A HISTORY OF MODERNIST POETRY

A History of Modernist Poetry examines innovative anglophone poetries from decadence to the post-war period. The first of its three parts considers formal and contextual issues, including myth, politics, gender, and race, while the second and third parts discuss a wide range of individual poets, including Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot, W. B. Yeats, Mina Loy, Gertrude Stein, Wallace Stevens, William Carlos Williams, and Marianne Moore, as well as key movements such as Imagism, Objectivism, and the Harlem Renaissance. This book also addresses the impact of both world wars on experimental poetries and the crucial role of magazines in disseminating and proselytising on behalf of poetic modernism. The collection concludes with a wide-ranging discussion of the inheritance of modernism in recent writing on both sides of the Atlantic.

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A HISTORY OF MODERNIST POETRY

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SARAH HAYDEN is currently completing her monograph, Curious Disciplines: Mina Loy and Avant-Garde Artisthood, for publication in the ‘Recencies’ series at the University of New Mexico Press. In 2014 she edited new manuscript material and wrote the introduction for a new edition of Loy’s novel Insel. After completing her Irish Research Council–funded PhD in English and French (2012), she took up a DAAD Visiting Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Freie Universität in Berlin. In 2013, she was awarded an Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship at the School of English, University College Cork. She is a co-organiser of the SoundEye and Avant festivals in Cork, and in 2011 she co-founded a Modernisms Research Centre at UCC.

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GEORGIA JOHNSTON is Professor of English at Saint Louis University, where she studies the cultures and literature of the early twentieth century. She has particular interests in modernist autobiography in terms of sexual theories of the period, and her publications include The Formation of 20th-Century Queer Autobiography (2007). In her current book project, Reading Modernist Gender, she contrasts literary and social science gender constructions of the early twentieth century. For that book, she has been awarded a 2014–15 Fulbright Scholar Fellowship to conduct research in London.

GLEN MACLEOD is the author of Wallace Stevens and Company (1983) and Wallace Stevens and Modern Art: From the Armory Show to Abstract Expressionism (1993), as well as numerous essays on American literature. He is Professor of English at the University of Connecticut, Waterbury.

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**Anthony Mellors** is currently Professor of Poetry and Poetics at Birmingham City University. His work includes *Late Modernist Poetics from Pound to Prynne* (2005), *The Lewknor Turn* (2013), and *The Christmas Album* (2015).

**Sally Minogue** is a retired academic. She has published *The Nature of Criticism*, jointly with Colin Radford (1981), and was contributing editor of *Problems for Feminist Criticism* (1990), which in 2012 was republished in print and as an e-book. She and Andrew Palmer have collaborated on papers on First World War poetry and twentieth-century poetic responses to the First World War which have appeared in the *Journal of Modern Literature* and *Word and Image*. They are currently completing a monograph, *Remembering the Dead: Poetry and the First World War*.

**Andrew Palmer** is Principal Lecturer in Modern Literature at Canterbury Christ Church University. His teaching and research are focused on the literature of war in the twentieth century. With Sally Minogue, he has published papers on First World War poetry and they are now completing a monograph, *Remembering the Dead: Poetry and the First World War*, which will interrogate the ways soldiers of the war have been represented, mourned, and commemorated through poetry. He has also published papers on the travel writing of Bruce Chatwin and Ray Davies’s seminal Kinks album, *Arthur*. 
Adam Piette is a Professor of Modern Literature at the University of Sheffield. He is the author of *Remembering and the Sound of Words: Mallarmé, Proust, Joyce, Beckett* (1996), *Imagination at War: British Fiction and Poetry, 1939–1945* (1995), and *The Literary Cold War, 1945 to Vietnam* (2009). He co-edited *The Edinburgh Companion to Twentieth-Century British and American War Literature* (2012) and is co-editor of the poetry journal *Blackbox Manifold*.


