This collection explains developments within Beckett Studies and why he has emerged as one of the most iconic writers of the twentieth century. It also proposes a new interpretive framework that explores both the expanded canon, which has doubled the volume of his works in the last ten years, and the new methods used to approach it. This book covers all the most recent approaches to the study of Beckett, such as archival research, queer theory, mathematical readings of literature, neuro-scientific approaches, translation studies, and disability studies. These new approaches are shown to be relevant and necessary to provide a renewed understanding of the lasting value of Beckett’s works.

Jean-Michel Rabaté, is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania, a curator of Slought Foundation, an editor of the Journal of Modern Literature, former President of the Samuel Beckett society, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has authored or edited forty books on art, modernism, psychoanalysis and philosophy. His recent publications include Rust (2018), Kafka L.O.L. (2018), and the edited volume After Derrida (2018).
TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY CRITICAL REVISIONS

This series addresses two main themes across a range of key authors, genres, and literary traditions. The first is the changing critical interpretations that have emerged since c.2000. Radically new interpretations of writers, genres, and literary periods have emerged from the application of new critical approaches. Substantial scholarly shifts have occurred too, through the emergence of new editions, editions of letters, and competing biographical accounts. Books in this series collate and reflect this rich plurality of twenty-first-century literary critical energies, and wide varieties of revisionary scholarship, to summarize, analyze, and assess the impact of contemporary critical strategies. Designed to offer critical pathways and evaluations, and to establish new critical routes for research, this series collates and explains a dizzying array of criticism and scholarship in key areas of twenty-first-century literary studies.

Forthcoming Books in This Series

Michelle Kohler *The New Emily Dickinson Studies*
Joanna Freer *The New Pynchon Studies*
Mark Byron *The New Ezra Pound Studies*
Matt Cohen *The New Walt Whitman Studies*
Jennifer Haytock & Laura Rattray *The New Edith Wharton Studies*
Kirk Curnutt & Suzanne Del Gizzo *The New Hemingway Studies*
Douglas Mao *The New Modernist Studies*
Contents

List of Figures  page vii
List of Contributors viii

Editor’s Introduction 1
Jean-Michel Rabaté

I. The Expanded Canon 17
1. Digitizing Beckett 19
Dirk Van Hulle

2. “All the Variants” 36
Mark Nixon

Dan Gunn

4. The Evolution of Beckett’s Poetry 65
Marjorie Perloff

II. New Contexts and Intertexts 85
5. Beckett’s Critique of Literature 87
John Bolin

Emilie Morin

7. Samuel Beckett as Contemporary Artist 118
Judith Wilkinson

Llewellyn Brown

v
### Contents

#### iii. new hermeneutic codes 155

9. Beckett’s Queer Art of Failure
   *Calvin Thomas*
   157

    *Ulrika Maude*
    175

11. Beckett’s Disabled Language
    *Laura Salisbury*
    195

12. Beckett and Mathematics
    *Baylee Brits*
    215

13. Beckett’s Bilingual Explorations
    *Nadia Louar*
    231

14. *Waiting for Godot* among the Prisoners
    *Lance Duerfahrd*
    248

**Index** 261
Figures

1.1 Synoptic sentence view in the Beckett Digital Manuscript Project, enabling the comparison of all the (English and French) versions of any selected sentence (in this case, sentence 186).

1.2 On-the-fly result of the CollateX tool, integrated as a “collation engine” in the Beckett Digital Manuscript Project.

1.3 “Statistics” tool of the Beckett Digital Manuscript Project, showing the percentages of deleted and added words in several of Beckett’s works, written in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1980s, www.beckettarchive.org/stats.jsp

1.4 Development of the ratio of deleted and added passages in both the French and English manuscripts and typescripts, www.beckettarchive.org/stats.jsp
Contributors

JOHN BOLIN, a lecturer in English at the University of Exeter, has published articles on Flaubert, Coetzee, Surrealism, Eleutheria, and the links between Murphy and Goethe’s Sorrows of Young Werther. His book Beckett and the Modern Novel (2013) surveys Beckett’s French readings.

BAYLEE BRITS has completed a dissertation on the mathematics of the transfinite (Cantor) and texts by modernist authors at the University of New South Wales. In 2016, she coedited Aesthetics after Finitude with Prudence Gibson and Amy Ireland. Her book Literary Infinities: Number and Narrative in Modern Fiction was published in 2018.


LANCE DUERFAHRD has taught at Yale, Columbia, Amherst College, and Purdue University. He is the author of The Work of Poverty: Samuel Beckett’s Vagabonds and the Theater of Crisis. He is currently making a documentary on Rick Cluchey titled Was I Sleeping.

DAN GUNN is a novelist, critic, and translator, as well as being one of the editors of the four-volume Letters of Samuel Beckett and editor of the Cahiers Series. He is Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature and English at the American University of Paris where he directs the Center for Writers & Translators. In 2017 he was designated as editor of the letters of Muriel Spark.

NADIA LOUAR, Professor of French literature at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, specializes in Beckett Studies, with an emphasis on translation studies and literary bilingualism, and on Women’s
List of Contributors

Studies. She is the author of Figure(s) du bilinguisme beckettien (2017), the guest editor of Samuel Beckett Today/Aujourd'hui special issue on bilingualism (2018) and of the forthcoming Black Men, White Gals: Sexual and Racial Stereotypes in Contemporary Women’s Writing in France.

Ulrika Maude is Reader in Modernism and Twentieth-Century Literature at the University of Bristol. She has published on modernist literature, perception, medicine, and the philosophies of embodiment, including Beckett, Technology and the Body (2009). She has co-edited Beckett and Phenomenology (2009), The Cambridge Companion to the Body in Literature (2015), and The Bloomsbury Companion to Modernist Literature (2018).

Emilie Morin, a Senior Lecturer in English at the University of York, is the author of Beckett’s Political Imagination (2017) and Samuel Beckett and the Problem of Irishness (2009), and the editor of Theatre and Ghosts: Materiality, Performance and Modernity (2014) and Theatre and Human Rights after 1945: Things Unspeakable (2015).

Mark Nixon is the director of the Beckett International Foundation and the University of Reading’s Beckett Fellow. He has been the President of the Samuel Beckett Society (2013–2015) and is the director of the Beckett International Foundation. His numerous essays, edited collections and books include Samuel Beckett’s German Diaries 1936–1937 (2011). He edited Samuel Beckett: Echo’s Bones (2014).


Jean-Michel Rabaté, is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania, a curator of Slought Foundation, an editor of the Journal of Modern Literature, former President of the Samuel Beckett society, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has authored or edited forty books on art, modernism, psychoanalysis and philosophy. His recent publications include Rust (2018), Kafka L.O.L. (2018), and the edited volume After Derrida (2018).
List of Contributors

LauRa SalisBuRy is Professor of Modern Literature and Medical Humanities at the University of Exeter. She has published widely on literary modernism and Samuel Beckett, including *Samuel Beckett: Laughing Matters, Comic Timing* (Edinburgh University Press, 2012). She also has publications on the relationship between modernism, modernity, and neuroscience, including the co-edited volume *Neurology and Modernity: A Cultural History of Nervous Systems* (Palgrave, 2010) and a forthcoming book on modernism, aphasiology, and the materiality of language. Her current book project is a cultural history of waiting in modernity.

