

## THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO DRACULA

Bram Stoker's *Dracula* is the most famous vampire in literature and film. This new collection of sixteen essays brings together a range of internationally renowned scholars to provide a series of pathways through this celebrated Gothic novel and its innumerable adaptations and translations. The volume illuminates the novel's various pre-histories, critical contexts and subsequent cultural transformations. Chapters explore literary history, Gothic revival scholarship, folklore, anthropology, psychology, sexology, philosophy, occultism, cultural history, critical race theory, theatre and film history and the place of the vampire in Europe and beyond. These studies provide an accessible guide of cutting-edge scholarship to one of the most celebrated modern Gothic horror stories. This companion will serve as a key resource for scholars, teachers and students interested in the enduring force of *Dracula* and the seemingly inexhaustible range of the contexts it requires and readings it might generate.

ROGER LUCKHURST is Professor in Modern and Contemporary Literature at Birkbeck College, University of London. His previous publications include *The Mummy's Curse: The True Story of a Dark Fantasy* (2012) and critical studies of the films *The Shining* (2013) and *Alien* (2014). He has also co-edited books including *The Fin de Siècle: A Reader in Cultural History c. 1880–1900* (2000) and *Transactions and Encounters: Science and Culture in the Nineteenth Century* (2002). He has edited numerous Gothic classics, including Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Jekyll and Hyde* (2006), Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (2011) and H. G. Wells's *The Time Machine* (2017).

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COMPANION TO  
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EDITED BY  
ROGER LUCKHURST  
*Birkbeck College, University of London*



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In memory of Diane Long Hoeveler

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## NOTE ON THE TEXT

The contributors refer to the Oxford World's Classics edition of *Dracula*, edited by Roger Luckhurst (2009), using the shorthand *D* in the main text.

## CHRONOLOGY

- 1847 Abraham Stoker, born 8 November, Dublin. Part of Protestant middle-class group in midst of Catholic majority, although parents not wealthy. In Dublin, moved in close circle of Sir William and Lady Wilde (parents of Oscar Wilde) and Gothic writer Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu.
- 1863–67 Attends Trinity College Dublin, where active in the Philosophical Society.
- 1865 First sees the actor Henry Irving perform.
- 1868 Enters Civil Service, following his father Abraham. Begins reading Walt Whitman.
- 1870 Finally graduates from Trinity, with science degree.
- 1871 Begins writing play reviews and criticism for *Dublin Evening Mail*, part owned by Sheridan Le Fanu, the writer of Gothic stories and novels.
- 1872 Writes letter to Walt Whitman in passionate admiration of *Leaves of Grass* but decides not to send it. Publishes his first story in *London Society*. Sheridan Le Fanu publishes story ‘Carmilla’, about a female aristocratic vampire from Styria, on the southern edge of the Austrian Empire; key influence on *Dracula*, initially set in Styria.
- 1873 Sees the actor Geneviève Ward on stage for first time; becomes lifelong friend.
- 1875 First Gothic story, ‘The Chain of Destiny’, published.
- 1876 Gives vote of thanks to actor Henry Irving on one of his visits to Dublin, praising Irving’s ‘historic genius’ in his performance and becomes ardent admirer.
- 1877 Irving in Dublin performs both *Othello* and *Hamlet*.
- 1878 Publishes *The Duties of Clerks of Petty Sessions in Ireland*. In October leaves his Civil Service job to become manager of Lyceum Theatre in London for Henry Irving, at three times his annual civil

## CHRONOLOGY

- service salary. Marries Florence Balcombe days before leaving Dublin; she had relatively recently turned down a proposal from Oscar Wilde. At Lyceum, begins a lifelong friendship with actor Ellen Terry.
- Only son born. Christened Irving Noel Thornley Stoker. George Stoker, his brother, publishes *With 'the Unspeakables'*, an account of his time as a doctor in the Russo-Turkish war in Bulgaria. George lodges with Bram for several months, full of stories of the Eastern fringes of Europe.
- 1879–84 Lives at 27 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, a fashionable address near the homes of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Algernon Swinburne and James Whistler. Meets Rossetti's assistant, Hall Caine, who becomes close friend and later best-selling author (*Dracula* is dedicated to him). Through the Lyceum, becomes friends with William Gladstone, Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Richard Burton and many other celebrated figures. Florence Stoker considered a great beauty of the time and gathers admirers including the librettist and writer, W. S. Gilbert.
- 1882 First collection of stories, *Under the Sunset*. Acquires some fame for jumping into Thames in attempt to rescue a suicide, for which he is awarded a Humanitarian medal.
- 1883 First visit to America, touring with Irving (between 1883–1905, Stoker estimated he spent four years in America on the eight tours he took with Irving). Meets Walt Whitman.
- 1885 Irving plays *Faust* at Lyceum. Emily Gerard publishes 'Transylvanian Superstitions'. Essay used for folkloric touches in *Dracula*.
- 1886 Publishes lecture, 'A Glimpse of America'.
- 1887 Wife and son shipwrecked in the Channel, but both survive. Publishes sadistic tale, 'The Dualitists'.
- 1890 Publishes first novel, *The Snake's Pass*. Qualifies as a barrister, called to bar at the Inner Temple. Makes first notes on new Gothic novel to be called *The Undead*. Finds Wilkinson's *An Account of the Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia* whilst on holiday in Whitby.
- 1891 Becomes investor in new publishing venture by William Heinemann.
- 1894 Novel, *The Watter's Mou'*. Stoker encourages staging of Arthur Conan Doyle's play *Waterloo* at the Lyceum. Doyle publishes 'The Parasite', a psychic vampire tale. Edvard Munch completes four versions of the painting 'Love and Pain', also known as 'The Vampire' for his *Frieze of Life* series. Count Stenbock, 'The Sad Story of a Vampire', in *Studies of Death: Romantic Tales*.