Paige Reynolds is Professor in the Department of English at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. She is the author of *Modernism, Drama, and the Audience for Irish Spectacle* (2007) and editor of ‘Irish Things’, a 2011 special issue of the journal Éire-Ireland focused on material culture. She has published essays on modernism, modern and contemporary Irish literature, drama and performance, and periodical culture, and she serves as co-chair of the Modernism Seminar at the Mahindra Humanities Center (Harvard). She is currently editing a collection entitled *Modernist Afterlives in Irish Literature and Culture* (based on a symposium organised during her term as the 2013 Neenan Fellow at Boston College, Ireland) and completing her second
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TIMOTHY YU is the author of *Race and the Avant-Garde: Experimental and Asian American Poetry since 1965*. He is Associate Professor of English and Asian American Studies and Director of the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.
Preface

A History of Modernist Poetry provides a survey of anglophone poetic modernisms, from the 1890s to the 1940s and beyond. The volume takes cognisance of the renaissance in the study of modernisms that has been underway since the late 1990s, reflecting and contributing to the sea change in the discipline brought about by the New Modernist Studies: the opening-up of the canon to include modernist poets who, whether on grounds of gender, ethnicity, or poetic praxis, were marginalised within earlier understandings of modernism; and the extension of the chronology of modernism to the Second World War and the decolonising era of the 1960s, in which the legacies of the modernists were creatively re-interpreted by poets according to their own agendas. At the same time, however, the present History acknowledges the profound and inescapable contribution to poetic modernism of, for example, Ezra Pound and T. S. Eliot, poets long recognised as canonical. While A History of Modernist Poetry registers recent developments in scholarship, it also recognises that a literary history is, by definition, distinct from the often enabling ‘turf wars’ of literary criticism, in that it must provide, as far as is possible, an ‘objective’ and accurate perspective on modernist poetry in history.

This History offers, in one volume, a comprehensive resource which encompasses detailed readings and historical contextualisations of major modernist poets, movements and schools within poetic modernism, and discussion of the origins, formal innovations and thematic, political, racialised, and gendered preoccupations of modernist poetry, from the fin de siècle
to the post–Second World War period. Owing to its subject area’s relatively recent periodisation, there is a pressing need for a history of a genre which pays attention to the large array of innovative, lasting, and influential works of the modernist era – works increasingly recognised as comparable to the major poetic texts of the early modern and romantic periods.

At Cambridge University Press, we would like to thank our editor, Dr Ray Ryan, and editorial assistant, Caitlin Gallagher; our Senior Project Manager, Sathish Kumar; and the anonymous readers for the Press. Thanks, too, to Claire Connolly and colleagues in the School of English and the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences at University College Cork, and to Sarah Hayden, who compiled the Chronology.
Chronology

Sarah Hayden

1818  Arthur Schopenhauer, *The World as Will and Representation*.
1852  Karl Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon*.
1855  Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*.
1867  Matthew Arnold, *On the Study of Celtic Literature*.
1872  Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*.
1873  Matthew Arnold, *Literature and Dogma*.
1882  Rudyard Kipling, *Barrack-Room Ballads and Other Poems*.
1884  Greenwich Mean Time introduced.
1885  Internal combustion engine developed.
1892  Independent Labour Party founded in Britain.
1895  W. B. Yeats, *Poems*.
1896  William James, *Principles of Psychology*.
1897  The Book of the Rhymers’ Club (a second anthology in 1894).
1898  The Savoy magazine (Jan.–Dec.).
1899  Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*. 
Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 1900 | W. B. Yeats, *The Wind Among the Reeds*.  
W. B. Yeats, ‘The Symbolism of Poetry’.  
Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*.  
George Santayana, *Interpretations of Poetry and Religion*. |
| 1901 | First Picasso exhibition in Paris at Galerie Ambroise Vollard.  
Death of Queen Victoria; Edward VII accedes to the British throne.  
Theodore Roosevelt elected to the US presidency. |
| 1902 | John Masefield, *Salt-Water Ballads*.  
Walter de la Mare, *Songs of Childhood*.  
*Times Literary Supplement* founded. |
*Camera Work* magazine founded (until 1917).  
Otto Weininger, *Sex and Character*.  
Wright brothers’ first aeroplane flight. |
| 1904 | Thomas Hardy, *The Dynasts* (pt 1; pts 2 (1906) and 3 (1908)). |
| 1905 | Alfred Stieglitz opens 291, the Photo-Secession Gallery at 291 Fifth Avenue, New York.  
Die Brücke Group formed in Dresden.  
The ‘Fauves’ exhibit at the Salon d’Automne.  
Albert Einstein, *Special Theory of Relativity*.  
George Santayana, *The Life of Reason: Reason in Art*.  
First Russian Revolution. |
| 1906–11 | Ferdinand de Saussure teaches his ‘Course in General Linguistics’ at the University of Geneva. |
| 1907 | *New Age* periodical founded (until 1922).  
Henri Bergson, *Creative Evolution*.  
| 1908 | Ezra Pound arrives in London.  
*English Review* periodical founded (until 1937). |
1909
William Carlos Williams, *Poems.*
The ‘School of Images’ meets at the Café de la Tour d’Eiffel, Percy Street, London.
Emil Nolde, ‘On Primitive Art’.
Poetry Recital Society founded (later New Poetry Society).
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People founded.

