The twentieth-century English novel encompasses a vast body of work, and one of the most important and most widely read genres of literature. Balancing close readings of particular novels with a comprehensive survey of the last century of published fiction, this Companion introduces readers to more than a hundred major and minor novelists. It demonstrates continuities in novel-writing that bridge the century’s pre- and postwar halves and presents leading critical ideas about English fiction's themes and forms. The essays examine the endurance of modernist style throughout the century, the role of nationality and the contested role of the English language in all its forms, and the relationships between realism and other fictional modes: fantasy, romance, science fiction. Students, scholars and readers will find this Companion an indispensable guide to the history of the English novel.
CONTENTS

Notes on contributors  vii
Chronology  x

Introduction  1
ROBERT L. CASERIO

1 The art of English fiction in the twentieth century  10
DOROTHY J. HALE

2 The British Empire and the English modernist novel  23
JED ESTY

3 Realism and rebellion in Edwardian and Georgian fiction  40
MARIA DI BATTISTA

4 The Great War in English fiction  56
PAUL EDWARDS

5 Postwar modernism in the 1920s and 1930s: The mammoth in the basement  71
ROD MENGHAM

6 Regionalism in English fiction between the wars  89
MATTHEW HART

7 Ireland and English fiction  102
ANNE FOGARTY

8 Feminist fiction  114
KRISTIN BLUEMEL
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Working-class fiction across the century</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Fordham</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>World War II, the welfare state, and postwar “humanism”</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marina Mackay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Windrush generation</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timothy Weiss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>History in fiction</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Acheson and Robert L. Caserio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Postmodernisms of English fiction</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andrzej Gasiorek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Detectives and spies</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allan Hepburn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>The post-consensus novel: Minority culture, multiculturalism, and transnational comparison</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rebecca L. Walkowitz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>An absurd century: Varieties of satire</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reed Way Dasenbrock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>The other side of history: Fantasy, romance, horror, and science fiction</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M. Keith Booker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further reading

Index

vi
CONTRIBUTORS

JAMES ACHESON is former Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. He is the author of *Samuel Beckett’s Artistic Theory and Practice* (1997) and *John Fowles* (1998), and has edited volumes on Beckett, and on British and Irish fiction, poetry, and drama. He is working on a book on contemporary British historical fiction.

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JED ESTY is Associate Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of A Shrinking Island: Modernism and National Culture in England (2004), and co-editor, with Ania Loomba, Suvir Kaul, Antoinette Burton, and Matti Bunzl, of Postcolonial Studies and Beyond (2005). He is completing a book in progress, Unseasonable Youth: The Bildungsroman and Colonial Modernity.

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ANDRZEJ GASIOREK is Reader in Twentieth-Century Literature at the University of Birmingham. He is the author of Post-War British Fiction: Realism and After (1995), Wyndham Lewis and Modernism (2004), and J.G. Ballard (2005). He has co-edited T.E. Hulme and the Question of Modernism (2006), and is a co-editor of the electronic journal Modernist Cultures.


MATTHEW HART, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Illinois-Urbana, is writing a book-in-progress, Nations of Nothing but Poetry: Modernism, Vernacular Discourse and the State. He has co-edited, with Jim Hansen, a special issue (2008) of Contemporary Literature on the state and contemporary literature.

ALLAN HEPBURN is an Associate Professor of English Literature at McGill University. In addition to many articles on twentieth-century literature, he has
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Marina Mackay is Associate Professor of English at Washington University in St. Louis. She is the author of Modernism and World War II (2007), co-editor with Lyndsey Stonebridge of British Fiction After Modernism (2007), and editor of The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of World War II (2008).

Rod Mengham is Reader in Modern English Literature at the University of Cambridge, where he is also Curator of Works of Art at Jesus College. His books include studies of Charles Dickens, Emily Brontë, and Henry Green, and The Descent of Language (1993). His most recent book, co-authored with Sophie Gilmartin, is Thomas Hardy’s Shorter Fiction (2007). He has edited collections of essays on contemporary fiction; violence and avant-garde art; and the fiction of the 1940s. His poems are collected in Unsung: New and Selected Poems (2001).

