

## NEW YORK: A LITERARY HISTORY

New York City's streets, parks, museums, architecture and people appear in an array of literary works published from New York's earliest settlement to the present day. The exploration of the city as both a symbol and a reality has formed the basis of New York's literature. Using the themes of adaptation, innovation, identity and hope, this history explores novels, poetry, periodicals and newspapers to examine how New York's literature can be understood through the notion of movement. From the periodicals of the nineteenth century, to the work of Arabic writers of the city in the early twentieth century, to literature that explores homelessness, childhood and spaces of tragedy and resilience within the metropolis, this diverse assessment opens up new areas of research within urban literature. It provides an innovative examination of how writing has shaped the lives of New Yorkers and how writing about the city has shaped the modern world.

ROSS WILSON is Director of Liberal Arts at the University of Nottingham. He studies the modern history, heritage and memory of New York, with a specific concern for how people form a sense of place within the city in the past and in the present. His work includes *New York and the First World War: Shaping an American City* (2015).

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EDITED BY

ROSS WILSON

*University of Nottingham*



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## *Acknowledgements*

This book is the result of a lifetime of reading books about the city of New York. I saw the city first through novels and poetry before I even set foot in the metropolis. This is how most of the world first experiences New York. It is this global reading of the city that I wanted to represent, and I would like to state my profound appreciation to all the authors in this collection. I would also like to extend my deepest thanks to the individuals who have assisted in this process. Acknowledgements are due to the publishing team at Cambridge University Press, specifically Ray Ryan and Edgar Mendez. They have supported me throughout the writing process with patience and kindness. I would like to express my thanks towards Professor Hugo Frey, who encouraged this project from the outset. My special thanks are due to those who have been influential to my work. It is the example of their fine scholarship and teaching that has served as an inspiration. While any faults are entirely my own, any credit should be shared with them. These individuals include Professor Julian Richards, Dr Dominic Perring, Dr Kate Giles, Dr Jonathan Finch, Dr Geoff Cubitt, Dr John Clay, Dr Kalliopi Fouseki, Dr Emma Waterton, Professor Laurajane Smith, Professor Richard Bessel and Dr Kevin Walsh. Finally, I would like to dedicate this work to my family. I am indebted to your kindness. To Nancy, this book is for you.