Women played a central role in literary modernism, theorizing, debating, writing, and publishing the critical and imaginative work that resulted in a new literary culture during the early twentieth century. This volume provides a thorough overview of the main genres, the important issues, and the key figures in women’s writing during the years 1890–1945. The essays treat the work of Woolf, Stein, Cather, Barnes, H. D., Hurston, and many others in detail; they also explore women’s salons, little magazines, activism, photography, film criticism, and spirituality. Written especially for this Companion, these lively essays introduce students and scholars to the vibrant field of women’s modernism.

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*Cambridge University Press*  
*978-0-521-73570-4 - The Cambridge Companion to Modernist Women Writers*  
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*Index*
THADIOUS M. DAVIS is Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought and Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania and the author of *Games of Property: Law, Race, Gender, and Faulkner’s Go Down, Moses.*

LAURA DOYLE is Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She is author of *Bordering on the Body: The Racial Matrix of Modern Fiction and Culture* (1994, Perkins Prize Award) and *Freedom’s Empire: Race and the Rise of the Novel in Atlantic Modernity, 1640–1940* (2008), and she is editor of two collections, *Bodies of Resistance: New Phenomenologies of Politics, Agency, and Culture* (2001) and, with Laura Winkiel, *Geomodernisms: Race, Modernism, Modernity* (2004). Her current project, supported by an ACLS Fellowship, is a study of the transcultural dynamics and histories that have given rise to diverse modernisms in world literature.

PENNY FARFAN is Professor of Drama at the University of Calgary. Her book *Women, Modernism, and Performance* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2004, and she is the co-editor of a special issue of *South Central Review* on “Staging Modernism” (2008), which includes her article “Man as Beast: Nijinsky’s Faun.” She is currently completing a project on queer modernist performance and co-editing *Theatre Journal.*

SUZETTE A. HENKE is Thruston B. Morton Sr. Professor of English at the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY, USA. She is author of *James Joyce and the Politics of Desire* and has published widely in the field of modern literature. A revised edition of her book *Shattered Subjects: Trauma and Testimony in Women’s Life-Writing* was published in 2000, and she has co-edited, with David Eberly, a collection of essays on *Virginia Woolf and Trauma* (2007). Professor Henke is currently working on a study entitled *Modernist Trauma: Gender and Abjection in Woolf, Joyce, and Lawrence.*

MIRANDA HICKMAN is an Associate Professor of English at McGill University. She is the author of *The Geometry of Modernism* (2006); she has also published on Ezra
Pound’s deluxe editions, H. D. and the body, and the legacy of Raymond Chandler in contemporary culture. Forthcoming work includes articles on the minor works of James Joyce, H. D. and the canon, and Ezra Pound and Vorticism. She is currently completing an annotated edition of Ezra Pound’s letters to publisher Stanley Nott (forthcoming, 2011) and co-editing a volume of essays entitled Rereading the New Criticism.

**Maggie Humm** is a Professor of Cultural Studies, University of East London, UK. She has been a Distinguished Visiting Scholar and Professor at many universities including Massachusetts, San Diego State, Stanford, Rutgers, Queen’s Belfast, and Karachi. Her publications include Snapshots of Bloomsbury: The Private Lives of Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell (2006) and the Edinburgh Companion to Virginia Woolf and the Arts (2010).

**Heather Ingman** lectures in the School of English, Trinity College, Dublin. She has published extensively on women’s writing, particularly inter-war women’s writing and Irish women’s fiction. Her study Twentieth-Century Fiction by Irish Women: Nation and Gender was published in 2007, and she is the author of A History of the Irish Story (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

**Maren Tova Linett** is Associate Professor of English at Purdue University. She is the author of Modernism, Feminism, and Jewishness (Cambridge University Press, 2007) and the editor of Virginia Woolf: An MFS Reader (2009). She has edited a special issue of Modern Fiction Studies entitled “Modernism’s Jews / Jewish Modernisms,” and has published articles on Dorothy Richardson, Virginia Woolf, Jean Rhys, and James Joyce.


**Sowon S. Park** is college lecturer in English at Oxford University. She has co-edited a six-volume anthology, Women’s Suffrage Literature (2007), and is the author of a number of studies on twentieth-century literature, published in journals that include The Review of English Studies, MLQ, and English Literature in Transition.

