

#### ERNEST HEMINGWAY IN CONTEXT

Ernest Hemingway's literary career was shaped by the remarkable contexts in which he lived, from the streets of suburban Chicago to the shores of the Caribbean islands, to the battlefields of World War I, Franco's Spain, and World War II. This volume examines the various geographic, political, social, and literary contexts through which Hemingway crystallized his unmistakable narrative voice. Written by forty-four experts in Hemingway studies, the comprehensive yet concise essays collected here explore how Hemingway is both a product and a critic of his times, touching on his relationship to matters of style, biography, letters, cinema, the arts, music, masculinity, sexuality, the environment, ethnicity and race, legacy, and women, among other topics. Fans, students, and scholars of Hemingway will turn to this reference time and again for a fuller understanding of this iconic American author.

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# ERNEST HEMINGWAY IN CONTEXT

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#### Notes on Contributors

the preservation of the collection as well as interacting with researchers and donors. Wrynn previously served as a director at the Northeast Document Conservation Center from 1994 to 2003, where she had responsibility for the preservation of collections using various reprographic techniques. Wrynn was also responsible for teaching preservation classes at the graduate level. Wrynn was a senior records manager in the engineering field for 20 years.



# Preface

The title of Ernest Hemingway's first major publication, *In Our Time* (1925), portended a career of a writer in touch with his cultural and historical moment. Indeed, whether it was his status as the first American wounded on the Italian front in World War I, his role as the pugnacious upstart of Paris's literary circles, or his white-bearded, tanned face that became synonymous with mid-twentieth-century American masculinity, Hemingway was throughout his thirty-five-year career a man and a writer of his times. As a young writer, he studied significant cultural and aesthetic trends and the demands of a changing literary marketplace to such great effect that his writing was not only a major contribution to literary modernism but also came to represent the voice of the "Lost Generation." Later in life, when Hemingway had become an accomplished, Nobel Prize—winning author and world adventurer, his image and exploits were featured on the covers of magazines such as *Life*, *Time*, and *Look* as the manly representative of the good life lived to the fullest.

But Hemingway did more than reflect major cultural and artistic trends; he also created them. His writing and lifestyle arguably played a major role in popularizing certain activities (big-game hunting, deepsea fishing, bullfighting, and the running of the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, for example) and a clipped form of masculine speech, which would assume its most trendy incarnation in the film noir dialogue of the 1940s. When his first novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, was published in 1926, some American college students followed the lead of its central characters, modeling their dress or speech after Brett Ashley or Jake Barnes. In the 1950s, Hemingway's celebrated exploits in writing and life positioned him as an ideal spokesperson offering his brand of extreme experience to other Americans. For instance, in a 1956 advertisement for Pan American Airlines, Hemingway encouraged American tourists to fly into the heart of China as he had done, and in a feature story for *Look* magazine, he assured prospective travelers that Africa was safe for anyone who wanted

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to follow his example and take a safari. Hemingway is thus a unique literary figure not only because he lived and worked in many different contexts, but also because he helped to fashion some of the very contexts in which he lived and wrote.

A study of Hemingway in relation to context, however, also reveals the potential pitfalls of this critical approach. Because of his interest in various cultural milieus, Hemingway was considered by some contemporaries and critics as, at worst, an imperial and dominating figure who exploited other cultures and ways of life to serve his writing and, at best, an insincere sampler of those cultures and ways of life. As early as the mid-1930s, he was criticized for his chameleon-like sense of identity. In The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas (1933), Gertrude Stein famously complained about what she perceived as Hemingway's evasiveness and duplicity when she suggested that he should write the story of "the real Hem." A year later, the March 1934 issue of Vanity Fair pejoratively captured Hemingway's versatility and adaptability when it featured a Hemingway paper doll set in which the main doll, "Ernie as Neanderthal Man" clad in a leopard loin cloth with club in hand, was accompanied by various cut-out costumes that could be affixed to it. These costumes parodied themes familiar from his work, including "Ernie as the Unknown Soldier" and "Ernie as Don Jose, the Toreador." From the perspective of both Stein and Vanity Fair, Hemingway's desire to position himself in and write about different situations was presented as a challenge to his authenticity and sincerity; his public personae were considered merely a series of masks behind which he hid the "real Hem," presumably a stable, knowable entity. The image that Vanity Fair termed "Ernie as Neanderthal Man" emerged as the iconic version of Hemingway for many years. Although some critics gave it a more positive spin - Hemingway as the tight-lipped masculine writer this common thread of a dominant, hypermasculine man's man provided a durable sense of coherence and logic to the other contexts in which the author worked and the personae he assumed. As a Barnes and Noble catalog put it in the 1990s, Hemingway is the "He-Man' of American

