

war and peace constance garnett

****The Enduring Legacy of War and Peace Constance Garnett: A Translator's Triumph****

war and peace constance garnett is a phrase that carries with it the weight of literary history and the profound impact of translation on world literature. Constance Garnett's translations of Leo Tolstoy's monumental novel **War and Peace** opened the door to Russian literature for English-speaking audiences and have influenced the way generations understand one of the greatest novels ever written. But who was Constance Garnett, and why is her work on **War and Peace** still relevant today? Let's dive into the story behind this remarkable translator and explore how her efforts shaped literary appreciation across cultures.

Constance Garnett: The Woman Behind the Translation

Constance Garnett was a pioneering English translator of Russian literature in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Born in 1861, she developed an early passion for languages and literature. At a time when Russian literature was largely inaccessible to English readers, Garnett took on the formidable task of translating the works of Russian giants such as Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and Turgenev.

Her translation of **War and Peace** was not just a linguistic feat but a cultural bridge. Garnett's version was the first widely distributed English translation of the novel, and it played a crucial role in introducing Tolstoy's masterpiece to the English-speaking world.

The Challenge of Translating War and Peace

Translating **War and Peace** is no small feat. The novel is vast, with intricate characters, philosophical musings, historical narratives, and a complex structure that intertwines personal stories with sweeping depictions of the Napoleonic Wars. Garnett approached this with a combination of fidelity to the original text and a sensitivity to the expectations of English readers.

Her translation style has been noted for its clarity and fluency, making Tolstoy's dense prose accessible without sacrificing the novel's grandeur. However, some critics have pointed out that her Victorian English sometimes smooths over the rougher edges of Tolstoy's style, and certain cultural nuances might be lost or softened.

Why War and Peace Constance Garnett Matters in Literary History

The importance of Garnett's **War and Peace** translation goes beyond mere accessibility. It shaped the Anglophone world's perception of Russian literature and Tolstoy himself. Before Garnett, Russian novels were considered exotic and difficult; after her translations, they became part of the

Western literary canon.

Opening Doors to Russian Literature

Constance Garnett's translations came at a time when interest in Russian culture was growing, but access to authentic texts was limited. Her work enabled readers, scholars, and writers to explore themes of morality, spirituality, human struggle, and social change that are central to Russian literature. This had a ripple effect on English literature, inspiring authors like D.H. Lawrence and Virginia Woolf.

The Influence on English-speaking Writers and Readers

Many English-speaking writers credit Garnett's translations with broadening their literary horizons. The psychological depth and philosophical richness of **War and Peace**, as conveyed by Garnett, challenged and inspired writers to experiment with narrative forms and character development.

Moreover, readers gained a window into Russian society at a crucial historical moment, enriching their understanding of history, politics, and human nature. Garnett's work helped foster empathy and cross-cultural awareness through literature.

Understanding the Translation Style of War and Peace Constance Garnett

When people discuss **War and Peace Constance Garnett**, they often refer to her distinctive translation style. It reflects the conventions of her time but also her personal literary sensibility.

Balancing Literal and Literary Translation

One of the biggest challenges in translating classic literature is striking the right balance between literal accuracy and literary elegance. Garnett favored fluid, readable prose that conveyed the spirit of the original rather than a word-for-word rendition. This approach made the novel more enjoyable for general readers, though some scholars argue it occasionally simplified complex passages.

Victorian English and Its Effects

Garnett's translation was infused with the language conventions of late Victorian England. This sometimes led to a tone that feels formal or dated by today's standards. For example, some Russian idioms and cultural references were adapted or omitted to fit English sensibilities, which could alter the novel's atmosphere.

Despite these critiques, Garnett's translation has a timeless quality that helped *War and Peace* resonate with generations of readers.

The Legacy and Modern Perspectives on Garnett's War and Peace

In recent decades, new translations of *War and Peace* have emerged, aiming to capture Tolstoy's voice with greater fidelity to the original Russian text. These modern translators often acknowledge Garnett's pioneering role while offering fresh perspectives.

Comparing Garnett with Contemporary Translations

Modern translators like Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky have produced highly praised versions of *War and Peace* that emphasize closer adherence to Russian syntax, cultural context, and nuance. These translations sometimes contrast with Garnett's smoother, more Anglicized prose.

