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For Bob Gale and Edward Chalfant
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Acknowledgments

Thanks to the Johns Hopkins University Press for permission to reprint "Henry James and the United States" by John Carlos Rowe in chapter 23, which first appeared in substantially the same form in the Henry James Review (27.3 [2006] 228–36.) Thanks too to Aya Zacharias for her help with a range of difficult editing problems. Most of all, thanks to all of my companions around the world in Henry James studies.
When I was offered the opportunity to edit this volume, I couldn’t accept quickly enough. The idea of a “companion” to Henry James was suited to the way I think about and try to practice James studies, a discipline in which companions are valued. Henry James himself referred to the significance of those readers who would be companions when he wrote in “The Art of Fiction” that “[a]rt lives upon discussion, upon experiment, upon curiosity, upon variety of attempt, upon the exchange of views and the comparison of standpoints” (James 1984: 44–5). For James, it is in the engagement of individuals with the text, with art, and with each other that art “lives.”

Kenneth Burke’s “parlor” of criticism – a metaphor that depends obviously and fundamentally on the relation of “parlor” to parler and thus to the notion of companions – for neither the parlor nor parler make sense without companions — serves to dramatize James’s understanding of the process through which “art lives” through the company of companions:

Imagine that you enter a parlor. You come late. When you arrive, others have long preceded you, and they are engaged in a heated discussion, a discussion too heated for them to pause and tell you exactly what it is about. In fact, the discussion has already begun long before any of them got there, so that no one present is qualified to retrace for you all the steps that had gone before. You listen for a while, until you decide that you have caught the tenor of the argument; then you put in your oar. Someone answers; you answer him; another comes to your defense; another aligns himself against you, to either the embarrassment or gratification of your opponent, depending upon the quality of your ally’s assistance. However, the discussion is interminable. The hour grows late, you must depart. And you do depart, with the discussion still vigorously in progress. (Burke 1973: 110–11)

The conversation among companions that sustains the critical dialogue for Burke is the same one that sustains art for James. It’s the one that makes James studies important for me because that conversation fosters and sustains the community of those...
interested in Henry James studies. This *Companion to Henry James*, then, may serve its readers as an invitation, a “way in,” to the unending conversation that is Henry James studies. It is meant to stand as an invitation to join the conversation that’s been in progress for more than one hundred years and was initiated by James himself, through his writing, from his own companions actual and textual.

When I wrote for a couple of years the section on “Henry James” for *American Literary Scholarship*, I was repeatedly surprised by the depth and breadth of scholarly writing on Henry James. A review then of the *MLA International Bibliography* showed that for the rather recent past (1970s through the 1990s), there was more published work on Henry James than on any other American writer. In the mid-1990s, most of what was being published in English on James came from those traditional companions writing in North America and the United Kingdom. At the same time, mostly missed, a significant amount of work was also being done by Jamesians from Europe, Japan, and South Korea. Annick Duperray’s *The Reception of Henry James in Europe* (2006) testifies to this point in terms of Europe. When I became Executive Director of the Henry James Society in 1999, I was encouraged to work to “internationalize” the Society, which then was comprised mainly of individuals who resided in the US, Canada, and Britain. Today, the Henry James Society has members in twenty countries around the world and the circle of companions continues to grow wider and more vigorous. Recent international conferences on James organized by the Henry James Society in New York (1993), Paris (2002), Venice (2005), and Newport (2008) brought together parlor and parler-style companions in James studies. Smaller meetings continue to reinforce that collegiality. Part of the editorial mission of the *Henry James Review* is that of a companion as well: to foster new scholarship in Henry James studies.

James’s place in the world extends past a parlor of scholarly companions. As Adeline Tintner pointed out, for example, “Henry James” has made his way into the everyday of current US culture, at least. There is no sign, wrote Tintner, that James is releasing his grip on the popular imagination. The frequency in advertising of both James’s likeness and familiar quotations from his work attests to that. When Barnes and Noble, the gigantic bookseller, wants a striking image for its plastic bags, it chooses James’s familiar face and his familiar formal clothes. When Banana Republic, a chain of stores selling informal clothing, seats his figure among the modern expatriates in a café and Rolls Royce quotes from *The Ambassadors*, “Live all you can,” to market the most costly of production motor cars, it is plain that James has penetrated communication addressed to the general consciousness. (Tintner 1998: 2, 4)

