

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
Edited by Anna Snaith
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE EDITION
OF THE WORKS OF

Virginia Woolf

~

THE YEARS

~

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
Edited by Anna Snaith
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
Edited by Anna Snaith
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE EDITION
OF THE WORKS OF
Virginia Woolf

GENERAL EDITORS

Jane Goldman *University of Glasgow*
Susan Sellers *University of St Andrews*

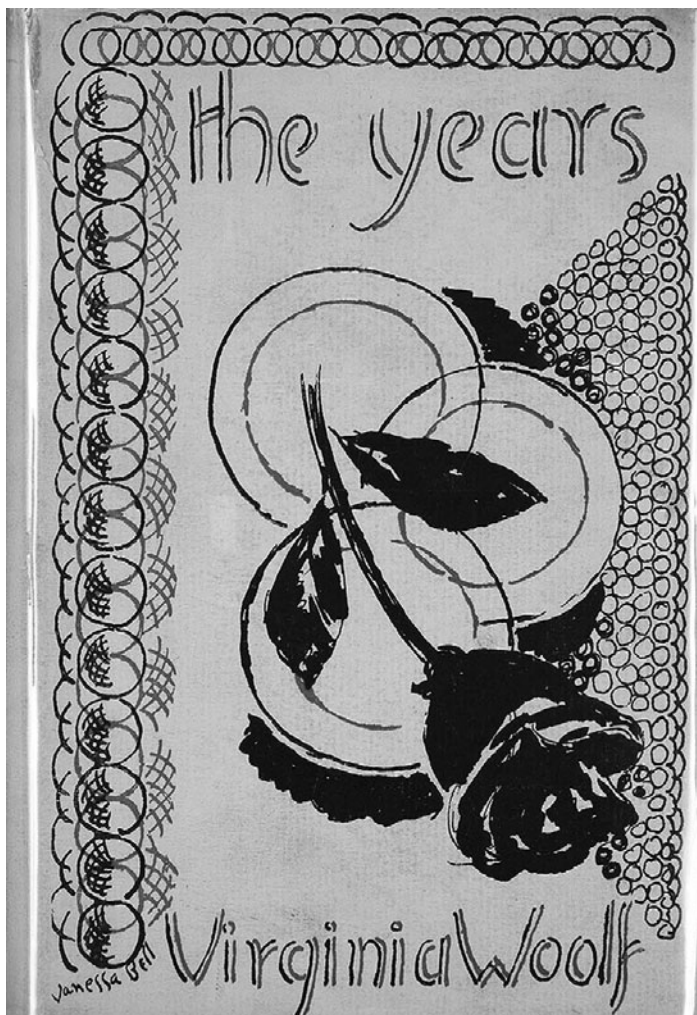
EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Tuzyline Jita Allan *City University, New York*
Gillian Beer *University of Cambridge*
Ian Blyth *University of St Andrews*
Rachel Bowlby *University College London*
David Bradshaw *Worcester College, Oxford*
Stuart N. Clarke *independent scholar*
Mark Hussey *Pace University, New York*
Jim Stewart *University of Dundee*

SERIES LIST

The Voyage Out edited by Emma Sutton, Tuzyline Jita Allan
and Jim Stewart
Night and Day edited by Michael Whitworth
Jacob's Room edited by David Bradshaw
Mrs Dalloway edited by Anne Fernald
To the Lighthouse edited by Jane Goldman
Orlando edited by Suzanne Raitt and Ian Blyth
The Waves edited by Michael Herbert and Susan Sellers
Flush edited by Linden Peach
The Years edited by Anna Snaith
Between the Acts edited by Mark Hussey
A Room of One's Own edited by Jane Goldman
Collected Short Fiction edited by Laura Marcus and Bryony Randall

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
Edited by Anna Snaith
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



Vanessa Bell, dust jacket for the first British edition of *The Years*

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
Edited by Anna Snaith
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Virginia Woolf



THE YEARS



Edited by
ANNA SNAITH



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
 Edited by Anna Snaith
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
 Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK
 Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521845977

Text published in the United States of America under licence from Harcourt, Inc.

Introduction and notes © Cambridge University Press 2012

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2012

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data
 Woolf, Virginia, 1882–1941.

The years / Virginia Woolf ; edited by Anna Snaith.

pages cm. – (The Cambridge edition of the works of Virginia Woolf)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-84597-7

1. Families – England – Fiction. 2. London (England) – Social life and customs – Fiction.

3. Domestic fiction. 4. Woolf, Virginia, 1882–1941. Years. I. Snaith, Anna, editor.

II. Title.

PR6045.O72Y4 2012b

823'.912 – dc23 2012035036

ISBN 978-0-521-84597-7 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
Edited by Anna Snaith
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

*to Dominic, Nicholas and Benjamin
for all the joy you bring*

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
Edited by Anna Snaith
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>General Editors' Preface</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>Notes on the Edition</i>	<i>xx</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>xxii</i>
<i>Chronology of Virginia Woolf's Life and Work</i>	<i>xxxv</i>
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	<i>xxx</i>
<i>List of Archival Sources for Manuscript, Typescript and Proof Material Relating to The Years</i>	<i>xxxv</i>
<i>List of Editorial Symbols</i>	<i>xxxvii</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>xxxix</i>
<i>Composition History</i>	<i>xlvi</i>
<i>Publication History</i>	<i>lxxxvi</i>
<i>Early Critical Reception</i>	<i>lxxxviii</i>
<i>Editing The Years</i>	<i>xciii</i>
<i>Chronology of the Composition of The Years</i>	<i>c</i>
THE YEARS	<i>1</i>
<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>393</i>
<i>Textual Apparatus</i>	<i>537</i>
<i>Textual Notes</i>	<i>757</i>
<i>Appendix</i>	<i>807</i>
<i>Bibliography</i>	<i>857</i>

