

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02803-6 - The Cambridge Companion to the City in Literature
Edited by Kevin R. McNamara
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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
THE CITY IN LITERATURE

From the myths and legends that fashioned the identities of ancient city-states to the diversity of literary performance in contemporary cities around the world, literature and the city are inseparably entwined. The international team of scholars in this volume offers a comprehensive, accessible survey of the literary city, exploring the myriad cities that authors create and the genres in which cities appear. Early chapters consider the literary legacies of historical and symbolic cities from antiquity to the early modern period. Subsequent chapters consider the importance of literature to the rise of the urban public sphere; the affective experience of city life; the interplay of the urban landscape and memory; the form of the literary city and its responsiveness to social, cultural, and technological change; dystopian, nocturnal, pastoral, and sublime cities; cities shaped by colonialism and postcolonialism; and the cities of economic, sexual, cultural, and linguistic outsiders.

Kevin R. McNamara is Professor of Literature at the University of Houston–Clear Lake. He is the author of *Urban Verbs: Arts and Discourses of American Cities* (1996) and the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of Los Angeles* (2010). McNamara has published more than twenty articles primarily on cities and urban culture in such journals as *Arizona Quarterly*, *Canadian Review of American Studies*, *College Literature*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Criticism*, *Interactions*, the *Journal of Urban History*, and *Prospects*. His work has also been published in the *Encyclopedia of American Studies* (“The Idea of the City”), *A Concise Companion to American Studies* (“Regionalism”), and collections edited in the United States, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Turkey.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book.

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GREGORY WOODS is the author of *Articulate Flesh: Male Homo-Eroticism and Modern Poetry* (1987), *A History of Gay Literature: The Male Tradition* (1998), and several volumes of poetry. He has been Professor of Gay and Lesbian Studies at Nottingham Trent University, UK, since 1998.

CHRONOLOGY

ca. 2500 BCE	Myth of Inanna and Enki
ca. 2150–2000	<i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i>
Twelfth century	Fall of Troy
Eighth century	Homer, <i>Iliad</i>
Mid-seventh century	Royal Library of Ashurbanipal in Nineveh established
Sixth century	Institution of the City Dionysia, the urban part of the annual festival to honor Dionysus, which included theatrical performances
ca. 510	Roman Republic founded
ca. 508	Cleisthenes' reforms establish <i>demokratia</i> (rule by the people) in Athens
486	Addition of comedic drama to the City Dionysia
451	Pericles' citizenship law
404	Rule of the Thirty Tyrants in Athens
403	Civil war in Athens; restoration of democracy
399	Death of Socrates
ca. 380	Plato, <i>Republic</i>
ca. 360	Plato, <i>Timaeus</i>
ca. 350	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>
ca. 340	Plato, <i>Laws</i>

CHRONOLOGY

332	Alexandria founded
Early third century	Library of Alexandria established
19	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i>
70 CE	Sack of Jerusalem by Titus
Late first century	Petronius, <i>Satyricon</i>
410	Sack of Rome
426	Augustine of Hippo, <i>City of God</i>
476	Fall of Rome
ca. 940	Nasr al-Fārābī, <i>On the Perfect State</i>
ca. 1351	Boccaccio, <i>Decameron</i>
1381	Peasants' Rebellion (Wat Tyler's Revolt) in London
ca. 1390	Chaucer, <i>Canterbury Tales</i>
1456	François Villon, <i>Le petit testament</i> ; <i>Le grand testament</i> follows in 1461
1516	Thomas More, <i>Utopia</i>
1532	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i>
1573	Isabella Whitney, <i>A Sweet Nosgay</i>
ca. 1598	William Shakespeare, <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
1599	Thomas Dekker, <i>The Shoemaker's Holiday</i>
1602	Tommaso Campanella, <i>City of the Sun</i>
1604	<i>Relation aller Fürnemmen und gedenckwürdigen Historien</i> , the first printed and circulated newspaper, debuts in Strasbourg
1608	Thomas Middleton, <i>The Roaring Girl</i>
1619	Johann Valentin Andreae, <i>Christianopolis</i>
1624	Francis Bacon, <i>New Atlantis</i>
1632	Donald Lupton, <i>London and the countrey carbonadoed</i> (a city guide)