Given such scholarly and popular interest in James, it seemed unwise to me and, I imagined, uninteresting to readers to shape this *Companion* as a kind of review of conventional positions. In my view, that would not make the kind of companion I would choose to sit with. First, other publications strive to do that already. Second, the production of writing during James’s career: some twenty novels published during his lifetime, short fiction (more than one hundred pieces), more than a dozen plays
and dramatic pieces, thousands of pages of criticism and reviews, travel writing, autobiography and biography, cultural commentary, and more than 10,400 extant letters mock every attempt to summarize. Third, even if an accurate summary were possible, such a summary volume would have difficulty representing the richness and diversity of Henry James scholarship today. If this Companion should be the kind of companion that James knew provided art with its vitality and Burke knew provided a motive for companionship, I reasoned that it would have to be emblematic of what a Henry James “companion” could be. It would have to discuss things Jamesian in Henry James’s or Kenneth Burke’s sense. It would have to provide points of contact for James’s texts and works. It would have to represent things Jamesian as they are occurring now around the world.

Thus I offer this group of essays, this Companion, from authors both established and newer who are themselves companions and who together I believe represent the diversity and richness of Henry James studies today. My aim for this volume-as-companion is that its organization would promote engagement between its authors and readers, who together comprise the conversation, as it were, that nourishes, sustains, and helps to promote the discipline. Each of the authors is not only a first-rate Jamesian. Each is an excellent reader. Each is an excellent teacher.

The purpose of this volume is to provide students and teachers of Henry James with individual chapters that mark the state of the art in significant areas of James scholarship. Taken together, the chapters map the direction of James studies overall. The first part of the volume offers chapters on James’s most frequently read fiction and non-fiction. The second part offers chapters that outline current approaches to reading and teaching James’s fiction. Special attention is given to reading James in national contexts – American, British, French, Italian – and to understanding his work in terms of the cultures which informed his life and writing. Fashionable approaches and readings were not the goal of this volume. Instead, recently relevant approaches that are now shaping and seem certain to continue to shape the discussion of James’s fiction and non-fiction for the foreseeable future were chosen. While each chapter works within the restrictions of space to develop its subject in some depth, the range of chapters attempts to represent the wide sweep of possibilities in James scholarship. I hope that in the representation and suggestion of those possibilities, each reader of this Companion will, each in his or her own way, be encouraged to join the ongoing Jamesian conversation.

References and Further Reading


Chronology of Henry James’s Life and Work

Jennifer Eimers

1843 Born April 15 at 21 Washington Place, New York City, second child of Henry James, Sr. and Mary Robertson Walsh, and younger brother of William. In October the family sails for England with Mary’s sister Catherine (Aunt Kate). In England they meet Thomas Carlyle, John Stuart Mill, Alfred Tennyson, and George Henry Lewes.

1844 In January the family leaves London for Paris. They return to England in late April and settle at Frogmore Cottage in Windsor Park.

In May Henry Sr. has a nervous collapse and shortly after becomes interested in Swedenborg’s works.

1845 Family returns to Paris in January. One of Henry Jr.’s earliest memories (of Place Vendôme) probably occurred on this visit. Early summer: family returns to New York. Brother Garth Wilkinson (Wilky) born July 21. Family moves to 50 North Pearl St., Albany, near Henry Sr.’s mother, Catharine James.

1846 August 29: brother Robertson (Bob) born in Albany.

1847 Henry Sr. buys an apartment at 11 Fifth Avenue, New York.

1848 In April Henry Sr. buys a house at 58 West 14th Street. August 7: only sister, Alice, born.

1850 In August, Washington Irving tells Henry Sr. of Margaret Fuller’s drowning, which the young Henry overhears. Henry Sr. receives visits from Charles Dana, Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Thackeray, Bronson Alcott, and Henry David Thoreau. Visits Barnum’s Great American Museum. Goes to theater often.

1852 December: Louis Napoleon proclaimed Emperor and Second Empire begins.
1853–4  Attends P. T. Barnum’s production of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. Enrolled in the Vergnè’s Institute for Young Gentlemen. September 1853 transferred to school run by Richard Pulling Jenks at 689 Broadway. Taught by Forrest and Quackenbos the following autumn.

1855  Family sails for Liverpool, arriving July 10 in London, where Henry Jr. comes down with malarial fever. Family pushes on to Paris, then in August to Geneva, where William, Wilky, and Bob are enrolled in Pensionnat Roediger while Henry convalesces. Family leaves Switzerland in early October, arriving in London after short stay in Paris. Henry Sr. hires Scotsman Robert Thomson to tutor the boys. Sees Charles Kean’s production of *Henry VIII*.