However, Garnett's translation still holds a special place for many readers who value its readability and historical significance. It remains a popular and influential edition, especially for those exploring Russian literature for the first time.

Why Read Garnett's Version Today?

If you're new to *War and Peace*, Garnett's translation is an excellent starting point. It provides a clear and engaging narrative that captures the essence of Tolstoy's story. Additionally, reading Garnett's work offers insight into how translation shapes literary reception and cultural exchange.

For students of literature and translation studies, comparing Garnett's work with other versions offers valuable lessons on the art and challenges of translating complex texts.

Tips for Exploring War and Peace Through Garnett's Translation

If you decide to embark on the journey through *War and Peace* using Constance Garnett's translation, here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Familiarize yourself with historical context:** Understanding the Napoleonic Wars and Russian society in the early 19th century will deepen your appreciation.
- **Use supplementary materials:** Consider reading footnotes, introductions, or companion guides that explain cultural references and character backgrounds.

- **Be patient with the language:** Some Victorian expressions may feel old-fashioned, but they add to the translation's unique charm.
- **Compare passages:** If curious, read excerpts from other translations to see how different translators interpret Tolstoy's prose.
- **Discuss with others:** Joining a book club or online forum can provide new insights and make the experience more engaging.

The Broader Impact of Translating War and Peace

Constance Garnett

Constance Garnett's work is a testament to the power of translation in bridging cultural divides. By rendering *War and Peace* into English, she didn't just translate words; she transmitted ideas, philosophies, and emotions across borders.

Her translations helped establish Russian literature as a cornerstone of global literary heritage, influencing both readers and writers worldwide. They remind us how translators serve as cultural ambassadors, expanding the horizons of literary enjoyment and understanding.

Whether you're a seasoned Tolstoy enthusiast or a newcomer to Russian classics, exploring *War and Peace* through Constance Garnett's lens offers a fascinating glimpse into the art of translation and the enduring resonance of great literature.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Constance Garnett in relation to 'War and Peace'?

Constance Garnett was a renowned English translator best known for translating major Russian literary works into English, including *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy.

What is notable about Constance Garnett's translation of 'War and Peace'?

Constance Garnett's translation of *War and Peace* is notable for making Tolstoy's classic accessible to English-speaking readers in the early 20th century, despite some criticisms regarding its Victorian style and occasional inaccuracies.

When was Constance Garnett's translation of 'War and Peace' first published?

Constance Garnett's translation of *War and Peace* was first published in the early 1900s, with the complete translation appearing around 1904.

How does Constance Garnett's translation of 'War and Peace' compare to more modern translations?

While Garnett's translation is praised for its literary quality and historical significance, modern translations tend to be more accurate linguistically and culturally, often reflecting updated scholarship and a closer adherence to Tolstoy's original text.

Did Constance Garnett translate other works by Leo Tolstoy?

Yes, Constance Garnett translated several of Tolstoy's works, including 'Anna Karenina' and various short stories, contributing greatly to the popularity of Russian literature in the English-speaking world.

What criticisms have been made about Constance Garnett's translation of 'War and Peace'?

Critics have pointed out that Garnett's translation sometimes imposes a Victorian English style that can feel dated and may obscure some of Tolstoy's original nuances and cultural context.

Why is Constance Garnett's translation of 'War and Peace' still read today?

Despite its criticisms, Garnett's translation remains influential due to its historical importance, readability, and role in introducing Tolstoy's work to a wide English-speaking audience.

How did Constance Garnett learn Russian to translate works like 'War and Peace'?

Constance Garnett taught herself Russian by studying the language intensively and reading extensively, which enabled her to translate complex literary texts like 'War and Peace'.

Are there notable differences in the tone of 'War and Peace' in Garnett's translation compared to the original?

Yes, Garnett's translation sometimes reflects a more formal and Victorian tone, which can differ from Tolstoy's original narrative style that includes shifts in tone and voice.

Where can readers find Constance Garnett's translation of 'War and Peace' today?

Constance Garnett's translation of 'War and Peace' is widely available in print and online, often in the public domain, through libraries, bookstores, and digital platforms like Project Gutenberg.

