

Notes on Contributors

Antti Ahmala is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Helsinki, Finland. His doctoral dissertation (2016) examines the themes of authenticity and alienation in the early symbolist and decadent works of Joel Lehtonen (1881–1934). In his more recent research, Ahmala has studied antimodernism in Finnish literature of the fin de siècle and in Finnish essayistic literature from the early twentieth century to contemporary authors. Ahmala's research interests also include the Finnish Civil War (1918) and the study of literature and emotions.

Adam Cullen is a poet and translator of Estonian prose, poetry, children's literature, and theatre into English. His translation of the late Estonian president Lennart Meri's epic *Silverwhite* was published by Hurst in 2025. Cullen's other recent translations include *I Am an Illustrator* (Graffeg 2026), *Between Two Sounds* (Plough 2024 – American Library Association's Top Ten 2025 Best Graphic Novels for Adults, 2025 IPPY Awards Gold Winner), and *John the Skeleton* (Restless Books 2024–2025 Kirkus Prize finalist, winner of the American Library Association's 2025 Batchelder Award). Originally from Minnesota, he has lived in Estonia for nearly two decades.

Frankie Dytor is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow in English at the University of Exeter. They received their PhD in History of Art from the University of Cambridge in 2023. Their work has been published in *Victorian Literature and Culture*, *Journal of Victorian Culture*, and *Volupté: Interdisciplinary Journal of Decadence Studies*. Frankie's first book, *Queer Practices of Art History: The Renaissance Lives of Decadent Aesthetes*, is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press.

Timo Huusko is Chief Curator of Collections at Ateneum Art Museum/Finnish National Gallery in Helsinki. He has written art-historical articles for exhibition catalogues and scientific publications, and curated and co-curated art exhibitions. He specializes in primitivism and nationalism in early twentieth-century Finnish and European art.

Merlin Kirikal is Researcher at the University of Tartu and Senior Researcher-Department Lead at the Under and Tuglas Literary Institute of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. In 2022–25, she was a member of the decadence project 'Tsiiviliseeritud rahvuse teke: Dekadents kui üleminek 1905-1940' [The Emergence of a Civilized Nation: Decadence as 'Transitionality, 1905–1940] (PRG1667). Her research topics are literary decadence and modernism; interart aesthetics; feminism, gender, and queer studies. Recently she has published articles and chapters about feminist decadence. Together with Mirjam Hinrikus she has published on the impact of Nietzsche and Bergson on Estonian fiction during the first half of the twentieth century and co-edited a special issue of *Keel ja Kirjandus* on Estonian literary decadence (2024).

Tiina Ann Kirss (PhD in Comparative Literature) is a Senior Researcher at the Estonian Literary Museum in Tartu. Her research focuses on the European historical novel in the modern period, exile and the formation of Baltic diasporas following World War II, trauma theory, life stories and epistolary writing, incorporating gender perspectives in her work. She has written on the Young Estonia movement, the New Woman in Estonian literature and history, and postcolonial approaches to modern Estonian literature. She is currently translating 'Torn' [Tower], a collection of Estonian poet Ene Mihkelson's poetry into English.

Leo Luks is a researcher at Tallinn University, teaches philosophy at the Estonian University of Life Sciences, and is a member of the decadence project 'Tsiiviliseeritud rahvuse teke: Dekadents kui üleminek 1905-1940' [The Emergence of a Civilized Nation: Decadence as 'Transitionality, 1905–1940] (PRG1667). His research focuses on phenomenology and Nietzsche's philosophy,

especially nihilism. He is also interested in the philosophy of literature. His monograph *Nihilism and Literature* appeared in 2015, and he has published numerous essays and articles.

Adrianna M. Paliyenko is Professor of French and holds the Arnold Bernhard Professorship in Arts and Humanities at Colby College, Maine, USA. She is the author of *Genius Envy: Women Shaping French Poetic History, 1801-1900* (Pennsylvania State UP, 2016), which appeared in French translation (by Nicole Albert) under the title *Envie de génie: La contribution des femmes à l'histoire de la poésie française (XIXe siècle)* (PURH, 2020). Her recent publications include: *The Stoics: A Bilingual Critical Edition* of Louisa Siefert's 1870 poetry collection, with translations by the late Norman Shapiro (Pennsylvania State UP, 2023); *Redécouvrir Louisa Siefert: richesse d'une œuvre de femme à l'ère de la modernité*, a volume of essays co-edited with Aimée Boutin and Catherine Witt (Honoré Champion, 2024); and a modern critical edition of Marie Krysinska's fin-de-siècle novel, *La Force du désir* (1905) with Ewa Wierzbowska (Honoré Champion, 2025). Paliyenko is currently writing a literary biography of the poet-philosopher Louisa Siefert

GUEST EDITORS

Mirjam Hinrikus is Senior Research Fellow at Tallinn University and Principal Investigator of the research project *The Emergence of a Civilized Nation: Decadence as Transitionality, 1905–1940* (PRG1667). Her research focuses on decadence, modernism, Nietzsche's reception, gender, and Baltic–Nordic literary cultures. Her publications include the collective monograph *Nordic Literature of Decadence* (2020); the co-edited handbook *Sissejubatus kirjanduse uurimise teooriasse ja praktikasse* (2026); and the special issues of *Keel ja Kirjandus* (2024) and *Methis* (2025), both devoted to Estonian literary decadence and co-edited with members of the decadence project.

