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Brian Friel is widely recognized as Ireland’s greatest living playwright, winning an international reputation through such acclaimed works as *Translations* (1980) and *Dancing at Lughnasa* (1990). This collection of specially commissioned essays includes contributions from leading commentators on Friel’s work (including two fellow playwrights) and explores the entire range of his career from his 1964 breakthrough with *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* to his most recent success in Dublin and London with *The Home Place* (2005). The essays approach Friel’s plays both as literary texts and as performed drama, and provide the perfect introduction for students of both English and Theatre Studies, as well as theatregoers. The collection considers Friel’s lesser-known works alongside his more celebrated plays and provides a comprehensive critical survey of his career. This is the most up to date and comprehensive study of Friel’s work to be published, and includes a chronology and further reading suggestions.

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The Cambridge Companion to W. B. Yeats
Edited by Marjorie Howes
Boston College, Massachusetts
and John Kelly
St John’s College, Oxford

This accessible and thought-provoking Companion is designed to help students experience the pleasures and challenges offered by one of the twentieth century’s greatest poets. A team of international contributors examines Yeats’s poetry, drama and prose in their historical and national contexts. The essays explain and synthesise major aspects and themes of his life and work: his lifelong engagement with Ireland, his complicated relationship to the English literary tradition, his literary, social, and political criticism and the evolution of his complex spiritual and religious sense. First-time readers of Yeats as well as more advanced scholars will welcome this comprehensive account of Yeats’s career with its useful chronological outline and survey of the most important current trends in Yeats scholarship. Taken as a whole, this Companion comprises an essential introduction for students and teachers of Yeats.

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New

The Cambridge Companion to John Updike
Edited by Stacey Olster
State University of New York, Stony Brook

John Updike is one of the most prolific and important American authors of the contemporary period, with an acclaimed body of work that spans half a century and is inspired by everything from American exceptionalism to American popular culture. This Companion joins together a distinguished international team of contributors to address both the major themes in Updike’s writing as well as the sources of controversy that Updike’s

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writing has often provoked. It traces the ways in which historical and cultural changes in the second half of the twentieth century have shaped not just Updike’s reassessment of America’s heritage, but his reassessment of the literary devices by which that legacy is best portrayed. With a chronology and bibliography of Updike’s published writings, this is the only guide students and scholars of Updike will need to understand this extraordinary writer.

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**Forthcoming**

**The Cambridge Companion to Margaret Atwood**

Edited by Coral Ann Howells

*University of Reading*

Margaret Atwood’s international celebrity has given a new visibility to Canadian literature in English. This Companion provides a comprehensive critical account of Atwood’s writing across the wide range of genres within which she has worked for the past forty years, while paying attention to her Canadian cultural context and the multiple dimensions of her celebrity. The main concern is with Atwood the writer, but there is also Atwood the media star and public performer, cultural critic, environmentalist and human rights spokeswoman, social and political satirist, and mythmaker. This immensely varied profile is addressed in a series of chapters which cover biographical, textual, and contextual issues. The Introduction contains an analysis of dominant trends in Atwood criticism since the 1970s, while the essays by twelve leading international Atwood critics represent the wide range of different perspectives in current Atwood scholarship.

**Contents**

Atwood’s dystopian visions: *The Handmaid’s Tale* and *Oryx and Crake* Coral Ann Howells; 12. Blindness and survival in Margaret Atwood’s major novels Sharon R. Wilson; Further reading.

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**Forthcoming**

**The Cambridge Companion to Philip Roth**

Edited by Timothy Parrish
*Texas Christian University*

From the moment that his debut book, *Goodbye, Columbus* (1959), won him the National Book Award, Philip Roth has been among the most influential and controversial writers of our age. Now the author of more than twenty novels, numerous stories, two memoirs, and two books of literary criticism, Roth has used his writing to continually reinvent himself and in doing so to remake the American literary landscape. This Companion provides the most comprehensive introduction to his works and thought in a collection of newly commissioned essays from distinguished scholars. Beginning with the urgency of Roth’s early fiction and extending to the vitality of his most recent novels, these essays trace Roth’s artistic engagement with questions about ethnic identity, postmodernism, Israel, the Holocaust, sexuality, and the human psyche itself. With its chronology and guide to further reading, this Companion will be essential for new and returning Roth readers, students and scholars.