Additional Resources

War and Peace Constance Garnett: A Pioneering Translation that Shaped Literary Reception

war and peace constance garnett remains a phrase deeply rooted in the history of literary translation, symbolizing one of the earliest and most influential English renditions of Leo Tolstoy's monumental novel. Constance Garnett, a prolific translator of Russian literature at the turn of the 20th century, played a crucial role in introducing Russian classics to the English-speaking world. Her translation of War and Peace, although sometimes debated for its fidelity and stylistic choices, undeniably opened doors for wider appreciation and understanding of Tolstoy's epic masterpiece.

The Historical Context of Garnett's Translation of War and Peace

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Russian literature was largely inaccessible to English readers due to language barriers and limited availability of translations. Constance Garnett emerged as a key figure in bridging this gap. Having mastered Russian and gaining access to original manuscripts and manuscripts, Garnett undertook the challenging task of translating major Russian authors such as Dostoevsky, Turgenev, and Tolstoy. Her translation of War and Peace, first published in 1904-1905, came at a time when global interest in Russian literature was burgeoning, but English editions of such complex works were scarce.

Garnett's version of War and Peace was among the first complete English translations, shaping the perception of Tolstoy's work for generations. Her translation was instrumental in establishing Tolstoy's reputation outside Russia and provided English readers with access to the sprawling narrative of Russian society during the Napoleonic Wars.

Constance Garnett's Translation Style and Its Impact

Garnett's translation style has been both praised and critiqued over time. She was known for her clarity, smooth prose, and an ability to render Russian texts into accessible English. However, some scholars argue that her approach sometimes sacrificed the original Russian linguistic nuances and stylistic intricacies for readability. This is particularly evident in War and Peace, a text dense with philosophical reflections, historical detail, and multiple narrative voices.

Still, Garnett's translation remains significant for its role in popularizing Russian literature. Her work often prioritized narrative flow and coherence, which helped English readers navigate Tolstoy's complex plotlines and extensive cast of characters. Despite occasional criticism about omissions or simplifications, Garnett's translation was a monumental achievement in literary history.

Comparing Garnett's War and Peace with Other Translations

Over the years, several new translations of *War and Peace* have emerged, each bringing different interpretive and stylistic choices to the text. Notable translators like Ann Dunnigan, Rosemary Edmonds, and Richard Pevear & Larissa Volokhonsky have offered alternative versions that reflect evolving translation theories and linguistic preferences.

- **Rosemary Edmonds** (1957): Often praised for elegance and fidelity, Edmonds' translation is more literal than Garnett's and attempts to preserve Tolstoy's tone and cultural context.
- **Ann Dunnigan** (1968): Dunnigan's translation is recognized for its accessibility and straightforward style, but some critics find it less nuanced.
- **Pevear and Volokhonsky** (2007): Their version is celebrated for its meticulous attention to detail, capturing the complexity of Tolstoy's prose and the subtleties of the original Russian text.

When compared to these later translations, Garnett's *War and Peace* may seem dated or less precise, yet it retains a charm and historical importance that newer versions do not replicate. Her translation introduced countless readers to Tolstoy's universe at a time when no alternatives existed.

Challenges Faced by Garnett in Translating *War and Peace*

Translating *War and Peace* presented numerous challenges for Garnett:

1. **Length and Complexity:** *War and Peace* is an extensive novel with over a thousand pages, multiple storylines, and a vast array of characters. Maintaining consistency across such length was a formidable task.
2. **Cultural and Historical Context:** The novel is deeply rooted in Russian history and social structures, requiring Garnett to convey nuances that might be unfamiliar to English readers.
3. **Philosophical and Stylistic Depth:** Tolstoy's philosophical digressions and varied narrative styles demanded a translator who could balance literary artistry with clarity.

Despite these obstacles, Garnett's translation managed to communicate the essence of Tolstoy's themes—war, peace, human nature, and societal change—making the novel accessible without overwhelming readers.

The Legacy of *War and Peace* Constance Garnett Translation

The significance of Garnett's *War and Peace* extends beyond mere linguistic rendition; it embodies a

cultural transmission that shaped Anglo-American literary tastes and scholarly approaches to Russian literature. Her work laid the foundation for subsequent research, adaptations, and critical studies.

Moreover, Garnett's translation influenced the way *War and Peace* was taught in universities and perceived by general readers during the early 20th century. Many English-speaking readers' first encounter with Tolstoy's epic was through her prose, which means her interpretive lens inevitably colored their understanding.