1857  Family summers in Boulogne-sur-mer, where Henry Jr. contracts typhus in September and is bedridden for two months. Reads Irving, Dickens, Thackeray, Shakespeare, Poe. Henry Sr. describes his son as “a devourer of libraries, and an immense writer of novels and dramas.” Boys attend the College Imperial in Boulogne-sur-mer during the early summer. Coquelin, later the famous French actor, is Henry’s classmate. Family returns to Paris in October, but financial difficulties caused by American economic crash force family back to Boulogne, where cost of living is lower.

1858  In early summer the family returns to the United States and settles in Newport, Rhode Island. Fifteen-year-old Henry Jr. begins a lifelong friendship with Thomas Sergeant Perry. Attends Berkeley Institute under the direction of Reverend W. C. Leverett. In October William begins lessons with William Morris Hunt.


1860  In April Henry is allowed to drop most of his classes and to sample classes at the Geneva Academy, which William attends. Studies German in Bonn that summer.
In September family returns to Newport. William resumes study at Hunt’s studio and Henry accompanies him. Continues friendships with Perry and La Farge.

Wilky and Bob are enrolled in Frank Sanborn’s co-educational school in Concord; Julian Hawthorne, Edward Emerson, and John Brown’s daughters are their classmates.

1861 Orphaned Temple cousins come to live in Newport; Henry develops friendship with Minny Temple.

Civil War begins in April as Henry turns eighteen. He remains at home while William attends Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard and Wilky and Bob return to Concord.

As a volunteer fireman, Henry claims to have suffered an “obscure hurt” while helping to put out a stable fire.

1862 Enters Harvard Law School.

Wilky enlists in the 44th Massachusetts, and later in Robert Gould Shaw’s 54th Massachusetts, the Union Army’s first African-American regiment.

1863 Withdraws from law school. Sends unsigned stories to magazines.

In June Bob joins the 55th Massachusetts. Wilky wounded at Fort Wagner, South Carolina, on July 18 and brought home in August.

Battle of Gettysburg and New York draft riots take place in July.


In May family moves to 13 Ashburton Place, Boston.


Becomes friends with its editor Charles Eliot Norton and his sister Grace.


August vacation in White Mountains with Minny Temple and others. They are joined by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., and John Chipman Gray. Wilky and Bob work on plantation in Florida.

1866 “A Landscape Painter” (Atlantic, February).

“A Day of Days” (Galaxy, June).

Begins friendship with William Dean Howells.

In November family moves to 20 Quincy Street, Cambridge.

1867 “Poor Richard” (Atlantic, June–August).

Writes reviews for The Nation and NAR.
       Continues to write reviews for *The Nation* and NAR.
1869  “Gabrielle de Bergerac” (*Atlantic*, July–September).
       Sails in February for Europe to travel and improve his health.
       Spends first three weeks of April in Malvern for Dr. Raynor’s water
cure, then late April-May tours England. Through Northrons meets
William Morris, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne-Jones,
George Eliot, John Ruskin, and Charles Darwin. In May leaves
London for Boulogne and Paris, then walks extensively in
Switzerland, arriving in Italy in late August.
       Leaves Italy in January to return to Malvern. In March Minny
Temple dies of tuberculosis. Henry returns to Cambridge in May.
       Writes travel sketches for *The Nation*.
       Italian army occupies Rome following the withdrawal of French
forces and establishes a secular authority. The Pope withdraws into
the Vatican, and Rome made capital of Italy.
       Franco-Prussian War (1870–1).
1871  *Watch and Ward* serialized in *Atlantic* (August–December; novel
       published 1878).3
       “A Passionate Pilgrim” (*Atlantic*, March–April; NYE).
       “Master Eustace” (*Galaxy*, November).
1872  Serves as occasional art reviewer for the *Atlantic*.
       Accompanies Aunt Kate and Alice on tour of Europe May-October.
       Writes travel sketches for *The Nation*.
       Spends late autumn in Paris. Visits Francis and Elizabeth Boott in
Florence in December. Meets Fanny Kemble and her daughter
Sarah Butler Wister in Rome.
       “The Sweetheart of M. Briseux” (*Galaxy*, June).
       Leaves Rome in May, summers in Bad Homburg, and visits
Florence in October.
       “Mme. de Mauves” (*Galaxy*, February–March; NYE).
       Returns to the US in September.
1875  *Roderick Hudson* serialized in the *Atlantic* (January–December; novel
       published 1875 and NYE).
       *A Passionate Pilgrim and Other Tales*.
       *Transatlantic Sketches*.
       Lives in New York City January to July. Spends three months in
Cambridge before sailing October 20 for Europe. November arrives

1876 *The American* runs in the *Atlantic* (June–May 1877; novel published 1877 and NYE).
Unfavorably reviews early Impressionists at the Durand-Ruel gallery. Resigns from the *Tribune*. In December moves to London, taking rooms at 3 Bolton Street, Piccadilly.