CHRONOLOGY

- 1662 Blaise Pascal opens the world's first public omnibus line in Paris shortly before his death; its run is brief
- 1666 Great fire of London
- 1698–1700 Ned Ward, *The London Spy*
- 1711–12 Joseph Addison and Richard Steele, *The Spectator* (briefly revived by Addison in 1714)
- 1716 John Gay, *Trivia, or The Art of Walking the Streets of London*
- 1722 Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders*
- 1728 John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*
- 1762–3 James Boswell in London, his journal is later published
- 1771 Tobias Smollett, *Humphry Clinker*
- 1774 Five-volume edition of *The Newgate Calendar* published, collecting earlier editions of the pamphlets; expanded editions are issued in 1824 and 1826
- 1778 Fanny Burney, *Evelina*
- 1800 *Journal des débats* publishes the first feuilleton in Paris; in 1836 the Parisian newspaper *La Presse* is the first to issue a feuilleton as a separate sheet
- 1802 William Wordsworth, "Lines Composed upon Westminster Bridge"
- 1807 First public street lighting with gas, Pall Mall, London
- 1820 Paris adopts gas lighting
- 1823 William Hazlitt, "Of Londoners and Country People"
- 1826 Public omnibus line introduced in Nantes, France, by Stanislaus Baudry, who opens lines in Paris in 1828; London and New York follow in 1829

CHRONOLOGY

- 1832 Horse-drawn streetcars debut in New York
- 1834 Rifā'a Rāfi'al-Taḥṭāwī, *An Imam in Paris: Account of a Stay in France by an Egyptian Cleric*
- 1835 Honoré de Balzac, *Père Goriot*
- 1836 Charles Dickens, *Sketches By Boz*; other city writings include *Oliver Twist* (1838), *Hard Times* (1854), and *Our Mutual Friend* (1865)
- 1840 Edgar Allan Poe, "The Man of the Crowd"
- 1842–3 Eugène Sue, *The Mysteries of Paris*, serialized in *Journal de débats*
- 1845 Benjamin Disraeli, *Sybil, or the Two Nations*
 Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*
- 1848 Elizabeth Gaskell, *Mary Barton*; *North and South* follows in 1855
 Revolutions in cities throughout Europe
- 1849 Victor Hugo, *A Discourse on Misery*
 Bainbridge's, Newcastle upon Tyne (founded in 1838), begins to record revenue by department, thus becoming the first known department store; the Bon Marché in Paris (also founded in 1838) does the same ca. 1850
- 1851 Henry Mayhew, *London Labour and the London Poor*
 Napoleon III coup d'état, becomes emperor in 1852
 London Exposition, features the Crystal Palace
- 1852 Elisha Otis invents the safety elevator; Equitable Life Insurance Building (New York City) becomes the first office building with an elevator in 1870
- 1853 Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann commences renovation of Paris, destroying the city's medieval core, creating grand boulevards and plazas

CHRONOLOGY

- 1856 Walt Whitman, "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"
- 1861 Second edition of Charles Baudelaire's *The Flowers of Evil* published, includes "Parisian Tableaus"; his "The Painter of Modern Life" is published in 1863
- 1862 Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*
- 1863 Jules Verne, *Paris in the Twentieth Century* (not published until 1994)
 Metropolitan Railway opens in London, first rapid transit system
- 1864 Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*
- 1866 James McNeil Whistler begins his series of London Nocturne paintings
- 1871 Émile Zola, *The Fortune of the Rougons*, the first of the twenty-volume Rougon-Macquart series, including *Nana* (1880), *The Ladies' Paradise* (1883), *Germinal* (1885)
- 1871 Paris Commune
- 1873 First urban cable-car line opens in San Francisco
- 1874 James Thomson, *The City of Dreadful Night*
- 1878 First commercial telephone exchange opens in New Haven, Connecticut
- 1879 Newcastle upon Tyne (one lamp) and Cleveland (twelve lamps) become the first cities to use arc lamps for streetlighting; both are demonstration projects by inventors
- 1880 Werner von Siemens builds the first electric elevator
- 1881 Siemens opens the first electric tram line in Lichterfelde, Germany, a suburb of Berlin
- 1884 Samuel Barnett establishes Toynbee Hall in East London
- 1885 William Le Baron Jenney's Home Insurance Building (Chicago), a ten-story construction using

CHRONOLOGY

- structural steel, initiates the skyscraper age. Four years later, Daniel Burnham and John Root's Rand-McNally Building, also in Chicago, becomes the first all-steel-framed construction
- Lionel Jeffries, *After London*
- Carl Auer von Welsbach patents a gas mantle used in streetlighting
- 1886 Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- Richmond Union Passenger Railway, the first tram system, opens in Richmond, Virginia
- 1887 'Alī Pāshā Mubārak, *New Plans for Egypt under the Khedive Tawfiq: Cairo and Other Cities*
- Ferdinand Tönnies, *Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft*
- 1888 Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward, 2000–1887*
- 1888–91 Whitechapel ("Jack the Ripper") murders
- 1889 Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr establish Hull House in Chicago
- Exposition Universelle in Paris, features the Eiffel Tower
- 1890 Ignatius Donnelly, *Caesar's Column*
- William Dean Howells, *A Hazard of New Fortunes*
- Pierre Loti, *Morocco*
- Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*
- 1891 Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
- 1893 Stephen Crane, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*
- Émile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*
- Bradford Peck, *The World a Department Store*
- World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago; its Court of Honor, the "White City," becomes the model for City Beautiful planning

