

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
Edited by Nicola Bradbury
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE EDITION
OF THE COMPLETE FICTION OF
HENRY JAMES

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
Edited by Nicola Bradbury
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
Edited by Nicola Bradbury
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE EDITION
OF THE COMPLETE FICTION OF
HENRY JAMES

GENERAL EDITORS

Michael Anesko, *Pennsylvania State University*
Tamara L. Follini, *University of Cambridge*
Philip Horne, *University College London*
Adrian Poole, *University of Cambridge*

ADVISORY BOARD

Martha Banta, *University of California, Los Angeles*
Ian F. A. Bell, *Keele University*
Gert Buelens, *Universiteit Gent*
Susan M. Griffin, *University of Louisville*
Julie Rivkin, *Connecticut College*
John Carlos Rowe, *University of California, Irvine*
Ruth Bernard Yeazell, *Yale University*
Greg Zacharias, *Creighton University*

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
Edited by Nicola Bradbury
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE EDITION
OF THE COMPLETE FICTION OF

HENRY JAMES

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | <i>Roderick Hudson</i> | 18 | <i>The Ambassadors</i> |
| 2 | <i>The American</i> | 19 | <i>The Golden Bowl</i> |
| 3 | <i>Watch and Ward</i> | 20 | <i>The Outcry</i> |
| 4 | <i>The Europeans</i> | 21 | <i>The Sense of the Past</i> |
| 5 | <i>Confidence</i> | 22 | <i>The Ivory Tower</i> |
| 6 | <i>Washington Square</i> | 23 | <i>A Landscape Painter and Other Tales</i> |
| 7 | <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> | 24 | <i>A Passionate Pilgrim and Other Tales</i> |
| 8 | <i>The Bostonians</i> | 25 | <i>Daisy Miller and Other Tales</i> |
| 9 | <i>The Princess Casamassima</i> | 26 | <i>The Siege of London and Other Tales</i> |
| 10 | <i>The Reverberator</i> | 27 | <i>The Aspern Papers and Other Tales</i> |
| 11 | <i>The Tragic Muse</i> | 28 | <i>The Lesson of the Master and Other Tales</i> |
| 12 | <i>The Other House</i> | 29 | <i>The Middle Years and Other Tales</i> |
| 13 | <i>The Spoils of Poynton</i> | 30 | <i>The Turn of the Screw and Other Tales</i> |
| 14 | <i>What Maisie Knew</i> | 31 | <i>The Beast in the Jungle and Other Tales</i> |
| 15 | <i>The Awkward Age</i> | 32 | <i>The Jolly Corner and Other Tales</i> |
| 16 | <i>The Sacred Fount</i> | 33 | <i>The Prefaces</i> |
| 17 | <i>The Wings of the Dove</i> | 34 | <i>The Notebooks</i> |

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
Edited by Nicola Bradbury
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

HENRY JAMES
The Ambassadors

EDITED BY
NICOLA BRADBURY



Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
Edited by Nicola Bradbury
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107002838

© Cambridge University Press 2015

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 2015

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

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

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

James, Henry, 1843–1916.

The Ambassadors / Henry James ; edited by Nicola Bradbury.

pages cm. – (The Cambridge edition of the complete fiction of Henry James)

ISBN 978-1-107-00283-8 (hardback)

1. Americans – France – Fiction. 2. Paris (France) – Fiction.

I. Bradbury, Nicola. II. Title.

PS2116.A5 2015

813'.4–dc23

2014050296

ISBN 978-1-107-00283-8 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.

CONTENTS

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> VIII
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	IX
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	XI
<i>General Editors' Preface</i>	XV
<i>General Chronology of James's Life and Writings</i>	XXIII
<i>Introduction</i>	XXX
<i>Textual Introduction</i>	LXXXVII
<i>Chronology of Composition and Production</i>	XCI
<i>Bibliography</i>	XCVI

The Ambassadors

<i>Glossary of Foreign Words and Phrases</i>	396
<i>Notes</i>	399
<i>Textual Variants</i>	446
<i>Emendations</i>	494
<i>Appendices</i>	
<i>A Project of Novel by Henry James</i>	497
<i>B Extract from James's Notebooks</i>	541
<i>C Preface to New York Edition</i>	545

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
Edited by Nicola Bradbury
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Title Page for <i>The Ambassadors</i> (London: Methuen, 1903)	<i>page</i> CIII
Figure 2	Map of Paris (c. 1900)	<i>page</i> CIV–CV

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume was conceived, planned and produced as part of the ambitious project to produce a complete edition of the fiction of Henry James based on the first book versions of his novels and tales. It is therefore the work of many Jamesians, both scholars and publishers, to whom as nominal editor I am both bound and delighted to record profound gratitude. This edition draws on the work of previous editors and critics: both those mentioned in footnotes and the bibliography and others to whom my debt has become so deep as to be virtually unconscious, though none the less real. The General Editor assigned to this volume, Adrian Poole, together with Michael Anesko, Tamara Follini and Philip Horne contributed continuing guidance, research materials and support beyond the customary scope of an editorial board. Their vision and scholarship have shaped this work, which could not have reached publication without them.