Early scholars thus presented an image of Hemingway as an exemplar of a certain kind of twentieth-century American masculinity, an image that Hemingway promoted and reinforced with his public behavior. Philip Young's initial studies of the author, *Ernest Hemingway* (1952) and *Ernest Hemingway: A Reconsideration* (1966), offered generations of readers relatively stable and standard lenses for encountering the author and his work. In particular, Young's concept of the Hemingway code hero



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whose wounding was the singular event of his life dominated scholarship for more than 30 years. This concept advanced a general impression of a wounded or compromised masculinity in which endurance and individualism were valued as a way of recovering personal integrity and surviving in a hostile world. This filter was so powerful – perhaps because it served our needs as twentieth-century readers so well (criticism is contextual too) – that it persisted through the 1980s. In fact, when feminist critics such as Judith Fetterley first turned toward Hemingway in the 1970s and 1980s, they took this basic approach to his work for granted. The code hero and the emphasis on masculine comportment in Hemingway's texts were now condemned as phallocentric, racist, homophobic, and misogynistic, but the existence and accuracy of the Hemingway hero remained unquestioned.

In the mid-1980s, Hemingway scholarship underwent a sea change. The release of the posthumously published novel *The Garden of Eden* (1986), with its focus on gender and sexual role reversal, and the publication of revisionary biographies, most notably Kenneth Lynn's *Hemingway* (1987), which argued for the enduring influence of Hemingway's early years when he had been dressed as a girl and "twinned" with his older sister, introduced scholars to irrefutable evidence that challenged the critical consensus of Hemingway and his work. Scholars recognized that Hemingway had been in a sense trapped in a critical context, partly of his own making, that precluded a fuller, more complicated picture of the author and his characters; they began the difficult work of addressing the nuances and contradictions in his life and writing that previous critics and Hemingway himself had, sometimes intentionally, worked to obscure.

Over the next 25 years, scholars marshaled new biographical information and insights from *The Garden of Eden* as well as from other posthumous works, such as *A Moveable Feast* (1964; restored ed. 2009), *Islands in the Stream* (1970), *True at First Light* (1999), and *Under Kilimanjaro* (2005), to reveal the complexity of Hemingway's earlier writing as well as his life. Additional complexities are emerging as Cambridge University Press begins to publish his collected letters in a massive multivolume project. The result has been a far more satisfying, if less coherent, image of Hemingway in which deviations from gender, sexual, and racial standards of his time motivated not only some of his own life choices but also the plots and characters of much of his fiction. Thus, the opportunity to capture in one collection this sensibility – that many different angles and perspectives can help readers better understand Hemingway and his work – is of tremendous value and a much-needed counterbalance to



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years of criticism in which context was deployed in generally reductive and restrictive ways.

To state this another way, Hemingway is an ideal candidate for this series not only because he was representative of his times but also because the critical heritage around his work serves as a cautionary tale about the way context can limit and oversimplify. Hemingway often existed in productive tension with many of the literary and cultural movements and contexts he is often seen as representing. For example, he was a modernist torn between his interest in stylistic experimentation and his desire for a mass audience and profit; he was a member of the Lost Generation who mocked the bohemian, café life of the Left Bank; he attempted to balance compassion for others in works like To Have and Have Not (1937) with dogged individualism; and he was (and still is) an icon of masculinity who was dressed as a girl when he was a child and who experimented with sexual and gender role reversal as an adult. In his story "The Sea Change" (1931), Hemingway seems to have understood what his early critics did not when he wrote, "We're made up of all sorts of things" (CSS 304). The goal of this collection is to consider Hemingway in various contexts that informed his life, writing, and public personae in an effort to shed light on some of the "many things" that made up Hemingway.