Rebecca L. Walkowitz is Associate Professor of English at Rutgers University. She is the author of Cosmopolitan Style: Modernism Beyond the Nation (2006) and editor or co-editor of seven books, including Immigrant Fictions: Contemporary Literature in an Age of Globalization (2007) and Bad Modernisms (with Douglas Mao, 2006). Her essays have appeared in several anthologies and in PMLA, Modern Language Quarterly, ELH, and Modern Drama. She is co-editor of Contemporary Literature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event/Author/Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Joseph Conrad, <em>Lord Jim</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1901 | Rudyard Kipling, *Kim*  
       | Death of Queen Victoria  
       | Edward VII becomes King |
| 1902 | Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*  
       | J. A. Hobson, *Imperialism*  
       | Boer War ends |
| 1903 | Emmeline Pankhurst founds Women’s Social and Political Union |
| 1905 | H. G. Wells, *A Modern Utopia*  
       | Henry James begins Prefaces to New York Edition of his works |
| 1906 | John Galsworthy, *The Man of Property* (first volume of *The Forsyte Chronicles*) |
| 1907 | Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*  
       | Rudyard Kipling wins Nobel Prize for Literature  
       | New Zealand becomes a Dominion of the British Empire |
| 1908 | Arnold Bennett, *The Old Wives’ Tale*  
       | G. K. Chesterton, *The Man Who Was Thursday* |
| 1909 | H. G. Wells, *Tono-Bungay*  
       | William Beveridge, *Unemployment: A Problem for Industry* |
| 1910 | E. M. Forster, *Howards End*  
       | Post-Impressionist Exhibition in London  
       | Death of King Edward VII  
       | George V becomes King |
| 1911 | H. G. Wells, *The New Machiavelli*  
       | National Insurance Act |
| 1912 | Conrad, *Chance*  
       | London dock strike |
| 1913 | D. H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*  
       | Rabindranath Tagore wins Nobel Prize for Literature  
       | Trade Union Act |
1914
Robert Tressell, The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists
Curragh garrison mutiny in Ireland
Britain declares war on Germany

1915
Ford Madox Ford, The Good Soldier
Dorothy Richardson, Pointed Roofs (first volume of Pilgrimage)

1916
James Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

1917
Leonard and Virginia Woolf found the Hogarth Press
Bolshevik Revolution in Russia

1918
Wyndham Lewis, Tarr
Rebecca West, The Return of the Soldier
Armistice signed, November 11
Representation of the People Act gives universal male suffrage and suffrage to women over thirty

1919
James Tait Black Memorial Prize initiated
Treaty of Versailles
Nancy Astor, first female MP, takes seat in Parliament
Massacre of Indians at Amritsar by British troops

1920
D. H. Lawrence, Women in Love
British mandate over Palestine
Government of Ireland Act and the creation of Northern Ireland

1921
Irish Free State created by Parliament

1922
James Joyce, Ulysses

1924
Ronald Firbank, The Flower Beneath the Foot
Ford Madox Ford, Joseph Conrad: A Personal Record
E. M. Forster, A Passage to India
Death of Joseph Conrad
Ramsay Macdonald becomes Prime Minister in first Labour government

1925
Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway

1926
Agatha Christie, The Murder of Roger Ackroyd
Sylvia Townsend Warner, Lolly Willowes
BBC chartered
General Strike, May 3–12

1928
Aldous Huxley, Point Counter Point
D. H. Lawrence, Lady Chatterley’s Lover
Virginia Woolf, Orlando
Representation of the People Act gives suffrage to women aged twenty-one