Thanks are also due to the research libraries that generously made available correspondence between James and his agent, publishers, friends and family, as well as papers relating to the planning of *The Ambassadors*. My principal debt here is to the Morgan Library for permission to transcribe the 'Project of Novel by Henry James' which is the only surviving document of its kind amongst his papers. I am also grateful to the Beinecke Library, Yale; the Houghton Library, Harvard; and the National Library of Scotland for freely granting permission to quote from or refer to manuscripts and typescripts in their collections. Greg Zacharias and his associates at the Center for Henry James Studies at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, generously allowed access to the resources of the ongoing work for *The Complete Letters of Henry James*, published by the University of Nebraska Press. Cambridge University Library kindly provided scans of Paris maps from guide books contemporary with *The Ambassadors*.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
Edited by Nicola Bradbury
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Department of English Literature at the University of Reading showed great forbearance in supporting my work on this project.

Finally, I should like to thank my husband Lionel Kelly for the gift of my copy text and for many years of patient encouragement.

ABBREVIATIONS

The Ambassadors

<i>A</i>	<i>The Ambassadors</i> (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1903)
<i>E</i>	<i>The Ambassadors</i> (London: Methuen and Co., 1903)
<i>NYE</i>	<i>The Ambassadors, The New York Edition of the Novels and Tales of Henry James</i> (New York: Scribner, 1909), Vols. XXI–XXII
<i>P</i>	<i>The Ambassadors</i> (<i>North American Review</i> , twelve parts, January–December 1903)
Poole	<i>The Ambassadors</i> , Penguin Classics, ed. Adrian Poole (London: Penguin, 2008)
Rosenbaum	<i>The Ambassadors</i> , Norton Critical Edition, 2nd edn, revised and expanded, ed. S. P. Rosenbaum (New York and London: W. W. Norton and Son, 1994)

Other Works by Henry James

CFHJ	The Cambridge Edition of the Complete Fiction of Henry James
‘Chester’	‘Chester’, <i>Transatlantic Sketches</i> (Boston, MA: James R. Osgood and Co., 1875), pp. 7–19
CN	<i>The Complete Notebooks of Henry James</i> , ed. Leon Edel and Lyall H. Powers (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987)
CTW ₁	<i>Collected Travel Writings: Great Britain and America: English Hours, The American Scene, Other Travels</i> , ed. Richard Howard (New York: Library of America, 1993)
CTW ₂	<i>Collected Travel Writings: The Continent: A Little Tour in France, Italian Hours, Other Travels</i> , ed. Richard Howard (New York: Library of America, 1993)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

'Flaubert 1902'	Critical Introduction to <i>Madame Bovary</i> , trans. from the French of Gustave Flaubert (London: Heinemann, 1902)
HJL	<i>Henry James Letters</i> , ed. Leon Edel, 4 vols. (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press; London: Macmillan and Co., 1974–84).
LC1	<i>Literary Criticism: Essays on Literature, American Writers, English Writers</i> , ed. Leon Edel and Mark Wilson (New York: Library of America, 1984)
LC2	<i>Literary Criticism: French Writers, Other European Writers, The Prefaces to the New York Edition</i> , ed. Leon Edel and Mark Wilson (New York: Library of America, 1984)
LHJ	<i>The Letters of Henry James</i> , selected and edited by Percy Lubbock, 2 vols. (New York: Scribner's; London: Macmillan, 1920)
LL	<i>Henry James: A Life in Letters</i> , ed. Philip Horne (Harmondsworth: Allen Lane, Penguin Press; New York: Viking Press, 1999)
NSBMYC	<i>Notes of a Son and Brother and the Middle Years: A Critical Edition</i> , ed. Peter Collister (Charlottesville, VA, and London: University of Virginia Press, 2011)
NYE	<i>The New York Edition of the Novels and Tales of Henry James</i> (New York: Scribner, 1907–9)
PE	<i>The Painter's Eye: Notes and Essays on the Pictorial Arts</i> , ed. John L. Sweeney (London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1956; Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1956)
PS	<i>Parisian Sketches: Letters to the New York Tribune 1875–1876</i> , ed. with intro. Leon Edel and Ilse Dusoier Lind (London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1958)
SA	<i>The Scenic Art: Notes on Acting and the Drama: 1872–1901</i> , ed. Allan Wade (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1948; London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1949)

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
 Edited by Nicola Bradbury
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SBOC	<i>A Small Boy and Others: A Critical Edition</i> , ed. Peter Collister (Charlottesville, VA, and London: University of Virginia Press, 2011)
TS	<i>Transatlantic Sketches</i> (Boston, MA: James R. Osgood and Co., 1875)

