

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO WORLD LITERATURE

The *Cambridge Companion to World Literature* introduces the significant ideas and practices of world literary studies. It provides a lucid and accessible account of the fundamental issues and concepts in world literature, including the problems of imagining the totality of literature; comparing literary works across histories, cultures and languages; and understanding how literary production is affected by forces such as imperialism and globalization. The essays demonstrate how detailed critical engagements with particular literary texts call forth differing conceptions of world literature and, conversely, how theories of world literature shape our practices of reading. Subjects covered include cosmopolitanism, transnationalism, internationalism, scale and systems, sociological criticism, translation, scripts, and orality. This book also includes original analyses of genres and forms, ranging from tragedy to the novel and graphic fiction, lyric poetry to the short story and world cinema.

Ben Etherington is Senior Lecturer in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts and a member of the Writing and Society Research Centre at Western Sydney University. His monograph *Literary Primitivism* (2018) argues for a global conception of primitivism as a utopian reaction to the apotheosis of European imperialism. He is currently a Chief Investigator on the three-year Australian Research Council project *Other Worlds*, for which he is working with eminent Australian writers, including Alexis Wright and J. M. Coetzee, to explore the idiosyncratic ways in which writers create literary worlds. He is also known as a public commentator on universities and Australian literature.

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Edited by Ben Etherington , Jarad Zimble
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J. M. Coetzee and the Politics of Style (2014), bring together a range of approaches, from narratology and stylistics to book history and the sociology of literature. In his new research project, *Literary Communities and Literary Worlds*, he examines several mid-twentieth-century authors who moved from one literary field to another, and who reshaped their practices in response to their new literary environments.

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CHRONOLOGY

As we explain in our Introduction, the history of world literature is the history of notions of literary totality. A simple list of significant literary works and their dates of publication would not be a chronology of world literature but a version of world literary history produced in accordance with one such notion. With this in mind, the following is a timeline of conceptions of literary totality, particularly those that have had the ambition of putting the verbal arts of all human communities on a comparative footing. As far as possible, we have tried to restrict entries to works where this ambition is explicit. These include texts focused on poetics and aesthetics that entertain speculations on the totality of literary activity, as well as signal anthologies that aim to cover a range of literary writings. We have made these selections in the awareness of our own limitations (which are linguistic, as much as disciplinary), and of the fact that those conceiving of the literary world tend to locate themselves at its centre. Something of this tendency is reflected in the telescoping nature of the timeline, whose spans grow smaller as they approach closer to our own moment, though this should also be taken to reflect the gathering pace of what now gets called globalization, as well as the attrition to which all verbal arts of the human domain are exposed.

We begin with the earliest works mentioned in this volume rather than with any putative origin for world literature, giving their titles in the language of composition (albeit in Roman script) in order to capture the linguistic diversity of the history of thinking about literary totality. Alongside the timeline of notable conceptualizations of world literature in the left-hand column (which includes theoretical texts discussed in this volume), we have plotted events of other kinds in the right-hand column: the appearance of key technologies and institutions of production, dissemination, and evaluation; and of specific literary works discussed by our contributors, and others related to them. This will enable readers to see the historical relations between the ideas of totality that this *Companion* introduces and the literary

CHRONOLOGY

practices and materials by which they have been made possible and conditioned.

This chronology aims neither to promote a clearly defined canon of texts, nor to provide a comprehensive overview of the evolution of a single idea or theory. It is no more and no less than a guide to using this *Companion*, and a helpful starting point from which readers – and student readers in particular – might begin to chart further explorations of this topic. In this respect, it will be especially valuable when used in conjunction with the recommended scholarly texts listed under Further Reading at the end of the volume.

Date	Ideas of Literary Totality	Practices, Institutions, and Technologies
900–301 BCE		<p>Development of Hebrew and Aramaic writing systems in the Middle East (c. ninth century BCE)</p> <p>Persian postal system is established; Homer's <i>Iliad</i> and <i>Odyssey</i> are transcribed (c. sixth century BCE)</p> <p>Pindar, <i>Epinikia</i> (498–444 BCE)</p> <p>Sophocles, <i>Oedipus Tyrannus</i> (c. 429 BCE)</p> <p>Vālmiki's <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> is compiled (c. 400–200 BCE)</p> <p>Twenty-four-letter Ionic Greek alphabet is adopted (c. 400 BCE)</p>
300–1 BCE	Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> (c. 335 BCE)	<p>Vyāsa's <i>Mahābhārata</i> is transcribed (c. 350 BCE)</p> <p>Library of Alexandria is founded (c. 290 BCE)</p> <p>Livius Andronicus, <i>Odusia</i> (c. 220 BCE)</p> <p>Improvements are made in the production of parchment, as the supply of papyrus begins to dwindle across the Mediterranean (second century BCE)</p>
0–299	Ban Gu, 'Yiwen zhi' (c. 50–90) Quintilian, <i>Institutio Oratoria</i> (c. 93–96)	<p>Tibullus, <i>Liber Primus</i> (c. 29–26 BCE)</p> <p>Paper comes into general use across Chinese cosmopolis (c. third century)</p>

