

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO



MODERNISM

SECOND EDITION

Edited by Michael Levenson

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
MODERNISM

Second Edition

EDITED BY
MICHAEL LEVENSON

University of Virginia



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CHRONOLOGY

- 1890 James George Frazer, first volumes of *The Golden Bough*
(1890–1915)
William Morris, *News from Nowhere*
Henrik Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*
William Booth, *In Darkest England*
The dismissal of Bismarck
- 1891 Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*
Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes stories begin in Strand magazine
Franco-Russian entente
- 1893 Arthur Wing Pinero, *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*
Formation of the Independent Labour Party
The four-wheel car of Karl Benz
- 1894 The quarterly journal, the *Yellow Book*, launched
George Moore, *Esther Waters*
George Bernard Shaw, *Arms and the Man*
Claude Achille Debussy, *L'Après-midi d'un faune*
The conviction of Alfred Dreyfus for treason
- 1895 Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*
Joseph Conrad, *Almayer's Folly*
Founding of the London School of Economics
The trial of Oscar Wilde
Roentgen's discovery of X-rays
Guglielmo Marconi invents telegraphy
- 1896 Anton Chekhov, *The Seagull*
Founding of the *Daily Mail*, London
First modern Olympiad, Athens
The last Gilbert and Sullivan opera, *The Grand Duke*
Giacomo Puccini, *La Bohème*

- 1898 Thomas Hardy, *Wessex Poems*
H. G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*
Oscar Wilde, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*
The Curies discover radium and plutonium
- 1899 William Butler Yeats, *The Wind among the Reeds*
Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
Leo Nikolaevich Tolstoy, *Resurrection*
Beginning of the Boer War (1899-1902)
Peace Conference at The Hague
- 1900 Joseph Conrad, *Lord Jim*
Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*
"Boxer Rebellion" in China
- 1901 Thomas Mann, *Buddenbrooks*
Johan August Strindberg, *The Dance of Death*
Rudyard Kipling, *Kim*
Death of Queen Victoria
- 1902 André Gide, *The Immoralist*
John Atkinson Hobson, *Imperialism*
Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov Lenin, *What Is to Be Done?*
William James, *Varieties of Religious Experience*
- 1903 Samuel Butler, *The Way of All Flesh* (posthumous)
Henry James, *The Ambassadors*
George Bernard Shaw, *Man and Superman*
G. E. Moore, *Principia Ethica*
Edwin S. Porter, *The Great Train Robbery* (film)
First successful flight of the Wright brothers
Emmeline Pankhurst founds the Women's Social and Political Union
- 1904 John Millington Synge, *Riders to the Sea*
Anton Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard*
Joseph Conrad, *Nostromo*
Giacomo Puccini, *Madama Butterfly*
Beginning of the Russo-Japanese War (1904-5)
- 1905 Richard Strauss, *Salome*
Oscar Wilde, *De profundis*
Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*
Albert Einstein proposes the theory of relativity
The founding of Sinn Féin, the Irish nationalist party
- 1907 Pablo Picasso, *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon*
Cubist exhibition in Paris
Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*

- 1908 John Millington Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World*
 Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives*
 Arnold Bennett, *The Old Wives' Tale*
 Jacob Epstein, figures for the British Medical Association
 Ford Madox Ford edits *English Review*
 George Sorel, *Reflections on Violence*
- 1909 Béla Bartók, First String Quartet
 Gustav Mahler, Ninth Symphony
 Henri Matisse, *The Dance*
 Frank Lloyd Wright, Robie House
 Ezra Pound, *Personae*
 Arnold Schoenberg, *Five Orchestral Pieces*
 Lloyd George's "People's Budget"
 Sergei Pavlovich Diaghilev produces the Russian Ballet in Paris
 Sigmund Freud lectures on psychoanalysis in the USA
- 1910 Postimpressionist exhibition in London
 Igor Stravinsky, *The Firebird*
 E. M. Forster, *Howards End*
 Bertrand Russell and A. N. Whitehead, *Principia mathematica*
 (1910-13)
 Japanese annexation of Korea
- 1912 Death of Edward VII, accession of George V
 Marcel Duchamp, *Nude Descending a Staircase*
 George Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion*
 Arnold Schoenberg, *Pierre Lunaire*
 Sarah Bernhardt in the film *Queen Elizabeth*
 Sinking of the *Titanic*
 Beginning of the Balkan Wars (1912-13)
- 1913 Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!*
 D. H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*
 Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice*
 Robert Frost, *A Boy's Will*
 Marcel Proust, *Swann's Way*
 Igor Stravinsky, *Le Sacre du printemps*
 Edmund Husserl, *Phenomenology*
 Suffragette demonstrations in London
- 1914 James Joyce, *Dubliners*
 Joseph Conrad, *Chance*
 Robert Frost, *North of Boston*
 Founding of *Blast*
 Outbreak of World War I