Secondary and Related Works

Baedeker	Baedeker, Karl, <i>Paris and its Environs with Routes from London to Paris: Handbook for Travellers</i> , 13th rev. edn (Leipzig: Karl Baedeker; London: Dulau and Co.; New York: C. Scribner, 1898); <i>Paris and Environs with Routes from London to Paris</i> , 15th rev. edn (Leipzig: K. Baedeker; London: Dulau and Co.; New York: C. Scribner, 1904)
Bellringer	Bellringer, Alan W., <i>The Ambassadors</i> , Unwin Critical Library (London: Allen and Unwin, 1984)
Birch	Birch, Brian, 'Henry James: Some Bibliographical and Textual Matters', <i>The Library</i> 20 (1965), 108–23
Buzard	Buzard, James, <i>The Beaten Track: European Tourism, Literature, and the Ways to 'Culture' 1800–1918</i> (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993)
Clarke	Graham Clarke, <i>Henry James: Critical Assessments: Volume II: The Critical Response: Reviews and Early Essays</i> (Mountfield, East Sussex: Helm Information, 1991)
Edel	Edel, Leon, <i>The Life of Henry James</i> , 2 vols. (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1977)
Gard	Gard, Roger (ed.), <i>Henry James: The Critical Heritage</i> (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1968)
Hayes	Hayes, Kevin J. (ed.), <i>Henry James: The Contemporary Reviews</i> (Cambridge University Press, 1996)
Hoople	Hoople, Robin P. (ed.), <i>In Darkest James: Reviewing Impressionism 1900–1905</i> (Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell University Press, 2000)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Hughes	Hughes, Clair, <i>Henry James and the Art of Dress</i> (Houndmills, Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave, 2001)
Matthiessen	Matthiessen, F. O., <i>Henry James: The Major Phase</i> (New York: Oxford University Press, 1944; London: Oxford University Press, 1946)
Partridge	Partridge, Eric, <i>A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English</i> , 8th edn, ed. Paul Beale (London: Routledge, 1984)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
Edited by Nicola Bradbury
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

The Cambridge Edition of the Complete Fiction of Henry James (hereafter CFHJ) has been undertaken in the belief that there is a need for a full scholarly, informative, historical edition of James's work, presenting the texts in carefully checked, accurate form, with detailed annotation and extensive introductions. James's texts exist in a number of forms, including manuscripts (though most are lost), serial texts, and volumes of various sorts, often incorporating significant amounts of revision, most conspicuously the *New York Edition* (hereafter NYE) published by Charles Scribner's Sons in New York and Macmillan & Co. in London (1907–9). Besides these there are also pirated editions, unfinished works published posthumously, and other questionable forms. The CFHJ takes account of these complexities, within the framework of a textual policy which seeks to be clear, orderly and consistent.

This edition aims to represent James's fictional career as it evolves, with a fresh and expanded awareness of its changing contexts and an informed sense of his developing style, technique and concerns. Consequently, it does not attempt to base its choices on the principle of the 'last lifetime edition', which in the case of Henry James is monumentally embodied in the twenty-four volumes of the NYE, the author's selection of nine longer novels (six of them in two volumes) and fifty-eight shorter novels and tales, and including eighteen specially composed Prefaces. The CFHJ, as a general rule, adopts rather the text of the first published book edition of a work – unless the intrinsic particularities and the publishing history of that work require an alternative choice – on the ground that emphasis on the first context in which it was written and read will permit an unprecedented fullness of attention to the transformations in James's writing over five decades, as well as the rich literary and social contexts of their original publication.

There are inevitably cases where determining 'the first published book edition' requires some care. If, for instance, James expresses a preference for the text of one particular early book edition over another, or if the first

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

edition to be published is demonstrably inferior to a later impression or edition, or if authorial supervision of a particular early edition or impression can be established, then a case can be made for choosing a text other than the first published book edition. Volume Editors have exercised their judgment accordingly. They have made a full collation of authoritative versions including serial as well as volume publication in Britain and America, and specify which version serves as their copy text.

The CFHJ's Introductions aim to be full and authoritative, detailing the histories of composition, publication (in magazine and book form), reception and authorial revision, and making economical reference to subsequent adaptation and transformation into other forms, including drama, film and opera. Editors have refrained from offering emphatic interpretations or mounting critical arguments of their own, though it is hoped the material they present will inform and stimulate new readings. Particular attention has been given to the social, political and cultural contexts of James's period, and especially those of the countries in which a specific work is set; details of James's personal exposure to relevant people and events, of the magazines and publishing houses where he published (editors, policies, politics, etc.), have provided valuable material. Introductions conclude with a Bibliography in support of the information supplied and the aspects of the text's production emphasized in the Introduction, including a list of contemporary reviews.

Each volume contains, in addition to a Chronology of James's life and literary career, a volume-specific Chronology, incorporating dates of composition, negotiation with publishers and editors, dispatch of instalments, stages of printing and initial reception history, as well as relevant comments by or to James appearing in letters or other forms.