CHRONOLOGY

Date	Ideas of Literary Totality	Practices, Institutions, and Technologies
300–599		Development of Ge'ez script in East Africa (c. fourth century) Chinese Regular Script becomes dominant throughout Chinese cosmopolis; Kālidāsa, <i>Śākuntala</i> (c. fifth century) Xiao Tong directs compilation of <i>Wenxuan</i> (c. 520–530)
	Liu Xie, <i>Wenxin diaolong</i> (c. 510–526)	Use of quill pens spreads throughout Europe (sixth century)
600–999	al-Mufaḍḍal al-Ḍabbī, <i>al-Mufaḍḍaliyyāt</i> (c. 762–784) Ānandavardhana, <i>Dhvanyāloka</i> (c. 850) Ibn al-Mu'tazz, <i>Kitāb al-Badī'</i> (c. 887)	Emergence of Bhakti movement in South Asia; standardization of modern Arabic script (c. seventh century)
1000–1299		Modern standardized form of Devanāgarī in widespread use in Northern India (c. eleventh century) Murasaki Shikibu, <i>Genji monogatari</i> (c. 1008) Commercial printing becomes widespread across Chinese cosmopolis (c. 1100)
	Nizāmī 'Arūḍī Samarqandī, <i>Chahār Maqāla</i> (c. 1155) Ibn Rushd, <i>Talkhīṣ Kitāb al-Shi'r</i> (c. 1150–1190)	<i>Sīrat Banī Hilāl</i> is composed; knowledge and use of paper spreads from China through the Middle East to Europe (c. twelfth century) <i>Sunjata</i> epic is composed (c. thirteenth century)
1300–1499	Dante, <i>De vulgari eloquentia</i> (c. 1302–1305) Ibn Khaldūn, <i>Muqaddimah</i> (1377)	Maximus Planudes, <i>Anthologia Graeca</i> (1301) First printing press developed by Gutenberg in Europe (c. 1440) Proclamation of <i>Hunminjeongeum</i> , establishing Hangul script in Korea (1446)
1500–1699	Lodovico Castelvetro, <i>Poetica d'Aristotele vulgarizzata e sposta</i> (1570) Philip Sidney, <i>An Apology for Poetry</i> (1595)	Kābir is active (c. fifteenth century) Luís de Camões, <i>Os Lusíadas</i> (1572) Globe Theatre is founded (1599) William Shakespeare, <i>Othello</i> (1603)

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Date	Ideas of Literary Totality	Practices, Institutions, and Technologies
		Miguel de Cervantes, <i>Don Quijote</i> (1605)
	Henry Reynolds, <i>Mythomystes</i> (1632)	
	Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux, <i>L'Art poétique</i> (1674)	'Ajami script spreads through Africa (c. seventeenth century)
1700–1799	Giambattista Vico, <i>Principi di una scienza nuova</i> (1725)	Father Ximénez transcribes the Mayan epic <i>Popul Vuh</i> (c. 1701)
	August Ludwig von Schlözer uses the term 'Weltliteratur' in <i>Isländische Litteratur und Geschichte</i> (1773)	Mwengo bin Athuman, <i>Utendi wa Tambuka</i> (c. 1728) Hong DaeYong, <i>Damheon yeongi</i> (1765)
	Johan Gottfried von Herder, <i>Briefe zu Beförderung der Humanität</i> (1797)	
1800–1849		Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, <i>West-östlicher Divan</i> (1819)
	Karl Rosenkranz, <i>Handbuch einer allgemeinen Geschichte der Poesie</i> (1832)	Ntsikana, 'Ulo Thixo omkhulu' (c. 1815–1821) Glasgow Missionary Society publishes Xhosa orthography (1824)
	Philarete Chasles delivers lectures on 'La Littérature étrangère comparée' in Paris (1835)	Rodolphe Töpffer, <i>Histoire de Monsieur Jabot</i> (1833)
	Johann Peter Eckermann, <i>Gespräche mit Goethe</i> (1836)	Industrialization of paper production (begins c. 1840s)
	Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, <i>Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei</i> (1848)	Edgar Allan Poe, 'The Black Cat' (1843)
1850–1899	Johannes Scherr, <i>Allgemeine Geschichte der Literatur von den ältesten Zeiten bis auf die Gegenwart</i> (1851)	Sigismund Wilhelm Koelle, <i>Polyglotta Africana</i> (1854)
	First volume of Alden's <i>Cyclopedia of Universal Literature</i> (1885)	First commercial typewriters become available (1874)
	Hugo von Meltzl, 'Vorläufige Aufgaben der vergleichenden Literatur' (1887)	Hugo von Meltzl and Sámuel Brassai found the journal <i>Acta Comparationis Litterarum Universarum</i> (1877)
	<i>Trübner's American and Oriental Literary Record</i> (1889)	David Gestetner patents his Cyclostyle stylus (1881)
	James Frazer, <i>The Golden Bough</i> (1890)	Knut Hamsun, <i>Sult</i> (1890)
	Alexander Veselovsky, 'Tri glavy iz istoricheskoi poetiki' (1899)	Lumière brothers screen their first motion picture, <i>Sortie des Usines Lumière à Lyon</i> ; Richard F. Outcault's strip <i>Hogan's Alley</i> begins (1895)