**Jean Radford,** formerly of Goldsmith’s College, University of London, is a freelance writer/researcher, author of books on Norman Mailer and Dorothy Richardson and of various articles on women and modernism, including “Impersonality and the Damned Egotistical Self: Dorothy Richardson’s Pilgrimage,” in Impersonality and Emotion in Twentieth-Century British Literature, ed. Christine Reynier and
Notes on Contributors


Bonnie Kime Scott is Professor and Chair of Women’s Studies at San Diego State University. Much of her work concerns modernism and gender, starting with *Joyce and Feminism*, and including the critical anthologies *The Gender of Modernism* and *Gender in Modernism: New Geographies, Complex Intersections* and the two-volume study, *Refiguring Modernism*, which focused on Virginia Woolf, Rebecca West, and Djuna Barnes. She is finishing a new book, *Virginia Woolf and Modernist Uses of Nature*.

Patricia Juliana Smith is associate professor of English at Hofstra University. She is the author of *Lesbian Panic: Homoeroticism in Modern British Women’s Fiction* (1997), editor of *The Queer Sixties* (1999), and co-editor of *En Travesti: Women, Gender Subversion, Opera* (1995) and *Catholic Figures, Queer Narratives* (2007). She has published numerous essays on twentieth-century British literature, queer theory, and popular culture.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like first to thank the contributors to this volume both for their hard work on their excellent essays and their cooperation during the editing process. For their sage advice when I was first conceptualizing this Companion I thank Sara Blair, Laura Doyle, Amy Feinstein, Venetria Patton, and especially Suzanne Raitt. Three anonymous readers of the first proposal for Cambridge University Press gave enthusiastic, detailed, and wonderfully constructive suggestions. Deena Linett, Peter Linett, John Whittier-Ferguson, Jennifer Martson William, and Dominic Naughton gave valuable feedback when I was drafting the introduction. I much appreciate Ray Ryan’s wise guidance as the proposal gradually developed into a finished product. The editorial and production staff at Cambridge University Press are uniformly professional and helpful and I would particularly like to thank Maartje Scheltens, Joanna Garbutt, Thomas O’Reilly, and Caroline Howlett. I am grateful to Rebecca Nicholson-Weir for help in preparing the manuscript and for creating the index.
CHRONOLOGY

1895  Alice Dunbar-Nelson, *Violets and Other Tales*
      Wilhelm Roentgen discovers x-rays
      Invention of the wireless
      Invention of the motion picture

1896  United States Supreme Court upholds “separate but equal” in *Plessy v. Ferguson*
      National Association of Colored Women formed in the United States
      First commercial motion picture exhibition given in New York using Thomas Edison’s Kinetoscope

1897  National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies founded by Millicent Garrett Fawcett

1898  Marie and Pierre Curie discover radium and polonium

1899  Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s *The Yellow Wallpaper* published in book form

1900  International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union founded
      Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*
      Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces: A Romance Illustrative of Negro Life North and South*

1901  Queen Victoria dies; Edward VII succeeds
      President William McKinley killed; Theodore Roosevelt succeeds

1902  Augusta Gregory, *Kathleen Ni Houlihan*
William James, *Varieties of Religious Experience*
First structure built in the United States specifically to show movies, Tally’s Electric Theater, opens in Los Angeles
Anglo-Boer War ends

1903 Jane Harrison, *Prolegomena to the Study of Greek Religion*
Edwin S. Porter, *The Great Train Robbery*
Marie Curie, Pierre Curie, and Henri Becquerel awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for research on radiation
Wright brothers’ first successful flight
Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU) founded by Emmeline, Christabel, and Sylvia Pankhurst

1904 Abbey Theatre opens in Dublin

1905 Albert Einstein publishes “On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies”
Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*
First militant suffrage incident at Free Trade Hall, Manchester
Aliens Act introduces immigration controls and registration in Britain
Russian Revolution

1906 Liberals win landslide victory in Britain

1907 Edith Wharton, *The Fruit of the Tree*
Augusta Gregory, *The Rising of the Moon*
Elizabeth Robins, *Votes for Women* (play)
*Votes for Women* (newspaper) founded, edited by Emmeline and Frederick Pethick-Lawrence
Henri Bergson, *Creative Evolution*
WSPU splits, Women’s Freedom League founded in Britain
Cubist Exhibition in Paris

1908 Henry Ford produces first Model T Ford
Women Writers Suffrage League (WWSL) founded
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded

1909

Christopher St. John, *A Defence of the Fighting Spirit*

Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives*

F. T. Marinetti, “The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism”

Suffragette Marion Wallace Dunlop begins first hunger strike in July; in September, forcible feeding begins in British prisons

Roosevelt is succeeded by William Howard Taft

1910

Cicely Hamilton, *Pageant of Great Women*

Augusta Gregory, *Grania*

*Crisis* founded by W. E. B. Du Bois

First postimpressionist exhibition, organized by Roger Fry

F. T. Marinetti, “Futurist Speech to the English”

Mann Act prohibits the transportation of women across state lines for “immoral purposes” in United States

Edward VII dies; George V succeeds

1911

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *The Man-Made World: Or, Our Androcentric Culture*

Edith Wharton, *Ethan Frome*

Cicely Hamilton, *Jack and Jill and a Friend*

Christopher St. John, *The First Actress*

Teresa Billington-Grieg, *The Militant Suffrage Movement*

Marie Curie awarded a second Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her discovery of radium and polonium

Dora Marsden founds and edits *The Freewoman*, under the patronage of Harriet Shaw Weaver

1912

Willa Cather, *Alexander’s Bridge*

Mary Antin, *The Promised Land*

Edith Wharton, *The Reef*
Jane Harrison, *Themis: A Study of Greek Religion*

May Sinclair’s *Feminism* published as a pamphlet by the Women’s Suffrage League

*Poetry* magazine founded in Chicago by Harriet Monroe

Second postimpressionist exhibition, organized by Roger Fry

Titanic sinks, more than 1,500 people die

1913

Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!*

Edith Wharton, *The Custom of the Country*

Jane Harrison, *Ancient Art and Ritual*

Armory Show in New York, includes paintings by Van Gogh, Gauguin, Monet, Manet, Matisse, Kandinsky, and others

*The Freewoman* becomes *The New Freewoman*

Suffragist demonstrations in London

Taft is succeeded by Woodrow Wilson

1914

Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons*

Mina Loy, “Aphorisms on Futurism” and “Feminist Manifesto”

Evelyn Underhill, *Practical Mysticism*

Suffragist Mary Richardson slashes the Rokeby Venus

*The New Freewoman* becomes *The Egoist*; Harriet Shaw Weaver becomes editor

Margaret Anderson founds *The Little Review*; Jane Heap joins as co-editor

First World War begins, August 4

1915

Dorothy Richardson, *Pointed Roofs*, the 1st novel-chapter of *Pilgrimage*

Virginia Woolf, *The Voyage Out*

Djuna Barnes, *The Book of Repulsive Women*

Willa Cather, *The Song of the Lark*
Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s *Herland* published as a serial in the *Forerunner*


1916 Dorothy Richardson, *Backwater*, the 2nd novel-chapter of *Pilgrimage*

H. D., *Sea Garden*

Amy Lowell, *Men, Women, and Ghosts*

Susan Glaspell, *Trifles*

Albert Einstein, *General Theory of Relativity*

Easter Rising in Dublin

Alice Paul founds the National Woman’s Party in the United States

Great Migration begins: 1.3 million African Americans move from the south to the north, midwest, and west

1917 Dorothy Richardson, *Honeycomb*, the 3rd novel-chapter of *Pilgrimage*

Edna St. Vincent Millay, *Renascence and Other Poems*

Edith Wharton, *Summer*

May Sinclair, *Tree of Heaven*

Mina Loy’s “Songs to Joannes” published in *Others* magazine

May Sinclair, *A Defence of Idealism*

Leonard and Virginia Woolf found the Hogarth Press

Russian Revolution

United States enters the war

1918 Willa Cather, *My Ántonia*

Georgia Douglas Johnson, *The Heart of a Woman and Other Poems*

Rebecca West, *The Return of the Soldier*

Marie Stopes, *Married Love*

Tristan Tzara, “Dada Manifesto”
May Sinclair introduces the term “stream of consciousness” to literary studies in her review of Richardson’s *Pilgrimage*

Women over 30 receive the right to vote in Great Britain (Representation of the People Act)

Constance Markiewicz is first woman to be elected to British parliament but does not take her seat