Fullness and helpfulness of annotation is one of the main aims of the CFHJ. As James's world recedes into the past, more and more of its features need explanation to readers: both the physical, geographical and historical world of places and people, and the cultural world of beliefs, values, conventions, social practices and points of reference – to operas, plays, books, paintings; and indeed certain linguistic explanations have become increasingly necessary (especially regarding the presence of slang or linguistic innovation, both English and American). For such explanations, James's correspondence, criticism and other writings have been drawn on

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

as a prime source of helpful comment, conveying his own experience and attitudes in a way that richly illuminates his fictional texts. Newspapers and magazines of the period, travel guides and the work of other writers also contribute, filling out the picture of the implied worlds beyond the text. Furthermore, the CFHJ sets out to provide the fullest possible details of James's allusions to poetry, the Bible and the plays of Shakespeare, as well as other literary and culturally significant works – offering suggestive but concise plot summaries when appropriate or quotation of the passages drawn on, so that the act of allusion is brought to life and the reader can trace something of James's allusive processes. Editors have abstained, on the other hand, from purely interpretative notes, speculation and personal comments: the notes always concern a point of information, even if that point has a critical bearing.

Appendices include sources and relevant contextual documents, including correspondence, entries from the Prefaces to the *NYE* and from the notebooks, where appropriate. For the novels revised and published in the *NYE*, the whole Preface is printed in an Appendix; for tales revised and published in the *NYE*, the relevant extract from the Preface is reproduced. The Prefaces and notebooks have also been collected in newly edited volumes of their own.

*

Most of James's fiction exists in a number of different textual states, most strikingly in the often considerable difference between initial publication (in periodical and volume form) and the revised versions of the novels and tales prepared near the end of his career for the *NYE*. (In the case of three late tales – 'Fordham Castle', 'Julia Bride' and 'The Jolly Corner' – first book publication was in the *NYE*.) Works excluded by James from the *NYE* were incorporated in an edition posthumously published in thirty-five volumes by Macmillan in 1921–3, but these were of course published without authorial revision. The textual differences affecting those works that *are* included in the *NYE* are predictably most extensive in the case of early works such as *Roderick Hudson* (1875), *The American* (1877), 'Daisy Miller' (1878) and *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881).

Readers may see for themselves the full extent of James's revisions, along with all other variants, both preceding and succeeding the texts printed

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

here, in the lists of Textual Variants. These are normally presented in the following form. Each volume includes a comprehensive list of all substantive variants leading up to copy text ('Textual Variants I'), preceded by a brief commentary, in which editors address this stage of the textual history, drawing attention to the main features of the changes and dealing with questions such as house style. Variations in punctuation within a sentence (usually by the insertion or removal of commas, or changes in the use of colons and semi-colons) have not normally been considered substantive. Over end-of-sentence punctuation, however, particularly in the matter of changing full stops to exclamation marks or vice versa, Volume Editors have exercised their judgment. A second section ('Textual Variants II') offers a comprehensive list of all substantive variants subsequent to copy text, and a brief commentary which summarizes the main issues raised by the changes made. The length of lists of variants and commentary inevitably varies greatly from case to case. In certain cases, for reasons explained in the volume concerned, there is a single list of 'Textual Variants'.

*

The Complete Fiction of Henry James consists of 22 novels (vols. 1–22), 113 tales (vols. 23–32) and 2 supplementary volumes (vols. 33 and 34) devoted respectively to the Prefaces that James wrote for the *NYE* and to his notebooks. They appear in this edition in the order in which they were first published in book form. The distinction between 'novels' and 'tales' is sometimes a crude one: between long fictions such as *The Portrait of a Lady* and *The Golden Bowl* and short ones such as 'Benvolio' and 'The Beldonald Holbein', there lie many shorter novels and longer tales that it is hard to categorize with confidence, well-known works such as *Washington Square* and *The Sacred Fount*, 'The Aspern Papers' and 'The Turn of the Screw'. We have deemed to be 'novels' those fictions which when they first took volume form were published as independent entities (with the single exception of *In the Cage* which despite its relative brevity first appeared as a slim volume), and to be 'tales' all those which were not. The former include some of James's lesser-known works, such as *Watch and Ward*, *Confidence*, *The Other House*, *The Outcry* and the two unfinished at the time of his death, *The Sense of the Past* and *The Ivory Tower*.

