

### 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.

ALEX DAVIS is Professor of English at University College Cork, Ireland. He is the author of *A Broken Line: Denis Devlin and Irish Poetic Modernism* (2000) and many essays on anglophone poetry from decadence to the present day. He is co-editor, with Lee M. Jenkins, of *Locations of Literary Modernism: Region and Nation in British and American Modernist Poetry* (2000) and *The Cambridge Companion to Modernist Poetry* (2007) and, with Patricia Coughlan, of *Modernism and Ireland: The Poetry of the 1930s* (1995).

LEE M. JENKINS is Senior Lecturer in English at University College Cork, Ireland. She is the author of Wallace Stevens: Rage for Order (1999), The Language of Caribbean Poetry: Boundaries of Expression (2004), and The American Lawrence (2015). She has published many articles on American literature, modernism, and Caribbean poetry, and she has contributed chapters to The Black and Green Atlantic (2009), The Cambridge Companion to British and Irish Women's Poetry (2011), and The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Poetry (2015).





## A HISTORY OF MODERNIST POETRY

EDITED BY

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ALEX DAVIS is Professor of English at University College Cork. He is the author of A Broken Line: Denis Devlin and Irish Poetic Modernism (2000) and many essays in anglophone poetry from decadence to the present day. He is co-editor, with Lee M. Jenkins, of Locations of Literary Modernism: Region and Nation in British and American Modernist Poetry (2000) and The Cambridge Companion to Modernist Poetry (2007) and, with Patricia Coughlan, of Modernism and Ireland: The Poetry of the 1930s (1995).

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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 coorganiser of the SoundEye and Avant festivals in Cork, and in 2011 she co-founded a Modernisms Research Centre at UCC.

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(2013) and Rereading the New Criticism (2012), a volume of essays co-edited with John D. McIntyre. She is also editor of One Must Not Go Altogether with the Tide: The Letters of Ezra Pound and Stanley Nott (2011) and author of The Geometry of Modernism (2005). Recently she has contributed articles to the Blackwell Companion to Modernist Poetry (2014), The Cambridge Companion to H.D. (2012), and The Cambridge Companion to Modernist Women Poets (2010). She is currently working on a project on H.D.'s translations, as well a book-length study on women involved in cultural criticism in interwar Britain.

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Mallarmé, Proust, Joyce, Beckett (1996), Imagination at War:
British Fiction and Poetry, 1939–1945 (1995), and The Literary
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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* 

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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.
1848	Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Communist
	Manifesto.
1852	Karl Marx, The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon.
1855	Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass.
1857	Charles Baudelaire, Les Fleurs du mal.
1867	Matthew Arnold, On the Study of Celtic Literature.
	Karl Marx, Das Kapital, vol. 1.
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.
1890	James Frazer, The Golden Bough (2 vols; 3rd edn in 12
	vols (1906–15)).
	William James, Principles of Psychology.
1892	The Book of the Rhymers' Club (a second anthology
	in 1894).
1895	W. B. Yeats, <i>Poems</i> .
	Independent Labour Party founded in Britain.
	Invention of the motion picture and of wireless.
1896	The Savoy magazine (JanDec.).
1897	Lionel Johnson, Ireland and Other Poems.
	The Dome magazine founded (until 1900).
1899	Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness.

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	W. B. Yeats, The Wind Among the Reeds. Arthur Symons, The Symbolist Movement in Literature.
1900	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.
1902–3	Georg Simmel, 'The Metropolis and Modern Life'.
1902	John Masefield, Salt-Water Ballads.
	Walter de la Mare, Songs of Childhood.
	Times Literary Supplement founded.
1903	W. E. B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk.
	Camera Work magazine founded (until 1917).
	Otto Weininger, Sex and Character.
	Wright brothers' first aeroplane flight.
1904	Thomas Hardy, <i>The Dynasts</i> (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.
1008	Picasso, Les Demoiselles d'Avignon. Ezra Pound arrives in London.
1908	English Review periodical founded (until 1937).



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1909 Gertrude Stein, Three Lives.

William Carlos Williams, Poems.

Florence Farr, The Music of Speech.

