

# Ford Madox Ford's *Parade's End*: Modernism and the First World War

Institute of English Studies, University of London  
27–29 September 2012

‘There are not many English novels which deserve to be called great:  
*Parade's End* is one of them.’ **W. H. Auden**

Proposals are invited for an international conference on Ford Madox Ford's First World War tetralogy, *Parade's End*. First published as *Some Do Not . . .* (1924), *No More Parades* (1925), *A Man Could Stand Up*– (1926) and *Last Post* (1928), *Parade's End* has been described by Anthony Burgess as ‘the finest novel about the First World War’, by Samuel Hynes as ‘the greatest war novel ever written by an Englishman’, and by Malcolm Bradbury as ‘a central Modernist novel of the 1920s, in which it is exemplary’. In 2010–11, Carcanet published the volumes as major critical editions, providing for the first time reliable texts, detailed annotations and discussions of the textual histories. Also in 2011, the BBC and HBO embarked on a five-part adaptation, scripted by Sir Tom Stoppard. As we approach the centenary of the start of the Great War, this conference will examine and celebrate Ford's First World War modernist masterpiece.

## Keynote Address:

**Adam Piette**, author of *Imagination at War: British Fiction and Poetry 1939-1945* (1995) and *The Literary Cold War, 1945 to Vietnam* (2009)

## Special Guest:

**Susanna White**, BAFTA award-winning director of *Parade's End* (2012, forthcoming), *Bleak House* (2005), *Jane Eyre* (2006), and *Generation Kill* (2008)

The conference aims to examine *Parade's End* from a wide a range of critical, historical, and theoretical perspectives. Possible topics might include:

- *Parade's End* and modernism (including comparisons with other modernist novels)
- *Parade's End* and the literature of the First World War (fiction, poetry, memoirs)
- *Parade's End* and Ford's other fictional and non-fictional war prose (such as *No Enemy*, *The Marsden Case*, *When Blood Is Their Argument*, *Between St. Dennis and St. George*, and the material collected in *War Prose*)
- *Parade's End* and Ford's War poetry
- The contexts of *Parade's End*: class; women; marriage; family; bureaucracy; politics (radical torism, communism, and the suffrage movement); music hall; cinema
- The techniques of *Parade's End*: style; narrative; point of view; time; memory; stream of consciousness; character; humour; fairytale and romance; Literary Impressionism
- Influences on, and the influence of, *Parade's End*

We are keen to receive proposals from graduate students as well as established scholars, and we especially welcome papers discussing *Parade's End* in relation to other writers' works, including (but not limited to): Richard Aldington; Henri Barbusse; Vera Brittain; Edmund Blunden; H.D.; John Dos Passos; T. S. Eliot; Robert Graves; Graham Greene; Ernest Hemingway; David Jones; James Joyce; D. H. Lawrence; Wyndham Lewis; Frederic Manning; R. H. Mottram; Marcel Proust; Erich Maria Remarque; Siegfried Sassoon; May Sinclair; Rebecca West; Virginia Woolf. **Speakers will be invited to submit papers for publication in *International Ford Madox Ford Studies* vol. 13, which will be published in 2014 to mark the centenary of the outbreak of WWI.**

Please send proposals of up to 300 words for 20-minute papers to the conference organisers Rob Hawkes and Ashley Chantler ([fordmadoxford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fordmadoxford@hotmail.co.uk)) by 1 May 2012.

<http://fordmadoxford-conference.weebly.com>