Illustrations

<i>Frontispiece</i>	Vanessa Bell, dust jacket for the first British edition of <i>The Years</i>	<i>page iv</i>
1	Doodle used as a section header in the holograph drafts of <i>The Pargiters</i>	<i>xl</i>
2	Philip's New Plan of London, 1880 © The British Library Board (Maps 4.a.29)	<i>cxiv–cxv</i>
3	New Pictorial Map of London, 1931 © The British Library Board (Maps 3480(369))	<i>cxvi–cxvii</i>
4	Title page of the first British edition of <i>The Years</i>	<i>cxviii</i>

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
Edited by Anna Snaith
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

General Editors' Preface

The only advice, indeed, that one person can give another about reading is to take no advice, to follow your own instincts, to use your own reason, to come to your own conclusions.

VIRGINIA WOOLF, 'How Should One Read a Book?'¹

How should we read the writings of Virginia Woolf? This is not so much a question of interpretation as of practice. How are we to read this writer for whom reading is an activity that requires almost the same talents and energies as the activity of writing itself? For Woolf responds to the question, 'How should one read a book?', as a person of immense, virtuosic skill and experience in both activities. She understands the reader to be the 'fellow-worker and accomplice' (*E5* 573) of the writer. The 'quickest way to understand [. . .] what a novelist is doing is not to read', she suggests, 'but to write; to make your own experiment with the dangers and difficulties of words' (*E5* 574); and 'the time to read poetry', she recognises, is 'when we are almost able to write it' (*E5* 577). Not only has Woolf left a richly rewarding oeuvre, but she has also left ample documentation of her meticulous processes of composition and of her detailed involvement in the production and publishing of many of her works, all of which her active and conscientious reader will wish to negotiate. If we are going to read Woolf creatively and critically, if we are to follow our own instincts, use our own reason and come to our own conclusions, as she herself advises, we need to read her works in a form that provides us with the fullest means

¹ VW, 'How Should One Read a Book?' (1926), *E5* 573. Subsequent references to this and other works by VW appear in the text. For full bibliographical details see this volume's List of Abbreviations and Bibliography.

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
 Edited by Anna Snaith
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

possible to exercise these powers, one that gives us as much unmediated access as possible to the record of these processes. This Cambridge edition of Woolf's writings consequently aims to provide readers and scholars, Woolf's fellow-workers and accomplices, with an extensively researched, fully explicated and collated text.

READING WOOLF

What does it mean to be the 'fellow-worker and accomplice' of Virginia Woolf? She published ten novels, as well as numerous short stories, essays and works of biography and criticism. Her posthumously published volumes of letters, diaries and memoirs are testimony to a life of constant writing, private as well as public. An erudite writer with an apparently encyclopedic knowledge of English letters, Woolf also knew Greek, Latin, German, French and Russian. She was denied the formal education afforded her brothers, yet was able to hold her own in intellectual exchange with them and their fellow Cambridge graduates. She did not attend school but received a thoroughgoing education at home, the beneficiary of personal tuition from her father, the esteemed literary critic, Leslie Stephen, and she enjoyed the free run of his considerable library. However, Woolf undertook a serious programme of studies at King's College Ladies' Department (at 13 Kensington Square) 'for five years between 1897 and 1901, between the ages of 15 and 19', as Christine Kenyon Jones and Anna Snaith have shown: 'She was not only registered for courses in a range of subjects, but reached degree-level standard in some of her studies, and also took examinations. The archives also show that Vanessa Stephen was also registered for classes at the Ladies' Department of King's College London between 1898 and 1900 and that the sisters studied Latin together there' (Kenyon Jones and Snaith 4). Virginia Stephen, according to the records, enjoyed 'sustained enrolment in a range of subjects at the Ladies' Department, including History (Continental and English), Greek (Intermediate and Advanced), Latin and German' (*ibid.* 6–7). She was tutored in Classics by Dr G. C. W. Warr, by Clara Pater, sister of the essayist and critic, Walter Pater, and by Janet Case, one of the first graduates of Girton College, Cambridge and a committed feminist.