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

The division of James's tales into ten volumes has been ordered chronologically on the basis of first publication, according to the following principles:

- 1) The determining date of a story's publication is that of the first appearance of any part of it (as some straddle three issues of a magazine). Thus, for example, 'A London Life' (June–September 1888, *Scribner's Magazine*) before 'The Lesson of the Master' (July–August 1888, *Universal Review*).
- 2) When two tales have the same start date, the priority is determined by which completes its publication earlier. Thus, for example, 'The Modern Warning' (originally entitled 'Two Countries', June 1888, *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*) precedes 'A London Life' (June–September 1888, *Scribner's Magazine*).
- 3) When two tales have the same start date and the same date of completion (often only taking one issue), the priority is determined by alphabetical order (of tale title). Thus, for example, 'De Grey: A Romance' (July 1868, *Atlantic Monthly*) precedes 'Osborne's Revenge' (July 1868, *Galaxy*).
- 4) Because it cannot usually be determined exactly *when* a magazine dated only 'June' actually appeared, 'June' is treated as preceding any particular date in June, including '1 June'. Thus 'The Private Life' (April 1892, *Atlantic Monthly*) precedes 'The Real Thing' (16 April 1892, *Black and White*); and principle 4 overrides principle 2, so that 'The Author of "Beltraffio"' (June–July 1884, *English Illustrated Magazine*) precedes 'Pandora' (1 and 8 June 1884, *New York Sun*).
- 5) When tales have not been published in periodicals before being collected in book form, the precise date of book publication counts as first publication and determines their place in the order.
- 6) When tales have not been published in periodicals before being collected in book form, and several tales appear in the same book, the order of tales in the book determines our ordering (even when their order of composition is known to have been different), as it is closer to the order in which original readers would preponderantly have read them.

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

- 7) In the single case, 'Hugh Merrow', where only a fragment of a tale survives, which therefore was not published within James's lifetime, the tale has been placed provisionally in accordance with the date of the only extant notebooks entry, 11 September 1900.

*

Emendations have been made sparingly and only to clearly erroneous readings. Where there is only one version of a work and it requires emendation, the original (erroneous) reading has been recorded in the List of Emendations. Where a later or earlier text has a reading that shows the copy text to be in error, this reading has been incorporated and the copy text's reading recorded in the apparatus. The fact that a later or earlier text has a reading that seems preferable to that of the copy text has not in itself provided sufficient grounds for emendation, although, as with all other variants, it has been recorded in the Textual Variants. Unusual and inconsistent spellings have not been altered, and only annotated in exceptional cases. Misprints and slipped letters have been corrected, and the corrections noted. Contractions have not been expanded, superscript has not been converted, and spelling and punctuation have not normally been changed.

James's writings were of course published on both sides of the Atlantic, and there are corresponding differences in spelling between British and American texts, in volume and serial form: 'colour/color', 'recognise/recognize', 'marvellous/marvelous' and so on. These differences have been preserved when they occur in the textual variants, but they have not been systematically recorded, being deemed to be matters of accident rather than substance. The form taken by inverted commas (single or double) also varies between texts, as does their placement (before or after commas, full stops, etc.); being judged matters of accident, these have been regularized. Double quotation marks have been adopted for all the James texts published in this edition. When the text of the *NYE* is cited in the Introduction, Notes or textual apparatus, its distinctive typography has not been retained, and this also applies to the texts of the tales first published in the *NYE* and of the Prefaces: the contractions rendered there as e.g. 'is n't' and 'did n't' have here been normalized as single

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
 Edited by Nicola Bradbury
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

words, 'isn't' and 'didn't'. Editorial ellipses have been enclosed in square brackets but authorial ellipses have not.

The punctuation of the copy text adopted has also been preserved. There are considerable differences of punctuation between the different forms in which a particular work of James's appears. It is often hard to distinguish with certainty those which can be accounted for by differences in the house styles of particular publishers, British and American, and those which are matters of authorial choice. Whatever the agency behind such differences, there is a case for recognizing the difference of sense made by the presence or absence of a comma, by the change of an exclamation mark to a full stop, and so on. Nevertheless, the scale of such differences is too great to make a comprehensive record feasible within the limits of a print edition. Volume Editors have therefore exercised their judgment over the most helpful way to inform readers of the nature of such differences.

References to money pose particular difficulties for modern readers, not only because the sums concerned have to be multiplied by an apparently ever-inflating figure to produce approximate modern equivalents, but because the quantity and quality of what could be bought and done with these sums (especially involving property or real estate) have also changed radically – and will very possibly continue to do so during the lifetime of this edition. We do, however, know that throughout James's own life the pound sterling was equal to \$4.85, and certain other figures can be established, such as that in 1875 the US dollar was equivalent to 5.19 French francs. For the calculation of particular sums in James's writings, Volume Editors have supplied readers with as much reliable information as they can command at the date of publication for this edition, but as time goes on readers will inevitably have to make adjustments.

Translations have been provided for all foreign words and phrases that appear in the text. Those which are common and uncontroversial (such as 'piazza', 'table d'hôte') are collected in a glossary at the end; those judged to be less than obvious in meaning, or dependent for their meaning on the specific context, are explained in an endnote.