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Introduction: Roth at mid-career Timothy Parrish;

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European Writers

theory. With a detailed chronology and a guide to further reading, this Companion provides all the information a student or scholar of Stevens will need.

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Forthcoming

The Cambridge Companion to Brecht, Second edition
Edited by Peter Thomson
University of Exeter
and Glendyr Sacks
University of Exeter

This updated Companion offers students crucial guidance on virtually every aspect of the work of this complex and controversial writer. It brings together the contrasting views of major critics and active practitioners, and this new edition introduces new voices and themes. The opening essays place Brecht’s creative work in its historical and biographical context and are followed by chapters on single texts, from The Threepenny Opera to The Caucasian Chalk Circle, on some early plays and on the Lehrstücke. Other essays analyse Brecht’s directing, his poetry, his interest in music and his work with actors. This revised edition also contains new essays on his early experience of cabaret, his significance in the development of film theory and his unique approach to dramaturgy. A detailed calendar of Brecht’s life and work and a selective bibliography of English criticism complete this provocative overview of a writer who constantly aimed to provoke.

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Forthcoming

The Cambridge Companion to Camus

Edited by Edward J. Hughes
Queen Mary, University of London

Albert Camus is one of the iconic figures of twentieth-century French literature. This Companion explores his best-selling novels, his ambiguous engagement with philosophy, his theatre, his work as a journalist and his reflections on ethical and political questions that continue to concern readers today.

Cambridge Companions to Literature
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Forthcoming

The Cambridge Companion to Primo Levi

Edited by Robert Gordon

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Feminism has dramatically influenced the way literary texts are read, taught and evaluated. Feminist literary theory has deliberately transgressed traditional boundaries between literature, philosophy and the social sciences in order to understand how gender has been constructed and represented through language. This lively and thought-provoking Companion presents a range of approaches to the field. Some of the essays demonstrate feminist critical principles at work in analysing texts, while others take a step back to trace the development of a particular feminist literary method. The essays draw on a range of primary material from the medieval period to postmodernism and from several countries, disciplines and genres. Each essay suggests further reading to explore this field further. This is the most accessible guide available both for students of literature new to this developing field, and for students of gender studies and readers interested in the interactions of feminism, literary criticism and literature.

Contents
Introduction Ellen Rooney; Part I. Problematics
Emerge: 1. On canons: anxious history and the rise of black feminist literary studies Ann duCille; 2. Pleasure, resistance, and a feminist aesthetics of reading Geraldine Heng; 3. The literary politics of feminist theory Ellen Rooney; Part II. In Feminism’s Wake:

Cambridge Companions to Literature


The Cambridge Companion to the Irish Novel

Edited by John Wilson Foster

University of British Columbia, Vancouver

The Irish novel has had a distinguished history. It spans such diverse authors as James Joyce, George Moore, Maria Edgeworth, Bram Stoker, Flann O’Brien, Samuel Beckett, Lady Morgan, John Banville, and others. Yet it has until now received less critical attention than Irish poetry and drama. This volume covers three hundred years of Irish achievement in fiction, with essays on key genres, themes, and authors. It provides critiques of individual works, accounts of important novelists, and histories of sub-genres and allied narrative forms, establishing significant social and political contexts for dozens of novels. The varied perspectives and emphases by more than a dozen critics and literary historians ensure that the Irish novel receives due tribute for its colour, variety and linguistic verve. Each chapter features recommended further reading. This is the perfect overview for students of the Irish novel from the romances of the seventeenth century to the present day.

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Forthcoming

The Cambridge Companion to the Modernist Novel

Edited by Morag Shiach

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