All too aware of the historical and continuing hypocrisies and inequities of most formal academic education, in its exclusions along lines of

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
 Edited by Anna Snaith
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

gender, class and race, Woolf was notoriously ambivalent in her dealings with scholars and academic critics, and she pointedly refused a number of honorary degrees from distinguished universities. She nevertheless did engage in some aspects of academic life, and not only as a student. She taught for a spell at Morley College, an evening institute for working people in South London, and during her career as a writer she gave several lectures and papers both to university students and to the Workers' Educational Association. A number of these lectures and papers constituted the first drafts of some of her most significant and influential contributions to literary criticism, including her founding work on feminist aesthetics, *A Room of One's Own*, and her great modernist manifestos, 'Mr Bennett and Mrs Brown' (Character in Fiction), 'The Narrow Bridge of Art' (Poetry, Fiction and the Future) and 'The Leaning Tower'. Actively engaged in feminist, socialist, pacifist and anti-fascist politics, she probed in all her writings the complex relations between art and the real world. Woolf scholarship has flourished in tandem with the rise of modern feminism and under the impetus of its intellectual transformations of the academy. Woolf's writings have been studied, with increasing attention, in universities since their first publication; and it is testimony to the revisionary force of many of her works that they are now studied in universities by the very outsiders to such institutions that she first championed, even if her egalitarian vision for school and university entrance still remains far from realised: 'Money is no longer going to do our thinking for us. Wealth will no longer decide who shall be taught and who not. In future it is we who shall decide whom to send to public schools and universities; how they shall be taught; and whether what they write justifies their exemption from other work.'²

But Woolf's readers have always been, and remain, equally numerous outside the academy too. Even her most experimental works sold well to the general public from the start, and she has never been out of print. One of her best-selling novels was *Flush*, her spoof biography of a dog, which academic studies tended to overlook until very recently. Woolf understands literature as common ground open to all: 'Let us trespass at once. Literature is no one's private ground; literature is common ground. It is not cut up into nations; there are no wars there. Let us trespass freely and fearlessly and find our own way for ourselves' (*M* 125). She was scornful too of institutionalised

² VW, 'The Leaning Tower' (1940), *M* 124.

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
 Edited by Anna Snaith
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

academic literary authority: 'To admit authorities, however heavily furred and gowned, into our libraries and let them tell us how to read, what to read, what value to place upon what we read, is to destroy the spirit of freedom which is the breath of those sanctuaries. Everywhere else we may be bound by laws and conventions—there we have none' (*E5* 573). In setting out her 'philosophy' in a late memoir, Woolf went so far as to declare the redundancy, if not the death, of the author: 'the whole world is a work of art; [. . .] we are parts of the work of art. *Hamlet* or a Beethoven quartet is the truth about this vast mass that we call the world. But there is no Shakespeare, there is no Beethoven; certainly and emphatically there is no God; we are the words; we are the music; we are the thing itself.'³ Following Dr Johnson she famously 'rejoice[d] to concur with the common reader';⁴ and she was proud of her own independent, professional status as a writer. She was, from youth, a prolific reviewer of literature, for various organs, including *The Times Literary Supplement*.

In tandem with her career as a professional novelist, short-story writer and essayist, Woolf also became an influential independent publisher. The Hogarth Press, which was launched by Leonard and Virginia Woolf in 1917, was not only a vehicle for putting their own work into the public realm, but it was also responsible for publishing works by numerous important modern writers and thinkers, including John Maynard Keynes, T. S. Eliot, Katherine Mansfield, Gertrude Stein, W. H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood, Louis MacNeice and Sigmund Freud. 'The powerful intellectual developments that made modernism a pan-European phenomenon', as Michael Whitworth observes, 'were sustained at a local level by material institutions like the Hogarth Press (Whitworth 2000: 150). In short, Woolf as writer, critic, reviewer, lecturer and publisher was a consummate public intellectual.

EDITING WOOLF

So, how should we edit the writings of Virginia Woolf? Already the danger and difficulties of words are upon us. 'We' as editors cannot forget that we are already committed and diverse readers of Woolf. Asking ourselves questions about how to edit Woolf, 'we', as general editors of this Cambridge

³ VW, 'A Sketch of the Past' (1939–40), *MB* 72.

⁴ VW, 'The Common Reader' (1925), *E4* 19.

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
 Edited by Anna Snaith
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

edition (and also as editors of individual volumes in the edition), very soon recognised the need to respond as 'we', two active and different readers of Woolf. Yet, whatever our own often very different instincts, reasonings and conclusions, we nevertheless share a recognition of the intense attention to the text that Woolf's writing demands of all her readers. This is the case in respect of its textual genesis, structure and variants, as well as in its possible – and its manifest – cultural and historical referencing, and regardless of our own individual interpretations. In our role as editors we conceive of ourselves as readers in need of access to a transparent record of textual process, rather than as readers who arrive at interpretative conclusions.

One challenge to editors of Woolf is the difference between British and American first editions of her major novels, and most subsequent editions have fallen on one or other side of this first fissure. Ever since Woolf sent differently corrected proofs across the Atlantic, American readers have not been reading the same text as British readers. The American copyright resides with Harcourt, so American readers and scholars, in the several decades since Woolf's death, have not had ready access to the editions published by Woolf's own press, the Hogarth Press (and vice versa). There are other editions published in Woolf's lifetime that also merit attention, such as the first British editions of the first two novels by the Duckworth Press, the Hogarth Uniform edition and editions by publishers such as Dent.

Methods for addressing the notorious transatlantic differences have varied in practice, either by plumping for the American or British first editions (following the copyright), or by claiming that the 'authentic' or 'authoritative' text resides in one particular set of extant proofs (or even in holograph or typescript). In attempting to gain access to an unpolluted record of textual variance and genesis, readers must then negotiate the sometimes unhelpful biases of editorial argument and often idiosyncratic and silent textual impositions, derived from a less-than-intact legacy of evidence of the processes of composition and publication. Debate rages on how a more democratic and transparent methodology might work. A parallel edition of the British and American editions of *To the Lighthouse* has been suggested, for example, and the digital age certainly makes such hybrids possible in electronic form. But such solutions sacrifice important material elements of signification in Woolf's texts. It is vital that attention is given to her quite specifically designed and designated spacing and typography. It is

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
 Edited by Anna Snaith
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

also important not to lose sight, in the inevitably compromised pursuit of 'authenticity' and 'authority', of the historical, material text as it was first published.

