CONSUMPTION AND DEPRESSION IN GERTRUDE
STEIN, LOUIS ZUKOFSKY AND EZRA POUND

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Consumption and Depression in Gertrude Stein, Louis Zukofsky and Ezra Pound

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vi
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	viii
Introduction	1
1 'Enough is not enough': Consumption and Depression	16
2 Gertrude Stein's Great Depression	52
'Distribution and equilibration'	52
'Money is not give but sell'	65
'There is always this thing, what is it'	78
'There is no detection'	91
3 Value from Obligation	100
'The Capital and Capitals of the United States'	100
'Dois-je le dire'	112
Gertrude's Stain	127
4 'New Deal or Steal'	142
Introduction: 'To administer the public trust'	142
'If the common man get together'	150
'The people's issue of nothing'	161
'Nothing of value'	181
5 Animated Things	198
'Licit consumption impeded'	198
'The worker's image'	214
'Let him be consumed . . . !'	232
<i>Notes</i>	252
<i>Index</i>	282

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States of America'; 'Why I Like Detective Stories'; and 'How Writing is Written,' from *How Writing Is Written* (Santa Barbara: Black Sparrow, 1974); 'Identity. A Tale' and 'Political Series', from *Painted Lace*, vol. 5 of *The Yale Edition of the Unpublished Writings of Gertrude Stein* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1955); *Four in America* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1947); *The Geographical History of America* (New York: Vintage, 1973); *Everybody's Autobiography* (New York: Vintage, 1973). Acknowledgement is also made to the Estate of Gertrude Stein for permission to quote from the following unpublished works from the Gertrude Stein Collection at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University: 'Introduction' to Gertrude Stein's translation of Marshal Pétain's *Paroles aux Français*; and a manuscript entitled 'All Of It'. Acknowledgement is also made to the Johns Hopkins University Press for permission to quote from selected lines from Louis Zukofsky, *A* (© 1978 the Johns Hopkins University Press) sections 8, 9 and 12 (pp. 43–111, 202–3).

List of Abbreviations

Ezra Pound

- C *The Cantos of Ezra Pound* (New York: New Directions, 1986)
- LE *The Literary Essays of Ezra Pound*, ed. and with an introduction by T.S. Eliot (London: Faber, 1954)
- SP *Selected Prose*, ed. William Cookson (New York: New Directions, 1973)
- PZ *Pound/Zukofsky: Selected Letters of Ezra Pound and Louis Zukofsky*, ed. Barry Ahearn (New York: New Directions, 1987)

Gertrude Stein

- EA *Everybody's Autobiography* (New York: Vintage, 1973)
- GHA *The Geographical History of America* (New York: Vintage, 1973)
- HWW *How Writing is Written* (Los Angeles: Black Sparrow Press, 1974)
- LMN *Look at Me Now and Here I Am: Writings and Lectures 1909–1945*, ed. Patricia Meyerowitz (New York: Penguin, 1971)
- PL *Painted Lace: Vol. 7 of the Yale Collected Unpublished Writings of Gertrude Stein* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1959).

Louis Zukofsky

- A *A* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978)
- P *Prepositions: the Collected Critical Essays of Louis Zukofsky* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981)

The reciprocal and all-sided dependence of individuals who are indifferent to one another forms their social connection. This social bond is expressed in *exchange value*, by means of which alone each individual's own activity or his product becomes an activity and a product for him; he must produce a general product – *exchange value*, or, the latter isolated for itself and individualized, *money*. On the other side, the power which each individual exercises over the activity of others or over social wealth exists in him as the owner of *exchange values*, of *money*. The individual carries his social power, as well as his bond with society, in his pocket. Activity, regardless of its individual manifestation, and the product of activity, regardless of its particular make-up, are always *exchange value*, and exchange value is a generality, in which all individuality and peculiarity are negated and extinguished. . . . The general exchange of activities and products, which has become a vital condition for each individual – their mutual interconnection – here appears as something alien to them, autonomous, as a thing. In exchange value, the social connection between persons is transformed into a social relation between things; personal capacity into objective wealth. The less social power the medium of exchange possesses . . . the greater must be the power of the community which binds the individuals together, the patriarchal relation, the community of antiquity, feudalism and the guild system. Each individual possesses social power in the form of a thing. Rob the thing of this social power and you must give it to persons to exercise over persons.

Karl Marx, *Grundrisse* (New York: Vintage, 1973), pp. 157–8