The General Editors warmly acknowledge the gracious permission of Bay James, custodian of the James Estate, for the publication of material still in copyright; and the generous cooperation of Greg Zacharias and his associates at the Center for Henry James Studies at Creighton University in

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
Edited by Nicola Bradbury
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

Omaha, Nebraska, home of an indispensable parallel project, *The Complete Letters of Henry James*, published by the University of Nebraska Press. We thank David Supino for offering his sage advice whenever it was sought. Finally, we are deeply grateful for the guidance and support provided by our editor at Cambridge University Press, Linda Bree, assistant editor Anna Bond and her predecessor Maartje Scheltens, and publishing assistant Isobel Cowper-Coles.

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
 Edited by Nicola Bradbury
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL CHRONOLOGY OF JAMES'S LIFE AND WRITINGS

Compiled by Philip Horne

- 1843 Henry James (HJ) is born on 15 April 1843 at 21 Washington Place in New York City, second of the five children of Henry James (1811–82), speculative theologian and social thinker, and his wife Mary Walsh Robertson James (1810–82). Siblings: William (1842–1910), psychologist, philosopher, Harvard professor; Garth Wilkinson ('Wilky', 1845–83); Robertson ('Bob', 1846–1910); Alice (1848–92), diarist.
- 1843–5 Taken to Paris and London by his parents; earliest memory (from age two) is of the Place Vendôme in Paris.
- 1845–7 Returns to United States. Childhood in Albany.
- 1847–55 Family settles in New York City; taught by tutors and in private schools.
- 1855–8 Family travels in Europe: Geneva, London, Paris, Boulogne-sur-mer.
- 1858 Jameses reside in Newport, Rhode Island.
- 1859–60 James family travels: HJ at scientific school, then the Academy (later the University) in Geneva. Summer 1860: HJ learns German in Bonn.
- 1860–2 James family returns to Newport in September 1860. HJ makes friends with future critic Thomas Sergeant Perry and artist John La Farge, fellow students at William Morris Hunt's art academy. From 1860, HJ 'was continually writing stories, mainly of a romantic kind' (Perry). In 1861 HJ injures his back helping extinguish a fire in Newport. Along with William James, is exempted from service in Civil War, in which younger brothers fight, and Wilky is seriously wounded.
- 1862 Enters Harvard Law School for two terms. Begins to send stories to magazines.

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
 Edited by Nicola Bradbury
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL CHRONOLOGY OF JAMES'S LIFE AND WRITINGS

- 1864 February: first short story of HJ's 113, 'A Tragedy of Error', published anonymously in *Continental Monthly*. May: Jameses move to 13 Ashburton Place, Boston. October: first of HJ's many reviews, of Nassau W. Senior's *Essays on Fiction*, published unsigned in *North American Review*.
- 1865 March: first signed tale, 'The Story of a Year', appears in *Atlantic Monthly*. HJ appears also as a critic in first number of the *Nation* (New York).
- 1866–8 Summer 1866: becomes friends with William Dean Howells, novelist, critic and influential editor. November 1866: James family move to 20 Quincy Street, beside Harvard Yard. November 1867: meets Charles Dickens at home of Charles Eliot and Susan Norton, and 'tremble[s] [. . .] in every limb' (*Notes of a Son and Brother*). HJ continues reviewing and writing stories in Cambridge.
- 1869–70 On 27 February 1869 lands at Liverpool. Travels in England, meeting John Ruskin, William Morris, Charles Darwin and George Eliot; also Switzerland and Italy. 1870: death of his much-loved cousin 'Minny' Temple.
- 1870–2 May 1870: reluctantly returns to Cambridge. August–December 1871: publishes first novel, *Watch and Ward*, in the *Atlantic Monthly*; January–March 1872, publishes art reviews in *Atlantic*.
- 1872–4 May 1872: HJ accompanies invalid sister Alice and aunt Catherine Walsh, 'Aunt Kate', to Europe. Writes travel pieces for the *Nation*. October 1872 – September 1874: periods (without family) in Paris, Rome, Switzerland, Homburg, Italy again. Spring 1874: begins first long novel, *Roderick Hudson*, in Florence. September 1874: returns to the USA.
- 1875 First three books published: *A Passionate Pilgrim, and Other Tales* (January); *Transatlantic Sketches* (April); *Roderick Hudson* (November). Six months in New York City (111 East 25th Street); then three in Cambridge.