The 'School of Images' meets at the Café de la Tour

d'Eiffel, Percy Street, London.

F. T. Marinetti, 'The Founding and the Manifesto of Futurism'.

Emil Nolde, 'On Primitive Art'.

Poetry Recital Society founded (later New Poetry

Society).

Diaghilev's Ballet Russes perform *Prince Igor* in Paris. 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.

John Masefield, 'The Everlasting Mercy'.

Ezra Pound, 'The Seafarer'; 'I Gather the Limbs of

Osiris' (until 1912).

Franz Boas, The Mind of Primitive Man.

T. E. Hulme, 'The Complete Poetical Works of T. E.

Hulme'.

Edward Marsh, ed., Georgian Poetry (anthologies

1912-22).

Claude McKay, Songs of Jamaica and Constab

Ballads.

Ezra Pound coins the term *Imagisme*; Pound, *Ripostes*.

Rainer Maria Rilke, Duino Elegies (until 1922).



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#### Chronology

Gertrude Stein, 'Portrait of Mabel Dodge at the Villa Curonia'.

F. T. Marinetti, 'Technical Manifesto of Futurist Literature'.

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 Robert Frost, A Boy's Will.

William Carlos Williams, The Tempers.

F. S. Flint, 'Imagisme'.

Ford Madox Ford, 'Impressionism – Some Speculations'.

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).

F. T. Marinetti, 'Destruction of Syntax-Wireless

Imagination-Words-in-Freedom'.

Luigi Russolo, 'The Art of Noises: A Futurist

Manifesto'.



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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 Robert Frost, North of Boston.

Wyndham Lewis, 'Our Vortex'; Enemy of the Stars.

Amy Lowell, Sword Blades and Poppy Seed.

Mina Loy, 'Aphorisms on Futurism'; 'Parturition'.

Stéphane Mallarmé, Un Coup de dés (posthumously).

Ezra Pound, ed., Des Imagistes; Pound, 'Vorticism'.

Carl Sandburg, 'Chicago'.

Gertrude Stein, Tender Buttons.

Clive Bell, 'The Aesthetic Hypothesis'.

Blast magazine founded (second and final issue 1915).

The Egoist: An Individualist Review (formerly the New

Freewoman) founded (until 1919).

Little Review founded (until 1929).

Vanity Fair magazine founded (until 1936).

Irish Home Rule Bill passed by Parliament.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand is assassinated, triggering

the commencement of the First World War.

T. S. Eliot, 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock'.

F. S. Flint, 'The History of Imagism'.

Amy Lowell, ed., Some Imagist Poets: An Anthology

(1915, 1916, 1917).

1915

Mina Loy, 'Love Songs I-IV'.

Ezra Pound, Cathay.

Wallace Stevens, 'Sunday Morning'.

291 magazine founded (until 1916).

Blast, 2 (War Number).

Others: A Magazine of the New Verse (until 1919).



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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.

Albert Einstein, *On the General Theory of Relativity*. 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. Harriet Monroe and Alice Corbin Henderson, eds,

The New Poetry: An Anthology of Twentieth-Century

Verse in English (revised and enlarged 1923).

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).



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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.

Guillaume Apollinaire, 'The New Spirit and the Poets'.

Van Wyck Brooks, 'On Creating a Usable Past'.

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.

T. S. Eliot, 'Tradition and the Individual Talent'.

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).

1919



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### Chronology

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.

W. E. B. Du Bois organises the Pan African Congress in Paris.

Treaty of Versailles.

Volstead (Prohibition) Act passed by US Congress.

American Communist Party founded.

1920

T. S. Eliot, Ara 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.

Richard Huelsenbeck, En Avant Dada: A History of Dadaism.

Francis Picabia, 'Cannibal Dada Manifesto'.

The Société Anonyme is established in New York.

Jacques Maritain, Art and Scholasticism.

Lothrop Stoddard, The Rising Tide of Color Against

White World Supremacy.

League of Nations created.

Nineteenth Amendment grants American women the vote.

1921

H.D., Hymen.

T. S. Eliot, 'The Metaphysical Poets'.

Aldous Huxley, Crome Yellow.

Marianne Moore, Poems.