CHRONOLOGY

Date	Ideas of Literary Totality	Practices, Institutions, and Technologies
1900–1919	Benedetto Croce, <i>Estetica come scienza dell'espressione e linguistica generale</i> (1902)	First Pan-African Conference, in London (1900) Nobel Prize in Literature is established (1901) Prix Goncourt is established (1903) Prix Femina is established (1904)
	Rabindranath Tagore, 'Visva-Sahitya' (1907)	
	Richard Moulton, <i>World Literature and its Place in General Culture</i> (1911)	Dadasaheb Phalke (dir), <i>Raja Harishchandra</i> ; Rabindranath Tagore the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature (1913)
	Maxim Gorky, 'Vsemirnaia literatura' (1919)	Vladimir Mayakovsky, 'Poslushayte!'; Grand Prix du Roman de l'Académie française is established (1914) Vsemirnaia Literatura publishing house launched by Maxim Gorky in Petrograd (1918)
1920–1939	György Lukács, <i>Die Theorie des Romans</i> (1920)	PEN International is founded (1921)
	Zheng Zhenduo, 'Wenxue de tongyi guan' (1922)	
	John Macy, <i>The Story of the World's Literature</i> (1925)	
	Vladimir Propp, <i>Morfologija skazki</i> (1928)	Adoption of standard dialect and orthography for Swahili (1928)
	Mikhail Bakhtin, <i>Problemy tvorčestva Dostoevskogo</i> (1929)	Zaria Translation Bureau is founded (1930)
	Bruno Jasiński (ed.), <i>Literature of the World Revolution</i> , (1931–1932)	Index Translationum is established (1932)
	Giacomo Prampolini, <i>Storia universale della letteratura</i> (1932–1938)	
	Philo Buck (ed.), <i>An Anthology of World Literature</i> ; Kobayashi Hideo, 'Bungakkai no konran' (1934)	
	Walter Benjamin, 'Das Kunstwerk im Zeitalter seiner technischen Reproduzierbarkeit' (1936)	World Congress of Universal Documentation (1937)