While modern critics sometimes highlight flaws in Garnett's translation—such as occasional Victorian-era English idioms or smoothing over of Russian-specific expressions—her pioneering efforts remain invaluable. The accessibility and narrative coherence she provided arguably helped cement *War and Peace* as a global literary classic.

Why Readers Still Turn to Garnett's Translation

In an age where multiple versions of *War and Peace* coexist, Garnett's translation continues to attract readers for several reasons:

- **Historical Value:** Garnett's translation represents a milestone in literary history and offers insights into early 20th-century translation practices.
- **Readable Prose:** Her English rendition is often smoother and more fluid than some modern literal translations, appealing to readers seeking an engaging narrative.
- **Availability:** Garnett's *War and Peace* is widely available in public domain editions, making it accessible to a broad audience without cost barriers.

For those interested in the evolution of literary translation or the reception of Russian literature in the West, Garnett's *War and Peace* remains a crucial point of reference.

Conclusion: The Enduring Influence of Garnett's *War and Peace*

The phrase *war and peace* Constance Garnett encapsulates more than just a translation; it signifies a transformative literary event that broadened cultural horizons and enabled Tolstoy's masterpiece to transcend linguistic boundaries. While newer translations offer fresh perspectives and enhanced fidelity, Garnett's version endures as a testament to her dedication, linguistic skill, and pioneering spirit.

Her translation is a lens through which early English readers experienced the tumultuous world of 19th-century Russia, navigating themes of conflict, reconciliation, and human endurance. In this way, Constance Garnett's *War and Peace* continues to resonate as a cornerstone of literary history, marking a vital chapter in the ongoing dialogue between languages and cultures.

War And Peace Constance Garnett

war and peace constance garnett: *War and Peace ... Translated ... by Constance Garnett*
Lev Nikolaevich TOLSTOI (Count.), 1937

war and peace constance garnett: *War and Peace ... Translated from the Russian by Constance Garnett. With Illustrations by John Groth* graf Leo Tolstoy, Constance Garnett, John GROTH, 1961

war and peace constance garnett: *Tolstoi: Art and Influence* , 2023-01-23 Editors Robert Reid and Joe Andrew present eleven contributions by international scholars which highlight Tolstoi's influence on his contemporaries and posterity through his fiction and thought. A figure of Tolstoi's intellectual stature has naturally inspired an impressive range of responses. These encompass stage versions of his novels (*War and Peace* and *Resurrection*), communes founded in his name, and translations which have sought to capture the essence of his works for successive generations. Tolstoi is also compared in this volume with his contemporaries in chapters on Dostoevskii, Veselitsakaia, Rozanov and Elizabeth Gaskell. The reader of this work will gain new and unique insights into an unparalleled genius of world literature, especially into his immense cultural reach which continues to this day. Contributors: Carol Apollonio, Katherine Jane Briggs, Elena Govor, Nel Grillaert, Susan Layton, Cynthia Marsh, Henrietta Mondry, Richard Peace, Alexandra Smith, Olga Sobolev, Willem Weststeijn, Kevin Windle.

