

Notes on Contributors

James Dowthwaite is Junior Professor of English Literature and Culture at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz. His books include *Ezra Pound and 20th Century Theories of Language: Faith with the Word* (Routledge, 2019) and the forthcoming *Aesthetic Criticism: An Introduction* (Routledge, 2026). Poems, essays, and reviews have appeared, amongst other places, in *Acumen*, *ASAP/J*, *The Fortnightly Review*, *The High Window*, *Literary Imagination*, *PN Review*, *Strix*, and *Poetry Salzburg Review*.

Aman Erfan is a PhD candidate in English at the University of Leeds. She has previously worked on contemporary East-Asian literature, and her current research focuses on representations of the fungal in twenty-first-century literature and culture.

Mary Gallagher is Professor of French and Francophone Studies at University College Dublin. Her interest in Caribbean writing (*La Créolité de Saint-John Perse*, Gallimard, 1998 and *Soundings in French Caribbean Writing since 1950*, Oxford University Press, 2002) and in translation drew her to Hearn's work and to its French reception. Her short studies on his association with the Creole cultural continuum and with the Creole folktale appeared in *American Creoles* (Liverpool University Press, 2012) and in *The Conte, Oral and Written Dynamics* (Peter Lang, 2010) respectively. Her critical editions of the 1920s–1930s French translations of Hearn's Creole writings were published by L'Harmattan (Paris): 'Martinique Sketches', 2 vols (2003); 'A Midsummer Trip to the Tropics' (2004); 'Creole Fantastics and Floridian Reveries' (2023).

Antony Goedhals is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English at the University of Pretoria. He is a generalist and has published on Medieval as well as Victorian literature, including *The Neo-Buddhist Writings of Lafcadio Hearn: Light from the East* (Brill, 2020). He teaches a wide range of texts, poetry and prose, from Geoffrey Chaucer to J. M. Coetzee.

Daichi Ishikawa is a Senior Assistant Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Liberal Arts at Keio University, Japan. He earned a PhD in English from Queen Mary University of London in 2018, with a thesis on British aestheticism and cosmopolitan notions of curiosity in Walter Pater, John Addington Symonds, and Lafcadio Hearn. His publications include a chapter on Pater's 'Sir Thomas Browne' and its nineteenth-century British context (Routledge, 2017), as well as articles on novelty in Pater's cosmopolitan aestheticism (2022) and on radical idleness in Pater and Oscar Wilde (2023). A chapter on Pater's *non finito* is forthcoming in a book which celebrates the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Walter Pater Society of Japan.

Isabelle Lavelle is Associate Professor of Japanese and Comparative Literature in the College of Humanities and Sciences at Nihon University. She earned a PhD in Japanese Studies from Paris Cité University, with a thesis on Dazai Osamu, and a PhD in Communication Studies from Waseda University, with a thesis on the Japanese reception of French decadence. Her research focuses on the displacement and reinterpretation of European Symbolism in Meiji and Taishō Japan. Her recent publication includes a chapter on the translation and canonisation of Verlaine between France and Japan in *Textual Heritage: Locating Textual Practices Across Heritage and the Humanities* (Berghahn Books, 2026).

Paul Murray is a retired Irish diplomat whose postings include Ambassador to Korea (South and North), and to the OECD and UNESCO. Murray's interest in Lafcadio Hearn was ignited by a posting in Tokyo in the late 1970s. His biography, *A Fantastic Journey: The Life and Literature of Lafcadio Hearn* (1993), was a recipient of Koizumi Yakumo Literary Prize (1995). He edited *The Japanese Ghost Stories of Lafcadio Hearn* for Penguin Classics (2019). He was awarded the Gold Medal of the Ireland Japan Association in 1999. Following his biography, *From the Shadow of Dracula: A*

Life of Bram Stoker (2004), he has published extensively on Stoker, including four long-lost short stories, and contributed to *Gibbet Hill* (2024) and *Irish Writers in the Civil Service* (2025). He has also written on lesser-known writers such as Frank Frankfort Moore, Ethel Voynich, and Hamilton Deane. Two of his dramas have been performed in Dublin.

Tom Smith is Senior Lecturer in German at the University of St Andrews. His research focuses on modern and contemporary German literature, film and performance, gender and queer studies. His book *Comrades in Arms* was published by Berghahn Books in 2020. He is an AHRC/BBC New Generation Thinker and regularly presents his work on BBC radio. He has worked as a translator in various contexts.

Cheyenne Symonette is a PhD candidate in English Literature at Michigan State University, where her research explores Victorian and Modernist literature, decadence, and the cultural histories of the circum-Caribbean through works by authors such as Lafcadio Hearn, Zora Neale Hurston, M. P. Shiel, and Rachilde.

