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 twentieth-century 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.
To Patrick
‘I say Ethel what a happy life you had – in the very cream and marrow of the 19th 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.


CDB The Captain’s Death Bed: and Other Essays (Hogarth, 1950)


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)


F Flush: a Biography, introd. Margaret Forster (Hogarth, 1991)

JR Jacob’s Room, ed. and introd. Sue Roe (Penguin, 1992)


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)


### List of editions and abbreviations

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<td>RF</td>
<td><em>Roger Fry: a Biography</em> (Hogarth, 1940)</td>
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<td>VO</td>
<td><em>The Voyage Out</em>, ed. and intro. Jane Wheare (Penguin, 1992)</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td><em>The Waves</em>, ed. and intro. Kate Flint (Penguin, 1992)</td>
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