- 1915 Virginia Woolf, *The Voyage Out*
 D. H. Lawrence, *The Rainbow*
 Somerset Maugham, *Of Human Bondage*
 Ezra Pound, *Cathay*
 Cecil B. DeMille, *Carmen* (film)
 D. W. Griffith, *Birth of a Nation* (film)
- 1916 James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
 D. W. Griffith, *Intolerance* (film)
 Dadaism in Zurich
- 1917 T. S. Eliot, *Prufrock and Other Observations*
 Paul Valéry, *La Jeune Parque*
 Amy Lowell, *Tendencies in Modern American Poetry*
 Serge Sergeevich Prokofiev, "Classical" Symphony
 Carl Jung, *The Unconscious*
 Revolutions in Russia
- 1918 James Joyce, *Exiles*
 Lytton Strachey, *Eminent Victorians*
 Paul Klee, *Gartenplan*
 Votes for women age 30 and over in Britain
- 1919 Pablo Picasso, *Pierrot and Harlequin*
 Thomas Hardy, *Collected Poems*
 Ezra Pound, *Hugh Selwyn Mauberley*
 Robert Weine, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (film)
 Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio*
 John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*
 Bauhaus founded at Weimar by Walter Gropius
 Treaty of Versailles, end of World War I
- 1920 D. H. Lawrence, *Women in Love*
 George Bernard Shaw, *Heartbreak House*
 Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*
 Katherine Mansfield, *Bliss and Other Stories*
 Sinclair Lewis, *Main Street*
 Eugene O'Neill, *The Emperor Jones*
 Henri Matisse, *L'Odalisque*
 American women achieve the vote
- 1921 Luigi Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*
 John Dos Passos, *Three Soldiers*
 Pablo Picasso, *Three Musicians*
 Charles Chaplin, *The Kid* (film)
 D. W. Griffith, *Orphans of the Storm* (film)
 New Economic Policy in the USSR

- 1922 T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*
James Joyce, *Ulysses*
Virginia Woolf, *Jacob's Room*
Sinclair Lewis, *Babbitt*
Bertolt Brecht, *Drums in the Night*
Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Tractatus logico-philosophicus*
Fritz Lang, *Dr. Mabuse* (film)
Friedrich Murnau, *Nosferatu* (film)
Founding of *Criterion*
Founding of the British Broadcasting Company (BBC)
- 1924 E. M. Forster, *A Passage to India*
Thomas Mann, *The Magic Mountain*
Sean O'Casey, *Juno and the Paycock*
Cecil B. DeMille, *The Ten Commandments* (film)
- 1925 Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*
Gertrude Stein, *The Making of Americans*
Willa Cather, *The Professor's House*
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
Theodore Dreiser, *An American Tragedy*
Ernest Hemingway, *In Our Time*
Franz Kafka, *The Trial* (posthumous)
Sergei Eisenstein, *The Battleship Potemkin* (film)
Charles Chaplin, *The Gold Rush* (film)
Pablo Picasso, *Three Dancers*
A. N. Whitehead, *Science and the Modern World*
Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*
- 1926 Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*
T. E. Lawrence, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*
William Faulkner, *Soldiers' Pay*
Fritz Lang, *Metropolis* (film)
Jean Renoir, *Nana* (film)
Henry Moore, *Draped Reclining Figure* (sculpture)
General Strike throughout Britain
- 1927 Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*
Ernest Hemingway, *Men without Women*
Marcel Proust, *Le Temps retrouvé* (posthumous)
Jacob Epstein, *Madonna and Child* (sculpture)
Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein, *Show Boat*
Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*
Sigmund Freud, *The Future of an Illusion*
- 1928 W. B. Yeats, *The Tower*

