T. S. Eliot’s work demands much from his readers. The more the reader knows about his allusions and his range of cultural reference, the more rewarding are his poems, essays and plays. This book is carefully designed to provide an authoritative and coherent examination of those contexts essential to the fullest understanding of his challenging and controversial body of work. It explores a broad range of subjects relating to Eliot’s life and career; key literary, intellectual, social and historical contexts; as well as the critical reception of his oeuvre. Taken together, these chapters sharpen critical appreciation of Eliot’s writings and present a comprehensive, composite portrait of one of the twentieth century’s pre-eminent men of letters. Drawing on original research, T. S. Eliot in Context is a timely contribution to an exciting reassessment of Eliot’s life and works and will provide a valuable resource for scholars, teachers, students and general readers.

Jason Harding is Reader in English Studies at Durham University and Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of English Studies, University of London. His publications include The ‘Criterion’: Cultural Politics and Periodical Networks in Inter-War Britain (2002) and T. S. Eliot and the Concept of Tradition, co-edited with Giovanni Cianci (Cambridge, 2007).
T. S. ELIOT IN CONTEXT

EDITED BY

JASON HARDING
In memory of Sir Frank Kermode (1919–2010)
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