

## AGING, DURATION, AND THE ENGLISH NOVEL

The rapid onset of dementia after an illness, the development of gray hair after a traumatic loss, the sudden appearance of a wrinkle in the brow of a spurned lover. The realist novel uses these conventions to accelerate the process of aging into a descriptive moment, writing the passage of years on the body all at once. *Aging, Duration, and the English Novel* argues that the formal disappearance of aging from the novel parallels the ideological pressure to identify as young by repressing the process of growing old. The construction of aging as a shameful event that should be hidden – to improve one's chances on the job market or secure a successful marriage – corresponds to the rise of the long novel, which draws upon the temporality of the body to map progress and decline onto the plots of nineteenth-century British modernity.

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# AGING, DURATION, AND THE ENGLISH NOVEL

*Growing Old from Dickens to Woolf*

JACOB JEWUSIAK

*Newcastle University*



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*To my wife  
Myrto*

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Writing a book means confronting duration in an unusually direct way, pulsing between a feeling of never-ending deferral and the urgency of deadlines. Thinking about time requires a great deal of it, and without the support of friends, family, colleagues, and institutions, I would not have been able to complete this book.

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## Abbreviations

CC	Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol," in <i>A Christmas Carol and Other Stories</i> (New York: Modern Library, 2001), pp. 1–107
Cinema	Virginia Woolf, "The Cinema," in <i>Selected Essays</i> , edited by David Bradshaw (Oxford University Press, 2008), pp. 172–6
Clock	Charles Dickens, <i>Master Humphrey's Clock</i> , vol. 1. (London and New York: Chapman and Hall, 1840)
Cranford	Elizabeth Gaskell, <i>Cranford</i> (Oxford University Press, 2011)
DC	H. G. Wells, <i>In the Days of the Comet</i> (New York: Century Co., 1906)
Diary	Virginia Woolf, <i>The Diary of Virginia Woolf</i> , edited by Anne Olivier Bell. 5 vols. (San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1977–84)
Dorrit	Charles Dickens, <i>Little Dorrit</i> (London: Penguin, 2003)
Elvesham	H. G. Wells, "The Story of the Late Mr Elvesham," in <i>The Country of the Blind and Other Selected Stories</i> , edited by Patrick Parrinder (London: Penguin, 2007), pp. 120–36
Food	H. G. Wells, <i>The Food of the Gods: And How It Came to Earth</i> (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1904)
FT	Thomas Hardy, "Fellow-Townsmen," in <i>Wessex Tales</i> (Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 86–135
Geriatrics	Ignatz Nascher, <i>Geriatrics: The Diseases of Old Age and their Treatment, Including Physiological Old Age, Home and Institutional Care, and Medio-Legal Relations</i> (York, PA: Maple Press, 1914)
Great	Charles Dickens, <i>Great Expectations</i> (London: Penguin, 1996)

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<i>Letters</i>	Elizabeth Gaskell, <i>The Letters of Mrs. Gaskell</i> , edited by J. A. V. Chapple and Arthur Pollard (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1967)
<i>MC</i>	Charles Dickens, <i>Martin Chuzzlewit</i> (Oxford University Press, 2009)
<i>Nature</i>	Élie Metchnikoff, <i>The Nature of Man: Studies in Optimistic Philosophy</i> (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1905)
<i>Orlando</i>	Virginia Woolf, <i>Orlando</i> (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1956)
<i>Prolongation</i>	Élie Metchnikoff, <i>The Prolongation of Life: Optimistic Studies</i> (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908)
<i>Shop</i>	Charles Dickens, <i>The Old Curiosity Shop</i> (London: Penguin, 2000)
<i>TM</i>	H. G. Wells, <i>The Time Machine: An Invention: A Critical Text of the 1895 London First Edition, with an Introduction and Appendices</i> , edited by Leon Stover (Jefferson: McFarland, 1996)
<i>Veil</i>	George Eliot, <i>The Lifted Veil and Brother Jacob</i> (Oxford University Press, 2009)
<i>Waves</i>	Virginia Woolf, <i>The Waves</i> (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1959)
<i>WB</i>	Thomas Hardy, <i>The Pursuit of the Well-Beloved and The Well-Beloved</i> (London: Penguin, 1997)
<i>WW</i>	H. G. Wells, <i>The War of the Worlds</i> (London: Penguin, 2005)
<i>Years</i>	Virginia Woolf, <i>The Years</i> (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1965)

Full details of all other works cited in the text and notes are given in the bibliography.