## CHRONOLOGY

- 1895 Novel, *The Shoulder of Shasta*. Brother, Thornley, knighted for services to medicine. Henry Irving knighted, the first actor to gain the honour. Oscar Wilde imprisoned. On American tour meets Theodore Roosevelt.
- 1896 Suffers financial difficulties when investment in Heinemann fails. Requests loan from friend Hall Caine, on hope that his new book will allow him to return the money. Mary E. Braddon's story, 'The Good Lady Duwayne', about an ancient aristocrat extending life with blood transfusions from healthy young girls. George Stetson, 'The Animistic Vampire in New England'. An anthropological discussion of belief that tuberculosis is a form of vampirism in isolated Rhode Island community. George Méliès, *The Haunted Castle*, the first vampire film in the first year of cinema: a bat flies into a castle and transforms into a man.
- 1897 Stoker submits novel *The Undead* to Constable; appears on 26 May as *Dracula*. Stage version read at Lyceum on 18 May to establish copyright, but Irving refuses to stage it. Florence Marryat publishes *The Blood of the Vampire*. Exhibition in London of Philip Burne-Jones's painting, 'The Vampire', prompting Rudyard Kipling's poem 'The Vampire'.
- 1898 Novel, *Miss Betty*.
- 1899 Novel, *Snowbound*.
- 1900 Irving loses control of the Lyceum, and the theatre is sold on. Stoker continues as Irving's personal manager. Cheap edition of *Dracula*, abridged by Stoker.
- 1902 Novel, *Mystery of the Sea*.
- 1903 Novel, *The Jewel of the Seven Stars*.
- 1905 Novel, *The Man*. Death of Henry Irving. Stoker suffers stroke, affecting his sight.
- 1906 *Personal Reminiscences of Henry Irving*, a two-volume biography of his boss. Considered by *The Times* as likely to be Stoker's lasting work.
- 1908 Novel, *Lady Athlyne*. Publishes the essay 'The Censorship of Fiction'. Interviews William Churchill for *Daily Chronicle*.
- 1909 Novel, *The Lady of the Shroud*.
- 1910 *Famous Impostors*, which includes portrait of Franz Anton Mesmer. First (now lost) film of *Dracula* made in Hungary.
- 1911 Last novel, *The Lair of the White Worm*. Stoker's illness and financial difficulty result in appeal to Royal Literary Fund for pension.

## CHRONOLOGY

- 1912 Stoker dies 20 April, aged 64. Controversy still attends cause of death; in the 1970s biographer Daniel Farnon first claimed Stoker died from the sexually transmitted infection syphilis.
- 1914 His widow, Florence, publishes 'Dracula's Guest' in collection of short stories.
- 1922 Florence first becomes aware of the German film *Nosferatu* and sues the producers for breach of copyright of *Dracula*, initially through the Society of Authors. She succeeds in getting copies of the film destroyed, chasing prints for over a decade.
- 1924 Florence agrees to authorised stage version of *Dracula* adapted by Hamilton Deane. It opens in the provinces, then transfers to London in 1927 where it is critically panned yet plays to packed houses for over a year.
- 1927 Deane's script is streamlined by John Balderston, and the play opens on Broadway with Hungarian-born actor Bela Lugosi in the role of Dracula. Another great success.
- 1931 After much negotiation, Lugosi stars in the famous Universal Studio version of *Dracula*, the film that helped to establish the 'horror' genre in the cinema. Deane, Balderston and Florence Stoker are paid for the rights.
- 1937 Death of Florence Stoker.