GENERAL CHRONOLOGY OF JAMES'S LIFE AND WRITINGS

- 1875–6 11 November 1875: arrives at 29 Rue de Luxembourg as Paris correspondent for *New York Tribune*. Begins *The American*. Meets Gustave Flaubert, Ivan Turgenev, Edmond de Goncourt, Alphonse Daudet, Guy de Maupassant and Émile Zola.
- 1876–7 December 1876: moves to London, taking rooms at 3 Bolton Street, off Piccadilly. Visits to Paris, Florence, Rome. May 1877: *The American* published in Boston.
- 1878 February: *French Poets and Novelists* published, first collection of essays, first book published in London. May: revised version of *Watch and Ward* published in book form in Boston. June–July: 'Daisy Miller' appears in the *Cornhill Magazine* and is quickly pirated by two American periodicals, establishing reputation in Britain and America. September: *The Europeans* published. Meets William Ewart Gladstone, Alfred Lord Tennyson and Robert Browning.
- 1879 June: first English edition of *Roderick Hudson*, revised. October: *The Madonna of the Future and Other Tales*. December: *Confidence* (novel); *Hawthorne* (critical biography).
- 1880 April: *The Diary of a Man of Fifty and A Bundle of Letters*. Late winter 1880: travels to Italy; meets Constance Fenimore Woolson in Florence. December 1880: *Washington Square*.
- 1881–3 October 1881: returns to the USA; travels between Cambridge, New York and Washington DC. November 1881: *The Portrait of a Lady*. January 1882: death of mother. May: returns to England till father dies in December 1882. February 1883: *The Siege of London, The Pension Beaurepas, and The Point of View*. August 1883: returns to London; will not return to the USA for twenty-one years. September 1883: *Daisy Miller: A Comedy*. November 1883: Macmillan publish fourteen-volume collected edition of HJ's fiction; death of Wilky James. December 1883: *Portraits of Places* (travel essays).

GENERAL CHRONOLOGY OF JAMES'S LIFE AND WRITINGS

- 1884 Sister Alice joins HJ in London, living nearby. September 1884: *A Little Tour in France* published; also HJ's important artistic statement 'The Art of Fiction'. October 1884: *Tales of Three Cities*. Becomes friends with Robert Louis Stevenson, Edmund Gosse. Writes to his friend Grace Norton: 'I shall never marry [...] I am both happy enough and miserable enough, as it is.'
- 1885–6 Writes two serial novels: *The Bostonians* (Century, February 1885 – February 1886); *The Princess Casamassima* (Atlantic, September 1885 – October 1886). February 1885: collection of tales, *The Author of Beltraffio* [&c]. May 1885: *Stories Revived*, in three vols.
- 1886–7 February 1886: *The Bostonians* published. 6 March 1886: moves into flat, 34 De Vere Gardens, in Kensington, West London. October 1886: *The Princess Casamassima* published. December 1886 – July 1887: visits Florence and Venice. Continues friendship with American novelist Constance Fenimore Woolson.
- 1888 *The Reverberator*, *The Aspern Papers* [&c] and *Partial Portraits* all published.
- 1888–90 1889: Collection of tales, *A London Life* [&c], published. 1890: *The Tragic Muse*. Temporarily abandons the novel form in favour of playwriting.
- 1890–1 Dramatizes *The American*, which has a short run in 1891. December 1891: young friend and (informal) agent Wolcott Balestier dies of typhoid in Dresden.
- 1892 February: *The Lesson of the Master* [&c] (story collection) published. March: death of Alice James in London.
- 1893 Volumes of tales published: March, *The Real Thing and Other Tales*; June, *The Private Life* [&c]; September, *The Wheel of Time* [&c]; also, June, *Picture and Text* (essays on illustration) and *Essays in London and Elsewhere* (critical and memorial essays).
- 1894 Deaths of Constance Fenimore Woolson (January) and Robert Louis Stevenson (December).

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-00283-8 - Henry James: The Ambassadors
 Edited by Nicola Bradbury
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

GENERAL CHRONOLOGY OF JAMES'S LIFE AND WRITINGS

- 1895 5 January: première of *Guy Domville*, greeted by boos and applause. James abandons playwriting for years. Visits Ireland. Volumes of tales published: May, *Terminations*; June, *Embarrassments*. Takes up cycling.
- 1896–7 *The Other House* (1896), *The Spoils of Poynton* (1897), *What Maisie Knew* (1897). February 1897: starts dictating, due to wrist problems. September 1897: takes lease on Lamb House, Rye.
- 1898 May: has signed up with literary agent James Brand Pinker, who will represent him for the rest of his life. June: moves into Lamb House. August: *In the Cage* published. October: 'The Turn of the Screw' published (in *The Two Magics*); proves his most popular work since 'Daisy Miller'. Kent and Sussex neighbours include Stephen Crane, Joseph Conrad, H. G. Wells and Ford Madox Hueffer (Ford).
- 1899 April: *The Awkward Age* published. August: buys the freehold of Lamb House.
- 1900 May: shaves off his beard. August: *The Soft Side* (tales). Friendship with Edith Wharton develops. Begins *The Sense of the Past*, but leaves it unfinished.
- 1901 February: *The Sacred Fount*.
- 1902–3 August 1902: *The Wings of the Dove* published. February 1903: *The Better Sort* (tales) published. September 1903: *The Ambassadors* published (completed mid-1901, before *The Wings of the Dove*, but delayed by serialization); also *William Wetmore Story and his Friends* (biography).
- 1904–5 August: James sails to the USA for first time in twenty-one years. November 1904: *The Golden Bowl* published. Visits New England, New York, Philadelphia, Washington DC, the South, St Louis, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Lectures on 'The Lesson of Balzac' and 'The Question of Our Speech'. Meets President Theodore Roosevelt. Elected to American Academy of Arts and Letters.

