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978-0-521-06353-1 - The Early T. S. Eliot and Western Philosophy

M. A. R. Habib

Frontmatter

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THE EARLY T. S. ELIOT AND WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

M. A. R. Habib's book offers a comprehensive study of Eliot's philosophical writings and attempts to assess their impact on both his early poetry through *The Waste Land* and the central concepts of his literary criticism. Habib presents the first scholarly analysis of Eliot's difficult unpublished papers on Kant and Bergson and establishes the nature of Eliot's connections with major figures in the Western philosophical tradition, including Plato, Aristotle, Locke, Hume, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Bradley and Russell. *The Early T. S. Eliot and Western Philosophy* attempts to unravel the complex notions of irony underlying Eliot's poetry, arguing that these originate in his philosophical thinking and achieve persistent expression in his early aesthetics. This book offers close readings of Eliot's major poems and critical essays, shedding valuable light on his views on language, tradition, impersonality and emotion, and situating these in a broad aesthetic and philosophical context.

M. A. R. Habib is Associate Professor in the Department of English, Rutgers University, Camden. He is author of *The Dissident Voice: Poems of N. M. Rashed: Translated from the Urdu*, as well as articles in the *Journal of the History of Ideas* and numerous other journals.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For Yasmeen and my parents

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	ix
<i>Introduction</i>	I
1. Opponents of bourgeois thought: Adams, Babbitt, Santayana, Symons	12
2. Bergson resartus and T. S. Eliot's manuscript	39
3. Philosophy and laughter: Schopenhauer, Laforgue and Bergson	61
4. Irony as a Kantian meditation: Eliot's manuscripts on Kant	97
5. Eliot, Bradley and the irony of 'common sense'	125
6. The divorce from old barren reason: from philosophy to aesthetics	161
7. The struggle against realism	188
8. Irony as form: <i>The Waste Land</i>	220
<i>Notes</i>	254
<i>Index</i>	286

Cambridge University Press

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M. A. R. Habib

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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M. A. R. Habib

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Abbreviations*

WORKS BY T. S. ELIOT

- ASG *After Strange Gods: A Primer of Modern Heresy*. London, Faber and Faber, 1934.
- DOR *Degrees of Reality*, MS, King's College Library, Cambridge, John Davey Hayward Bequest.
- EAM *Essays Ancient and Modern*, 1936; London, Faber and Faber, 1949.
- EKC 'Report on the Ethics of Kant's *Critique of Practical Reason*', *Three Essays on Kant*, King's College Library, Cambridge, John Davey Hayward Bequest.
- FLA *For Lancelot Andrewes: Essays on Style and Order*, 1928; London, Faber and Faber, 1970.
- ICS *The Idea of a Christian Society and Other Writings*, ed. and intro. David Edwards, 1939; London, Faber and Faber, 1982.
- KCA 'Report on the Relation of Kant's Criticism to Agnosticism', *Three Essays on Kant*, King's College Library, Cambridge, John Davey Hayward Bequest.
- KE *Knowledge and Experience in the Philosophy of F.H. Bradley*. London, Faber and Faber, 1964.
- LTSE *The Letters of T. S. Eliot I: 1898-1922*, ed. Valerie Eliot. London, Faber and Faber, 1988.
- NTDC *Notes Towards the Definition of Culture*, 1948; London, Faber and Faber, 1972.
- OPAP *On Poetry and Poets*, 1957; London, Faber and Faber, 1979.
- PEN *Philosophical Essays and Notes 1913-14*, King's College Library, Cambridge, John Davey Hayward Bequest.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-06353-1 - The Early T. S. Eliot and Western Philosophy