1877 “Four Meetings” (*Scribner’s Monthly*, November; NYE).
Meets Browning, Du Maurier, Boughton.
September to December in Paris, Florence, and Rome.

1878 *French Poets and Novelists*.
*The Europeans* (*Atlantic*, July–October; novel published 1878).
“Longstaff’s Marriage” (*Scribner’s*, August).
Meets Tennyson and Whistler.
William James marries Alice Howe Gibbons.
Whistler-Ruskin trial in November.

1879 “The Pension Beaurepas” (*Atlantic*, April; NYE).
“A Bundle of Letters” (*The Parisian*, December; NYE).
*Hawthorne* published by Macmillan.
Dined out “107 times” during the winter of 1878–9.
Meets Edmund Gosse and Robert Louis Stevenson. Sees Henry Adams and his wife Clover often.

*The Portrait of a Lady* begins serialization in *Macmillan’s Magazine* (October 1880–November 1881) and in the *Atlantic* (November 1880–December 1881; novel published 1881 and NYE).
Late March to May stays in Florence working on *The Portrait of a Lady*. Meets Constance Fenimore Woolson.

1881 Spends February to July in Venice finishing *Portrait*. Alice James arrives in London with Katharine Loring.
President James Garfield assassinated; Chester Alan Arthur succeeds him.

1882 “The Point of View” (*Century*, December; NYE).
Mary Walsh James (mother) dies January 29.
Writes dramatization of “Daisy Miller.”
Returns to England in May. From September to November travels in France and sees Turgenev for the last time. Briefly in London before receiving message of his father’s poor health. Sails to Boston; arriving on December 21, discovers that Henry James, Sr. died December 18.

1883
“The Siege of London” (Cornbill, January–February; NYE).
*Portraits of Places*.
As the executor of his father’s will, spends time settling the estate.
In January travels to Milwaukee to see younger brothers. Returns to London in September. Garth Wilkinson (Wilky) James dies in November.

1884
*A Little Tour in France*.
“Pandora” (*New York Sun*, June; NYE).
“Georgina’s Reasons” (*New York Sun*, July–August).
Spends February in Paris, where he meets John Singer Sargent and visits Goncourt, Zola, Daudet.
Sargent visits him in London.

1885
*The Bostonians* serialized in *Century* (February 1885–February 1886; novel published 1886).
*Princess Casamassima* serialized in the *Atlantic* (September 1885–October 1886; novel published 1886 and NYE).

1886
March: moves to 34 De Vere Gardens.
December: travels to Florence.

1887
Spends late February to mid-April in Venice with Katherine Bronson, and visits Daniel and Ariana Curtis. In April travels to Florence to see Woolson, then goes back to Venice to stay with the Curtises at Palazzo Barbaro until July 1, when he returns to London.
Writes *The Aspern Papers* and begins *The Tragic Muse*.

1888
“The Modern Warning” (appeared as “Two Countries” in Harper’s, June).
“A London Life” (Scribner’s, June–September; NYE).
“The Lesson of the Master” (Universal Review, July–August; NYE).
“The Patagonia” (English Illustrated Magazine, August–September; NYE).
Partial Portraits.
Elizabeth (Lizzie) Boott Duveneck dies in March.
Spends October to December in Geneva, where Woolson is also vacationing, and in Paris.

1889
The Tragic Muse (Atlantic, January 1889–May 1890; novel published in 1890 and NYE).
Aunt Kate dies in March.
Engages to write dramatization of The American.
Visits Paris from late October to December 1; sees the Paris Exhibition (Exposition Universelle) of 1889.

1890
Translation of Daudet’s Port Tarascon (Harper’s, June–November; novel published 1890).
Travels through Italy in the summer. Spends three weeks with the Curtises at the Palazzo Barbaro in Venice and travels with them.
Meets Rudyard Kipling and Morton Fullerton.

1891
“The Pupil” (Longman’s Magazine, March–April; NYE).
“Brooksmith” (Harper’s and Black and White, May; NYE).
“The Marriages” (Atlantic, August; NYE).
“The Chaperon” (Atlantic, November–December; NYE).
“Sir Edmund Orme” (Black and White, November; NYE).
The American: A Comedy in Four Acts produced on stage and is moderately successful.
Spends July in Ireland.
First International Copyright law.