war and peace constance garnett: *War and Peace* Leo Tolstoy, Constance Garnette, 2017-01-04 This edition contains detailed introduction to this Book, its author Leo Tolstoy and translator Constance Garnett in *War And Peace*, Volume 1 (ISBN- 9781542334266)'*War and Peace*', regarded as one of the central works of world literature and one of the longest novels, is written by the Russian author and philosopher Leo Tolstoy. *War and Peace*, first published in 1869, and *Anna Karenina* (1878) are considered his finest literary achievements. * *Newsweek* in 2009 ranked '*War and Peace*' first in its 'Top 100 Books'. * In 2007, *Time* magazine ranked *War and Peace* third in its poll of the 10 greatest books of all time while *Anna Karenina* was ranked first. * According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, no single English novel attains the universality of Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. * Gustave Flaubert wrote to Turgenev This is the first class work! What an artist and what a psychologist! very powerful indeed. * John Galsworthy called *War and Peace* the best novel that had ever been written. * Romain Rolland wrote: this work, like life itself, has no beginning, no end. It is life itself in its eternal movement. * Thomas Mann considered *War and Peace* to be the greatest ever war novel in the history of literature. * Ernest Hemingway confessed, I don't know anybody who could write about war better than Tolstoy did*War and Peace* depicts the history of the French invasion of Russia and the impact of the Napoleonic era on Russian society through the stories of five Russian aristocratic families. Titled '*The Year 1805*', this novel was serialized in *The Russian Messenger* in 1865-67. Tolstoy rewrote the entire story between 1866 and 1869 and published it as a single book in 1869 with an ending very different from the earlier serialized version. Leo Tolstoy was born at Yasnaya Polyana, 200 kilometers south of Moscow. The 'Tolstoy family' was of old Russian nobility that traced its ancestry to a mythical Lithuanian noble Indris. Leo Tolstoy was the fourth of five children of Count Nikolai Ilyich Tolstoy, a veteran of the Patriotic War of 1812, and Countess Mariya Tolstaya, both of whom died when Leo Tolstoy was young. In 1844, he began studying at Kazan University where his teachers described him as unable and unwilling to learn. Tolstoy left the university in the middle of his studies and spent much of his time in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. In 1851, after running up heavy gambling debts, he joined the army where he started writing. During his 1857 visit, Tolstoy witnessed a public execution in Paris, a traumatic experience that would mark the rest of his life. He wrote in a letter to his friend Vasily Botkin: The truth is that the State is a conspiracy designed not only to exploit, but above all to corrupt its citizens ... Henceforth, I shall

never serve any government anywhere. Tolstoy's concept of non-violence or Ahimsa was bolstered when he read a German version of the Tirukkural. He later instilled this concept in Mahatma Gandhi through his 'A Letter to a Hindu' when young Gandhi sought his advice. His European trip in 1860-61 shaped his political and literary development when he met Victor Hugo, who had finished his book *Les Misérables*. Tolstoy's political philosophy was also influenced by a March 1861 visit to French anarchist Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, then living in exile under an assumed name in Brussels. Apart from reviewing Proudhon's forthcoming publication, *La Guerre et la Paix* ('The War and The Peace' in French), Tolstoy discussed education with him. On September 23, 1862, Tolstoy married Sophia Andreevna Behrs, the daughter of a court physician. Tolstoy had 13 children from Sofia, eight of whom survived their childhood. Tolstoy died of pneumonia at Astapovo train station in 1910 at the age of 82 after a day's rail journey in south. The police tried to limit access to his funeral procession, but thousands of peasants lined the streets.

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war and peace constance garnett: *The Oxford Guide to Literature in English Translation* Peter France, 2000 Translation has been a crucial process in world culture over the past two millennia and more. In the English-speaking cultures many of the most important texts are translations, from Homer to Beckett, the Bible to Freud. Although recent years have seen a boom in translation studies, there has been no comprehensive yet convenient guide to this essential element of literature in English. Written by eminent scholars from many countries, the *Oxford Guide to Literature in English Translation* meets this need and will be essential reading for all students of English and comparative literature. It highlights the place of translation in our culture, encouraging awareness of the issues raised, making the translator more visible. Concentrating on major writers and works, it covers translations out of many languages, from Greek to Korean, from Swahili to Russian. For some works (e.g. Virgil's *Aeneid*) which have been much translated, the discussion is historical and critical, showing how translation has evolved over the centuries and bringing out the differences between versions. Elsewhere, with less familiar literatures, the Guide examines the extent to which translation has done justice to the range of work available. The Guide is divided into two parts. Part I contains substantial essays on theoretical questions, a pioneering outline of the history of translation into English, and discussions of the problems raised by specific types of text (e.g. poetry, oral literature). The second, much longer, part consists of entries grouped by language of origin; some are devoted to individual texts (e.g. the *Thousand and One Nights*) or writers (e.g. Ibsen, Proust), but the majority offer a critical overview of a genre (e.g. Chinese poetry, Spanish Golden Age drama) or of a national literature (e.g. Hungarian, Scottish Gaelic). There is a selective bibliography for each entry and an index of authors and translators.

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society, including the hearts and minds of many of his famous literary friends.

