



The House of Fiction as the House of Life: Representations of the House from Richardson to Woolf

By Francesca Saggini

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In recent years, the interest for the house has grown irresistibly, to the point that in many ways houses seem to be situated at the very core of the creative, artistic and cultural domains of contemporaneity. Their presence sprawls across the media, from magazines to TV programmes, and across the globe, possibly because as repositories of the human, houses have a long-standing and profound connection not only with men and women but, at a deeper level, with the ways of representing man's world, across its declinations of gender, class, and race. Houses - the perennial, ubiquitous and silent background to our daily lives - could many a tale unfold: the tales of their inhabitants and/in their relationships with the others, of the times they lived in, of their configurations of the world as well as the visions (and nightmares) of the artists who created them. This collection offers a comprehensive and transdisciplinary look at the paper houses of English Literature in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Among the configurations addressed, the authors investigate the domestic spatialization of authority, gendered houses, narratives of household construction and deconstruction, exotic mansions, fin-de-siecle habitats, haunted edifices, and houses in detective and Gothic fiction.

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Francesca Saggini is Associate Professor of English Literature at the Università della Tuscia (Italy). Among her recent publications, *Backstage in the Novel: Frances Burney and the Theater Arts* (2012) was awarded the Walker Cowen Memorial Prize for an outstanding work in eighteenth-century studies. Anna Enrichetta Soccio is Associate Professor of English Literature at the Università G. d'Annunzio, Chieti (Italy). She has published on a range of nineteenth- and twentieth-century topics and authors (Scott, Austen, Dickens, Gaskell, Meredith, Hardy, Hawthorne, T. Morrison, Larkin).

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