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Date	Ideas of Literary Totality	Practices, Institutions, and Technologies
1940–1959	Ford Madox Ford, <i>The March of Literature: From Confucius to Modern Times</i> (1938)	J. L. Borges, ‘La biblioteca total’; Stalin Prize is established (1939)
	Qian Zhongshu, <i>Tan yi lu</i> (1948)	Stefan Heym, <i>Hostages</i> (1942)
	J. L. Borges, ‘El escritor argentino y la tradición’ (1951)	Founding of <i>Présence africaine</i> (1947)
	Erich Auerbach, ‘Philologie der Weltliteratur’ (1952)	World Congress of Intellectuals in Defense of Peace; Aimé Césaire, <i>Soleil cou coupé</i> (1948)
	Calvin S. Brown, ‘Debased Standards in World Literature Courses’ (1953)	Congress for Cultural Freedom is founded (1950)
	S. H. Steinberg (ed.), <i>Cassell’s Encyclopedia of World Literature</i> (1954)	Alejo Carpentier, <i>Los pasos perdidos</i> (1953)
	Maynard Mack (ed.), <i>The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces</i> ; József Reményi, <i>World Literatures</i> (1956)	Vladimir Nabokov, <i>Lolita</i> (1955)
1960–1969	Raymond Queneau (ed.), <i>Histoire des littératures</i> (1955–1958); Roman Jakobson, ‘Closing Statement: Linguistics and Poetics’ (1958)	Congress of Black Writers and Artists (1956)
	Paul Celan, ‘Der Meridian’ (1961)	Mimeo revolution begins (c. 1960s)
	René Etiemble, ‘Faut-il réviser la notion de Weltliteratur?’; first volume of Krishna Chaitanya’s ten-volume <i>History of World Literature</i> published (1964)	Grand prix littéraire de l’Afrique noire is established; <i>Transition/ Ch’indaba</i> is founded (1961)
	Nikolai Konrad, <i>Zapad i Vostok</i> (1966)	José Craveirinha, <i>Xigubo</i> (1964)
	Jerome Rothenberg, <i>Technicians of the Sacred: A Range of Poetries from Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania</i> (1968)	World Festival of Black Arts, in Dakar (1966)
1970–1979	Martin Seymour-Smith, <i>Guide to Modern World Literature</i> (1973)	Booker Prize established; Ayi Kwei Armah, <i>The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born</i> (1968)
	Immanuel Wallerstein, <i>The Modern World-System, Vol. 1</i> ; S. S. Praver, <i>Karl Marx and World Literature</i> (1974)	Software-based word processing becomes widely available (1970s)
	Dionýz Ďurišin, <i>Teória literárnej komparatistiky</i> (1975)	Keiji Nakazawa, <i>Hadashi no Gen</i> (1973/1974)
		Barry Feinberg (ed.), <i>Poets to the People</i> (1974)
		Wole Soyinka, <i>Death and the King’s Horseman</i> (1975)

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1980–1989	Paik Nak-chung, <i>Minjok munhak kwa segye munhak</i> ; Nelson Goodman, <i>Ways of Worldmaking</i> (1978)	Premio Miguel de Cervantes is established (1976) Satjayit Ray, <i>Shatranj Ke Khilari</i> (1977) Bridget Aldacara et al. (eds.) <i>Nicaragua in Revolution</i> (1980)
	Edward Said, <i>The World, the Text, and the Critic</i> ; first volume of <i>Istorija vseмирnoj literatury v devjati tomach</i> published (1983)	César Aira, <i>Ema, la cautiva</i> (1981) Abdelwahab Elmessiri (ed.), <i>The Palestinian Wedding</i> (1982) Wiesław Myśliwski, <i>Kamień na kamieniu</i> (1984)
	Fredric Jameson, 'Third-World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism' (1986)	Commonwealth Writers' Prize is established (1987) Prémio Camões is established (1988) Public commercial use of the Internet begins (1989)
1990–1999	Itamar Even-Zohar, <i>Polysystem Studies</i> (1990)	
	Sarah Lawall, <i>Reading World Literature</i> (1994)	Parlement international des écrivains is founded (1993)
	Timothy Brennan, <i>At Home in the World: Cosmopolitanism Now</i> (1997)	Sergey Brin and Larry Page register google.com (1997)
	Pascale Casanova, <i>La République mondiale des lettres</i> ; Johan Heilbron, 'Towards a Sociology of Translation: Book Translations as a Cultural World-System' (1999)	
2000–2009	Franco Moretti, 'Conjectures on World Literature' (2000)	Caine Prize is established; Marjane Satrapi, <i>Persepolis</i> (2000)
	Peter Singer, <i>One World: The Ethics of Globalization</i> (2002)	Roberto Bolaño, 'El viaje de Álvaro Rousselot'; Franz Kafka Prize is established (2001)
	David Damrosch, <i>What is World Literature?</i> (2003) Christopher Prendergast (ed.), <i>Debating World Literature</i> ; David Damrosch et al. (eds.), <i>The Longman Anthology of World Literature</i> ; Edward Said, <i>Humanism and Democratic Criticism</i> (2004)	Ajay Navaria, <i>Paṭkathā aur anya Kahāniyām</i> (2006)

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2010–	Sheldon Pollock, <i>The Language of the Gods in the World of Men</i> ; Michel Le Bris, Jean Rouad et al., 'Pour une littérature-monde en français' (2007)	J. M. Coetzee, <i>Summertime</i> (2009) Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, <i>Songs of Kabir</i> ; S. Anand, Srividya Natarajan, Durgabai Vyam and Subhash Vyam, <i>Bhimayana</i> (2011)
	Emily Apter, <i>Against World Literature</i> (2013)	
	WReC, <i>Combined and Uneven Development</i> ; Alexander Beecroft, <i>An Ecology of World Literature</i> (2015)	
	Aamir Mufti, <i>Forget English!</i> (2016)	