In the early twentieth century the term ‘feminist’ was used by self-consciously ‘modern’ men and women, to distinguish their ideas from those of ‘the women’s movement’, and even to adopt anti-suffrage positions. In the first major study of twentieth-century feminism as an Anglo-American phenomenon, Lucy Delap offers a new perspective on the politics of gender during this period, exploring the intellectual history and cultural politics of Anglo-American feminism in a way that challenges the reader to rethink the nature of both the ‘avant-garde’ and ‘feminism’. Focusing on the development of transnational feminisms within Edwardian and inter-war print culture, feminist political argument is placed at the centre of an account of modernism, highlighting some unexpected and often uncomfortable components, including the feminist fascination with individualism and egoism; ambivalence over World War One; utopian thinking and captivation by the idea of ‘the simple life’, anti-Semitism; sexual radicalism; and ideas about ‘the superwoman’.

Lucy Delap is a Fellow of St Catharine’s College, Cambridge, and a member of the History Faculty in the University of Cambridge. She is co-editor of Anti-Feminism in Edwardian Literature (with Ann Heilmann, Thoemmes-Continuum, 2005), Anti-Feminism in the Victorian and Edwardian Debate (with Valerie Sanders, Thoemmes-Continuum, 2008), and Feminism and the Periodical Press 1900–1918 (with Leila Ryan and Maria DiCenzo, Routledge, 2006).
The books in this series will discuss the emergence of intellectual traditions and of related new disciplines. The procedures, aims and vocabularies that were generated will be set in the context of the alternatives available within the contemporary frameworks of ideas and institutions. Through detailed studies of the evolution of such traditions, and their modification by different audiences, it is hoped that a new picture will form of the development of ideas in their concrete contexts. By this means, artificial distinctions between the history of philosophy, of the various sciences, of society and politics, and of literature may be seen to dissolve.

The series is published with the support of the Exxon Foundation.

A list of books in the series will be found at the end of the volume.
THE FEMINIST AVANT-GARDE: TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS OF THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

LUCY DELAP
St Catharine's College, Cambridge
Dedicated to my parents, Liz and Tim Delap,
for all their love and support
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Abbreviations

COS  Charity Organisation Society
FW  The Freewoman
IJE  The International Journal of Ethics
ILP  Independent Labour Party
IWSA  International Woman Suffrage Alliance
NAWSA  National American Woman Suffrage Association
NFW  The New Freewoman
NUWSS  National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies
NWP  National Woman’s Party
WILPF  Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
WLF  Women’s Freedom League
WPP  Women’s Peace Party
WSPU  Women’s Social and Political Union