First World War ends with Armistice, November 11

1919 Dorothy Richardson, *The Tunnel*, the 4th novel-chapter of *Pilgrimage*

May Sinclair, *Mary Olivier*

Virginia Woolf, *Kew Gardens* and *Night and Day*

Amy Lowell, *Pictures of the Floating World*

Nancy Astor becomes first woman Member of Parliament

League of Nations founded

1920 Dorothy Richardson, *Interim*, the 5th novel-chapter of *Pilgrimage*

Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*

Katherine Mansfield, *Bliss and Other Stories*

Anzia Yezierska, *Hungry Hearts*

Sigmund Freud, *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*

Jessie Weston, *From Ritual to Romance*

Augusta Gregory, *Visions and Beliefs in the West of Ireland*

Edna St. Vincent Millay, *Aria da Capo*

Prohibition begins in the United States

Women receive the right to vote in the United States (Nineteenth Amendment)

1921 Dorothy Richardson, *Deadlock*, the 6th novel-chapter of *Pilgrimage*

Virginia Woolf, *Monday or Tuesday*

Marianne Moore, *Poems*

Emergency Quota Act restricts immigration to the United States
Margaret Sanger founds the American Birth Control League
Wilson is succeeded by Warren G. Harding

1922
Virginia Woolf, *Jacob’s Room*
Willa Cather, *One of Ours*
Rebecca West, *The Judge*
Georgia Douglas Johnson, *Bronze*
Creation of the Irish Free State
Report of the British War Office Committee of Enquiry into “shell shock”
British Broadcasting Company (BBC) founded
Mussolini becomes Italian Prime Minister

1923
Dorothy Richardson, *Revolving Lights*, the 7th novel-chapter of *Pilgrimage*
Djuna Barnes, *A Book*
Willa Cather, *A Lost Lady*
Elizabeth Bowen, *Encounters*
May Sinclair, *Uncanny Stories*
Anzia Yezierska, *Salome of the Tenements*
Mina Loy, *Lunar Baedeker* and first part of *Anglo-Mongrels and the Rose*
Harding dies; Calvin Coolidge succeeds

1924
Marianne Moore, *Observations*
Edith Wharton, *Old New York*
Jessie Redmon Fauset, *There Is Confusion*
May Sinclair, *Arnold Waterlow*
Jane Harrison, *Mythology*
André Breton, *Manifesto of Surrealism*
British Empire exhibition in London
First Labour government in Britain

1925  Dorothy Richardson, *The Trap*, the 8th novel-chapter of *Pilgrimage*
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* and *The Common Reader*
Gertrude Stein, *The Making of Americans*
Willa Cather, *The Professor’s House*
Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers*
Evelyn Underhill, *Mystics of the Church*
Mary Butts, *Ashe of Rings*
Mina Loy, “Mongrel Rose,” final part of *Anglo-Mongrels and the Rose*
Josephine Baker debuts in *La Revue nègre* in Paris
Scopes “Monkey” Trial in the United States

1926  Willa Cather, *My Mortal Enemy*
Zora Neale Hurston, *Sweat*
Georgia Douglas Johnson, *Blue-Blood*
H. D., *Palimpsest*
Sylvia Townsend Warner, *Lolly Willowes*
Vita Sackville-West, *Passenger to Teheran*
General Strike in Britain

1927  Dorothy Richardson, *Oberland*, the 9th novel-chapter of *Pilgrimage*
Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*
Elizabeth Bowen, *The Hotel*
Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*
Gertrude Stein, *Four Saints in Three Acts*
Jean Rhys, *The Left Bank and Other Stories*
Georgia Douglas Johnson, *Plumes*
Sylvia Townsend Warner, *Mr. Fortune’s Maggot*
Vita Sackville-West, *The Land*
First successful sound film, *The Jazz Singer*
First issue of avant-garde film journal *Close Up*

1928
Virginia Woolf, *Orlando*
Djuna Barnes, *Ladies Almanack* and *Ryder*
Zora Neale Hurston, *How It Feels to Be Colored Me*
Nella Larsen, *Quicksand*
Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness*
Rebecca West, *The Strange Necessity*
Sophie Treadwell, *Machinal*
Georgia Douglas Johnson, *An Autumn Love Cycle*
Mary Butts, *Armed with Madness*
Arthur Eddington, *The Nature of the Physical World*
Voting age for British women lowered to 21

1929
Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own*
Nella Larsen, *Passing*
Jean Rhys, *Quartet*
Rebecca West, *Harriet Hume*
Elizabeth Bowen, *The Last September*
Georgia Douglas Johnson, *Safe*
Natalie Barney, *Adventures of the Mind*
Jessie Redmon Fauset, *Plum Bun*
Bryher, *Film Problems of Soviet Russia*
Great Depression begins with stock market crash on October 29, “Black Tuesday”
Coolidge is succeeded by Herbert Hoover