1910
W. B. Yeats, *The Green Helmet and Other Poems.*
Umberto Boccioni et al., ‘Futurist Painting: Technical Manifesto’.
F. T. Marinetti delivers ‘Futurist Speech to the English’ in London.
*Crisis* magazine founded (until 1934).
*Der Sturm* magazine founded (until 1932).
First Post-Impressionist Exhibition in London.
Death of Edward VII; George V accedes to the British throne.

1911

1912
Claude McKay, *Songs of Jamaica* and *Constab Ballads.*
Ezra Pound coins the term *Imagism*; Pound, *Ripostes.*
Rainer Maria Rilke, *Duino Elegies* (until 1922).
Gertrude Stein, ‘Portrait of Mabel Dodge at the Villa Curonia’.
*Poetry: A Magazine of Verse* founded in Chicago (to present).
*Poetry Review* founded (to present).
Arnold Schoenberg, *Pierrot Lunaire*.
Guillaume Apollinaire, *The Cubist Painters*.
Marcel Duchamp, *Nude Descending a Staircase, No. 2* (withdrawn from Cubist room of Salon des Indépendants).
Robert Delaunay, ‘Note on the Construction of Reality in Pure Painting’.
Salon de la Section d’Or at the Galerie de la Boétie, Paris.
Albert Gleizes and Jean Metzinger, *On Cubism*.
Jane Harrison, *Ancient Art and Ritual*.
First Balkan War.
Fall of Adrianopole.
Sinking of the *Titanic*.

1912–13

Leo Frobenius, *The Voice of Africa*.

1913


William Carlos Williams, *The Tempers*.

F. S. Flint, ‘Imagisme’.


Ezra Pound, ‘A Few Don’ts by an Imagiste’.

Pound takes over literary editorship of the *New Freewoman* (later *The Egoist*).

Yeats awarded first *Poetry* prize.

*Poetry and Drama* magazine founded (until 1914).


Chronology
Igor Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring* performed in Paris.
Armory Show (International Exhibition of Modern Art) in New York.
Roger Fry opens Omega Workshops in London.
Marcel Duchamp, *Bicycle Wheel*.
Second Balkan War.
Woodrow Wilson elected to the US presidency.

1914

Wyndham Lewis, ‘Our Vortex’; *Enemy of the Stars*.
Amy Lowell, *Sword Blades and Poppy Seed*.
Stéphane Mallarmé, *Un Coup de dés* (posthumously).
Carl Sandburg, ‘Chicago’.
Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons*.
Clive Bell, ‘The Aesthetic Hypothesis’.
*Blast* magazine founded (second and final issue 1915).

1915

F. S. Flint, ‘The History of Imagism’.
Ezra Pound, *Cathay*.
Wallace Stevens, ‘Sunday Morning’.
*291* magazine founded (until 1916).
*Blast*, 2 (War Number).
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Chronology

Marcel Duchamp begins work on The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (The Large Glass) (until 1923).

Kasimir Malevich, ‘From Cubism and Futurism to Suprematism: The New Realism in Painting’.

Vorticist exhibition at the Doré Galleries, London.

D. W. Griffith, The Birth of a Nation.


Italy declares war on Austria.

1916

H.D., Sea Garden.

Robert Frost, Mountain Interval.

Tristan Tzara, The First Celestial Adventure of Mr Antipyrine.

W. B. Yeats, Responsibilities and Other Poems.

Wheels: An Anthology of Verse (annually until 1921).