- D. H. Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*
 Aldous Huxley, *Point Counter Point*
 Sergei Eisenstein, *October* (film)
- 1929 Robert Bridges, *The Testament of Beauty*
 Robert Graves, *Goodbye to All That*
 Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*
 Alfred Hitchcock, *Blackmail* (film)
 Second Surrealist manifesto
 Opening of the Museum of Modern Art, New York
 Collapse of the New York stock market
- 1930 W. H. Auden, *Poems*
 Hart Crane, *The Bridge*
 William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*
 Evelyn Waugh, *Vile Bodies*
 F. R. Leavis, "Mass Civilisation and Minority Culture"
 Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*
- 1931 Eugene O'Neill, *Mourning Becomes Electra*
 Tristan Tzara, *L'Homme approximatif*
 Fritz Lang, *M* (film)
 Charles Chaplin, *City Lights* (film)
 Benito Mussolini and Giovacchino Forzano, *Napoleon: The Hundred Days*
- 1932 Bertolt Brecht, *The Mother*
 Louis-Ferdinand Céline, *Voyage au bout de la nuit*
 W. H. Auden, *The Orators*
 Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*
- 1933 Gertrude Stein, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*
 André Malraux, *La Condition humaine*
 T. S. Eliot, *The Use of Poetry and the Use of Criticism*
- 1935 T. S. Eliot, *Murder in the Cathedral*
 W. H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood, *The Dog beneath the Skin*
 George Gershwin, *Porgy and Bess*
 Salvador Dalí, *Giraffe on Fire*
 Dmitri Shostakovich, First Symphony
 Clifford Odets, *Waiting for Lefty*
- 1936 Dylan Thomas, *Twenty-Five Poems*
 Stevie Smith, *Novel on Yellow Paper*
 Piet Mondrian, *Composition in Red and Blue*
 Charles Chaplin, *Modern Times* (film)
 A. J. Ayer, *Language, Truth and Logic*

- John Maynard Keynes, *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*
- 1938 Elizabeth Bowen, *The Death of the Heart*
 Jean Anouilh, *Le Voyageur sans bagage*
 Jean Cocteau, *Les Parents terribles* (film)
 Béla Bartók, Violin Concerto
 Lewis Mumford, *The Culture of Cities*
 Sergei Eisenstein, *Alexander Nevsky* (film)
- 1939 James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake*
 Thomas Mann, *Lotte in Weimar*
 T. S. Eliot, *The Family Reunion*
 Pablo Picasso, *Night Fishing at Antibes*
 Jean Renoir, *The Rules of the Game* (film)
 Beginning of World War II

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MICHAEL LEVENSON

Introduction

This second edition of *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism*, with its new and revised chapters, engages fully with recent changes in our understanding of a major cultural episode. In the first decade of this century, Modernist studies have at once widened and deepened. An actively engaged community of scholars has produced more ambitious acts of contextualization, more inclusive histories, and more precise readings of formidable works. We have more Modernism now, as well as more flexible and perspicuous ways of interpreting it.

Still we call it Modernism, and this despite the anomaly of holding to such a name for an epoch fast receding into the cultural past. “Modernism” has now become the unstable name of a period in the beginning of a previous century, too distant even to serve as a figure for the grandparent. Uneasily but inevitably, we have reached a time when many feel the obsolescence of a movement still absurdly wearing such a brazen title. The temptation, much shown in recent years, has been to dance beyond the reach of the aging, dying giant, to prove that one can live past the epoch marked by such names as Joyce and Woolf, Stein and Eliot, Eisenstein and Brecht, Freud and Marx. Certainly, many forces have joined to change the vectors of a new millennial culture. But the imperative to declare a new period and to declare ourselves citizens of a liberated postmodernism has distorted and sadly simplified the moment it means to surpass.

No one should be surprised by distortions or simplifications. Nor should anyone waste tears of sympathy on figures who were more than willing to cut the shape of the past to fit present polemical purposes. And yet the task of rendering a fuller account is justified not only by the desire to provide richer, thicker narratives but also by a pressing need to clarify our own new-century position. A coarsely understood Modernism is both an historical blight and a contemporary disability.

Do we call for a return to Modernism? Certainly not, if this implies a nostalgic attempt to undo the last decades, in order to share the dream of