1929
Elizabeth Bowen, The Last September
Virginia Woolf, A Room of One’s Own
New York stock market collapse
1930  Death of D. H. Lawrence
       The Great Depression reaches Britain
1931  Ivy Compton-Burnett, *Men and Wives*
1932  Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*
       John Galsworthy wins Nobel Prize for Literature
1933  John Cowper Powys, *A Glastonbury Romance*
1934  Lewis Grassic Gibbon, *Grey Granite* (final volume of *A Scots Quair*)
       Evelyn Waugh, *A Handful of Dust*
       Christopher Isherwood, *Mr. Norris Changes Trains*
       Dorothy Sayers, *Gaudy Night*
       Allen Lane establishes Penguin Books
1936  Mulk Raj Anand, *Coolie*
       James Barke, *Major Operation*
       Winifred Holtby, *South Riding*
       Aldous Huxley, *Eyeless in Gaza*
       C. L. R. James, *Minty Alley*
       Death of Rudyard Kipling
       Left Book Club founded
       Death of George V
       Edward VIII becomes King; Edward VIII abdicates
       George VI becomes King
       Start of Spanish Civil War; Britain signs Nonintervention Agreement and pledges neutrality in Spain
1937  Wyndham Lewis, *The Revenge for Love*
       George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier*
       Olaf Stapledon, *Star Maker*
       Virginia Woolf, *The Years*
1938  Graham Greene, *Brighton Rock*
1939  Joyce Cary, *Mister Johnson*
       Henry Green, *Party Going*
       James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake*
       Flann O’Brian, *At Swim-Two-Birds*
       T. H. White, *The Sword in the Stone*
       Britain declares war on Germany
1940  Graham Greene, *The Power and the Glory*
       W. Somerset Maugham, *The Razor’s Edge*
       C. P. Snow, *Strangers and Brothers* (first volume in the *Strangers and Brothers* series)
       Evacuation of Dunkirk
       Battle of Britain begins; London Blitz
Chronology

1941 Death of James Joyce
Virginia Woolf commits suicide
1942 John Llewellyn Rhys Prize initiated
Social Insurance and Allied Services (“The Beveridge Report”)
1944 Joyce Cary, The Horse’s Mouth
1945 R. K. Narayan, The English Teacher
George Orwell, Animal Farm
J. B. Priestley, Three Men in New Suits
Germany surrenders
Japan surrenders after U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
Landslide victory for Labour
1946 Mervyn Peake, Titus Groan (first volume of “Gormenghast” trilogy)
Death of H. G. Wells
National Health Service Act
Nationalization of Bank of England, civil aviation, and coal
BBC Third Programme begins broadcasts
Burma independence
1947 Somerset Maugham Award initiated
Nationalization of railways
Indian independence; India partitioned into India and Pakistan
Partition of Palestine
1949 Elizabeth Bowen, The Heat of the Day
George Orwell, Nineteen Eighty-Four
Arrival of the Empire Windrush
Britain joins NATO
1951 Samuel Beckett, Molloy
G. V. Desani, All About H. Hatterr
Anthony Powell, A Question of Upbringing (first volume of A Dance to the Music of Time)
Henry Williamson, The Dark Lantern (first volume of A Chronicle of Ancient Sunlight)
1952 Doris Lessing, Martha Quest (first volume of Children of Violence)
Barbara Pym, Excellent Women
Angus Wilson, Hemlock and After
Death of George VI
Elizabeth II becomes Queen
Britain announces atomic bomb
1953 Ian Fleming, Casino Royale
1954
Kingsley Amis, *Lucky Jim*
William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*
George Lamming, *The Emigrants*
J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring* (first volume of *The Lord of the Rings*)

1956
Anthony Burgess, *Time for a Tiger* (first volume of *A Malayan Trilogy*)
Samuel Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*
Angus Wilson, *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes*
Suez crisis

1957
Lawrence Durrell, *Justine* (first volume of *The Alexandria Quartet*)

1958
V. S. Naipaul, *The Suffrage of Elvira*
Alan Sillitoe, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament begins

