

JOHN BURT FOSTER JR.

Heirs to Dionysus

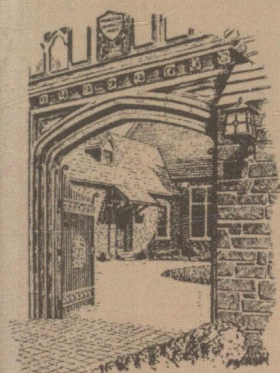
*A Nietzschean Current in
Literary Modernism*



PRINCETON LEGACY LIBRARY

PRINCETON LEGACY LIBRARY

The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These paperback editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

press.princeton.edu

ISBN 9780691605906



9 780691 605906

FOSTER JR.

HEIRS TO DIONYSUS



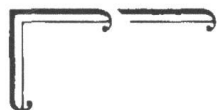


HEIRS TO DIONYSUS

A Nietzschean Current in Literary Modernism

John Burt Foster, Jr.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS



Copyright © 1981 by Princeton University Press
Published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey
In the United Kingdom: Princeton University Press, Guildford, Surrey

All Rights Reserved

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data will be
found on the last printed page of this book

First Princeton Paperback printing, 1988

This book has been composed in Linotron Bembo

Clothbound editions of Princeton University Press books
are printed on acid-free paper, and binding materials are
chosen for strength and durability. Paperbacks, while satisfactory
for personal collections, are not usually suitable for library rebinding

Printed in the United States of America by
Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey

To Andrea Dimino

Acknowledgments

I should like to thank some of the many people who have helped this book along its way. At Yale University, where I first sensed the possibilities of the subject, I am especially grateful to Charles Feidelson, Jr., whose seminar on modernism was my finest experience in a classroom, and to Geoffrey Hartman, who patiently directed the dissertation in the course of which I discovered this topic. I also received valuable encouragement and advice from Franklin Baumer, Victor Erlich, Thomas Greene, R.W.B. Lewis, Lowry Nelson, Jr., and Edward and Elizabeth Zlotkowski.

At Stanford, where I conceived and wrote *Heirs to Dionysus*, I am indebted to Ian Watt for his judicious comments and suggestions at several stages of this project. Herbert Lindenberger shared his wide knowledge of recent developments in comparative literature, and was generous with his warm support. I must also thank Albert Guerard, founder of Stanford's program in Modern Thought and Literature, for the intellectual stimulus provided by the program and by two memorable conferences on myth, symbol, and culture and on the creative process. During my years at Stanford I was greatly heartened by the friendly interest and assistance of Bill Todd, George Dekker, John Bender, and Rob Polhemus. I would also like to thank J. G. Bell, Bill Chace, David Halliburton, Anne Mellor, Ron Rebholz, and Will Stone, who read all or parts of some version of the manuscript and gave me their candid reactions.

During the initial stages of the project, a fellowship from the German Academic Exchange Service made possible a year of research in the congenial surroundings of Konstanz and the Bodensee. I began a final draft with the aid of a Mellon Fellowship for junior faculty at Stanford. Both the

Gift Fund and the Research Fund of the English Department helped to cover the costs of preparing the manuscript, which were partly defrayed also by the Joseph Drown Research Fund of the Graduate School. I wish to thank John Loftis, Richard Scowcroft, and George Dekker, chairmen of the English Department, and W. Bliss Carnochan, Dean of the Graduate School, for making these funds available.

Many libraries have been helpful in the course of my research: in the first stages, the Sterling Library at Yale University and the fledgling library of the University of Konstanz; and later on, the libraries of the British Council, the Centre Culturel Français, and the Goethe Institut in Rome. I am also grateful to Andrea Schulman of the Widener Library, Harvard University, for clearing up a point about French translations of Nietzsche. Over the years the Stanford University Libraries have provided assistance of all kinds, and by giving me a study in the new Green Library made the last phase of the project much easier.

I am grateful to Princeton University Press, and especially to Margot Cutter, for assistance at all stages in the process of publication. I also wish to thank Josephine Guttadauro and Pauline Tooker for their skill in typing the manuscript and their willingness to work at short notice.

