MACMILLAN MODERN NOVELISTS

General Editor: Norman Page

MACMILLAN MODERN NOVELISTS

Published titles

E. M. FORSTER Norman Page
WILLIAM GOLDING James Gordin
MARCEL PROUST Philip Thody
SIX WOMEN NOVELISTS Merryn Williams
JOHN UPDIKE Judie Newman
H. G. WELLS Michael Draper

Forthcoming titles

ALBERT CAMUS Philip Thody
JOSEPH CONRAD Owen Knowles
FYODOR DOSTOEVSKI Peter Conradi
WILLIAM FAULKNER David Dowling
F. SCOTT FITZGERALD John S. Whitley
GUSTAVE FLAUBERT David Roe
JOHN FOWLES Simon Gatrell
GRAHAM GREENE Neil McEwan
HENRY JAMES Alan Bellringer
JAMES JOYCE Richard Brown
D. H. LAWRENCE G. M. Hyde
DORIS LESSING Ruth Whittaker
MALCOLM LOWRY Tony Bareham
GEORGE ORWELL Valerie Meyers
BARBARA PYM Michael Cotsell
MURIEL SPARK Norman Page
GERTRUDE STEIN Shirley Neuman
EVELYN WAUGH Jacqueline McDonnell
VIRGINIA WOOLF Edward Bishop

Series Standing Order

If you would like to receive future titles in this series as they are published, you can make use of our standing order facility. To place a standing order please contact your bookseller or, in case of difficulty, write to us at the address below with your name and address and the name of the series. Please state with which title you wish to begin your standing order. (If you live outside the United Kingdom we may not have the rights for your area, in which case we will forward your order to the publisher concerned.)

Customer Services Department, Macmillan Distribution Ltd
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 2XS, England.

MACMILLAN MODERN NOVELISTS

MARCEL PROUST

Philip Thody

© Philip Thody 1987

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1987 978-0-333-40696-0

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No paragraph of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act 1956 (as amended).

Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

First published 1987

Published by
MACMILLAN EDUCATION LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

Typeset by Wessex Typesetters
(Division of The Eastern Press Ltd)
Frome, Somerset

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Thody, Philip

Marcel Proust.—(Macmillan modern
novelists)

1. Proust, Marcel—Criticism and
interpretation

I. Title

843'.912 PQ2631.R63Z/

ISBN 978-0-333-40697-7 ISBN 978-1-349-19010-2 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-19010-2

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	vi
<i>General Editor's Preface</i>	vii
1 The Book, the Memories and the Man	1
2 Narration, Chronology and Technique	19
3 Freud, Childhood and the Unconscious	36
4 Love, Jealousy and Lesbianism	48
5 Heredity, Homosexuality and Science	68
6 Literature in Theory and in Practice	85
7 Exclusion, Society and Advice	103
8 Humour, Observation and Realism	116
9 Models, Language and Perspective	142
<i>Notes</i>	158
<i>Bibliography</i>	169
<i>Index</i>	172

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to Chatto and Windus, Random House Publishers and the Marcel Proust estate for allowing me to quote from Terence Kilmartin's 1981 translation of *Remembrance of Things Past*.

Annette Torode typed the many versions of my manuscript with exemplary care and good humour. Gwilym Rees made his accustomed and invaluable contribution to the accuracy and readability of what I had written. Any mistakes are entirely my own.

My thanks also go to the British Tax-Payer who provided the customary one hundred per cent subsidy without which this book – like my others – would never have been written.

General Editor's Preface

The death of the novel has often been announced, and part of the secret of its obstinate vitality must be its capacity for growth, adaptation, self-renewal and even self-transformation: like some vigorous organism in a speeded-up Darwinian ecosystem, it adapts itself quickly to a changing world. War and revolution, economic crisis and social change, radically new ideologies such as Marxism and Freudianism, have made this century unprecedented in human history in the speed and extent of change, but the novel has shown an extraordinary capacity to find new forms and techniques and to accommodate new ideas and conceptions of human nature and human experience, and even to take up new positions on the nature of fiction itself.

In the generations immediately preceding and following 1914, the novel underwent a radical redefinition of its nature and possibilities. The present series of monographs is devoted to the novelists who created the modern novel and to those who, in their turn, either continued and extended, or reacted against and rejected, the traditions established during that period of intense exploration and experiment. It includes a number of those who lived and wrote in the nineteenth century but whose innovative contribution to the art of fiction makes it impossible to ignore them in any account of the origins of the modern novel; it also includes the so-called 'modernists' and those who in the mid- and late twentieth century have emerged as outstanding practitioners of this genre. The scope is, inevitably, international; not only, in the migratory and exile-haunted world of our century, do writers refuse to heed national frontiers – 'English' literature lays claim to Conrad the Pole, Henry James the American, and Joyce the Irishman – but geniuses such as Flaubert, Dostoevski and Kafka have had an influence on the fiction of many nations.

Each volume in the series is intended to provide an introduction to the fiction of the writer concerned, both for those approaching him or her for the first time and for those who are already familiar with some parts of the achievement in question and now wish to place it in the context of the total *œuvre*. Although essential information relating to the writer's life and times is given, usually in an opening chapter, the approach is primarily critical and the emphasis is not upon 'background' or generalisations but upon close examination of important texts. Where an author is notably prolific, major texts have been selected for detailed attention but an attempt has also been made to convey, more summarily, a sense of the nature and quality of the author's work as a whole. Those who want to read further will find suggestions in the select bibliography included in each volume. Many novelists are, of course, not only novelists but also poets, essayists, biographers, dramatists, travel writers and so forth; many have practised shorter forms of fiction; and many have written letters or kept diaries that constitute a significant part of their literary output. A brief study cannot hope to deal with all these in detail, but where the shorter fiction and the non-fictional writings, public and private, have an important relationship to the novels, some space has been devoted to them.

NORMAN PAGE

To Florence, Bill and Martin Johnson