

VIRGINIA WOOLF AND THE VICTORIANS

Criticism of Woolf is often polarised into viewing her work as either fundamentally progressive or reactionary. In Virginia Woolf and the Victorians, Steve Ellis argues that her commitment to yet anxiety about modernity coexists with a nostalgia and respect for aspects of Victorian culture threatened by radical social change. Ellis tracks Woolf's response to the Victorian era through her fiction and other writings, arguing that Woolf can be seen as more 'Post-Victorian' than 'modernist'. He explains how Woolf's emphasis on continuity and reconciliation related to twentiethcentury debates about Victorian values, and he analyses her response to the First World War as the major threat to that continuity. This detailed and original investigation of the range of Woolf's writing attends to questions of cultural and political history and fictional structure, imagery and diction. It proposes a new reading of Woolf's thinking about the relationships between the past, present and future.

STEVE ELLIS is Professor of English Literature at the University of Birmingham.



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To Patrick



'I say Ethel what a happy life you had — in the very cream and marrow of the 19^{th} Century. I had a glimpse too, but not a long look.'

Letter to Ethel Smyth, 14 April 1939



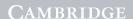
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List of editions and abbreviations used in the text

Place of publication here and in the notes is London unless otherwise stated.

BA	Between the Acts, ed. Stella McNichol, introd. Gillian
	Beer (Penguin, 1992)
CDB	The Captain's Death Bed: and Other Essays (Hogarth, 1950)
CSF	The Complete Shorter Fiction, ed. Susan Dick, rev. edn
	(Hogarth, 1989)
D	The Diary of Virginia Woolf, ed. Anne Olivier Bell, 5
	vols. (Penguin, 1979–85)
DM	The Death of the Moth: and Other Essays (Hogarth, 1942)
E	The Essays of Virginia Woolf, ed. Andrew McNeillie,
	6 vols. (Hogarth, 1986–)
F	Flush: a Biography, introd. Margaret Forster (Hogarth,
	1991)
JR	Jacob's Room, ed. and introd. Sue Roe (Penguin, 1992)
L	The Letters of Virginia Woolf, ed. Nigel Nicolson and
	Joanne Trautmann, 6 vols. (Hogarth, 1975–80)
LS	The London Scene: Five Essays (Hogarth, 1982)
M	The Moment: and Other Essays (Hogarth, 1947)
MD	Mrs Dalloway, ed. Stella McNichol, introd. Elaine
	Showalter (Penguin, 1992)
MOB	Moments of Being, ed. and introd. Jeanne Schulkind, 2nd
	edn (Hogarth, 1985)
ND	Night and Day, ed. and introd. Julia Briggs (Penguin, 1992)
0	Orlando, ed. Brenda Lyons, introd. Sandra M. Gilbert
	(Penguin, 1993)



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P	The Pargiters: the Novel-Essay Portion of 'The Years', ed.
	and introd. Mitchell A. Leaska (Hogarth, 1978)
PA	A Passionate Apprentice: the Early Journals 1897–1909, ed.
	Mitchell A. Leaska (Hogarth, 1990)
RF	Roger Fry: a Biography (Hogarth, 1940)
RO, TG	A Room of One's Own [and] Three Guineas, ed. and
	introd. Michèle Barrett (Penguin, 1993)
TL	To the Lighthouse, ed. Stella McNichol, introd.
	Hermione Lee (Penguin, 1992)
TY	The Years, ed. and introd. Jeri Johnson (Penguin, 1998)
VO	The Voyage Out, ed. and introd. Jane Wheare (Penguin,
	1992)
W	The Waves, ed. and introd. Kate Flint (Penguin, 1992)
W & W	Women and Writing, introd. Michèle Barrett (The
	Women's Press, 1979)