The Cambridge edition, therefore, has invited editors of the novels normally to map out published and proof variants from the first British edition as copy text, with minimal interference on the page where possible, and with no silent emendation. The Textual Apparatus and the Textual Notes allow for a transparent account of process and variance. The extant draft material has been consulted by editors and is systematically listed and referenced in each volume.⁵ The Textual Notes alert the reader to significant points of departure and interest, and in some volumes there are appendices reproducing key (extracts of) draft material. The surviving draft material for Woolf's novels, however, is so copious that no edition could accommodate its reproduction in its entirety in the formal Textual Apparatus. Separate holograph editions are necessary.⁶ Woolf's non-fiction, essays, short stories and autobiographical works present further editorial challenges. The Cambridge edition aims to give readers access to variants in all extant proofs and in all editions published in Woolf's lifetime and, in the case of unpublished works, to establish the text as accurately as possible from all extant sources.

Our aim, therefore, in preparing this edition of Woolf's writings is to provide scholars and readers with a fully researched text. This Cambridge edition recognises that no emendation of spelling, syntax, punctuation, hyphenation, paragraphing or spacing should occur silently. It affords generous exploration of and reference to archival material, holograph work, drafts and proofs. In annotation we aim to be more thorough than in any previous edition, with regard to historical, factual, cultural and literary allusions, in long overdue homage to the remarkable density and breadth of reference in Woolf's work. Each volume includes a substantial introduction mapping the text's composition and publishing history, and explores its critical reception during Woolf's lifetime, except where the text was published posthumously.

⁵ In the case of VW's final novel, *Between the Acts*, which was posthumously published and seen through the press by LW, the typescripts she left behind are necessarily more prominent, forming as they do the basis for the first British edition.

⁶ Much of VW's archive of draft material has been made available on microfilm, and transcriptions have been published in basic holograph editions of some of the novels.

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
 Edited by Anna Snaith
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

However, we would be foolish to ignore the fact that the act of editing is always and already bound up with reading precisely as an interpretative act. Cherishing our differences as critics, we also cherish the opportunity to engage as closely with the processes of Woolf's writing as any active reader could wish, and to make these processes available to fellow readers as fully and transparently as possible. Transparency, not fur and gowns, is our editorial ideal, and we are guided, as Woolf has been, by King Lear: 'Through tattered clothes great vices do appear: / Robes and furred gowns hide all' (*Lear* 4.5.156–7).

ANNOTATING WOOLF

We have been guided too by Woolf's own recorded thoughts on editorial achievements. For example, reviewing as a lay reader a new scholarly edition of Walpole's letters, she 'assert[s], though not with entire confidence, that books after all exist to be read—even the most learned of editors would to some extent at least agree with that'.⁷ And as editors, we do indeed agree with that. We cannot ignore Woolf's inclusion of the common reader as part of a true scholarly community: 'Aeschylus, Shakespeare, Virgil, and Dante [. . .] if they could speak—and after all they can—would say, "Don't leave me to the wigged and gowned. Read me, read me for yourselves"' (*M* 125). Woolf worries that the weighty apparatus of scholarly editions hampers readers:

But how, the question immediately arises, can we read this magnificent instalment [. . .] of our old friend Horace Walpole's letters? Ought not the presses to have issued in a supplementary pocket a supplementary pair of eyes? Then, with the usual pair fixed upon the text, the additional pair could range the notes, thus sweeping together into one haul not only what Horace is saying to Cole and what Cole is saying to Horace, but a multitude of minor men and matters. . . . (*DM* 45)

In *Night and Day*, Mr Hilbery is preparing an edition of Shelley that 'scrupulously observe[s] the poet's system of punctuation' (*ND* 108–9). Her novelist's sensitivity to the comedy of this undertaking does not wholly undermine his endeavour: Mr Hilbery, the narrator tells us, 'saw the humour of these researches, but that did not prevent him from carrying them out with the utmost scrupulosity' (*ND* 109).

⁷ VW, 'Two Antiquaries: Walpole and Cole' (1939), *DM* 64.

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
 Edited by Anna Snaith
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

In preparing this scholarly edition of Woolf's writings, we share her concerns for the readability of books. Resisting the temptation to issue 'in a supplementary pocket a supplementary pair of eyes', we have devised ways of alerting the reader, on the page, to the relevant parts of the Textual Apparatus. But if Woolf worries about 'how great a strain the new method of editing lays upon the eye', she does come to acknowledge that 'if the brain is at first inclined to jib at such perpetual solicitations, and to beg to be allowed to read the text in peace, it adjusts itself by degrees; grudgingly admits that many of these little facts are to the point; and finally becomes not merely a convert but a suppliant—asks not for less but for more and more and more' (*DM* 45–6). As editors, we also respond to this spur to feed the insatiable wants of the enquiring reader, once roused.