M. A. R. Habib

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

Abbreviations

- PEY* *Poems Written in Early Youth*, ed. Valerie Eliot, New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1967.
- RKC* ‘Report on the Kantian Categories’, *Three Essays on Kant*, King’s College Library, Cambridge, John Davey Hayward Bequest.
- SE* *Selected Essays*. 3rd edn, 1932; London, Faber and Faber, 1976.
- SP* *Selected Prose of T. S. Eliot*, ed. Frank Kermode, London, Faber and Faber, 1975.
- SW* *The Sacred Wood: Essays on Poetry and Criticism*, 7th edn, 1920; London, Methuen, 1976.
- TCTC* *To Criticize the Critic and Other Writings*, 1965; London, Faber and Faber, 1978.
- UPC* *The Use of Poetry and the Use of Criticism*, 1933; London, Faber and Faber, 1970.
- VMP* *The Varieties of Metaphysical Poetry: The Clark Lectures at Trinity College, Cambridge, 1926 and the Turnbull Lectures at the Johns Hopkins University, 1933*, ed. Ronald Schuchard. London, Faber and Faber, 1993.
- WLMS* *The Waste Land: A Facsimile and Transcript of the Original Drafts Including the Annotations of Ezra Pound*, ed. Valerie Eliot, London, Faber and Faber, 1971.

OTHER WORKS

ARISTOTLE

- Met.* *The Metaphysics I–IX*, tr. H. Tredennick, London and Massachusetts, Loeb Classical Library, Heinemann/Harvard University Press, 1947.

IRVING BABBITT

- DL* *Democracy and Leadership*, Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin, 1924.
- LAC* *Literature and the American College: Essays in Defense of the Humanities*, 1908; Washington DC, National Humanities Institute, 1986.
- RR* *Rousseau and Romanticism*, Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin, 1919.

Abbreviations

xi

HENRI BERGSON

- Bergson, *CE* *Creative Evolution*, tr. Arthur Mitchell, Maryland, University Press of America, 1983.
CM *The Creative Mind: An Introduction to Metaphysics*, New York, Philosophical Library, 1946.
TWF *Time and Free Will: An Essay on the Immediate Data of Consciousness*, authorised tr. F. L. Pogson, London and New York, George Allen/Macmillan 1910.
Laughter *An Essay on Comedy: George Meredith; Laughter: Henri Bergson*, intr. W. Sypher, New York, Doubleday, 1956.
MM *Matter and Memory*, tr. N. M. Paul and W. S. Palmer, New York, Zone Books, 1988.

F. H. BRADLEY

- ES* *Ethical Studies*, 1876; Oxford University Press, 1962.
PL *The Principles of Logic*, 1883; London, Oxford University Press, 1950.
 Bradley, *CE* *Collected Essays*, 1953; Oxford University Press, 1969.

G. W. F. HEGEL

- Lectures* *Hegel's Lectures on the History of Philosophy*, tr. E. S. Haldane and Frances S. Simson, London, Routledge, 1963.
Logic *Hegel's Logic: Being Part One of the Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences (1830)*, tr. William Wallace, Oxford University Press, 1982.

IMMANUEL KANT

- CPR* *Critique of Practical Reason*, tr. L. W. Beck, Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1978.

JULES LAFORGUE

- OCJL* *Oeuvres complètes de Jules Laforgue*, Paris, Mercvire de France, 1951, vol. I.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-06353-1 - The Early T. S. Eliot and Western Philosophy

M. A. R. Habib

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

Abbreviations

SWJL

Selected Writings of Jules Laforgue, ed. and tr. W. Smith, New York, Grove Press, 1956.

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

BGE

Beyond Good and Evil, tr. R. J. Hollingdale, Middlesex, Penguin, 1978.

WP

The Will to Power, tr. W. Kaufmann and R. J. Hollingdale, London, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1968.

JOSIAH ROYCE

SMP

The Spirit of Modern Philosophy, Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin, 1982.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

PW

Philosophical Writings, ed. Wolfgang Schirmacher, New York, Continuum, 1994.

WWR

The World as Will and Representation, tr. E. F. J. Payne, New York, Dover, 1958, vol. 2.