

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO BRITISH LITERATURE OF THE 1930s

The 1930s is frequently seen as a unique moment in British literary history, a decade where writing was shaped by an intense series of political events, aesthetic debates, and emerging literary networks. Yet what is contained under the rubric of 1930s writing has been the subject of competing claims, and therefore this *Companion* offers the reader an incisive survey covering the decade's literature and its status in critical debates. Across the chapters, sustained attention is given to writers of growing scholarly interest, to pivotal authors of the period, such as Auden, Orwell, and Woolf, to the development of key literary forms and themes, and to the relationship between this literature and the decade's pressing social and political contexts. Through this, the reader will gain new insight into 1930s literary history, and an understanding of many of the critical debates that have marked the study of this unique literary era.

JAMES SMITH is a Reader in English Studies at Durham University. His most recent book was *British Writers and MI5 Surveillance, 1930–1960* (Cambridge, 2013). He has published widely on other aspects of 1930s literature and culture, such as on the censorship of 1930s film societies, and on government surveillance of radical literary magazines during the decade.

A complete list of books in this series is at the back of this book.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48108-3 — The Cambridge Companion to British Literature of the 1930s
Edited by James Smith
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48108-3 — The Cambridge Companion to British Literature of the 1930s
Edited by James Smith
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO BRITISH
LITERATURE OF THE 1930s

EDITED BY

JAMES SMITH
University of Durham



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-48108-3 — The Cambridge Companion to British Literature of the 1930s
 Edited by James Smith
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
 New Delhi – 110025, India
 79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108481083

DOI: 10.1017/9781108646345

© Cambridge University Press 2019

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2019

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Smith, James, 1981– editor.

TITLE: The Cambridge companion to British literature of the 1930s / edited by James Smith.

OTHER TITLES: Cambridge companions to literature.

DESCRIPTION: New York : Cambridge University Press, 2019. | SERIES: Cambridge companions to literature | Includes index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2019028688 (print) | LCCN 2019028689 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108481083 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108646345 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: English literature – 20th century – History and criticism.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PR471 .C34 2019 (print) | LCC PR471 (ebook) | DDC 820.9/00912–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019028688>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019028689>

ISBN 978-1-108-48108-3 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-70379-6 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	<i>page vii</i>
Introduction <i>James Smith</i>	i
1 Poetry <i>Janet Montefiore</i>	16
2 The Literary Novel <i>Marina MacKay</i>	32
3 Drama <i>Claire Warden</i>	47
4 Publishing and Periodicals <i>Peter Marks</i>	63
5 The Middlebrow and Popular <i>Isobel Maddison</i>	81
6 Modernism <i>Tyrus Miller</i>	97
7 Communism and the Working Class <i>John Connor</i>	113
8 Empire <i>Judy Sub</i>	128
9 Travel <i>Tim Youngs</i>	145

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
10	The Regional and the Rural <i>Kristin Bluemel</i>	160
11	The Queer 1930s <i>Glyn Salton-Cox</i>	175
12	Remembering and Imagining War <i>Phyllis Lassner</i>	191
13	Fascism and Anti-Fascism <i>Mia Spiro</i>	207
14	Fashioning the 1930s <i>Benjamin Kohlmann</i>	224
	<i>Index</i>	239

Notes on Contributors

KRISTIN BLUEMEL is Professor of English and Wayne D. McMurray Chair in the Humanities at Monmouth University. She is author of books and articles on modernist and intermodernist writers and artists, including Dorothy Richardson, Stevie Smith, George Orwell, and Gwen Raverat, and co-editor of *Rural Modernity in Britain: A Critical Intervention* (2018). She recently brought back into print an edition of *Blitz Writing* by Inez Holden (2019).

JOHN CONNOR is Lecturer of Literature and Politics at King's College London. He is finishing a book manuscript on the mid-century historical novel and researching a second project on the second-world reception of British Communist, proletarian, and anti-colonial writing. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in the *Journal of Modern Literature*, *Modernist Cultures*, *The Review of English Studies*, and in several edited collections, including *A History of 1930s British Literature*.

BENJAMIN KOHLMANN teaches English literature at Hamburg University. He is the author of *Committed Styles: Modernism, Politics, and Left-Wing Literature in the 1930s* (2014) and of *Speculative States: British Literature, Institutionalality, and Reform* (forthcoming). With Matthew Taunton, he has co-edited *A History of 1930s British Literature* (2019).

PHYLLIS LASSNER is Professor Emerita in The Crown Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, Gender Studies, and Writing Program at Northwestern University. In addition to essays on interwar women writers and on Holocaust representation in literature and film, her publications include two books on Elizabeth Bowen, *British Women Writers of World War II*, *Colonial Strangers: Women Writing the End of the British Empire*, and *Anglo-Jewish Women Writing the Holocaust*. Her most recent book is *Espionage and Exile: Fascism and Anti-Fascism in British Spy Fiction and Film* (2016).