Sharing Woolf's own readerly desire for 'more and more and more', and recognising the same urgency in our fellow readers, we have made this refrain one of our guiding principles. But, we know too that while the scholarly scope afforded by a Cambridge edition can certainly give more, no edition can ever give all. The concept of such a totality is meaningless. The work of the editor is to engage the reader in a process of informed exploration and interpretation that continues beyond the edition. We understand our readers, then, to be accomplices in a process that can impose no finite interpretation on Woolf's writings. It is our hope that our work enables and enriches the continuing process of readerly collaboration. Another refrain taken from Woolf has also frequently sounded to us, particularly during the preparation of Explanatory Notes: 'nothing [is] simply one thing' (*TL* 286). We would emphasise the open-endedness of all such annotation, and we have conceived ours in dialogue with the work of past and present readers and scholars of Woolf, with the hope of enabling and continuing the dialogues of the future.

It is nevertheless worth comparing the extreme attention now extended by critics to every minor detail of Woolf's writing, including street and shop names, as David Bradshaw urges (Bradshaw 2002a: 109), with some earlier critical approaches that tended to assume her other-worldliness as a writer remote from the fabric of things in the real world, and possessed of a vague, visionary aesthetics considered factually inaccurate and even deliberately careless. The attribution of factual indifference and 'essential feminineness of [...] mind' (Bennett 79) initially deflected interest from the fine detail and

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
 Edited by Anna Snaith
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

precision of Woolf's cultural and intellectual referencing that scholars now investigate with considerable care. It was not so long ago that critics felt able to presume Woolf's lack of classical scholarship, rather than acknowledge her satirical characterisation, in her account of Mrs Dalloway's mistaken assignation, in *The Voyage Out*, of Clytemnestra to *Antigone*. (Woolf's own translation of the *Agamemnon*, languishing in the archives, points clearly to her knowledge of the classical play in which Clytemnestra is to be found.) Explanatory Notes must also address the inevitable receding of Woolf's social and political references into a historical period and cultural context now becoming distant enough from many of today's readers to require elucidation. The research undertaken for the Explanatory Notes draws on the new wealth of scholarly work engaged in the detailed exploration of the myriad and sparkingly allusive surfaces of Woolf's texts as well as their deeper layering of cultural referencing and valences. We would also emphasise that where critical works are cited in the Explanatory Notes it is to point out the information they yield on Woolf's rich weave of literary, cultural, historical and other allusions, rather than with regard to how these allusions and references are interpreted in those works.

Reading is a sacred and infectious pleasure for Woolf, and an end in itself. So much so that she celebrates its power even to dispense with the mythic Day of Judgement itself: 'the Almighty will turn to Peter and will say, not without a certain envy when he sees us coming with our books under our arms, "Look, these need no reward. We have nothing to give them here. They have loved reading"' (*E* 582). A declared atheist, Woolf resisted all notions of final judgement, religious, literary or political. We understand this Cambridge edition of Woolf's writings as continuing, and not capping, the ongoing processes of reading and rereading her work. We hope our fellow readers will recognise, in making use of it, the shifting processes and conditions that are implicit in following instincts, using reason and coming to conclusions about Woolf's work. For 'who reads to bring about an end, however desirable? Are there not some pursuits that we practise because they are good in themselves, and some pleasures that are final? And is not this among them?' (*E* 582).

JANE GOLDMAN
University of Glasgow

SUSAN SELLERS
University of St Andrews

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
Edited by Anna Snaith
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Notes on the Edition

Woolf's Spelling and Punctuation

In quoting from her letters, diaries and from the drafts of her published work Virginia Woolf's sometimes idiosyncratic spelling and punctuation have been retained.

Unless otherwise indicated [by the use of editorial square brackets], all emphases, ellipses, etc. are in the original texts cited.

The Text

The Textual Apparatus normally records all extant states of the text from proof and includes every edition published in Woolf's lifetime.

Each volume maps out published and proof variants from the first British edition as copy text, with minimal interference on the page where possible, and with no silent emendation. The Textual Apparatus and the Textual Notes allow for the most transparent possible account of process and variance.

All extant draft material has been consulted by editors and is systematically listed and referenced in each volume.

Introduction

As well as an account of the editorial challenges presented by Woolf's text, the Introduction in each volume includes a composition history, a publication history, and an account of the early critical reception normally concluding at Woolf's death in 1941.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
Edited by Anna Snaith
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

NOTES ON THE EDITION

Explanatory Notes

Each volume provides extensive and thorough annotation of Woolf's cultural and historical allusions and literary intertexts and attempts to do justice to her modernist playfulness with the multivalences of particular references. The fabric of life in the late nineteenth century and the first part of the twentieth century is often elliptically documented by Woolf in fleeting fragments. Close editorial attention is therefore paid to every character's name, shop name and place name, however passing.

JG and ss

Acknowledgements

My acknowledgements must open with an expression of immense gratitude to James Stewart for his compilation of variants relating to the British galley proofs of *The Years*. His meticulous work and generosity of spirit were invaluable and this project could not have been completed without his contribution. Thanks are also due to Emily Cook for her assistance in preparing the 'Chronology of the Composition of *The Years*'. James Haule kindly shared with me variants compiled by his research assistant, Aubrey Menard, relating to the page proofs of *The Years* held at Smith College, as well as his work on Woolf's 1936 revisions. I am indebted to all previous editors of *The Years*, but in particular to Jeri Johnson, whose thoroughly researched 1998 Penguin edition laid the groundwork for this volume.