CHRONOLOGY

- 1894 Arthur Morrison, *Tales of Mean Streets*
- 1895 Gustave Le Bon, *The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind*
- 1898 Ebenezer Howard, *To-morrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform*, republished in 1902 as *Garden Cities of To-morrow*, effectively the manifesto of the Garden Cities Movement
- 1899 John Law (Margaret Harkness), *In Darkest London*
 Frank Norris: *McTeague, a Story of San Francisco*
- 1900 Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*
 Paris Metro opens
- 1901 Colette, *Pauline in Paris*
 Edward A. Ross, *Social Control: A Survey of the Foundations of Order*
- 1903 Jack London, *People of the Abyss*; publishes *The Iron Heel* in 1908
 Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life"
 Letchworth, first New Town (Garden City) established in England
- 1904 New York City subway opens
- 1905 Frederick Clemson Howe, *The City: The Hope of Democracy*
 Heliopolis section of Cairo built under the plan of Baron Édouard Louis Joseph Empain
- 1906 Mikhail Kuzmin, *Wings*
 Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*
- 1907 Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*
 Simon Nelson Patten, *The New Basis of Civilization*
- 1910 Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull House*

CHRONOLOGY

- 1911 Ceremonial laying of foundation stone of New Delhi; designed by architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker, the city is christened New Delhi in 1927
- 1912 Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice*
- 1915 Dorothy Richardson, *Pointed Roofs*, first volume of the thirteen-novel sequence, *Pilgrimage*
 Patrick Geddes, *Cities in Evolution*, a key text of early regional planning influenced by Herbert Spencer's application of Darwin to the social sciences. Lewis Mumford will become Geddes's most influential disciple.
- 1916 Andrei Bely, *Petersburg*
- 1917 Abraham Cahan, *The Rise of David Levinsky*
- 1920 Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*
- 1922 T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*
 James Joyce, *Ulysses*
- 1924 Bertolt Brecht, *Jungle of Cities*
 Yevgeny Zamyatin, *We*
- 1925 F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
 John Dos Passos, *Manhattan Transfer*
 Le Corbusier, *Urbanisme* (translated as *The City of To-morrow and Its Planning* in 1929); followed by the Plan Obus for Algiers (1930), *The Radiant City* (1935), and *The Athens Charter* published for the Congrès internationaux d'architecture moderne (1943)
 Robert E. Park Ernest W. Burgess, and Roderick D. McKenzie, *The City: Suggestions for the Study of Human Nature in the Urban Environment*
 Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*; publishes "Street Haunting: A London Adventure" in 1930
- 1926 Louis Aragon, *Le Paysan de Paris*

CHRONOLOGY

- Charlie Chaplin (dir.), *Modern Times*
- John Henry Mackay, *The Hustler*
- 1927 Fritz Lang (dir.), *Metropolis*
- 1928 André Breton, *Nadja*
- Claude McKay, *Home to Harlem*
- King Vidor (dir.), *The Crowd*
- Congrès internationaux d'architecture moderne (CIAM) founded
- 1929 Alfred Döblin, *Berlin Alexanderplatz*
- Hugh Ferriss, *The Metropolis of Tomorrow*
- Dziga Vertov (dir.), *Man with a Movie Camera*
- 1930 Hart Crane, *The Bridge*
- Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*
- 1934 Philip Roth, *Call It Sleep*
- 1935 Walter Benjamin, "Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century" (revised version, 1939; neither version published in Benjamin's lifetime)
- 1938 Louis Wirth, "Urbanism as a Way of Life"
- 1939 Christopher Isherwood, *Goodbye to Berlin*
- 1940 Federico García Lorca, *Poet in New York*
- Richard Wright, *Native Son*
- 1940–1 London Blitz
- 1945 Dresden bombings and firestorm
- Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- 1946 Lion Feuchtwanger, *Venice (Texas) and Fourteen Other Stories*
- Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar, *Five Cities*
- William Carlos Williams, *Paterson, Book One*; Books Two through Five appear in 1948, 1949, 1951, and 1958