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war and peace constance garnett: In Defence of T. S. Eliot Craig Raine, 2011-12-12 His pieces, on the literary world and some of its most fascinating figures and classics, bear his hallmark of vitality and distinctive approach. Raine's knowledge of the span of literary theory (and anecdote) and the incisiveness of his thinking uncover as far more contradictory and complex in their successes writers customarily held in reverence. The essays range from a powerful piece on the KGB's literary archive to thoughts about tragedy in Kipling's life, from Auden, Nabokov and Beckett to the state of health of Samuel Johnson's testicles. This book celebrates the diversity of the world of books and Raine is a supremely entertaining and thought-provoking guide. 'Raine pounces on writers lacking his own high degree of linguistic resolution and independence. The citizenly impulse behind these arresting critical interventions is usually commendable. One gets the impression of a man simmering in long silence, coming reluctantly to the boil because someone has to speak up' Geoff Dyer, Guardian

war and peace constance garnett: Virginia Woolf and the Migrations of Language Emily Dalgarno, 2011-10-06 Virginia Woolf's rich and imaginative use of language was partly a result of her keen interest in foreign literatures and languages - mainly Greek and French, but also Russian, German and Italian. As a translator she naturally addressed herself both to contemporary standards of translation within the university, but also to readers like herself. In *Three Guineas* she ranged herself among German scholars who used *Antigone* to critique European politics of the 1930s. Orlando outwits the censors with a strategy that focuses on Proust's untranslatable word. *The Waves* and *The Years* show her looking ahead to the problems of postcolonial society, where translation crosses borders. In this in-depth study of Woolf and European languages and literatures, Emily Dalgarno opens up a rewarding new way of reading her prose.

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Der Autor entwirft in diesem Standardwerk eine wegweisende Theorie des Erzählens und analysiert zentrale narratologische Kategorien wie Fiktion, Mimesis, Autor, Leser, Erzähler, Erzählperspektive, Text, Geschichte, Erzählzeit usw. Er bestimmt alle für narrative Texte konstitutiven Merkmale, ergänzt um eine ausführliche Bibliographie und ein narratologisches Glossar. Dieses Kompendium stellt Studenten ebenso wie Wissenschaftlern aller Philologien ein grundlegendes und unerlässliches terminologisches und theoretisches Instrumentarium zur Verfügung. In der 3. Auflage ist die Theorie der Ereignishaftigkeit wesentlich erweitert und das Kapitel „Erzählperspektive“ durch einen Abschnitt zur „Perspektivenstruktur“ ergänzt worden. Zudem wurden alle Kapitel kritisch durchgesehen, fallweise revidiert und durch Ausführungen zur aktuellen Diskussion sowie Verweise auf rezente Publikationen erweitert.

war and peace constance garnett: William James in Russian Culture Joan Delaney Grossman, Ruth Rischin, 2003-01-01 Editors Joan Grossman and Ruth Rischin pose to their contributors an intriguing question: What happens when the ideas of a thinker like William James, who--despite his originality--was deeply rooted in American traditions, are refracted through a culture that draws on a heritage profoundly different from his own? Including studies of reception and interpretation of James's major works and analyses of the impact of his own philosophy on certain Russian writers and thinkers, William James in Russian Culture reveals striking parallels among and divergences between the intellectual and the spiritual realms.

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field remains at the center of interest in Comparative Literature.

war and peace constance garnett: *Audiobooks, Literature, and Sound Studies* Matthew Rubery, 2011-05-09 This is the first scholarly work to examine the cultural significance of the talking book since the invention of the phonograph in 1877, the earliest machine to enable the reproduction of the human voice. Recent advances in sound technology make this an opportune moment to reflect on the evolution of our reading practices since this remarkable invention. Some questions addressed by the collection include: How does auditory literature adapt printed texts? What skills in close listening are necessary for its reception? What are the social consequences of new listening technologies? In sum, the essays gathered together by this collection explore the extent to which the audiobook enables us not just to hear literature but to hear it in new ways. Bringing together a set of reflections on the enrichments and impoverishments of the reading experience brought about by developments in sound technology, this collection spans the earliest adaptations of printed texts into sound by Charles Dickens, Thomas Hardy, and other novelists from the late nineteenth century to recordings by contemporary figures such as Toni Morrison and Barack Obama at the turn of the twenty-first century. As the voices gathered here suggest, it is time to give a hearing to one of the most talked about new media of the past century.

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