First Dada performances at the Cabaret Voltaire, Zurich.

Ferdinand de Saussure, Course in General Linguistics.

Easter Rising in Dublin.

First Battle of the Somme.

Battle of Verdun.

1917

T. S. Eliot, Prufrock and Other Observations.

D. H. Lawrence, Look! We Have Come Through!

Mina Loy, ‘Songs to Joannes’.

Edna St Vincent Millay, Renascence and Other Poems.


Ezra Pound, Homage to Sextus Propertius.

William Carlos Williams, Al Que Quiere!

391 magazine founded (until 1924).

The Blindman magazine founded (2 issues, April and May).

Dada magazine founded (until 1919).

De Stijl magazine founded (until 1932).
Guillaume Apollinaire’s *The Breasts of Tiresias* staged in Paris.
Sergei Diaghilev’s *Parade* staged in Paris.
Marcel Duchamp, *Fountain*, excluded from the first exhibition of the Society of Independent Artists, New York.
Opening of the First Independents Exhibition at the Grand Central Palace, New York (Williams reads ‘Overture to a Dance of Locomotives’).
United States enters First World War.

1918
Rupert Brooke, *Collected Poems*.
Tristan Tzara, ‘Dada Manifesto 1918’.
*The Liberator* magazine founded (until 1924).
Novembergruppe Draft Manifesto.
Oswald Spengler, *The Decline of the West*.
Lytton Strachey, *Eminent Victorians*.
Marie Stopes, *Married Love*.
Armistice (end of First World War).
Enfranchisement of women aged 30 and over in Britain.
Weimar Republic proclaimed.
Influenza pandemic.

1919
Pound edits and publishes Fenellosa’s ‘The Chinese Written Character as a Medium for Poetry’.
Kurt Schwitters, *Anne Blume: Poetry*.
H.D., ‘Notes on Thought and Vision’ (published posthumously).
André Breton and Philippe Soupault, *The Magnetic Fields*.
*The Chapbook* magazine (originally the *Monthly Chapbook*) founded (until 1925).
*Littérature* magazine founded (until 1924, two series).
Walter Gropius, ‘Programme for the Staatliches Bauhaus in Weimar’.
KOMFUT, ‘Programme Declaration’.
Kasimir Malevich, ‘Non-Objective Art and Suprematism’.
J. M. Keynes, The Economic Consequences of the Peace.
Frederick Mott, War Neuroses and Shell Shock.
Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht are murdered.
Treaty of Versailles.
Volstead (Prohibition) Act passed by US Congress.
American Communist Party founded.
T. S. Eliot, A Vos Prec; The Sacred Wood.
Ezra Pound, Hugh Selwyn Mauberley.
William Carlos Williams, Kora in Hell: Improvisations.
Contact magazine founded (until 1921; revived 1932).
The Dial magazine founded (until 1929).
The ‘Festival Dada’ takes place in the Salle Gaveau, Paris.
Francis Picabia, ‘Cannibal Dada Manifesto’.
The Société Anonyme is established in New York.
Jacques Maritain, Art and Scholasticism.
League of Nations created.
Nineteenth Amendment grants American women the vote.
H.D., Hymen.
Aldous Huxley, Crome Yellow.
Marianne Moore, Poems.
William Carlos Williams, Sour Grapes.
Broom: An International Magazine of the Arts founded (until 1924).
Marcel Duchamp and Man Ray, *New York Dada*.  
Second Pan African Congress (London); ‘Pan African Manifesto’.

1922

E. E. Cummings, *The Enormous Room*.  
Thomas Hardy, *Late Lyrics and Earlier*.  
James Joyce, *Ulysses*.  
Claude McKay, *Harlem Shadows*.  
Edith Sitwell, *Façade*.  
The Criterion magazine founded (until 1939).  
The Fugitive magazine founded (until 1925).  
Alexander Rodchenko and Varvara Stepanova,  
‘Programme of the First Working Group of Producing Constructivists’.  
Bronislaw Malinowski, *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*.  
Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*.  
British Broadcasting Corporation founded.  
Creation of the Irish Free State.  
The Soviet Union is formed.  
Benito Mussolini is appointed Italian premier.