CHRONOLOGY

- 1947 Naguib Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley*; *Cairo Trilogy* (*Palace Walk*, *Palace of Desire*, *Sugar Street*) follows in 1956–7
 Independence and partition of India and Pakistan
- 1948 Gore Vidal, *The City and the Pillar*
 Reunited National Party wins South African Election on a platform promising institution of an apartheid system
- 1949 George Orwell, *Brave New World*
- 1951 Yukio Mishima, *Forbidden Colors*
- 1952 Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
- 1954 Driss Chraïbi, *The Simple Past*
- 1956 Guy Debord, “Theory of the Dérive”; *The Society of the Spectacle* follows in 1967
 Sam Seldon, *The Lonely Londoners*
 Kateb Yacine, *Nedjma*
- 1956–7 Battle of Algiers, part of the Algerian War of Independence (1954–62)
- 1961 Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*
 Lewis Mumford, *The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects*
- 1962 Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*
- 1963 John Rechy, *City of Night*
- 1964 Frank O’Hara, *Lunch Poems*
- 1965 Claude Brown, *Manchild in the Promised Land*
 Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
- 1968 Paul Erlich, *The Population Bomb*
 Ahmadou Kourouma, *The Suns of Independence*

CHRONOLOGY

- Antiwar, antiracism, and antigovernment protests and civil unrest in many European and US cities
- Stonewall riots
- 1969 Doris Lessing, *The Four-Gated City*
- 1970 First Gay Pride marches held in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco
- 1972 Thomas Disch, 334
- 1973 Rita Mae Brown, *Rubyfruit Jungle*
- David Harvey, *Social Justice and the City* (rev. ed., 2009); books that follow include *The Urban Condition* (1989), *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change* (1989), and *Paris, Capital of Modernity* (2003)
- 1974 Henri Lefebvre, *The Production of Space*
- 1975 J. G. Ballard, *High-Rise*
- 1976 First “Reclaim the Night” march held in Brussels by participants in the International Tribunal on Crimes against Women
- 1977 Angela Carter, *The Passion of the New Eve*
- 1978 Andrew Holleran, *The Dancer from the Dance*
- Larry Kramer, *Faggots*
- 1979 Armistead Maupin, first volume of the *Tales of the City*
- 1982 Henri Lopes, *The Laughing Cry*
- Ridley Scott (dir.), *Blade Runner*
- 1982–9 Alan Moore and David Lloyd, *V for Vendetta*
- 1983 C. K. Williams, *Tar*
- 1984 Martin Amis, *Money: Suicide Note*, first volume of the London Trilogy (includes *London Fields* [1989] and *The Information* [1995])
- Michel de Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*

CHRONOLOGY

- William Gibson, *Neuromancer*
- 1985–6 Paul Auster, *New York Trilogy* (*City of Glass*, *Ghosts*, and *The Locked Room*)
- 1987 Michael Ondaatje, *In the Skin of a Lion*
- 1988 Neil Bartlett, *Who Was that Man?*
- Kate Braverman, *Palm Latitudes*
- Alan Hollinghurst, *The Swimming-Pool Library*
- 1989 Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*
- 1990 William Gibson and Bruce Sterling, *The Difference Engine*
- Orhan Pamuk, *The Black Book*; publishes *Istanbul: Memories and the City* in 2003
- 1991 Bret Easton Ellis, *American Psycho*
- Iain Sinclair, *Downriver*
- 1992 Emine Sevgi Özdamar, *Life Is a Caravanserai: Has Two Doors I Came in One I Went Out the Other*; followed by *The Bridge of the Golden Horn* (1998) and *The Courtyard in the Mirror* (2001)
- 1992–6 Siege of Sarajevo during the Bosnian War
- 1994 Nelson Mandela becomes president of South Africa
- 1996 Edward Soja, *Thirdspace: Journeys to Los Angeles and Other Real-and-Imagined Places*; *Postmetropolis: Critical Studies of Cities and Regions* follows in 2000
- 1997 Edmund White, *The Farewell Symphony*
- 1999 Roberto Bolaño, *Amulet*
- Samuel R. Delany, *Times Square Red*, *Times Square Blue*
- 2000 Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*

CHRONOLOGY

- 2001 Hijacked passenger airplanes fly into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City
- 2002 Kamila Shamsie, *Kartography*
- 2003 R. Raj Rao, *The Boyfriend*
- 2004 Chris Abani, *Graceland*
 Sarnath Banerjee, *Corridor*
- 2005 José Saramago, *Blindness*
- 2006 Tahar Ben Jelloun, *Leaving Tangier*
 Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums*
 Will Self, *The Book of Dave*
 Ed Roberson, *City Eclogue*
 Ivan Vladislavić, *Portrait with Keys: The City of Johannesburg Unlocked*
- 2009 China Miéville, *The City and the City*
- 2009–10 Haruki Murakami, *1Q84*
- 2011 Teju Cole, *Open City*
 First “Slutwalk” protest held in Toronto
 Occupy Wall Street, first encampment of the Occupy movement
- 2012 Lauren Groff, *Arcadia*
- 2013 Manil Suri, *The City of Devi*