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Salem Press Announces A New Addition to the *Critical Insights Series: American Writers in Exile*

Critical Insights: American Writers in Exile examines the nature and significance of exile for a number of well-known American writers over the last two centuries. “Exile,” is not a condition or state that can be simply or airily defined, nor can its influence on any particular author be easily understood or casually dismissed. Rather it is often a transitional state, even if it appears more or less permanent to the impartial outside observer. Even the writer him or herself may misjudge the nature and extent of its impact. Many exiled writers leave their home country only to spend the balance of their professional lives remembering and recording impressionistic sketches of the nation and culture they have “left behind.” The condition of exile—seemingly so easy to achieve in this age of supersonic international flight—turns out to be a somewhat nebulous state of being. Indeed, it may be a matter of *becoming*, in a certain sense, a matter of existing in a nearly permanent liminality, rather than achievement of some finite, definitive end state.

Edited by Jeff Birkenstein, a professor of English at Saint Martin’s University and Robert Hauhart, a professor of Society and Social Justice at Saint Martin’s University, *Critical Insights: American Writers in Exile* seeks to offer an inside look at the impact of being an exiled American writer. In the first of four broad-based **Critical Context** essays, Sirpa Salenius describes the influence of “[A] Paradise for Exiles in Pursuit of Artistic Ease and Literary Quiet” on nineteenth-century American writers. The author of the quote, James Jackson Jarves, mentions the attraction Italy had for American artists and writers who chose such a serene place as the destination of their exile. There, American writers could look back at their own country and culture and reflect on its nature and do so from a vantage point that reflected the differences apparent when displayed against a European background. Editor, Jeff Berkenstein then explores the changes to the world that World War I brought on through two influential writers who spent time in Paris in various forms of self-imposed exile: Gertrude Stein and Ernest Hemingway. Birkenstein focuses on the concept of hunger and how this many-layered desire can help us understand the enormous changes of the era. Kelly C. MacPhail, writing about the early twentieth-century modernist poets T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden, and Ezra Pound, notes that each author challenges our conceptualization of national identity. Macphail locates the three poets among a broader generation of early twentieth-century writers who saw exile as a rich setting for literary cross-pollination and accretion. Lastly, Joseph J. Cheatle examines the lives at home and abroad for James Baldwin and Richard Wright and encounters a radically different narrative for their respective exiles, even though their careers are otherwise aligned in one or more ways.

Critical Readings contains eleven in-depth essays that provide an inside look at exiled American writers and their attempt at achieving a better life. Myrto Drizou begins this section of the book, tracing Edith Wharton’s émigré journey from the stifling, rigid social roles of class and gender in

“Old New York” through her discovery of a place for her exile—the world of literature. Charlotte Fiehn focuses on Henry James, whom was a true expatriate, spending more than forty years living in Europe (primarily England) both as a child and as an adult. By way of significant contrast, Matthew Teutsch offers a study in domestic exile with his meditation on the life and works of Ernest Gaines. Rebecca Young offers another variation on exile for an American writer: Jamaica Kincaid’s journey from Elaine Potter Richardson of Antigua to the internationally renowned American author we know today. Jericho Williams takes up the theme of an exile’s return in his portrait of Washington Irving, one of America’s earliest writer exiles. Other essays included are:

- “Elizabeth Bishop’s “Exile of the Disinherited”” by Angus Cleghorn
- “The Moroccan Literary Influences on Paul Bowles” by Leïla Moulfi
- “Edward Abbey’s Ecological Exile” by Ashley E. Reis
- “Hart Crane: A Romantic Lyricist, Reckless Exile” by Robert C. Hauhart
- ““A gob of spit in the face of Art”: Language in Exile in the Parisian Novels of Henry Miller” by Rossitsa Terzieva-Artemis
- “The Landscape of Exile: Joseph Brodsky as an American Poet” by Jamie Olson

Each essay in *Critical Insights: American Writers in Exile* is 2,500 to 5,000 words in length, and all essays conclude with a list of Works Cited and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume are **Appendixes** to provide readers with additional information and opportunities for further research, including a list of **Works by American Writers in Exile**, an annotated **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editors** and **Contributors**, and an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights Series* distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world’s more studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia’s most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: American Writers in Exile* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

Free Online with Print Purchase

In addition, *Critical Insights: American Writers in Exile* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

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