1959
Wilson Harris, *The Palace of the Peacock* (first volume of *The Guyana Quartet*)
George Lamming, *The Pleasures of Exile*
Olivia Manning, *The Great Fortune* (first volume of *The Balkan Trilogy*)
Edna O’Brien, *The Country Girls*
Penguin Books acquitted in *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* obscenity trial
Cyprus gains independence
Nigeria gains independence

1961
Iris Murdoch, *A Severed Head*
Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*
Expulsion of South Africa from Commonwealth

1962
Doris Lessing, *The Golden Notebook*

1963
John Le Carré, *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*
Muriel Spark, *The Girls of Slender Means*

1964
B. S. Johnson, *Albert Angelo*

1965
Race Relations Act addresses racial discrimination

1966
Paul Scott, *The Jewel in the Crown* (first volume of *The Raj Quartet*)

1967
Winifred Holtby Award for regional fiction initiated (renamed Ondaatje Prize, 2004)
Abortion legalized
Homosexual acts between consenting adults decriminalized

1969
Brigid Brophy, *In Transit*
John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant’s Woman*
Samuel Beckett wins Nobel Prize for Literature
Booker Prize initiated (renamed Man Booker Prize, 2002)
1970  J. G. Ballard, *The Atrocity Exhibition*
1971  Iris Murdoch, *The Black Prince*
       Whitbread Book Award initiated (renamed Costa Book Award, 2006)
1972  John Berger, *G*
       John Brunner, *The Sheep Look Up*
1973  Britain joins European Economic Community
1975  Christine Brooke-Rose, *Thru*
       David Lodge, *Changing Places*
1977  Margaret Drabble, *The Ice Age*
1978  Scottish and Welsh Devolution Acts
1979  John Berger, *Pig Earth* (first volume of *Into Their Labours* trilogy)
       Nicholas Mosley, *Catastrophe Practice* (first volume of *Catastrophe Practice* series)
       Conservative victory; Margaret Thatcher becomes Prime Minister
1980  P. D. James, *Innocent Blood*
1981  Alasdair Gray, *Lanark*
1982  Falklands War
1983  William Golding wins Nobel Prize for Literature
1984  Kingsley Amis, *Money*
       Julian Barnes, *Flaubert’s Parrot*
       Angela Carter, *Nights at the Circus*
1987  V. S. Naipaul, *The Enigma of Arrival*
       Commonwealth Writers’ Prize initiated
1988  Neil Gaiman begins *Sandman* graphic novel series
       Alan Hollinghurst, *The Swimming Pool Library*
       Michael Moorcock, *Mother London*
       Salman Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses*
1989  Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*
       Islamic decree calls for Salman Rushdie’s death for insult to Islam in *The Satanic Verses*
1990  A. S. Byatt, *Possession*
       Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*
1991  Angela Carter, *Wise Children*
       Iain Sinclair, *Downriver*
       Pat Barker, *Regeneration* (first volume of *Regeneration* trilogy)
       The Gulf War
       Collapse of the Soviet Union
1992  Ian McEwan, *Black Dogs*
**Chronology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1993 | Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children* awarded Booker of Bookers Prize (best Booker novel of the prize’s first twenty-five years)  
  | Anglo-Irish Peace Declaration in Northern Ireland |
| 1994 | James Kelman, *How Late it Was, How Late*  
  | Apartheid ends in South Africa  
  | IRA declares truce in Northern Ireland |
| 1995 | Salman Rushdie, *The Moor’s Last Sigh* |
| 1996 | Orange Prize (for women writers) initiated |
| 1997 | Tony Blair’s New Labour government elected |
| 1998 | China Miéville, *King Rat*  
  | Re-establishment of the Scottish Parliament; creation of the National Assembly for Wales |
| 1999 | Use of euro begins; Britain declines participation |
| 2001 | V. S. Naipaul wins Nobel Prize for Literature |
| 2007 | Doris Lessing wins Nobel Prize for Literature |