William Carlos Williams, Sour Grapes.

Broom: An International Magazine of the Arts founded (until 1924).



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Marcel Duchamp and Man Ray, *New York Dada*. Second Pan African Congress (London); 'Pan African Manifesto'.

1922

E. E. Cummings, The Enormous Room.

T. S. Eliot, The Waste Land.

Thomas Hardy, Late Lyrics and Earlier.

James Weldon Johnson, ed., The Book of American Negro Poetry.

James Joyce, Ulysses.

Claude McKay, Harlem Shadows.

Edith Sitwell, Façade.

The Criterion magazine founded (until 1939).

The Fugitive magazine founded (until 1925).

J. G. Frazer, The Golden Bough (abridged version).

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'.

Robert Frost, New Hampshire.

D. H. Lawrence, Birds, Beasts and Flowers.

Mina Loy, Lunar Baedecker.

Mina Loy, 'Anglo-Mongrels and the Rose'.

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.



> xxviii Chronology Walter Gropius, 'The Theory and Organization of the Bauhaus'. H.D., Heliodora, and Other Poems. 1924 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. 1925 Nancy Cunard, Parallax. Ford Madox Ford, No More Parades. Langston Hughes, The Weary Blues. T. S. Eliot, 'The Hollow Men'. Hugh MacDiarmid, Sangschaw. Ezra Pound, A Draft of XVI Cantos. William Carlos Williams, In the American Grain. Virginia Woolf, Mrs Dalloway. W. B. Yeats, A Vision (2nd edn, 1937). Alfred Kreymborg, Troubadour: An Autobiography. Alain Locke, ed., The New Negro. Sergei Mikhailovich Eisenstein, Battleship Potemkin. Alfred North Whitehead, Science and the Modern World. Scopes trial, Tennessee. 1926 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?'



1929

Cambridge University Press 978-1-107-03867-7 - A History of Modernist Poetry Edited by Alex Davis and Lee M. Jenkins Frontmatter More information

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Louis Aragon, Le Paysan de Paris.

Bauhaus opens in Dessau.

General Strike in Britain.

1927 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.

Laura Riding and Robert Graves, A Survey of Modernist

 $\it Poetry.$ 

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.

D. H. Lawrence, Collected Poems.

Ezra Pound, Selected Poems, intro. by T. S. Eliot.

William Carlos Williams, Voyage to Pagany.

W. B. Yeats, The Tower.

Ezra Pound includes Louis Zukofsky's 'Poem begin-

ning "The" 'in The Exile.

Dziga Vertov, Man with a Movie Camera.

Enfranchisement of women over 21 in Britain.

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'.

Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, The Threepenny Opera.

Eugene Jolas et al., 'Revolution of the Word'.

Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí, Un chien andalou.



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	Wyndham Lewis, Paleface: The Philosophy of the
	Melting Pot.
	Wall Street crash.
	Museum of Modern Art opens in New York.
	Censorship of Publications Act (Ireland).
1930	W. H. Auden, <i>Poems</i> (2nd edn, 1933).
	Samuel Beckett, Whoroscope.
	Basil Bunting, Redimiculum Matellarum.
	Hart Crane, The Bridge.
	T. S. Eliot, Ash-Wednesday.
	Hugh MacDiarmid, To Circumjack Cencrastus.
	Ezra Pound, A Draft of XXX Cantos.
	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	Hugh MacDiarmid, 'The Caledonian Antisyzygy and the Gaelic Idea'.
1931	Gertrude Stein, How to Write.
	'Objectivists' issue of <i>Poetry</i> .
	To Publishers founded by Louis Zukofsky. Edmund Wilson, <i>Axel's Castle</i> .
	Britain leaves the Gold Standard.
1022	W. H. Auden, <i>The Orators</i> .
1932	Sterling A. Brown, Southern Road.
	Wyndham Lewis, <i>The Enemy of the Stars</i> .
	T. S. Eliot, Selected Essays.
	F. R. Leavis, New Bearings in English Poetry.
	Michael Roberts, ed., New Signatures.
	Louis Zukofsky, ed., An 'Objectivists' Anthology.
	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.
	Gertrude Stein, The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas.