THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO J. M. COETZEE

Nobel Laureate J. M. Coetzee is among the most acclaimed and widely studied of contemporary authors. *The Cambridge Companion to J. M. Coetzee* provides a compelling introduction for new readers, as well as fresh perspectives and provocations for those long familiar with his works. Coetzee's previously published novels and autobiographical fictions are discussed at length, and there is extensive treatment of his translations, scholarly books and essays, and volumes of correspondence. Confronting Coetzee's works on the grounds of his practice, the chapters address his craft, his literary relations and horizons, and the interactions of his writings with other arts, disciplines, and institutions. Produced by an international team of contributors, the chapters open up avenues of discovery, and explore Coetzee's undiminished ability to challenge and surprise his readers with inventive works of striking power and intensity.

Jarad Zimbler is Senior Lecturer at the University of Birmingham and former Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellow at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His book *J. M. Coetzee and the Politics of Style* (2014) was shortlisted for the 2016 University English Book Prize. He is editor, with Ben Etherington, of *The Cambridge Companion to World Literature* (Cambridge, 2018).

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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO J. M. COETZEE

EDITED BY JARAD ZIMBLER University of Birmingham



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List of Contributors

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- BEN ETHERINGTON is Senior Lecturer in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts and a member of the Writing and Society Research Centre at Western Sydney University. His recent monograph *Literary Primitivism* (2017) argues for a global conception of primitivism as a utopian reaction to the apotheosis of European imperialism. He is currently a Chief Investigator on the three-year Australian Research Council project *Other Worlds*, for which he is working with eminent Australian writers, including Alexis Wright and J. M. Coetzee, to explore the idiosyncratic ways in which writers create literary worlds. Another project is a history of creole verse in the Anglophone Caribbean from slavery to decolonization.
- PATRICK HAYES is Associate Professor of English Literature at Oxford University, and a Fellow of St John's College. His research focuses on debates about the nature and value of literature, from the Romantic period to the present day. He is the author of *Philip Roth: Fiction and Power* (2014) and *J. M. Coetzee and the Novel: Writing and Politics after Beckett* (2010), and co-editor (with Jan Wilm) of *Beyond the Ancient Quarrel: Literature, Philosophy, and J. M. Coetzee* (2017). He is currently working on a history of life-writing in the period after 1945.
- DAVID JAMES is a Professorial Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham, before which he was Reader in Modern and Contemporary Literature at Queen Mary University of London. His most recent books include *Discrepant Solace*: *Contemporary Literature and the Work of Consolation* (2019) and *Modernist Futures* (2012), along with edited volumes such as *The Legacies of Modernism* (2012), *The Cambridge Companion to British Fiction since* 1945 (2015), and *Modernism and Close Reading* (2020). For Columbia University Press he co-edits the book series *Literature Now*.
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SUE KOSSEW is Chair of English and Literary Studies at Monash University. Her research is focused particularly on the work of J. M. Coetzee and on contemporary Australian and South African women writers. Her books include *Pen and Power: A Post-Colonial Reading of J. M. Coetzee and André Brink* (1996) and *Writing Woman, Writing Place: Australian and South African Fiction* (2004). She has edited *Critical Essays on J. M. Coetzee* (1998) and with Chris Danta and Julian Murphet *Strong Opinions: J. M. Coetzee and the Authority of Contemporary Fiction* (2011). With Melinda Harvey she has also edited the collection of essays *Reading Coetzee's Women* (2019), as well as a special issue of *Australian Literary Studies* (2018), 'Thematising Women in the Work of J. M. Coetzee'. She is concluding a research project funded by the Australian Research Council entitled 'Rethinking the Victim: Gendered Violence in Australian Women's Writing' with Anne Brewster (University of New South Wales). She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and has held the position of Distinguished Visiting Chair at the Universities of Copenhagen and Cologne.

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- JAN STEYN is a translator and scholar of literatures in Afrikaans, Dutch, English, and French. He teaches Literary Translation and French at the University of Iowa and is the editor of *Translation: Crafts, Contexts, Consequences* forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.
- ANTHONY UHLMANN is Director of the Writing and Society Research Centre at Western Sydney University, Australia. He is the author of *Beckett and Poststructuralism* (1999), *Samuel Beckett and the Philosophical Image* (2006), and *Thinking in Literature* (2011). From 2008 to 2013 he edited the *Journal of Beckett Studies*, and he is co-editor (with Jennifer Rutherford) of J. M. Coetzee's 'The Childhood of Jesus': The Ethics of Ideas and Things (2017). His most recent book is J. M. Coetzee: Truth, Meaning, Fiction (2020).
- ANDREW VAN DER VLIES is Professor of Contemporary Literature and Postcolonial Studies at Queen Mary University of London, and Extraordinary Professor at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa. He has published widely on South African literatures, print cultures, art, and sexuality, including in *The Cambridge History of South African Literature* (2012) and Oxford History of the Novel in English (2016). His books include Present Imperfect: Contemporary

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South African Writing (2017), South African Textual Cultures (2007), and, as editor, Print, Text & Book Cultures in South Africa (2012), Zoë Wicomb's Race, Nation, Translation: South African Essays, 1990–2013 (2018), and South African Writing in Transition (2019, with Rita Barnard).

JARAD ZIMBLER is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Birmingham. He is the author of *J. M. Coetzee and the Politics of Style* (2014) as well as several articles concerned with Coetzee's work and with South African literature more broadly. With Ben Etherington, he is also editor of the *Cambridge Companion to World Literature* (2018).

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CHRONOLOGY

This chronology is divided into three parts. The events under 'Life and Works' concern Coetzee's biography and bibliography. They include some significant dates in Coetzee's personal life, but have to do mostly with public and professional matters: when and where he studied, worked, wrote, published, and received certain accolades. The list of articles, prizes, and talks is by no means complete.

By way of sketching literary context, the column headed 'Literary Events' identifies works – primarily novels, but also memoirs, poems, plays, and critical writings – which Coetzee names in his published essays, reviews, and correspondence. In each case, the date is that of publication in the language of composition, though, where the work has been subsequently published in English, the translated title is given. Again, the list is not complete, since it does not draw on Coetzee's teaching materials now housed at the Harry Ransom Center. Nor does it make any attempt to specify the date of Coetzee's initial readings. Nevertheless, in eschewing distinctions between influential and incidental peers and predecessors, this portion of the chronology constitutes a resource in its own right, providing a rather striking and perhaps surprising profile of Coetzee's reading habits and regions of interest. It also provides evidence of his assiduousness: tasked with writing an essay or review, he reads extensively, perhaps comprehensively, across the relevant author's oeuvre.

Finally, events in the right-hand column concern conflicts and crises in the political and economic domains which have somehow impinged upon Coetzee's environments and his writings. Broadly, they fall under the following headings: World War II, the Cold War, apartheid, decolonization, the Vietnam War, the War on Terror, and the global financial crisis. They are also delimited geographically and temporally, in line with the periods of Coetzee's residence in South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia.

Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
1940	9 Feb.: John Maxwell Coetzee (JMC) born in Mowbray, Cape Town, to Zacharias (Jack) and	William Faulkner, <i>The Hamlet</i> Graham Greene, <i>The Power and the</i> <i>Glory</i>
	Vera Coetzee.	Sándor Márai, <i>Casanova in Bolzano</i> Irène Némirovsky, <i>Les Chiens et les Loups</i> Ezra Pound, <i>Cantos LXII–LXXI</i>
		Joseph Roth, <i>The Leviathan</i> Richard Wright, <i>Native Son</i>
1941	Coetzee family moves to Johannesburg.	J. L. Borges, The Garden of Forking Paths
		H. I. E. Dhlomo, <i>The Valley of</i> <i>a Thousand Hills</i> Sarah Gertrude Millin, <i>The Herr</i>
		Witchdoctor
		C. M. van den Heever, <i>Gister</i> Patrick White, <i>The Living and the</i> <i>Dead</i>
1942	Jack Coetzee joins Union Defence Force; goes on to fight in North Africa, the Middle East, and Italy.	Albert Camus, <i>The Outsider</i> William Faulkner, <i>Go Down</i> , Moses Sándor Márai, <i>Embers</i> Mikro, <i>Huisies teen die heuwel</i>

Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
		Wallace Stevens, Notes Towards a Supreme Fiction Jochem van Bruggen, Ampie: die kind
1943	8 April: David Keith Coetzee, brother of JMC, born in Johannesburg.	T. S. Eliot, Four Quartets
1944	Vera Coetzee returns with her sons to the Cape.	Gerrit Achterberg, <i>Eurydice</i> Saul Bellow, <i>Dangling Man</i> J. L. Borges, <i>Fictions</i> T. S. Eliot, 'What is a Classic?'
1945	<i>June</i> : Jack Coetzee returns from the war and re-joins his family.	 W. Somerset Maugham, <i>The Razor's</i> <i>Edge</i> Mikro, <i>Vreemdelinge</i> C. M. van den Heever, <i>Kringloop van</i> <i>die winde</i>

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> 1946 Coetzee family moves to Pollsmoor, a settlement for returned soldiers; JMC begins his schooling at Pollsmoor Primary School.
> Coetzee family moves to Rosebank, Cape Town; JMC attends

> > Rosebank Junior School.

1947

Saul Bellow, *The Victim* Albert Camus, *The Plague* Naguib Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley* Irène Némirovsky, *Les Biens de ce monde*

(cont.)

Date	Life and Works	Literary Events	

1948	<i>May</i> : Coetzee family re-settles in Worcester, a predominantly Afrikaans-speaking town north- east of Cape Town; JMC attends Worcester Primary for Boys, a parallel medium school, offer- ing classes in English and Afrikaans.	Graham Greene, <i>The Heart of the</i> <i>Matter</i> Alan Paton, <i>Cry the Beloved Country</i> Ezra Pound, <i>The Pisan Cantos</i> Patrick White, <i>The Aunt's Story</i>
1949		J. L. Borges, <i>The Aleph</i> Naguib Mahfouz, <i>The Beginning and</i> <i>the End</i>

1950

Doris Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* Sarah Gertrude Millin, *The King of the Bastards*

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> Daphne Rooke, A Grove of Fever Trees

Samuel Beckett, Mollov: Malone Dies

Antonio Di Benedetto, Mundo animal

1951		Samuel Beckett, Molloy; Malone Dies
		Graham Greene, <i>The End of the Affair</i>
		Daphne Rooke, <i>Mittee</i>
1952	Jan: Coetzee family settles in	Samuel Beckett, Waiting for Godot
	Plumstead, Cape Town. JMC	Guy Butler, Stranger to Europe
	begins high school at St Joseph's	Paul Celan, Mohn und Gedächtis
	Marist College, in Rondebosch,	
	Cape Town.	
1953		Gerrit Achterberg, Ballade van de gasfitter
		Samuel Beckett, Watt; The
		Unnamable
		Saul Bellow, The Adventures of Augie
		March
		J. L. Borges, Labyrinthes

Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
		Alan Paton, <i>Too Late the Phalarope</i> Alain Robbe-Grillet, <i>Erasers</i> Daphne Rooke, <i>Ratoons</i>
1954		Peter Abrahams, <i>Tell Freedom</i> Doris Lessing, <i>A Proper Marriage</i> Ina Rousseau, <i>Die verlate tuin</i>

1955	JMC qualifies for bursary on grounds of Junior Certificate	Antonio Di Benedetto, <i>El pentágono</i> Vladimir Nabokov, <i>Lolita</i>
	results.	Ezra Pound, Section: Rock-Drill
		Alain Robbe-Grillet, <i>The Voyeur</i>
		Patrick White, The Tree of Man

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1956	Poem 'In the Beginning' wins Stuttaford Book Prize for best	Peter Abrahams, A Wreath for Udomo
	narrative poem in Cape Town	John Barth, The Floating Opera
	Eisteddfod.	Samuel Beckett, Malone Dies (in
	JMC matriculates from St Joseph's.	English).
	JMC passes bilingualism exam of	Antonio Di Benedetto, Zama
	SA Academy of Arts and Sciences.	Naguib Mahfouz, <i>Palace Walk</i>
1957	JMC enrols at the University of	William Faulkner, The Town
	Cape Town (UCT).	Ted Hughes, The Hawk in the Rain
	JMC begins attending Imaginative Writing Class, run by Professor	Naguib Mahfouz, <i>Palace of Desire;</i> <i>Sugar Street</i>
	Guy Howarth (GH)	Bernard Malamud, The Assistant
		Irène Némirovsky, <i>Les Feux de l'automne</i>
		Boris Pasternak, Doctor Zhivago
		Alain Robbe-Grillet, Jealousy
		Daphne Rooke, Wizards' Country
		Claude Simon, The Wind

Patrick White, Voss

Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
1958	'Attic', 'The Love Song', and 'Procula to Pilate' appear in UCT's <i>Literary Miscellany</i> .	John Barth, <i>The End of the Road</i> Nadine Gordimer, A World of Strangers Doris Lessing, A Ripple from the Storm Josef Skvorecky, The Cowards
1959	 JMC given assistantship by GH. 'Trivial Verses' and 'Three Poems from a Cold Climate', <i>Literary Miscellany</i>. 'Truth Lies Sunken' and 'From Act II of <i>The Last Spring</i>' appear in UCT little magazine <i>Groote Schuur</i>. 	Paul Celan, <i>Sprachgitter</i> William Faulkner, <i>The Mansion</i> Günter Grass, <i>The Tin Drum</i> Harry Mulisch, <i>The Stone Bridal Bed</i> Naguib Mahfouz, <i>Children of</i> <i>Gebelawi</i> Ezra Pound, <i>Thrones</i>
1960	JMC enrols in the English Honours programme at UCT, which he completes with distinction.	J. L. Borges, <i>The Maker</i> Nadine Gordimer, <i>Friday's Footprint</i> Alfred Hutchinson, <i>Road to Ghana</i>

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> 'The wives of the rock lobster fishermen' and 'Returning from Carthage', *Groote Schuur*.

Doris Lessing, In Pursuit of the English

IMC enrols in the mathematics Honours programme at UCT.
'Five Night-Thoughts of a Loving Sleepless; to which are appended two poems', *Groote Schuur*. Samuel Beckett, *How It Is* Günter Grass, *Cat and Mouse* Graham Greene, *A Burnt-Out Case* Joseph Heller, *Catch-22* Zbigniew Herbert, *Study of the Object* Yasunari Kawabata, *House of the Sleeping Beauties* Naguib Mahfouz, *The Thief and the Dogs* Claude Mauriac, *The Marquise Went Out at Five* Arthur Miller, *The Misfits* Es'kia Mphahlele, *The African Image*

15 Dec.: Having completed his studies, JMC sails from Cape Town for Southampton, UK.

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Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
		V. S. Naipaul, A House for Mister Biswas Daphne Rooke, A Lover for Estelle Patrick White, Riders in the Chariot
1962	JMC is awarded Croll Bursary by UCT, which he uses to register for an MA in absentia, on the	James Baldwin, Another Country Anthony Delius, A Corner of the World
	novels of Ford Madox Ford. JMC begins working as a computer programmer at IBM in London.	Zbigniew Herbert, Barbarian in the Garden Alex La Guma, A Walk in the Night Doris Lessing, The Golden Notebook Sarah Gertrude Millin, The Wizard Bird Vladimir Nabokov, Pale Fire V. S. Naipaul, The Middle Passage Daphne Rooke, The Greyling Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, One Day in
1963	JMC resigns from IBM and returns to Cape Town, where he renews	the Life of Ivan Denisovich N. P. van Wyk Louw, <i>Tristia</i> Paul Celan, <i>Die Niemandsrose</i> Hugo Claus, <i>Poems</i> 1948–1963

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acquaintance with Philippa
Jubber (PJ).
April: 'Computer Poem' appears in
UCT little magazine The Lion
and the Impala

II July: JMC and PJ marry in Johannesburg.

- *Nov.*: JMC submits his MA thesis 'The Works of Ford Madox Ford with Particular Reference to the Novels'.
- *30 Dec.*: JMC and PJ depart Cape Town for Southampton.

Feb.: JMC begins work at International Computers and Tabulators. JMC and PJ live in Bagshot, Surrey. Nadine Gordimer, Occasion for Loving Bloke Modisane, Blame Me on History Richard Rive, African Songs Alain Robbe-Grillet, Towards a New Novel

Saul Bellow, Herzog
Breyten Breytenbach, Die ysterkoei moet sweet
Antonio Di Benedetto, The Silencer
Alex La Guma, And a Threefold Cord
V. S. Naipaul, An Area of Darkness

1964

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Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
		Lewis Nkosi, The Rhythm of Violence Richard Rive, Emergency
		Richard Rive, Emergency
1965	JMC applies to US PhD programmes.	Peter Abrahams, A Night of Their Own
	JMC awarded a Fulbright scholarship.	Samuel Beckett, Proust/ Three Dialogues
	<i>Sept.</i> : JMC begins PhD in linguis- tics and literature at the	Doris Lessing, <i>Landlocked</i> Norman Mailer, <i>An American Dream</i>
	University of Texas at	Lewis Nkosi, Home and Exile
1966	Austin (UT). 9 <i>June</i> : Birth of Nicolas Coetzee,	Daphne Rooke, <i>Diamond Jo</i> Sydney Clouts, O <i>ne Life</i>
	first child of JMC and PJ. <i>I Aug.</i> : Charles Whitman, the	Nadine Gordimer, <i>The Late</i> Bourgeois World
	Texas Tower Sniper, kills seven-	Naguib Mahfouz, <i>Adrift on the Nile</i>
	teen people on UT campus, whilst JMC is present.	Patrick White, The Solid Mandala
1967	JMC awarded a Graduate Fellowship, and appointed	Samuel Beckett, No's Knife Paul Celan, Breathturn

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University Fellow for
academic year 1967-8

Ted Hughes, Wodwo Alex La Guma, The Stone Country Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude Norman Mailer, Why Are We in Vietnam?

1968 July: JMC officially accepts an appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor at SUNY Buffalo. Takes up post in September, after completing his dissertation.
JMC begins translating *Een nagelaten bekentenis*, a Dutch novel by Marcellus Emants.
10 Nov.: birth of Gisela Gabrièle Coetzee, second child of JMC and PJ.

12 Jan.: JMC awarded PhD for

thesis 'The English Fiction of

John Barth, *Lost in the Funhouse* Paul Celan, *Threadsuns* Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *The First Circle*

Samuel Beckett, *Lessness* J. L. Borges, *In Praise of Darkness*

1969

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Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
	Samuel Beckett: An Essay in Stylistic Analysis', at UT.	 Breyten Breytenbach, Kouevuur C. J. Driver, Elegy for a Revolutionary Doris Lessing, The Four-Gated City Les Murray, 'Evening Alone at Bunyah' Vladimir Nabokov, Ada or Ardor: A Family Chronicle Daphne Rooke, Boy on the Mountain Philip Roth, Portnoy's Complaint Gary Snyder, Earth House Hold
1970	 <i>I Jan.</i>: JMC begins work on 'The Narrative of Jacobus Coetzee'. <i>25 Feb.</i>: Protests against the Vietnam War turn violent on SUNY Buffalo campus, injuring twenty-seven people. <i>15 March</i>: JMC joins forty-four colleagues in a sit-in at the office of SUNY Buffalo President, protesting the continued presence of 	Samuel Beckett, <i>Mercier and Camier</i> J. L. Borges, <i>Brodie's Report</i> Patrick White, <i>The Vivisector</i>

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> police on campus. All forty-five are arrested and charged with 'criminal contempt of the law and unlawful entry'.

2 *April*: US Department of Justice turns down JMC's application for permanent residency.

Oct.: 'The Comedy of Point of View in Beckett's Murphy', Critique.

Dec.: PJ returns to Cape Town with Nicolas and Gisela.

1971

May: JMC returns to Cape Town, lives with his family at Maraisdal, near the Coetzee family farm Voëlfontein.
June: Charges against JMC and his colleagues are rejected by the New York State Supreme Court.
21 Dec.: JMC receives news of

appointment to temporary lectureship at UCT. Breyten Breytenbach, Om te vlieg
Hugo Claus, Morning, You
Nadine Gordimer, A Guest of Honour
Doris Lessing, Briefing for a Descent into Hell
Es'kia Mphahlele, The Wanderers

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Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
1972	JMC's appointment at UCT made permanent; completes transla- tion of <i>Een nagelaten</i> <i>bekentenis</i> . <i>11 June</i> : JMC begins work on 'The	Breyten Breytenbach, Skryt Nadine Gordimer, Livingstone's Companions Alex La Guma, In the Fog of the Seasons' End
	Vietnam Project'. Nov.: 'The Manuscript Revisions	Les Murray, 'Walking to the Cattle Place'
	of Beckett's Watt' , Journal of Modern Literature.	Josef Skvorecky, The Miracle Game
1973	 March: 'Samuel Beckett's Lessness: An Exercise in Decomposition', Computers and the Humanities. Oct.: 'Samuel Beckett and the Temptations of Style', Theoria. 19 Dec.: JMC agrees contract with Peter Randall, at Ravan Press, for publication of Dusklands. 	 André Brink, Looking on Darkness Athol Fugard, John Kani & Winston Ntshona, The Island Graham Greene, The Honorary Consul Wopko Jensma, Sing for Our Execution
1974	18 April: Dusklands, Ravan Press (Johannesburg).	Nadine Gordimer, <i>The</i> Conservationist Naguib Mahfouz, <i>Al-Karnak</i>

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'Nabokov's Pale Fire and the	
Primacy of Art', UCT Studies in	n
English.	

- 'Man's Fate in the Novels of Alex La Guma', *Studies in Black Literature*.
- *I Dec.*: JMC begins work on *In the Heart of the Country*.
- *A Posthumous Confession*, JMC's translation of *Een nagelaten bekentenis*, by Marcellus Emants, Twayne (Boston).

1975

- 27 June: JMC writes to Peter Randall, describing progress on In the Heart of the Country, and asking about Ravan's practices regarding censorship.
- 1976 JMC appointed to Senior Lectureship at UCT.
 March: 'The First Sentence of Yvonne Burgess's The Strike', English in Africa.

Daphne Rooke, *Margaretha de la Porte* Zbigniew Herbert, *Mr Cogito* Gerald Murnane, *Tamarisk Row* Doris Lessing, *Memoirs of a Survivor*

Aharon Appelfeld, *Badenheim 1939* Saul Bellow, *Humboldt's Gift* J. L. Borges, *The Book of Sand* Yvonne Burgess, *The Strike* Guy Butler, *Selected Poems* Stephen Gray, *Local Colour* Harry Mulisch, *Two Women* Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *The Oak and the Calf*

André Brink, An Instant in the Wind Breyten Breytenbach, A Season in Paradise Etienne Leroux, Magersfontein, O Magersfontein! Amos Oz, The Hill of Evil Counsel

Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
	31 May: JMC accepts offer from Secker & Warburg to publish In the Heart of the Country.	David Wright, A South African Album
1977	 March: 'Achterberg's "Ballade van de gasfitter": The Mystery of I and You', PMLA. 13 June: In the Heart of the Country, Secker & Warburg (London). 11 July: Copies of In the Heart of the Country are seized by SA Customs on arrival in Cape Town. 	Breyten Breytenbach, Blomskryf Charles Eglington, Under the Horizon Naguib Mahfouz, The Harafish Les Murray, 'The Buladelah-Taree Holiday Song Cycle' Josef Skvorecky, The Engineer of Human Souls

1978

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Sept.: Following a review by SA	
censors, the embargo on In the	
<i>Heart of the Country</i> is lifted.	
20 Sept.: JMC informed that In the	
Heart of the Country has been	
awarded the Mofolo-Plomer	
Prize; begins work on Waiting	
for the Barbarians.	
Feb.: In the Heart of the Country,	Aharon Appelfeld, The Age of
SA edition, with Afrikaans dia-	Wonders
logue, Ravan Press	André Brink, Rumours of Rain
(Johannesburg).	A. S. Byatt, The Virgin in the Garden
<i>March: In the Heart of the Country</i>	Antonio Di Benedetto, Absurdos
awarded the CNA Prize.	Graham Greene, The Human Factor
'Hero and Bad Mother in Epic,	Amos Oz, Soumchi
A Poem', Staffrider.	Adam Small, The Orange Earth

 1979 Jan.: 'Surreal Metaphors and Random Processes', Journal of Literary Semantics.
 JMC on leave from UCT, spends one semester in the Department of Linguistics at UT, and three Nadine Gordimer, Burger's Daughter Alex La Guma, The Time of the Butcherbird Norman Mailer, The Executioner's Song

V. S. Naipaul, A Bend in the River

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	months at the University of California, Berkeley. JMC explores the possibility of filming <i>In the Heart of the</i> <i>Country</i> , and produces a draft screenplay.	Christopher van Wyk, <i>It is Time to</i> Go Home Patrick White, <i>The Twyborn Affair</i>
1980	 JMC and PJ divorce. Jan.: 'The Rhetoric of the Passive in English', Linguistics. March: 'Blood, Flaw, Taint, Degeneration: The Case of Sarah Gertrude Millin', English Studies in Africa. 23 April: Waiting for the Barbarians awarded the CNA Prize. Coetzee's acceptance speech is later published as 'SA Authors Must Learn Modesty', Die Vaderland. 31 May: JMC begins work on Life & Times of Michael K. 	Breyten Breytenbach, <i>Die miernes</i> <i>swel op</i> Joseph Brodsky, <i>A Part of Speech</i> Nadine Gordimer, <i>Something Out</i> <i>There</i> Cees Nooteboom, <i>Rituals</i>

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16 Oct.: Waiting for the	
Barbarians, Secker & Warburg	
(London)/ Ravan Press	
(Johannesburg).	
JMC joins Afrikaanse	
Skrywersgilde (Afrikaans	
Writers' Guild).	
<i>Dec.</i> : JMC begins a relationship with Dorothy Driver (DD).	
Jan .: JMC promoted to Associate	William Burroughs, Cities of the Red
Professor at UCT.	Night
April: 'Time, Tense, and Aspect in	Nadine Gordimer, July's People
Kafka's "The Burrow"', MLN.	Gabriel García Márquez, Chronicle
Aug.: Waiting for the Barbarians is	of a Death Foretold
awarded the James Tait Black	Cees Nooteboom, A Song of Truth
Memorial Prize for Fiction. It	and Semblance
wins the Geoffrey Faber	Alan Paton, Ah, But Your Land is
Memorial Prize in the same year.	Beautiful
Dec.: JMC approached by Human	Richard Rive, Writing Black
& Rousseau to undertake a	Salman Rushdie, Midnight's Children
translation of Wilma	Sipho Sepamla, A Ride on the
Stockenström's Die kremetar-	Whirlwind
tekspedisie; JMC agrees.	

1981

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Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
		Mongane Wally Serote, <i>To Every</i> <i>Birth Its Blood</i> Wilma Stockenström, <i>The</i> <i>Expedition to the Baobab Tree</i> Patrick White, <i>Flaws in the Glass</i>
1982	 Jan.: 'Newton and the Ideal of a Transparent Scientific Language', Journal of Literary Semantics. Sept.: JMC discusses adapting In the Heart of the Country with Belgian film-maker Marion Hänsel. JMC receives Thomas Pringle Literary Article Award for 'Blood, Flaw, Taint, Degeneration: The Case of Sarah Gertrude Millin'. 	 Aharon Appelfeld, <i>The Retreat</i> André Brink, <i>A Dry White Season</i> Nadine Gordimer, 'Living in the Interregnum' Harry Mulisch, <i>The Assault</i> Gerald Murnane, <i>The Plains</i>

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983	The Expedition to the Baobab	Aha
	Tree, JMC's translation of	In
	Wilma Stockenström's Die	Bre
	kremetartekspedisie, Faber and	And
	Faber (London).	Hug
	1 June: JMC begins work on Foe.	Ant
	4 Aug.: JMC promoted to Full	e.
	Professor at UCT.	Salı
	Sept.: JMC joins editorial board of	Zbi
	Standpunte.	а
	Life & Times of Michael K, Secker	Les
	& Warburg (London)/ Ravan	Iı
	Press (Johannesburg).	Jose
	26 Oct.: Life & Times of Michael	
	K awarded the Booker Prize.	
	15 Nov.: Embargo on consignment	
	of Life & Times of Michael K is	
	lifted in Cape Town.	
	English Academy of SA awards	
	JMC prize for creative work;	
	makes him a full member.	
984	JanJune: JMC is Butler Visiting	Bre
/ 1	Professor in English at SUNY	Syd
	Buffalo.	Áth

Aharon Appelfeld, *Tzili; The Immortal Bartfuss* Breyten Breytenbach, *Eklips; ('Yk')* André Brink, *Mapmakers* Hugo Claus, *The Sorrow of Belgium* Antonio Di Benedetto, *Cuentos de exilio* Salman Rushdie, *Shame* Zbigniew Herbert, *Report from a Besieged City* Les Murray, 'Equanimity'; 'On Interest'

Josef Skvorecky, Dvořák in Love

Breyten Breytenbach, *Buffalo Bill* Sydney Clouts, *Collected Poems* Athol Fugard, *Notebooks 1960–77* Nadine Gordimer, *A Soldier's Embrace*

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Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
	 26 April: Life & Times of Michael K is awarded the CNA Prize. JMC's acceptance speech, which arrived too late to be read in his absence, published as 'The Great South African Novel', Leadership SA. 3 Oct.: 'Truth in Autobiography' delivered at UCT as JMC's inaugural lecture, after appointment to full professorship. 	Cees Nooteboom, <i>In the Dutch</i> <i>Mountains</i>
1985	 <i>Life & Times of Michael K</i> is awarded the Prix Femina étranger. <i>March</i>: Vera Coetzee dies. <i>April</i>: JMC is awarded his first honorary doctorate, from the 	 Breyten Breytenbach, True Confessions of an Albino Terrorist; Mouroir; Lewendood A. S. Byatt, Still Life Antonio Di Benedetto, Sombras, nada mas Doris Lessing, The Good Terrorist

1986

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University of Strathclyde in Glasgow.

- July: 'Confession and Double Thoughts: Tolstoy, Rousseau, Dostoevsky', Comparative Literature.
- Aug.: Dust, Marion Hänsel's adaptation of *In the Heart of the Country*, premieres at the Venice Film Festival.

Jan.: JMC takes part in 48th International PEN conference in New York.

Jan.: 'Into the Dark Chamber: The Novelist and South Africa', New York Times.

- JMC is Hinkley Visiting Professor of English at Johns Hopkins University and Butler Visiting Professor in English at SUNY Buffalo.
- A Land Apart: A South African Reader, anthology edited with André Brink, Faber and Faber (London).

Gabriel García Márquez, Love in the Time of Cholera Harry Mulisch, Last Call Gerald Murnane, Landscape with Landscape Caryl Phillips, The Final Passage Karel Schoeman, Another Country

Joseph Brodsky, *Less than One* Breyten Breytenbach, *End Papers* Günter Grass, *The Rat* David Grossman, *See Under: Love* Caryl Phillips, *A State of Independence*

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Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
1987	 JMC begins work on Age of Iron. Sept.: Foe, Secker & Warburg (London)/ Ravan Press (Johannesburg). Oct.: 'Farm Novel and Plaasroman in South Africa', English in Africa. JMC begins, then sets aside, the memoir that will become Boyhood. 9 April: JMC accepts the Jerusalem Prize for Foe, and delivers his 'Jerusalem Prize Acceptance Speech', condemning colonial- ism and apartheid. Oct.: JMC delivers talk at Weekly Mail's Book Week in Cape Town, which is later published as 'The Novel Today', Upstream. 	Aharon Appelfeld, For Every Sin Paul Auster, New York Trilogy Breyten Breytenbach, Boek: Deel een Zoë Wicomb, You Can't Get Lost in Cape Town

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1988	JMC elected Fellow of the Royal	Breyten Breytenbach, Judas Eye
	Society of Literature (UK) and	Joseph Brodsky, To Urania
	Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts	Nadine Gordimer, The Essential
	et des Lettres (France).	Gesture
	JMC and David Attwell begin work	Seamus Heaney, The Government of
	on Doubling the Point.	the Tongue
	White Writing: On the Culture of	Christopher Hope, White Boy
	Letters in South Africa, Yale	Running
	University Press (New Haven).	Jamaica Kincaid, A Small Place
	30 June: Jack Coetzee dies.	Gerald Murnane, Inland
	31 Oct.: JMC and Nadine	Philip Roth, The Facts: A Novelist's
	Gordimer have public disagree-	Autobiography
	ment at conference organized by	Salman Rushdie, The Satanic Verses
	COSAW and Weekly Mail over	W. G. Sebald, After Nature
	decision to withdraw invitation	
	to Salman Rushdie.	
	'The Taint of the Pornographic:	
	Defending (against) Lady	
	Chatterley's Lover', Mosaic.	
1989	Jan: JMC is Hinkley Visiting	Paul Auster, Moon Palace
1909	Professor of English at Johns	
	Hopkins University.	
	21 April: Nicolas Coetzee dies.	

(cont.)

Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
	IMC becomes honorary fellow of	

JMC becomes honorary fellow of the MLA and honorary foreign member of the American Academy of Arts and Science.

1990	May: 'Censorship in South Africa',	Aharon Appelfeld, To the Land of the
	English in Africa.	Reeds
	13 July: PJ dies.	A. S. Byatt, Possession
		Gerald Murnane, Velvet Waters

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Age of Iron, Secker & Warburg (London).

Les Murray, 'The Tin Wash Dish'; 'Dog Fox Field' W. G. Sebald, *Vertigo*

1991 21 Feb.: JMC begins work on The Master of Petersburg.
'What is a Classic?' delivered as a lecture in Graz, Austria.
Aug: JMC visits Australia with DD, as writer in residence at the University of Queensland.

Aharon Appelfeld, *The Iron Tracks* Nadine Gordimer, *Jump and Other Stories* Cees Nooteboom, *The Following Story* Caryl Phillips, *Cambridge* Philip Roth, *Patrimony*

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Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
1992	Doubling the Point: Essays and Interviews , edited by David Attwell, Harvard University Press (Cambridge, MA).	Harry Mulisch, <i>The Discovery of</i> <i>Heaven</i> Les Murray, 'Translations from the Natural World'; <i>The Paperbark</i>
		Tree Cons Nactobeom Roads to Sautiano
		Cees Nooteboom, <i>Roads to Santiago</i> W. G. Sebald, <i>The Emigrants</i>
		Josef Skvorecky, The Bride of Texas; Headed for the Blues
1993	JMC is appointed to the Arderne Chair of Literature at UCT.	Breyten Breytenbach, R <i>eturn to</i> Paradise
	'Homage' , The Threepenny Review.	Gabriel García Márquez, <i>Strange</i> <i>Pilgrims</i>
	JMC institutes honours course in creative writing at UCT, which is eventually expanded into an MA.	Harry Mulisch, A Ghost Story Caryl Phillips, Crossing the River Philip Roth, Operation Shylock: A Confession

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1994

Aharon Appelfeld, *Unto the Soul* Doris Lessing, *Under My Skin* Amos Oz, *Panther in the Basement*

Nov.: The Master of Petersburg, Secker & Warburg (London).

1995	JMC is visiting professor at Texas	Joseph Brodsky, On Grief and
	Center for Writers, UT.	Reason
	March: JMC makes enquiries about	A. S. Byatt, Babel Tower
	emigration to Australia.	Nadine Gordimer, Writing and Being
	19 Aug.: JMC begins work on	Gerald Murnane, Emerald Blue
	Disgrace.	Caryl Phillips, The Higher Ground

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Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
		Philip Roth, Sabbath's Theater Salman Rushdie, The Moor's Last Sigh W. G. Sebald, The Rings of Saturn
	Dec.: 'What is Realism?' delivered as lecture in Amsterdam. Dec.: 'Meat Country' , <i>Granta</i> .	
1996	Giving Offense: Essays on Censorship, University of Chicago Press (Chicago). JMC begins regular visiting profes- sorship at the Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago.	Les Murray, Subhuman Redneck Poems

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> *March*: Théâtre de Complicité mounts a stage adaptation of *Foe* by Mark Wheatley.

> 11 Oct.: JMC begins work on Youth.
> Nov.: At Bennington College, delivering the Ben Belitt Lecture, JMC presents 'What is Realism?'

1997 JMC resigns the Arderne Chair, and becomes a Distinguished Professor in the Faculty of the Arts at UCT.

> Sept.: Boyhood: Scenes from Provincial Life, Secker & Warburg (London).

15–16 Oct.: 'The Lives of Animals', presented as the Tanner Lectures on Human Values at Princeton University. Les Murray, *Killing the Black Dog* Caryl Phillips, *The Nature of Blood* Philip Roth, *American Pastoral*

1998	Peter Glazer produces a stage adaptation of <i>Foe</i> at Northwestern University.	Nadine Gordimer, <i>The House-Gun</i> Les Murray, <i>Freddy Neptune</i>
	 Oct.: JMC is the only non-US recipient of grant from Lannan Foundation. 11 Nov.: 'The Novel in Africa' presented at the Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities, University of California, Berkeley. 	

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> 1999 The Lives of Animals, Princeton University Press (Princeton). July: Disgrace, Secker & Warburg (London).

Breyten Breytenbach, Dog Heart: A MemoirW. G. Sebald, On the Natural History of Destruction

Oct.: Disgrace is awarded the Booker Prize. Disgrace wins the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, and M-Net Literary Award.

2000 5 April: ANC includes Disgrace in its submission to the SA Human Rights Commission's hearings on racism in the media.
 Oct.: 'A House in Spain', Architectural Digest.

Anita Desai, *Fasting, Feasting* Philip Roth, *The Human Stain* Zoë Wicomb, *David's Story*

(cont.)

Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
2001	2 Feb.: Australian immigrant visas are granted to JMC and DD. Stranger Shores: Essays 1986–1999, Secker & Warburg (London).	Nadine Gordimer, <i>The Pickup</i> V. S. Naipaul, <i>Half a Life</i> Philip Roth, <i>The Dying Animal</i> W. G. Sebald, <i>Austerlitz</i>

Sept.: 'The Problem of Evil' presented in Chicago.

Dec.: JMC retires from UCT.

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2002

JMC and DD settle in Adelaide, Australia.
April: Youth, Secker & Warburg (London).
JMC receives Commonwealth Writers' Prize.
A House in Spain / Een Huis in Spanje, Uitgeverij Cossee (Amsterdam). Paul Auster, The Book of Illusions

Nadine Gordimer, Loot and Other Stories Günter Grass, Crabwalk

 2003 June: 'Fictional Beings', Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Pscyhology.
 July: JMC becomes Distinguished Service Professor at University of Chicago.
 Sept.: Elizabeth Costello, Secker & Warburg (London).

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Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
2004	 2 Oct.: Swedish Academy announces that JMC has won the Nobel Prize in Literature. 7 Dec.: JMC accepts the Nobel Prize and delivers a Nobel Lecture entitled 'He and His Man'. JMC resigns his professorship at University of Chicago. Landscape with Rowers: Poetry from the Netherlands, Princeton University Press (Princeton). 15 Jan.: 'As a Woman Grows Older', New York Review of Books. April–May: JMC and DD hosted as Visiting Professors at Stanford University. 	Gabriel García Márquez, Memories of My Melancholy Whores Irène Némirovsky, Suite Française Philip Roth, The Plot Against America
	<i>Dec.</i> : JMC elected to Australian Academy of Humanities. JMC joins Voiceless in Australia.	

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2005	<i>April</i> : JMC begins work on <i>Summertime</i> .	Paul Auster, <i>The Brooklyn Follies</i> Gerald Murnane, <i>Invisible Yet</i>
	Sept.: Slow Man, Secker &	Enduring Lilacs
	Warburg (London).	
	10 Sept.: Opera adaptation of	
	Waiting for the Barbarians with	
	libretto by Christopher	
	Hampton and music by Philip	
	Glass premieres at Theatre	
	Erfurt, Germany.	
	27 Sept.: President Thabo Mbeki confers the Order of Mapungubwe on JMC in Pretoria.	
2006	6 <i>March</i> : Australian citizenship is conferred on JMC in a ceremony at Adelaide Writers' Week.	Philip Roth, Everyman

Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
2007	22 Feb.: JMC delivers 'Voiceless: I feel therefore I am' at Sherman Gallery, Sydney.	Norman Mailer, <i>The Castle in the Forest</i>
	<i>I April:</i> 'Eden' , JMC's translation of poem by Ina Rousseau, <i>Poetry</i> .	
	<i>Inner Workings: Essays</i> 2000–2005, Vintage Books (London).	
	Sept.: Diary of a Bad Year, Harvill Secker (London).	
2008	JMC begins a correspondence with Paul Auster. June: Diary of a Bad Year receives M-Net Literary Award.	Philip Roth, Indignation

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> 6 Sept.: A film adaptation of Disgrace by Anna Maria Monticelli and Steve Jacobs premieres at the Toronto International Film Festival.

2009

Gerald Murnane, *Barley Patch* Philip Roth, *The Humbling*

	Sept.: Summertime, Harvill Secker (London).		
2010	19 Jan.: David Coetzee dies. 13–16 May: 'Is dit J. M. Coetzee' festival in Amsterdam; JMC is	Philip Roth, <i>Nemesis</i>	

(cont.)

Date	Life and Works	Literary Events	
	awarded Ridder van de		
	Nederlandse Leeuw		
	(Netherlands).		
	"Nevertheless, My Sympathies are		
	with the Karamazovs": An Email		
	Correspondence: May –		
	December 2008', with Arabella		
	Kurtz, Salmagundi.		
2011	Jan.: JMC takes part in Jaipur		
	Literary Festival.		
	<i>June:</i> JMC takes part in Festival of		
	Ideas at the University of York.		
	Scenes from Provincial Life,		
	Harvill Secker (London).		

2012 JMC begins work on The Childhood of Jesus.

Gerald Murnane, A History of Books Patrick White, The Hanging Gardens

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> *IO Dec.*: JMC delivers address at graduation ceremony of University of Witwatersrand (SA) about importance of teaching young children.

2013 March: Here and Now: Letters
2008–2011, with Paul Auster, Harvill Secker (London).
March: The Childhood of Jesus, Harvill Secker (London).
June–Nov.: At the invitation of sculptor Berlinde de Bruyckere, JMC curates the Belgian Pavilion's exhibition at the 55th Venice Biennale.

2014 *Two Screenplays*, JMC's adaptations of *Waiting for the Barbarians* and *In the Heart of the Country*, edited by Hermann Wittenberg, UCT Press (Cape Town).

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Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
	JMC begins biannual visit to the	
	Universidad Nacional de San	
	Martín in Argentina (UNSAM)	
	where he directs a seminar series	
	entitled 'Literatures of the	
	South'.	
	Oct.: Three Stories, Text	
	Publishing (Melbourne).	
	24 Oct.: An opera adaptation of	
	Slow Man, with music by	
	Nicholas Lens and a libretto by	
	JMC, premieres at the Malta	
	Festival, Poznań.	
2015	The Good Story: Exchanges on	
-	Truth, Fiction and	
	Psychotherapy, with Arabella	
	Kurtz, Harvill Secker (London).	

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2016	Oct.: The Schooldays of Jesus,
	Harvill Secker (London)/ Text
	Publishing (Melbourne).

2017

12–13 Sept.: JMC takes part in 'The Work of John Maxwell Coetzee in Latin America', at UNSAM.
Dec.: 'Lies', New York Review of Books.
Dec.: 'The Dog', The New Yorker.

2018 *Late Essays: 2006–2017*, Harvill Secker (London).

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(cont.)
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Date	Life and Works	Literary Events
	<i>Siete cuentos morales</i> , El Hilo de Ariadna (Buenos Aires)/ Literatura Random House (Barcelona).	
2019	O <i>ct. The Death of Jesus</i> , Text Publishing (Melbourne).	

ABBREVIATIONS

Works by J. M. Coetzee

AI	Age of Iron. 1990. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1998.	
В	Boyhood: Scenes from Provincial Life. 1997. London: Vintage, 1998.	
CJ	The Childhood of Jesus. 2013. London: Vintage, 2014.	
DBY	Diary of a Bad Year. 2007. London: Vintage, 2008.	
Dis	Disgrace. 1999. London: Vintage, 2000.	
DP	Doubling the Point: Essays and Interviews. Ed. by David Attwell.	
	Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1992.	
Dusk	Dusklands. 1974. London: Vintage, 1998.	
EC	Elizabeth Costello: Eight Lessons. 2003. London: Vintage, 2004.	
F	Foe. 1986. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1987.	
GO	Giving Offense: Essays on Censorship. Chicago: University of	
	Chicago Press, 1996.	
GS	The Good Story: Exchanges on Truth, Fiction and Psychotherapy.	
	With Arabella Kurtz. 2015. New York: Penguin Books, 2016.	
HN	Here and Now. With Paul Auster. New York: Viking, 2013.	
IHC	In the Heart of the Country. 1977. London: Vintage, 1999.	
IW	Inner Workings: Essays 2000-2005. With introduction by Derek	
	Attridge. 2007. London: Vintage, 2008.	
LE	Late Essays: 2006–2017. London: Harvill Secker, 2017.	
LT	Life & Times of Michael K. 1983. London: Vintage, 1998.	
MP	The Master of Petersburg. 1994. London: Vintage, 1999.	
SJ	The Schooldays of Jesus. London: Harvill Secker, 2016.	
SM	Slow Man. 2005. London: Vintage, 2006.	
SS	Stranger Shores: Essays 1986–1999. 2001. London: Vintage, 2002.	
Sum	Summertime, 2009. London: Vintage, 2010.	

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List of Abbreviations

WB	Waiting for the Barbarians. 1980. London: Vintage, 2000.
WW	White Writing: On the Culture of Letters in South Africa. New
	Haven: Yale University Press, 1988.
Y	Youth. 2002. London: Vintage, 2003.

Library Archives

CP Coetzee Papers, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.