The dedication acknowledges my debts to a person who set high standards for my writing and whose Mediterranean spirit, as flavored by Brooklyn, gave zest to the years spent on the project. I only hope that I can contribute as much to her work.

Note on Translation, Annotation, and Abbreviation

In writing this book, I based my discussions of works written in foreign languages on a detailed knowledge of the original texts. However, because I am addressing an English-speaking audience, I give all quotations in English. I have consulted the readily available translations whenever they exist, and have profited especially from Walter Kaufmann's excellent renditions of Nietzsche. But often I have preferred to use my own wording, especially for difficult or ambiguous passages. On occasion I have had to supply omissions or rectify misconstructions. Attention is drawn to major corrections of this nature by a dagger following the page reference for the quotation.

For books that are cited many times, annotation has been simplified by placing references in parentheses immediately after the quotations. Page numbers follow the best widely accessible editions, as specified in the list below. With Nietzsche, whose books come in such a variety of formats that page references are useless, citations are limited to unit and/or aphorism numbers, designated by Roman and Arabic numerals respectively. Thus the parenthetical note for a quotation from "On Self-Overcoming," which is the twelfth chapter of the second part of *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, would read Z:II, 12.

The list that follows provides a key to the system of abbreviations used for titles. The abbreviations are arranged in alphabetical order. For Nietzsche, prefaces or prologues, forewords, postscripts, and epilogues are indicated with the abbreviations Pr, F, Po, and E; while the sections in *Ecce Homo* in which Nietzsche reviews his own books are designated by the corresponding abbreviated titles. Thus a refer-

ence to the second section of Nietzsche's preface to *On the Genealogy of Morals* would be G:Pr, 2; the third section of his discussion of *Zarathustra* in *Ecce Homo* would be E:Z, 3.

The entries below include all the information needed for bibliographical purposes. The works by Nietzsche come from *Friedrich Nietzsche: Werke in drei Bänden*. Edited by Karl Schlechta. Munich: Carl Hanser Verlag, 1966.

- A Malraux, André. *Les Noyers de l'Altenburg* (*The Walnut Trees of the Altenburg*). 1943; 1st French ed., Paris: Gallimard, 1948.
- AC Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Der Antichrist* (*The Antichrist*).
- AR Lawrence, D. H. *Aaron's Rod*. 1922; rpt. New York: Viking Press, 1961.
- B Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Die Geburt der Tragödie* (*The Birth of Tragedy*).
- C Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Der Fall Wagner* (*The Case of Wagner*).
- CL Lawrence, D. H. *The Collected Letters of D. H. Lawrence*, in two volumes. Edited by Harry T. Moore. New York: Viking Press, 1962.
- E Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Ecce Homo*.
- F Mann, Thomas. *Doktor Faustus in Gesammelte Werke in zwölf Bänden*, vol. VI. n.p.: S. Fischer Verlag, 1960.
- G Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Zur Genealogie der Moral* (*On the Genealogy of Morals*).
- GE Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Jenseits von Gut und Böse* (*Beyond Good and Evil*).
- GS Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Die fröhliche Wissenschaft* (*The Gay Science*).
- H Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Menschliches, Allzumenschliches* (*Human, All-Too-Human*).
- I Gide, André. *L'Immoraliste* (*The Immoralist*) in *Romans*, pp. 365-472. Introduction by Maurice Nadeau and editorial apparatus by Yvonne Davet and