A study of Hemingway in context thus involves addressing not only the multiple situations in which the author lived and worked and in which his writing took place, but also the narratives – popular and scholarly – that attempted to organize and filter this information for public consumption. The collection has been structured with these issues in mind. First, in an introductory section on "Biography and Life," contributors consider different approaches to Hemingway's rich and full life, including a biographical synopsis and an overview of the many biographies of Hemingway and a discussion of Hemingway's extensive correspondence and reading. In "Representations: In His Time" and "Representations: In Our Time," contributors address the variety of ways in which Hemingway and his work have been presented to mass and scholarly audiences over the past 80 years. In "Intellectual and Artistic Movements and Influences" and "Popular, Cultural, and Historical Contexts," authors consider, first, the artistic and intellectual milieus and friendships that informed Hemingway's work and, second, contemporary contexts particular to Hemingway's writing and experience. In a final section on "Resources," contributors survey the major venues – collections and publications – for Hemingway scholarship. Throughout these six sections, the topics and potential contributors have been carefully selected to combine traditional



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avenues of Hemingway study – such as hunting, fishing, and war – with newer approaches – such as Hemingway's changing attitudes toward animals as well as his complex relationship to ethnic and racial groups – in the hope that they complement and illuminate each other while also demonstrating how inquiry into Hemingway and his work has changed since critics and readers started to take notice of him and his work in the 1920s.

#### NOTES

- I. C. Baker, Ernest Hemingway: A Life Story (New York: Scribner's, 1969), 180.
- 2. J. Raeburn, *Fame Became of Him: Hemingway as Public Writer* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1984), 138.
- 3. G. Stein, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, in C. van Vechten (ed.), *Selected Writings of Gertrude Stein* (New York: Vintage, 1990), 1–237; 204; emphasis added
- 4. Quoted in D. Moddelmog, *Reading Desire: In Pursuit of Ernest Hemingway* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1999), 2.





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### Abbreviations

The following abbreviations and short titles for Hemingway's works are employed throughout the edition. First U.S. editions are cited, unless otherwise noted.

Across the River and Into the Trees. New York: Scribner's,

711(1)	Titross vice there will have vice trees. I vew Tork, defibilet s,
D.I.	1950.
BL	By-line Ernest Hemingway: Selected Articles and Dispatches
	of Four Decades. Edited by William White. New York:
	Scribner's, 1967.
CSS	The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway: The Finca
	Vigía Edition. New York: Scribner's, 1987.
DIA	Death in the Afternoon. New York: Scribner's, 1932.
DLT	Dateline: Toronto: The Complete "Toronto Star" Dispatches,
	1920–1924. Edited by William White. New York:
	Scribner's, 1985.
DS	The Dangerous Summer. New York: Scribner's, 1985.
FC	The Fifth Column and the First Forty-nine Stories. New
	York: Scribner's, 1938.
FTA	A Farewell to Arms. New York: Scribner's, 1929.
FWBT	For Whom the Bell Tolls. New York: Scribner's, 1940.
GHOA	Green Hills of Africa. New York: Scribner's, 1935.
GOE	The Garden of Eden. New York: Scribner's, 1986.
IIS	Islands in the Stream. New York: Scribner's, 1970.
iot	in our time. Paris: Three Mountains Press, 1924.
IOT	In Our Time. New York: Boni and Liveright, 1925. Rev. ed.
	New York: Scribner's, 1930.
Letters	The Letters of Ernest Hemingway. Multiple vols. General
	editor Sandra Spanier. New York: Cambridge, 2011–.
MAW	Men at War. New York: Crown Publishers, 1942.
MF	A Moveable Feast. New York: Scribner's, 1964.
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MF-RE	A Moveable Feast: The Restored Edition. Edited by Seán
	Hemingway. New York: Scribner's, 2009.
MWW	Men Without Women. New York: Scribner's, 1927.
NAS	The Nick Adams Stories. New York: Scribner's, 1972.
OMS	The Old Man and the Sea. New York: Scribner's, 1952.
Poems	Complete Poems. Edited with an introduction and notes
	by Nicholas Gerogiannis. Rev. ed. Lincoln: University of
	Nebraska Press, 1992.
SAR	The Sun Also Rises. New York: Scribner's, 1926.
SL	Ernest Hemingway: Selected Letters, 1917–1961. Edited by
	Carlos Baker. New York: Scribner's, 1981.
SS	The Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway. New York:
	Scribner's, 1954.
TAFL	True at First Light. Edited by Patrick Hemingway. New
	York: Scribner's, 1999.
THHN	To Have and Have Not. New York: Scribner's, 1937.
TOS	The Torrents of Spring. New York: Scribner's, 1926.
TSTP	Three Stories and Ten Poems. Paris: Contact Editions, 1923.
UK	Under Kilimanjaro. Edited by Robert W. Lewis and Robert
	E. Fleming. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2005.
WTN	Winner Take Nothing. New York: Scribner's, 1933.