I am extremely grateful to those people who read and commented on drafts of this edition, in particular Ian Blyth whose expertise in textual editing was invaluable right from the start. Stuart Clarke was a constant source of information and insight, and generously shared his transcripts of sections of the holograph material.

Thanks are due to those people who assisted me during periods of archival work: Karen Kukil and the staff at the Mortimer Rare Book Room, Neilson Library, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts; and Isaac Gewirtz and the staff at the Berg Collection, New York Public Library.

I am grateful to the Estate of Vanessa Bell, courtesy of Henrietta Garnett, for permission to reproduce the dust jacket of *The Years*. Also to the Society of Authors for permission to quote from published and unpublished material by Virginia Woolf; the Trustees of the National Library

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
 Edited by Anna Snaith
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

of Scotland and R & R Clark for permission to include excerpts from the archive of R & R Clark (Dep. 229, no. 59); the Hogarth Press archives at the University of Reading Library and Archive, and the Random House Group Ltd for permission to quote from correspondence between Leonard Woolf, the Hogarth Press and R & R Clark; the Mortimer Rare Book Room, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts for permission to quote from the page proofs of *The Years*; the Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, the New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations for permission to quote from manuscript and galley material relating to *The Years*.

Many friends, scholars and colleagues have offered expertise and support along the way: Rebecca Beasley, David Bradshaw, Melba Cuddy Keane, Elizabeth Eger, Anne Fernald, Maggie Humm, Mark Hussey, Christine Kenyon Jones, Richard Kirkland, Kathryn Laing, Clare Lees, Laura Marcus, Jo McDonagh, Max Saunders, John Stokes, Michael Trapp, Mark Turner, Michael Whitworth, Tory Young. The undergraduates on the first year of my course, 'Virginia Woolf and the Politics of Reading' at King's in 2010/11 provided a welcome array of fresh perspectives on the novel, and Woolf's writing generally.

I am very grateful to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for a Research Leave Award during the early stages of this project. A sabbatical and a Small Research Grant from King's College London also facilitated its completion. My general editors, Jane Goldman and Susan Sellers, have been unfailing in their support and infectious in their energetic dedication to this project. I am immensely grateful to them for their care and patience from the first to the last stages. Thanks are also due to Ray Ryan and Maartje Scheltens at Cambridge University Press for their expertise and assistance.

As always, I would not have been able to complete this project without the support of my family: my parents, Carolyn and Victor Snaith, a constant source of wisdom and inspiration; my sister and brother, Nina and Dan Snaith, their spouses, Francesco Mezzadri and Nitasha Kapoor, and my parents-in-law, Sally and Eric Rowland. My deepest love and gratitude goes to Dominic, Nicholas and Benjamin, who have lived with this book for the last few years, and who bring me so much happiness. Nicholas predated the project; Benjamin was born in the midst of things. They have

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
Edited by Anna Snaith
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

both grown up patiently alongside this edition, but it would not have got to press without the welcome distractions they provide.

The general editors gratefully acknowledge the award of a Resource Enhancement Grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council in establishing this edition of Woolf's writing. This edition would not have occurred without the steadfast commitment of its publisher, Cambridge University Press, and in particular Ray Ryan. The general editors would also like to thank our advisory board and especially Stuart Clarke and Rachel Bowlby, whose meticulous and informed readings of our pilot volumes helped shape the series for the better. The general editors remain indebted to the wider community of Woolf scholars for their ongoing help and encouragement to the project.

Chronology of Virginia Woolf's Life and Work

- 1878 Leslie Stephen and Julia Duckworth (née Jackson) marry (26 March).
- 1879 Vanessa Stephen born (30 May).
- 1880 Thoby Stephen born (8 September).
- 1882 Adeline Virginia Stephen born at 22 Hyde Park Gate, London (25 January). Stephen family spend the first of their summers at Talland House in St Ives, Cornwall (to 1894). Leslie Stephen begins working on the *Dictionary of National Biography*.
- 1883 Adrian Stephen born (27 October).
- 1887 First extant dated VW letter (to James Russell Lowell, 22 February).
- 1891 Along with Vanessa and Thoby, begins writing the family newspaper, *Hyde Park Gate News* (January–February). Leslie Stephen resigns from the *DNB*.
- 1892 Writes, with Thoby, ‘A Cockney’s Farming Experiences’ (22 August–26 September) and ‘The Experiences of a Paterfamilias’ (10 October–19 December) for *Hyde Park Gate News*.
- 1893 Meets Rupert Brooke (summer).
- 1894 Stephen family spend their last summer at Talland House.
- 1895 Julia Stephen dies (5 May).
- 1896 Keeps a diary for a short period of time. Travels to France (November).
- 1897 Begins her first extant diary (3 January). Half-sister Stella Duckworth marries Jack Hills (10 April), but dies soon afterwards (19 July). Begins classes in Greek and History at King’s College London (November).
- 1898 Begins studying Latin with Clara Pater (October).
- 1899 Takes up German in the autumn, achieving ‘class II’ in ‘German (Elementary)’ examination at King’s College. Thoby goes up to Trinity