1930
Vita Sackville-West, *The Edwardians*
1931
Dorothy Richardson, *Dawn’s Left Hand*, the 10th novel-chapter of *Pilgrimage*

Virginia Woolf, *The Waves*

Willa Cather, *Shadows on the Rock*

Elizabeth Bowen, *Friends and Relations*

H. D., *Red Roses for Bronze*

Jean Rhys, *After Leaving Mr. Mackenzie*

Jessie Redmon Fauset, *The Chinaberry Tree*

Vita Sackville-West, *All Passion Spent*

1932
Elizabeth Bowen, *To the North*

Mary Butts, *The Death of Felicity Taverner*

Amelia Earhart becomes first woman to make a solo transatlantic flight

Oswald Mosley founds the British Union of Fascists

1933
Virginia Woolf, *Flush*

Gertrude Stein, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*

Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*

Jessie Redmon Fauset, *Comedy: American Style*

Antonia White, *Frost in May*

Hoover is succeeded by Franklin D. Roosevelt

Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor in Germany

1934
Zora Neale Hurston, *Jonah’s Gourd Vine* and “Characteristics of Negro Expression”

Jean Rhys, *Voyage in the Dark*

Elizabeth Bowen, *The Cat Jumps and Other Stories*

Edna St. Vincent Millay, *Wine from These Grapes*

Kate O’Brien, *The Ante-Room*

Nancy Cunard, *Negro: An Anthology*
CHRONOLOGY

1935
Dorothy Richardson, *Clear Horizon*, the 11th novel-chapter of *Pilgrimage*
Elizabeth Bowen, *The House in Paris*
Willa Cather, *Lucy Gayheart*
Marianne Moore, *Selected Poems*
Zora Neale Hurston, *Mules and Men*
H. D., *Nights*
Ruth Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*
Mary McLeod Bethune organizes the National Council of Negro Women
Italy invades Abyssinia

1936
Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood*
Gertrude Stein, *The Geographical History of America*
Stevie Smith, *Novel on Yellow Paper*
Sylvia Townsend Warner, *Summer Will Show*
Kate O’Brien, *Mary Lavelle*
Marianne Moore, *The Pangolin and Other Verse*
George V dies January 20; Edward VIII reigns, abdicating in December; George VI succeeds
Spanish Civil War begins

1937
Virginia Woolf, *The Years*
Gertrude Stein, *Everybody’s Autobiography*
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Mary Butts, *The Crystal Cabinet*
Vita Sackville-West, *Pepita*
Bryher, *Cinema Survey*

1938
Virginia Woolf, *Three Guineas*
Mary Butts, Last Stories

Zora Neale Hurston, Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica

Gwen Pharis Ringwood, Still Stands the House

Sylvia Townsend Warner, After the Death of Don Juan

Elizabeth Bowen, The Death of the Heart

1939 Zora Neale Hurston, Moses, Man of the Mountain

Jean Rhys, Good Morning, Midnight

Spanish Civil War ends

Second World War begins, September

1940 Virginia Woolf, Roger Fry: A Biography

Gertrude Stein, Paris France

Willa Cather, Sapphira and the Slave Girl

Vera Brittain, Testament of Friendship

Germany launches sustained bombing campaign on England, known as the Blitz

1941 Virginia Woolf dies, March 28

Virginia Woolf, Between the Acts

Gertrude Stein, Ida: A Novel

Marianne Moore, What Are Years

Elizabeth Bowen, Look at All Those Roses

Kate O’Brien, The Land of Spices

Rebecca West, Black Lamb and Grey Falcon

Japan bombs Pearl Harbor; United States enters war

1942 Zora Neale Hurston, Dust Tracks on a Road

1943 Vita Sackville-West, The Eagle and the Dove

1944 H. D., The Walls Do Not Fall and What Do I Love?

Marianne Moore, Nevertheless
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<th>Year</th>
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| 1945 | Gertrude Stein, *Wars I Have Seen*  
H. D., *Tribute to the Angels*  
Elizabeth Bowen, *The Demon Lover and Other Stories*  
Roosevelt is succeeded by Harry S. Truman  
Germany surrenders in May  
United States drops atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima; Japan surrenders in August: Second World War ends |