Damian Walsh is a PhD candidate in English at University College London and incoming Wilde-Holland Fellow at UCLA's Center for 17th- and 18th-Century Studies. His doctoral thesis, 'Ritual Forms: Spiritual Exercise in Irish Diasporic Decadence, 1870-1939', examines the interaction between Irish writers and global religious traditions at fin de siècle. A chapter on Oscar Wilde's critical dialogues is forthcoming in *Victorian Darkneses* (Palgrave).

GUEST EDITOR

Fraser Riddell is Associate Professor in English and Medical Humanities at Durham University. His books include *Music and the Queer Body in English Literature at the Fin de Siècle* (Cambridge University Press, 2022) and, as co-editor, *Charlotte Men: Poetics, Bodies, Ecologies* (Palgrave, 2024). A chapter on Lafcadio Hearn and neurodiversity is forthcoming in *The Role of Narrative in the Medical and Health Humanities: Questions of Method, Scale, Genre, and Form* (De Gruyter).

EDITORIAL

Jane Desmarais (Editor-in-Chief) is Professor of English and Director of the Decadence Research Centre at Goldsmiths, University of London. She has written numerous essays on the theme of decadence and has co-edited several works, including *Decadence: An Annotated Anthology* (with Chris Baldick, Manchester University Press, 2012), *Arthur Symonds: Selected Early Poems* (with Chris Baldick, MHRA, 2017), and *Decadence and the Senses* (with Alice Condé, Legenda, 2017). She is co-editor with David Weir of *Decadence and Literature* (2019), a volume in the Cambridge Critical Concepts series, and the *Oxford Handbook of Decadence* (2021) and *Decadent Plays, 1890-1930* with Adam Alston (Bloomsbury, 2023). Her monograph, *Monsters Under Glass: A Cultural History of Hothouse Flowers, 1850 to the Present*, was published by Reaktion in 2018.

Alice Condé (Deputy Editor) is Lecturer in English at Goldsmiths, University of London. She is co-editor of *Decadence and the Senses* (with Jane Desmarais, Legenda, 2017) and *In Cynara's Shadow: Collected Essays on Ernest Dowson* (with Jessica Gossling, Peter Lang, 2019). Her essay on 'Decadence and Popular Culture' appears in Jane Desmarais and David Weir's *Decadence and Literature* (2019), and 'Contemporary Contexts: Decadence Today and Tomorrow' appears in Desmarais and Weir's *Oxford Handbook of Decadence* (2021).

Jessica Gossling (Deputy Editor) is Co-Deputy Director of the Decadence Research Centre and Lecturer in English at Goldsmiths, University of London. She is also Treasurer of the British Association of Decadence Studies and Deputy Managing Editor of *The Literary Encyclopedia*. Jessica is co-editor, with Sam Kunkel, of *The Decadent Bestiary* (Strange Attractor, 2025), and, with Alice Condé, of *In Cynara's Shadow: Collected Essays on Ernest Dowson (1867–1900)* (Peter Lang, 2019). Her recent work includes a chapter on 'French Decadence' in *Michael Field in Context*, edited by Sarah Parker (Cambridge University Press, 2025), and an essay on 'Decadent Magic: Arthur Machen's *The Hill of Dreams*' in *Magic: A Companion*, edited by Katharina Rein (Peter Lang, 2022). Jessica and Alice are the webmistresses of volupte.gold.ac.uk.

REVIEWS EDITORS

Sam Kunkel is originally from the United States but has lived in Paris since 2010. He double-majored in French and Russian languages and literature at Oberlin College and holds a masters degree from the Sorbonne as well as a doctorate from the University of Paris-Saclay in the field of comparative literature. His work is centered around the intersection of religion and nineteenth century European decadence and symbolism. His book, *L'Orphisme et le Roman post-romantique* was published by Éditions Otrante in 2023. He also works as a translator and has published English translations of *The Solar Circus* by Gustave Kahn, as well as selected mystical prose pieces by Édouard Schuré. A forthcoming publication, entitled *Know Me To Be Your Superior in Everything: Erik Satie and the Metropolitan Church of Art of Jesus the Conductor*, will be released in 2025. Sam is the editor of *Faunus*, the journal of Arthur Machen studies.

Sandra M. Leonard is Associate Professor of English at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. She is editor-in-chief of the COVE edition of Oscar Wilde's *The Portrait of Mr. W. H.* and is the author of a number of articles and book chapters on Wilde including 'Vera's Sister Play *Czeka*' in *The Wildean*. Her chapter "'Too greedily and too deep": Decadence and the Relics of Empires in Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*' will appear in the forthcoming anthology *Tolkien's Medievalism in Ruins: The Function of Relics and Ruins in Middle-Earth*. Sandra is working on a monograph on Oscar Wilde and aesthetic plagiarism.