Hasso Krull is an Estonian poet, translator, and literary scholar at Tallinn University (the decadence project *The Emergence of a Civilized Nation: Decadence as Transitionality, 1905–1940* (PRG1667)). Krull has published twenty books of poetry and nine collections of essays that include literary criticism as well as writings concerning art, cinema, and society. From 1990–2017 he taught cultural theory at the Estonian Institute of Humanities and in 2021–2022 he was a Professor of Liberal Arts at the University of Tartu.

Viola Parente-Čapková is Professor of Finnish Literature at the University of Turku and member of the decadence project *The Emergence of a Civilized Nation: Decadence as Transitionality, 1905–1940* (PRG1667). Her research focuses on Finnish decadence in transnational contexts, fin-de-siècle women's writing, and the theory of literary history. Her publications include *Decadent New Woman (Un)Bound* (2014), a critical edition of the English translation of L. Onerva's novel *Mirdja* (2025), and co-edited volumes on *Nordic Literature of Decadence* (2020) and *Redrawing Europe's Literary Map: Transnational Circulations of Women's Writing 1850–1920* (2026)

Riikka Rossi is Professor of Finnish Literature at the University of Helsinki, Finland, and a member of the decadence project *The Emergence of a Civilized Nation: Decadence as Transitionality, 1905–1940* (PRG1667). Her research focuses on Finnish and Nordic naturalism and decadence, and more recently on literature and emotions. Her publications include *Le naturalisme finlandais* (2007), a monograph on Finnish literary primitivism (2020), and the co-edited volumes *Nordic Literature of Decadence* (2020) and *Arctic Hysteria and Other Strange Northern Emotions* (2024).

EDITORIAL

Jane Desmarais (Editor-in-Chief) is Professor of English and Director of the Decadence Research Centre in the School of Music, English, and Theatre at Goldsmiths, University of London, and she is currently Research Fellow at the Institute of English Studies in the School of Advanced Study at Senate House, London. She is Editor-in-Chief of *Volupté: Interdisciplinary Journal of Decadence Studies*, and Chair of the British Association of Decadence Studies (BADs). She has published numerous books and essays on decadence, including *Monsters under Glass: A Cultural History of Hothouse Flowers, 1850 to the Present* (Reaktion, 2018), *Decadence and Literature* (with David Weir, Cambridge University Press, 2019), *The Oxford Handbook of Decadence* (with David Weir, Oxford University Press, 2021), *Decadent Plays* (with Adam Alston, Bloomsbury, 2024), and *Classic Stories from the Age of Decadence* (Pan Macmillan, 2025). She is currently in a velveteen rabbit-hole researching textural decadence, decadent humanism, and the decadent Weird.

Alice Condé (Deputy Editor) is Lecturer in English and Co-Deputy Director of the Decadence Research Centre at Goldsmiths, University of London. She has published work on nineteenth-century decadent poetry and prose, contemporary decadence and popular culture, and, most recently, 'Neo-Victorian Decadence in the 1920s: the Case of Ben Hecht' appears in Kostas Boyiopoulos and Joseph Thorne's *Neo-Victorian Decadence: Media, Genres, Eras* (2025).

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 Alice Condé of *In Cynara's Shadow: Collected Essays on Ernest Dowson (1867–1900)* (Peter Lang, 2019) and her most recent work includes a chapter on '[French Decadence](#)' in *Michael Field in Context*, edited by Sarah Parker (Cambridge University Press, 2025), and *The Decadent Bestiary (Strange Attractor, 2025)*, edited with Sam Kunkel. 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 Master's degree from the Sorbonne as well as a doctorate from the University of Paris-Saclay in the field of comparative literature. His work is centred 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. *Know Me To Be Your Superior in Everything: Erik Satie and the Metropolitan Church of Art of Jesus the Conductor* was published by First to Knock 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*' is published in *Tolkien's Medievalism in Ruins: The Function of Relics and Ruins in Middle-Earth* (Bloomsbury, 2025). Sandra is currently working on a monograph on Oscar Wilde and aesthetic plagiarism.