



Critical Companion to T. S. Eliot: A Literary Reference to His Life and Work (Critical Companion (Hardcover))

By Russell Elliott Murphy

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Best known for his works *The Waste Land*, *Four Quartets*, and *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, T.S. Eliot is one of the most popular 20th-century poets studied in high school and college English classes today. Eliot's masterful use of classical allusions throughout his works demonstrates the great importance he placed on tradition and its place within literary history. Believing that the fragments of a once-great culture surrounded the modern world through literature, he used his writing to recreate the past through tradition. amazing Nobel Prize-winning writer, with extensive analyses of Eliot's writing, as well as entries on related topics and relevant people, places, and influences. This accessible volume also provides crucial historical and thematic information, along with illustrations, a bibliography, and cross-references.

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Editorial Review

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This volume is a part of Facts On File's burgeoning Critical Companion series. Eliot has been one of the most enigmatic but enduring modernists since the publication of *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* in 1915. Despite his relatively spare total output of work, he remains popular among students and scholars. Known mainly as a poet of such lasting works as "The Waste Land" and *Four Quartets*, as well as "Prufrock," he was also a noted playwright (*Murder in the Cathedral*) and critic, publishing a number of well-received and influential collections of literary essays. It is important to note that this volume is not labeled as an encyclopedia, for it does not simply contain an alphabetical list of brief entries. Rather, it is divided into four distinctly developed parts. The first is a biography of nearly 30 pages covering Eliot's upbringing, influences, religious conversion, and marriages. The heart of the work and by far its longest part is the second section, arranged A–Z and containing detailed analyses of and commentary on his works. Part 3 focuses on figures, works, and locations that had a lasting influence on Eliot. The last section contains a chronology and bibliography of sources by and about Eliot. The analyses in the second part are quite extensive (entries on "The Waste Land" and *Four Quartets* are 60 and 44 pages, respectively) yet cogently written and easy to follow. Many include information on the publication history of the work and assistance in understanding Eliot's extensive use of allusions. Part 3 naturally complements this section by providing further explanation of the influences on these works. Examples of topics here include Catholicism, Dante Alighieri, Harvard, and *Vers libre* (free verse). Overall, this is an excellent and exhaustive resource and a good buy for most libraries. It could just as appropriately be placed with the literary criticism as in the reference collection. --Michael Tosko

Review

..,"one of the best reference books of the year."

"An excellent addition to an already strong series, recommended..."

Users Review

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Jacqueline Bull:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important usually. The book *Critical Companion to T. S. Eliot: A Literary Reference to His Life and Work (Critical Companion (Hardcover))* had been making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The publication *Critical Companion to T. S. Eliot: A Literary Reference to His Life and Work (Critical Companion (Hardcover))* is not only giving you more new information but also to get your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship using the book *Critical Companion to T. S. Eliot: A Literary Reference to His Life and Work (Critical Companion (Hardcover))*. You never sense lose out for everything should you read some books.

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William Fields:

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