She was the recipient of the International Diamond Jubilee Fellowship at Southampton University. Forthcoming essays concern Holocaust refugee art, Polish post-Holocaust film, and British Holocaust theatre. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Space Between Society as well as the Education and Outreach Committee of the Illinois Holocaust Museum.

ISOBEL MADDISON is a Fellow of Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge, where she is a College Lecturer and the Director of Studies in English. She works primarily on female modernism and on the connections between modernism and popular fiction. She also has interests in women's writings of the Great War. Isobel has published on the work of Dorothy Richardson and Katherine Mansfield, and is the author of *Elizabeth von Arnim: Beyond the German Garden* (2013) plus several essays on this writer. Since 2015, Isobel has been President of the International Elizabeth von Arnim Society.

MARINA MACKAY is Associate Professor of English and Tutorial Fellow of St Peter's College, University of Oxford. Her books include *Modernism and World War II* (2007), *The Cambridge Introduction to the Novel* (2010), and *Ian Watt: The Novel and the Wartime Critic* (2018).

PETER MARKS is Professor of English at the University of Sydney. His books include *George Orwell the Essayist: Literature, Politics and the Periodical Culture* (2011), *Imagining Surveillance: Eutopian and Dystopian Literature and Film* (2015), and *British Literature of the 1990s: Endings and Beginnings* (2018).

TYRUS MILLER is Dean of the School of Humanities and Professor of Art History and English at the University of California, Irvine. He is author of *Late Modernism: Politics, Fiction, and the Arts Between the World Wars* (1999), *Singular Examples: Artistic Politics and the Neo-Avant-Garde* (2009), *Time Images: Alternative Temporalities in 20th-Century Theory, History, and Art* (2009), and *Modernism and the Frankfurt School* (2014). He is the editor of *Given World and Time: Temporalities in Context* (2008) and *A Cambridge Companion to Wyndham Lewis* (2016). He is the translator/editor of György Lukács, *The Culture of People's Democracy: Hungarian Essays on Literature, Art, and Democratic Transition* (2012) and series co-editor of Brill's *Lukács Library* series.

JANET MONTEFIORE is Professor Emerita of the University of Kent. Her books include *Feminism and Poetry* (1987, 1992, 2004), *Men and Women*

Notes on Contributors

ix

Writers of the 1930s (1996), and *Rudyard Kipling* (2007). She is editor of the *Kipling Journal* and Chair of the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society.

GLYN SALTON-COX is Associate Professor of English and Affiliate of Feminist Studies and History at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the author of *Queer Communism and the Ministry of Love: Sexual Revolution in British Writing of the 1930s* (2018), and his work has also appeared in *Modern Language Quarterly*, *Critical Quarterly*, *Comparative Literature*, *Keywords: A Journal of Cultural Materialism*, and *Twentieth-Century Communism*. He is currently working on a monograph on the cultural history of the lumpenproletariat.

JAMES SMITH is Reader in English Studies at Durham University. His most recent book was *British Writers and MI5 Surveillance, 1930–1960* (2013). He has published on various other aspects of 1930s literature and culture, such as on the censorship of 1930s film societies and on government surveillance of radical literary magazines during the decade.

MIA SPIRO is Lecturer in Jewish Studies at the School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow. She is the author of *Anti-Nazi Modernism: The Challenges of Resistance in 1930s Fiction* (2013) and has published articles on Jewish literature, Holocaust narratives, and the representation of Jews in the years leading up to the Second World War.

JUDY SUH is an Associate Professor in the English Department at Duquesne University. Her research interests include modern British fiction, travel literature, war literature, postcolonial literature, and British film. Her book *Fascism and Anti-Fascism in Twentieth-Century British Fiction* (2009) focusses on extremist politics and British modernist, middlebrow, and popular literature. She has published articles and chapters on Isabella Bird, Jean Rhys, D. H. Lawrence, Christopher Isherwood, Virginia Woolf, Agatha Christie, and others, and is currently working on a book manuscript on war, race, and politics in modern British travel narratives.

CLAIRE WARDEN is Senior Lecturer in English and Drama at Loughborough University. Her research interests include modernism, performance practice, and physical culture. In addition to numerous articles and chapters, she is the author of three monographs: *British Avant-Garde Theatre* (2012), *Modernist and Avant-Garde Performance: An Introduction* (2015), and the 2016 British Academy-funded *Migrating*

Modernist Performance: British Theatrical Travels through Russia, as well as co-editor of *Performance and Professional Wrestling* (2016).

TIM YOUNGS is Professor of English and Travel Studies at Nottingham Trent University. He is the author or editor of several books, including *The Cambridge Introduction to Travel Writing* (2013) and *The Cambridge History of Travel Writing* (co-edited with Nandini Das, 2019). He is founding editor of the journal *Studies in Travel Writing*.