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978-0-521-61561-7 - The Cambridge Companion to the Fin de Siècle

Edited by Gail Marshall

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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
THE FIN DE SIÈCLE

Situated between the Victorians and modernism, the fin de siècle is an exciting and rewarding period to study. In the literature and art of the 1890s, the processes of literary and cultural change can be seen in action. In this, more than any previous decade, literature was an active and controversial participant within debates over morality, aesthetics, politics and science, as Victorian certainties began to break down. Oscar Wilde, Aubrey Beardsley, H. G. Wells, Thomas Hardy and Olive Schreiner were among the most prominent, occasionally even notorious, writers and artists of the period, challenging establishment values and producing a distinctive literature of their own. This volume includes the main currents of radical and innovative thinking in the period, as well as the attempts to resist them. It will be of great interest to students of Victorian and twentieth-century literature, art and cultural history.

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THE CAMBRIDGE
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EDITED BY

GAIL MARSHALL

Oxford Brookes University



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CHRONOLOGY

- 1885 General Gordon killed in the Sudan
 Stead, 'The Tribute of Modern Babylon'
 Criminal Law Amendment Act passed
Dictionary of National Biography founded
 Haggard, *King Solomon's Mines*
- 1886 Trafalgar Square riots
 Haggard, *She* (–1887)
 Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge* and *The Woodlanders*
 (–1887)
 Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and
Kidnapped
 Watts, *Hope*
- 1887 Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee
 Bloody Sunday riots
- 1888 Kodak box camera invented
 Jack the Ripper murders in Whitechapel
 First woman elected to London County Council
 Kipling, *Plain Tales from the Hills*
- 1889 First English performance of Ibsen's *A Doll's House*
 International Congress of Psychology in Paris
 Cleveland Street Scandal
 Prosecution of Zola by National Vigilance Association
 Booth, *Life and Labour in London* (–1903)
 S. Webb, *Fabian Essays in Socialism*
- 1890 Cecil Rhodes made Premier of the Cape Colony
 Morris, *News from Nowhere*
 Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (and in revised edition in
 1891)

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- 1891 The Clitheroe case
First English performances of Ibsen's *Ghosts*, *Hedda Gabler* and *The Lady from the Sea*
Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*
Gissing, *New Grub Street*
- 1892 Wilde, *Lady Windermere's Fan*
Shaw, *Widowers' Houses*
Death of Tennyson
Morris founded the Kelmscott Press
- 1893 Independent Labour Party founded
New edition of Pater's *Renaissance* with 'Conclusion' restored
Egerton, *Keynotes*
Wilde, *A Woman of No Importance*
Grand, *The Heavenly Twins*
- 1894 Women permitted to stand for Parish and District Councils
Yellow Book founded
Beerbohm, 'A Defence of Cosmetics'
Kipling, *The Jungle Book*
Hardy, *Jude the Obscure* (–1895)
Sarah Grand coins the term 'New Woman'
- 1895 Oscar Wilde found guilty of committing indecent acts, and imprisoned to two years' hard labour
The Importance of Being Earnest and *An Ideal Husband* are taken off the stage
Marconi invents wireless telegraphy
Lumière brothers invent cinematography
Sully, *Studies of Childhood*
Nordau's *Degeneration* translated into English
Wells, *The Time Machine*
Allen, *The Woman Who Did*
Sickert, *Gallery of the Old Bedford*
F. Macdonald, *The Sleeping Princess* (–1896)
- 1896 Founding of the *Daily Mail*
London School of Economics opens
- 1897 National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies established
Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee
Stoker, *Dracula*
James, 'Turn of the Screw'

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- 1898 Hong Kong enlarged when Britain leases Chinese territories
 Vagrancy Act increases penalties for homosexual soliciting
- 1899 Anglo-Boer War (–1902)
 Seats for Female Shop Assistants Act
 Conrad, ‘Heart of Darkness’
- 1900 Conquest of Orange Free State and the Transvaal
 Ruskin and Wilde die
 Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*
- 1901 Queen Victoria dies