- Jean-Jacques Thierry. Paris: Bibliothèque de la Pléiade.
- J Malraux, André. "D'Une Jeunesse Européenne" ("Concerning a European Youth"). A. Chamson, A. Malraux, J. Grenier, H. Petit, P. J. Jouve. *Écrits* ("Les Cahiers Verts." 70). Paris: Bernard Grasset, 1927, pp. 129-153.
- K Lawrence, D. H. *Kangaroo*. With an Introduction by Richard Aldington. 1923; rpt. New York: Viking Press, 1960.
- L Lawrence, D. H. *Women in Love*. With a Foreword by the Author. 1920; rpt. New York: Modern Library, n.d. (follows the first New York edition).
- M Malraux, André. *La Condition Humaine (Man's Fate)* in *Romans*, pp. 179-432. Paris: Bibliothèque de la Pléiade, 1964.
- P Lawrence, D. H. *Phoenix: The Posthumous Papers of D. H. Lawrence*. Edited and with an Introduction by Edward D. McDonald. 1936; rpt. New York: Viking Press, 1968. (Contains "German Books: Thomas Mann," pp. 308-313; "Study of Thomas Hardy," pp. 398-516; and "Surgery for the Novel—or a Bomb," pp. 517-520.)
- PR Gide, André. *Prétextes, suivi de Nouveaux prétextes*. 1903, 1911; rpt. Paris: Mercure de France, 1963.
- S Lawrence, D. H. *The Plumed Serpent (Quetzalcoatl)*. With an Introduction by William York Tindall. 1926; rpt. New York: Vintage, n.d.
- T Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Götzendämmerung (Twilight of the Idols)*.
- TW Malraux, André. *La Tentation de l'Occident (Temptation of the West)*. Paris: Bernard Grasset, 1926.
- V Mann, Thomas. *Der Tod in Venedig (Death in Venice)* in *Gesammelte Werke in zwölf Bänden*, vol. VIII, pp. 444-525. n.p.: S. Fischer Verlag, 1960.
- W:IX Mann, Thomas. *Gesammelte Werke in zwölf Bänden*, vol. IX. n.p.: S. Fischer Verlag, 1960. (Contains

"Goethe as Representative of the Bourgeois Age," pp. 297-332; "Sufferings and Greatness of Richard Wagner," pp. 363-426; "Freud and the Future," pp. 478-501; "Dostoevsky—with Measure," pp. 656-674; and "Nietzsche's Philosophy in the Light of Our Experience," pp. 675-712.

W:X Mann, Thomas. *Gesammelte Werke in zwölf Bänden*, vol. X. n.p.: S. Fischer Verlag, 1960. (Contains "On Spengler's Doctrine," pp. 172-180; "*Si le grain ne meurt . . .*," pp. 711-721; and "'André Gide' by Albert J. Guerard," pp. 802-810.)

W:XI Mann, Thomas. *Die Entstehung des Doktor Faustus (The Story of a Novel)* in *Gesammelte Werke in zwölf Bänden*, vol. XI, pp. 145-301. n.p.: S. Fischer Verlag, 1960.

W:XII Mann, Thomas. *Gesammelte Werke in zwölf Bänden*, vol. XII. n.p.: S. Fischer Verlag, 1960. (Contains *Betrachtungen eines Unpolitischen* [*Reflections of an Apolitical Man*], pp. 9-589).

WP Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Der Wille zur Macht (The Will to Power)*.

Z Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Also sprach Zarathustra (Thus Spoke Zarathustra)*.

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
<i>Note on Translation, Annotation, and Abbreviation</i>	xi
Introduction	3
I. Influence as Transformation, Nietzsche as Influence	16
II. Nietzsche's Legacy to the Modernists	39
Polaristic Thinking	42
Psychologies of Inadequacy and Creativity	66
Cultural Crisis	82
Power and Life	114
III. From Nietzsche to the Savage God: An Early Appropriation by the Young Gide and Mann	145
IV. Holding Forth against Nietzsche: D. H. Lawrence's Novels from <i>Women in Love</i> to <i>The Plumed Serpent</i>	180
Crystal and Star	185
Crisis and Life-Affirmation	206
The Quest for Power	229
V. Preceded by Nietzsche's Madness: Malraux as a Novelist in <i>Man's Fate</i> and <i>The Walnut Trees of the Altenburg</i>	256
The Temptation of the West	261
The Voice of the Throat	290
The Apocalypse of Humanity	313
VI. Enter the Devil: Nietzsche's Presence in <i>Doctor Faustus</i>	338
The Transformations of Dionysus	344
Bourgeois Humanism and Aesthetic Politics	367
Between <i>Homo Dei</i> and Nietzsche	387
Conclusion	403
<i>Chronology of Works, Writers, and Events</i>	423
<i>Notes</i>	427
<i>Index</i>	455

Heirs to Dionysus