CHRONOLOGY OF VIRGINIA WOOLF'S LIFE AND WORK

- College, Cambridge, where he meets Clive Bell, Lytton Strachey, Saxon Sydney-Turner and Leonard Woolf (3 October).
- 1901 Achieves 'class II' in 'German Grammar and Reading' examination at King's College. Takes up bookbinding (October).
- 1902 Begins studying Greek with Janet Case (early January). Writes 'Friendships Gallery' (August–September).
- 1904 Leslie Stephen dies (22 February). Travels to Wales, Italy and France (27 February–9 May). Moves, with Thoby, Vanessa and Adrian, to 46 Gordon Square (autumn). First publication appears ('The Son of Royal Langbrith', *Guardian*, 14 December).
- 1905 Begins teaching at Morley College, London (6 January). Start of Thoby's 'Thursday Evenings', with Saxon Sydney-Turner as the only guest on the first evening (16 February). Publishes first review for *The Times Literary Supplement* ('Literary Geography', 10 March). Travels to Spain and Portugal, via France (29 March–24 April). Start of Vanessa's 'Friday Club' (October).
- 1906 Writes '[Phyllis and Rosamund]' (20–3 June), 'The Mysterious Case of Miss V.' (summer) and '[The Journal of Mistress Joan Martyn]' (August). Travels to Greece and Turkey, via France and Italy (8 September–29 October). Thoby Stephen dies (20 November).
- 1907 Vanessa marries Clive Bell (7 February). Travels to France (28 March–10 April). Moves, with Adrian, to 29 Fitzroy Square (10 April). Begins writing 'Melymbrosia', later published as *The Voyage Out* (summer). Writes 'Reminiscences' (August).
- 1908 Julian Bell born (4 February). Travels to Wales, Italy and France (18 August–30 September).
- 1909 Engaged, fleetingly, to Lytton Strachey (17 February). Meets Lady Ottoline Morrell (30 March). Travels to Italy (23 April–9 May) and Germany, where attends the Bayreuth Festival (5 August–3 September). Writes 'Memoirs of a Novelist' (rejected by *Cornhill*, 10 November).
- 1910 Takes part in the 'Dreadnought Hoax' (7 February). First Post-Impressionist Exhibition opens (8 November). Claudian [Quentin] Bell born (19 August). Does voluntary work for the women's suffrage campaign (January and November–December).

CHRONOLOGY OF VIRGINIA WOOLF'S LIFE AND WORK

- 1911 Rents Little Talland House in Firle, Sussex. Travels to Turkey (22–9 April). Negotiates rental of Asheham House in Beddingham, Sussex (October). Moves to 38 Brunswick Square with Adrian, Duncan Grant and Maynard Keynes (20 November). LW moves in with them (4 December).
- 1912 Marries LW (10 August). Travels to France, Spain and Italy (18 August–3 October). Moves to 13 Clifford's Inn, London (late October).
- 1913 Delivers manuscript of *The Voyage Out* to Duckworth (9 March); accepted for publication (12 April).
- 1914 House-hunting in London, first at 65 St Margaret's Road, Twickenham (9 October), then 17 The Green, Richmond, Surrey (17 October).
- 1915 Begins first diary after marriage (January–February). Resolves to buy printing press and Hogarth House, Richmond (25 January). *The Voyage Out* published (26 March).
- 1916 Nellie Boxall and Lottie Hope begin working for the Woolfs (1 February). Begins writing *Night and Day* (reaches Chapter 12 by October). Meets Katherine Mansfield (early November?).
- 1917 First printing press delivered (24 April). Hogarth Press publishes *Two Stories*: VW's 'The Mark on the Wall' and LW's 'Three Jews' (July). Begins keeping a diary again (3 August).
- 1918 Hogarth Press publishes Katherine Mansfield's *Prelude* (10 July). Meets T. S. Eliot (15 November). Angelica Bell born (25 December).
- 1919 Hogarth Press publishes *Kew Gardens* (12 May). Buys Monk's House, in Rodmell (1 July), moves in (1 September). Duckworth publishes *Night and Day* (20 October).
- 1920 First meeting of the 'Memoir Club' (4 March). Begins writing *Jacob's Room* (May). LW publishes *Empire and Commerce in Africa*.
- 1921 Hogarth Press publishes *Monday or Tuesday* (7 or 8 March) – all VW's subsequent major publications are with the Hogarth Press.
- 1922 Resumes correspondence with Jacques Raverat (25 August). Publishes *Jacob's Room* (27 October). Meets Vita Sackville-West (14 December).
- 1923 Katherine Mansfield dies (9 January). LW becomes literary editor of the *Nation and Athenaeum* (23 March). Travels to France and Spain (27 March–6 May). Assists S. S. Koteliansky in translations of *Tolstoi's*

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
 Edited by Anna Snaith
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF VIRGINIA WOOLF'S LIFE AND WORK