1923

Mary Austin, *The American Rhythm*.  
T. S. Eliot, ‘Ulysses, Order and Myth’.  
D. H. Lawrence, *Birds, Beasts and Flowers*.  
Ezra Pound, the Malatesta Cantos.  
Jean Toomer, *Cane*.  
Gertrude Stein, ‘If I Told Him: A Completed Portrait of Picasso’.  
Wallace Stevens, *Harmonium*.  
William Carlos Williams, *Spring and All*.  


H.D., *Heliodora, and Other Poems*.
Marianne Moore, *Observations*.
André Breton, ‘First Manifesto of Surrealism’.
T. E. Hulme, *Speculations*.
Saint-Jean Perse, *Anabase*.
Francis Picabia and René Clair, *Entr’acte*.
I. A. Richards, *Principles of Literary Criticism*.
Marianne Moore wins Dial Award and takes over editorship of *The Dial* (until 1929).
Lenin dies.
First Labour government elected in Britain.
Indian Citizenship Act passed in US.

Countee Cullen, *Color*.
Nancy Cunard, *Parallax*.
Langston Hughes, *The Weary Blues*.
Hugh MacDiarmid, *Sangschaw*.
Ezra Pound, *A Draft of XVI Cantos*.
William Carlos Williams, *In the American Grain*.
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*.
Alain Locke, ed., *The New Negro*.
Sergei Mikhailovich Eisenstein, *Battleship Potemkin*.
Scopes trial, Tennessee.

Hart Crane, *White Buildings*.
Hugh MacDiarmid, *A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle; Penny Wheep*.
*Fire!!* magazine founded.
*Crisis* symposium, ‘The Negro in Art: How Shall He Be Portrayed?’
Chronology

1927

Louis Aragon, *Le Paysan de Paris.*
Bauhaus opens in Dessau.
General Strike in Britain.
Langston Hughes, *Fine Clothes to the Jew.*
Gertrude Stein, ‘Patriarchal Poetry’.
Louis Zukofsky begins “A” (completed in 1978).
*American Caravan* founded (yearbook until 1936).
*transition* magazine founded (until 1938).
Wyndham Lewis, *Time and Western Man.*
Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time.*
Alan Crosland, *The Jazz Singer.*
Fritz Lang, *Metropolis.*
Charles Lindbergh flies *The Spirit of St Louis* from New York to Paris.

1928

Robert Frost, *West-Running Brook.*
William Carlos Williams, *Voyage to Pagany.*
W. B. Yeats, *The Tower.*
Ezra Pound includes Louis Zukofsky’s ‘Poem beginning “The”’ in *The Exile.*
Dziga Vertov, *Man with a Movie Camera.*
Enfranchisement of women over 21 in Britain.

1929

Countee Cullen, *The Black Christ and Other Poems.*
Ezra Pound, ‘How to Read’.
I. A. Richards, *Practical Criticism.*
Edith Sitwell, *Gold Coast Customs.*
Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own.*
*Documents* magazine founded (until 1930).
André Breton, ‘Second Manifesto of Surrealism’.
Eugene Jolas et al., ‘Revolution of the Word’.
Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí, *Un chien andalou.*
Chronology

Wyndham Lewis, *Paleface: The Philosophy of the Melting Pot.*
Wall Street crash.
Censorship of Publications Act (Ireland).
1930
Hart Crane, *The Bridge.*
Hugh MacDiarmid, *To Circumjack Cencrastus.*
William Empson, *Seven Types of Ambiguity.*
Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents.*
Allen Tate et al., *I'll Take My Stand.*
Death of D. H. Lawrence, in Vence.
1931–2
Gertrude Stein, *How to Write.*
‘Objectivists’ issue of *Poetry.*
To Publishers founded by Louis Zukofsky.
Edmund Wilson, *Axel’s Castle.*
Britain leaves the Gold Standard.
1932
W. H. Auden, *The Orators.*
Sterling A. Brown, *Southern Road.*
Wyndham Lewis, *The Enemy of the Stars.*
F. R. Leavis, *New Bearings in English Poetry.*
Michael Roberts, ed., *New Signatures.*
*Scrutiny* magazine founded (until 1953).
Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party, ‘Decree on the Reconstruction of Literary and Artistic Organizations’.
1933
Wyndham Lewis, *One-Way Song.*