GENERAL CHRONOLOGY OF JAMES'S LIFE AND WRITINGS

- 1905 July: writes early chapters of *The American Scene*; simultaneously begins revising works for *New York Edition of the Novels and Tales of Henry James*. October: *English Hours* (travel essays) published.
- 1906–8 Selects, arranges, prefaces and has illustrations made for *NYE* (published 1907–9, twenty-four volumes). January 1907: *The American Scene* published. August 1907: hires new amanuensis, Theodora Bosanquet. 1908: *The High Bid* (play) produced in Edinburgh.
- 1909–11 October 1909: *Italian Hours* (travel essays) published. Health problems, aggravated by failure of the *New York Edition*. Death of Robertson ('Bob') James. Travels to the USA. William James dies 26 August 1910. October 1910: *The Finer Grain* (tales). Returns to England August 1911. October 1911: *The Outcry* (play converted into novel) published.
- 1911 In autumn, begins work on autobiography.
- 1912 June: honorary doctorate at Oxford. October: takes flat at 21 Carlyle Mansions, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea; suffers from shingles.
- 1913 March: *A Small Boy and Others* (first autobiographical book) published. Portrait painted by John Singer Sargent for seventieth birthday.
- 1914 March: *Notes of a Son and Brother* (second autobiographical book) published. (The fragment of a third, *The Middle Years*, appears posthumously in 1917.) When World War One breaks out, becomes passionately engaged with the British cause, working with Belgian refugees, and later wounded soldiers. October: *Notes on Novelists* published. Begins *The Ivory Tower*; resumes work on *The Sense of the Past*, but is unable to complete either novel.
- 1915 Honorary President of the American Volunteer Motor Ambulance Corps. July: quarrels with H. G. Wells about purpose of art, declaring 'It is art that *makes* life, makes interest, makes importance'; becomes a British citizen in

GENERAL CHRONOLOGY OF JAMES'S LIFE AND WRITINGS

- protest against US neutrality, describing the decision to his nephew Harry (Henry James III) as 'a simple act and offering of allegiance and devotion' after his forty-year domicile. Writes essays about the War (collected in *Within the Rim*, 1919), and Preface to *Letters from America* (1916) by his dead friend Rupert Brooke. On 2 December suffers a stroke. First volumes of Uniform Edition of Tales by Martin Secker, published in fourteen vols. 1915–20.
- 1916 Awarded the Order of Merit. Dies on 28 February. Funeral in Chelsea Old Church; ashes smuggled back to America by sister-in-law and buried in the family plot in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

INTRODUCTION

Henry James turned fifty-seven in April 1900, and the new century saw the start of his ‘major phase’ of writing, which brought *The Ambassadors*, *The Wings of the Dove* and *The Golden Bowl* to completion within four years.¹ James had recently moved from London to Rye in Sussex, and in 1899 bought the freehold of Lamb House, his first ‘home’, which he called ‘a haven of rest out of which I pray heaven I may never shift for all the rest of my days’.² The seclusion of small-town life was varied by visits from family, friends and literary neighbours. During 1900 Stephen Crane lived 8 miles away; Joseph Conrad was at nearby Winchelsea, working with Ford Madox Hueffer (later Ford Madox Ford); James also saw H. G. Wells and Rudyard Kipling (*HJL* 4:179). English and American friends, new and old, from Edmund Gosse and Mrs Humphry Ward to Oliver Wendell Holmes and Edith Wharton, came to visit him in Rye. Amongst James’s intimates, relationships grew with the young American sculptor Hendrik C. Andersen and a charming Irishman, Jocelyn Persse.

On a professional front, with the expense of the Lamb House freehold to cover, by 7 May 1898 James had signed up with the literary agent James Brand Pinker (1863–1922), whose client list would include Crane, Conrad, Wells and Hueffer, as well as George Gissing, Arnold Bennett and (briefly) D. H. Lawrence and James Joyce. James was more productive than ever: he wrote to his brother William in America on 20 April 1898: ‘this year, & next, thank heaven, my income will have been much larger than for any year of my existence’; and to William’s wife Alice on 1 October 1900: ‘the excellently effective Pinker is bringing me up, and round, so promisingly that it really contains the germs of a New

¹ The phrase comes from F. O. Matthiessen, *Henry James: The Major Phase* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1944; London: Oxford University Press, 1946); hereafter Matthiessen.

² *Henry James Letters*, ed. Leon Edel, 4 vols. (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press; London: Macmillan and Co., 1974–84), 4:114; hereafter *HJL*.