- Love Letters* and Goldenveizer's *Talks with Tolstoi*. Begins writing first version of *Freshwater*, and 'The Hours', later published as *Mrs Dalloway* (August–September). Hogarth Press publishes Jane Harrison's *Reminiscences of a Student's Life*.
- 1924 Buys lease for 52 Tavistock Square (9 January), moves in (13–15 March). Publishes 'Mr Bennett and Mrs Brown' (30 October).
- 1925 Jacques Raverat dies (7 March). Travels to France (26 March–7 April). Publishes *The Common Reader* (23 April) and *Mrs Dalloway* (14 May). Begins working on 'Phases of Fiction' (December).
- 1926 Begins writing *To the Lighthouse* (8 January). Keeps diary of the General Strike (May). Meets Thomas Hardy (23 July).
- 1927 Travels to France and Italy (30 March–28 April). Publishes *To the Lighthouse* (5 May). Travels to Yorkshire to witness the first total eclipse of the sun to be visible from Britain in several hundred years (29 June). Begins writing *Orlando* (5 October).
- 1928 Publishes 'The Sun and the Fish' in *Time and Tide* (February). Travels to France (26 March–16 April). Jane Harrison dies (15 April). Awarded *Prix Femina Étranger* for *To the Lighthouse* (April). Travels to Burgundy with Vita Sackville-West (24 September–1 October). Petitions against the banning of Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness*. Publishes *Orlando* (11 October). Lectures on 'Women and Fiction' at Girton and Newnham Colleges, Cambridge (October).
- 1929 Travels to Germany (16–21 January) and France (4–14 June). Publishes *A Room of One's Own* (24 October). Begins writing 'The Moths', later published as *The Waves* (2 July). LW resigns from the *Nation and Athenaeum* (31 December).
- 1930 Meets Ethel Smyth (20 February).
- 1931 Meets John Lehmann (12 January). The Hogarth Press publishes *Life As We Have Known It by Co-Operative Working Women*, with an Introduction by VW (5 March). Travels to France (16–30 April). Sits for the sculptor Stephen Tomlin (May). Begins writing *Flush* (August). Publishes *The Waves* (8 October).
- 1932 Lytton Strachey dies (21 January). Turns down invitation to give Clark lectures at Cambridge (February). Dora Carrington dies (11 March). Travels to Greece (15 April–12 May). Publishes *A Letter to a Young Poet* (1 July) and *The Common Reader: Second Series* (13 October). Begins writing 'The Pargiters', later published as *The Years* (October).

CHRONOLOGY OF VIRGINIA WOOLF'S LIFE AND WORK

- 1933 Refuses honorary degree from Manchester University (3 March). Travels to Italy, via France (5–27 May). Turns down invitation to give Leslie Stephen lecture at Cambridge (early September). Publishes *Flush* (5 October). Meets Walter Sickert (15 December).
- 1934 Nellie Boxall leaves (28 March). Travels to Ireland (26 April–9 May). Roger Fry dies (9 September). Meets W. B. Yeats (25 October).
- 1935 First performance of *Freshwater* (18 January). Travels to Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy and France (1–31 May). Serves on the committee organising the British delegation to the International Congress of Writers in Paris and assists in establishing the British Section of the International Association of Writers for the Defence of Culture (IAWDC) (June). Attends pilot meeting of For Intellectual Liberty (FIL) (December).
- 1936 Signs FIL letter to *The Times* in support of Spanish Government after Franco's rebellion. Resigns from IAWDC (July). Begins working on *Roger Fry* (autumn). Begins writing *Three Guineas* (November).
- 1937 Publishes *The Years* (15 March). Julian Bell killed in Spain (18 July).
- 1938 Lehmann buys VW's share in Hogarth Press (1 March). Lady Ottoline Morrell dies (21 April). Travels to Scotland (16 June–2 July). Publishes *Three Guineas* (2 June). Begins working on 'Pointz Hall', later published as *Between the Acts* (April).
- 1939 Meets Sigmund Freud (28 January). Refuses honorary degree from Liverpool University (3 March). Begins writing 'A Sketch of the Past' (18 April). Travels to France (5–19 June). Moves to 37 Mecklenburgh Square (17 August), but spends most of her time at Monk's House.
- 1940 Publishes *Roger Fry* (25 July). Writes 'Thoughts on Peace in an Air-Raid' (August). Begins writing 'Reading at Random' (18 September). Mecklenburgh Square bombed (10 September). Hogarth Press moves to Letchworth, Hertfordshire (23 September).
- 1941 Finishes final typescript of *Between the Acts* (26 February). Drowns herself in the River Ouse (28 March). *Between the Acts* published posthumously (17 July).

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84597-7 - Virginia Woolf: The Years
 Edited by Anna Snaith
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Abbreviations

PEOPLE

- LW Leonard Woolf
 VW Virginia Woolf

ARCHIVE LOCATIONS

- Berg The Berg Collection of English and American Literature, New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations
 MHP Monks House Papers, Special Collections, University of Sussex
 NLS R & R Clark Archive, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
 Reading Archives of the Hogarth Press: 1922–1955, Department of Archives and Manuscripts, University of Reading
 Smith Mortimer Rare Book Room, Neilson Library, Smith College, Northampton, MA
 WL Records of the London and National Society for Women's Service, The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University
 WSU The Library of Leonard and Virginia Woolf, Washington State University Library, Catalogue:
www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/Holland/masc/woolflibrary.htm

WORKS BY VIRGINIA WOOLF

- AROO* *A Room of One's Own*, London: Hogarth, 1929
BA *Between the Acts*, London: Hogarth, 1941
CSF *The Complete Shorter Fiction*, ed. Susan Dick, London: Hogarth, 1989