patrick Hamilton**, *Twenty Thousand Streets Under the Sky: A London Trilogy*, records inner lives of three 'ordinary' visitors to a London pub.
Government of India Act grants responsibility in domestic affairs to provincial assemblies.
Nuremburg Laws enacted against Jews in Germany.
- 1936 **William Faulkner**, *Absalom! Absalom!*, described by readers as 'antinarrative'.
Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood*, edited and introduced by T. S. Eliot.
C. L. R. James, *Minty Alley*, his only novel.
John Maynard Keynes, *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*.
International Surrealist Exhibition in London.
George V dies; Edward VII reigns briefly before abdication crisis brings George VI to the throne.
Spanish Civil War (1936–9) begins.
- 1937 **Zora Neale Hurston**, *Their Eyes were Watching God*.
Wyndham Lewis, *The Revenge for Love*, satirizes left-wing involvement in Spanish Civil War.
Mass Observation movement launched in Britain in which participants are encouraged to record their everyday lives.
Guernica destroyed in bombing in Spanish Civil War, immortalized in a painting by Picasso.
- 1938 **Samuel Beckett**, *Murphy*, capturing 'seedy' existence of its protagonist in London.
Elizabeth Bowen, *The Death of the Heart*, studies coldness and hypocrisy of middle-class life in London.
Graham Greene, *Brighton Rock*.
Orson Welles, radio broadcast of *War of the Worlds*, causes panic in America.
- 1939 **James Joyce**, *Finnegans Wake*, is his last and most experimental novel.
John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*, described as a great 'proletarian' novel of the times.

- Pan American Airlines begins commercial flights between the USA and Europe.
Second World War (1939-45) begins.
- 1940 **Charlie Chaplin**, *The Great Dictator*, his first 'talkie' film.
Beginning of London Blitz.
- 1941 **Virginia Woolf**, *Between the Acts*, published three months after Woolf's suicide.
Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, leading to entry of the USA into the war.
- 1942 **Albert Camus**, *L'Etranger*, his most famous 'absurdist' novel.
RAF begins bombing raids on German cities.
- 1944 **Saul Bellow**, *Dangling Man*, explores impact of society on the individual.
- 1945 **George Orwell**, *Animal Farm*.
Evelyn Waugh, *Brideshead Revisited*, shows decline of British upper classes.
Germany surrenders and Allies liberate Auschwitz. As many as six million Jews and other 'undesirables' have been exterminated.
America drops atomic bombs on Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan's surrender marks end of war.