

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12915-2 - The Leavises: Recollections and Impressions

Edited by Denys Thompson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## The Leavises

Recollections and  
Impressions

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12915-2 - The Leavises: Recollections and Impressions

Edited by Denys Thompson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

(ed.) *Readings*

*The Uses of Poetry*

(ed.) *Change and Tradition in Rural England*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12915-2 - The Leavises: Recollections and Impressions

Edited by Denys Thompson

Frontmatter

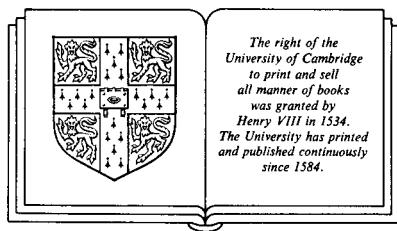
[More information](#)

# The Leavises

## Recollections and Impressions

Edited by

DENYS THOMPSON



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge

London New York New Rochelle

Melbourne Sydney

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-12915-2 - The Leavises: Recollections and Impressions  
Edited by Denys Thompson  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,  
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521129152](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521129152)

© Cambridge University Press 1984

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 1984  
This digitally printed version 2009

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

*Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 83-27289*

ISBN 978-0-521-25494-6 Hardback  
ISBN 978-0-521-12915-2 Paperback

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.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12915-2 - The Leavises: Recollections and Impressions

Edited by Denys Thompson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

List of illustrations	page	vi
Acknowledgements		vii
1 Introduction <i>Denys Thompson</i>		1
2 Queenie at Girton <i>Gwendolen Freeman</i>		5
3 6, Chesterton Hall Crescent, and the early years <i>Mary Pitter</i>		17
4 'Nor Shall My Sword': the Leavises' mythology <i>M. C. Bradbrook</i>		29
5 Teacher and friend <i>Denys Thompson</i>		44
6 Charisma? <i>Raymond O'Malley</i>		52
7 F. R. Leavis: a memoir <i>Sebastian Moore</i>		60
8 <i>Scrutiny</i> and F.R.L.: a personal memoir <i>L. C. Knights</i>		70
9 On being F. R. Leavis's publisher <i>Ian Parsons</i>		82
10 The long pursuit <i>Michael Black</i>		86
11 Round and about the <i>Pelican Guide to English Literature</i> <i>Boris Ford</i>		103
12 Seeing a man running <i>Raymond Williams</i>		113
13 Taking tea with Mrs Leavis <i>Nora Crook</i>		123
14 Some recollections of the Leavises <i>Michael Tanner</i>		132
15 F. R. Leavis and the schools <i>Frank Whitehead</i>		140
16 F. R. Leavis and the sources of hope <i>David Holbrook</i>		153
17 Leavis: an appreciation <i>John Harvey</i>		171
Note: Leavis at school		184
18 No compromise <i>D. W. Harding</i>		187
Contributors		201
Index		205

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-12915-2 - The Leavises: Recollections and Impressions  
Edited by Denys Thompson  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## Illustrations

*between pages 28 and 29*

F.R.L. in his bath at Mill Road, Cambridge  
F.R.L. with his sister Ruth and his brother Ralph  
F.R.L. before the First World War  
Queenie Roth and Grace Cohen at Girton, 1925–6  
Queenie Roth at Girton, about 1928  
The engaged couple, with F.R.L.'s sister Ruth, his niece  
Mary and his brother Ralph, summer 1929  
F.R.L. with his niece Mary and Rumpus in the early 1930s  
Drawing of F.R.L. by Richard Austin  
F.R.L. in 1943 or 1944  
F.R.L. at Downing  
F.R.L. in 1969  
Q.D.L. in 1979  
Q.D.L. and F.R.L., about 1977

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12915-2 - The Leavises: Recollections and Impressions

Edited by Denys Thompson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Mary Pitter, Christopher Parry, Hilary Steuert, my wife and especially Michael Black for their help, and to the following for the gift or loan of photographs: Chatto and Windus, Nora Crook, Gwendolen Freeman, the Librarian of Girton College, D. W. Harding, the National Portrait Gallery, Mary Pitter and the Editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*. 'Leavis: an appreciation', by John Harvey, was first published in the May 1979 issue of *Encounter*, with whose permission it is now reprinted. Grateful acknowledgement is made also to the Master of Emmanuel College for permission to make use of material in the college archives and to reprint material that had earlier appeared in the College Magazine; to the literary executors, Professor G. Singh and Robin Leavis, for permission to reprint 'Little-boy-man' by F. R. Leavis and to quote from letters by F. R. and Q. D. Leavis; to the Editor of *The Sewanee Review* (Fall 1981), for part of an article 'Remembering *Scrutiny*' by L. C. Knights; and to Mrs M. T. Parsons and the Editor of *New Universities Quarterly* for 'On being F. R. Leavis's publisher', by the late Ian Parsons. Every effort has been made to secure permission to reproduce copyright material, and the publishers will rectify any omissions of which they are informed.

D.T.

Cambridge

May 1984