1892
“The Real Thing” (Black and White, April; NYE).
“The Private Life” (Atlantic, April; NYE).
“Lord Beaupré” (Macmillan’s, April–June).
“Greville Fane” (Illustrated London News, September; NYE).
“Owen Wingrave” (Graphic, November; NYE).
Alice dies of breast cancer in March.

1893
“The Middle Years” (Scribner’s, May; NYE).
Picture and Text.
Essays in London and Elsewhere.
Fanny Kemble dies in January. James spends most of March through May in Paris.

1894
“The Death of the Lion” (April) and “The Coxon Fund” (July) appear in Yellow Book; NYE.
Chronology of Henry James's Life and Work

11

Theatricals: Two Comedies and Theatricals: Second Series.
Constance Fenimore Woolson dies in Venice in January. James
spends April–July in Italy.
Katharine Loring sends him one of four copies of Alice’s journal,
which he later burns.
Robert Louis Stevenson and Walter Pater die.

1895
“The Next Time” (Yellow Book, July; NYE).
Guy Domville opens in January for five week run. After it closes,
James visits Lord Houghton and the Wolseleys in Dublin in
mid-March.
Oscar Wilde libel suit begins in spring.
In early May Daudet visits London; James arranges his trip and
hosts a dinner at the Reform Club.
Spends most of July to October in Torquay while his flat is
renovated and electric lighting installed.
October: William Wetmore Story dies (James later wrote his
biography).

1896
“The Figure in the Carpet” (Cosmopolis, January–February; NYE).
“Glasses” (Atlantic, February).
The Old Things serialized in the Atlantic (April–October; published
as The Spoils of Poynton in 1897 and NYE).
“The Way It Came” (Chap Book, May; NYE as “The Friends of the
Friends”).
The Other House (Illustrated London News, July–September; novel
published 1896).
Spends May to September in Sussex. In early October George Du
Maurier dies.
President Cleveland interferes in a boundary dispute between
Britain and Venezuela by reasserting the Monroe Doctrine.

1897
What Maisie Knew (Chap Book, January–August; novel published
1897 and NYE).
Purchases a typewriter in February and begins to dictate.
Spends most of July in Bournemouth working with typist William
MacAlpine.
Spends August with Ellen Temple and her daughters on Suffolk
cost.

1898
The Turn of the Screw serialized in Collier’s (January–April; nouvelle
published 1898 and NYE).
The Awkward Age (Harper’s Weekly, October–January 1899; novel
published in 1899 and NYE).
“In the Cage” (NYE).

1899

“Europe” (*Scribner’s*, June; NYE).

“The Real Right Thing” (*Collier’s Weekly*, December; NYE).

“Paste” (*Frank Leslie’s Popular Magazine*, December; NYE).

Fire in Lamb House delays trip to Italy, but he leaves for Paris in March, then on to Italy, where he stays at Palazzo Barbaro in Venice for three weeks. Meets Henrik Andersen in Rome and examines Story papers for forthcoming biography. Visits Florence, then travels back to Venice. Returns to England in early July. James buys Lamb House, and William, who has heart trouble, visits in October with family members.

1900

“The Great Good Place” (*Scribner’s*, January; NYE).

“Miss Gunton of Poughkeepsie” (*Cornhill*, May; NYE).

“The Tree of Knowledge” (*The Soft Side*; NYE).

“The Abasement of the Northmores” (*The Soft Side*; NYE).


“Broken Wings” (*Century*, December; NYE).

Shaves beard, which was turning white. Alternates between Rye and London. Begins *The Wings of the Dove*, then drops it for *The Ambassadors*. William’s daughter Peggy visits at Christmas.

1901


“Mrs. Medwin” (*Punch*, August–September; NYE).

*The Sacred Fount*.

Completes *The Ambassadors* and takes up *The Wings of the Dove*. Queen Victoria dies. President William McKinley is assassinated, and Theodore Roosevelt succeeds him.

1902

*The Wings of the Dove* (NYE).

“Flickerbridge” (*Scribner’s*, February; NYE).

“The Story in It” (*Anglo-American Magazine*, January; NYE).

1903


William Wetmore Story and His Friends.
In December meets Edith Wharton, who had been seeking an introduction for many years.

1904 *The Golden Bowl* published (NYE).
Arrives in the United States in late August. Travels and lectures (“The Question of Our Speech” and “The Lesson of Balzac”) from Boston south to Florida and west to St. Louis and Chicago, San Francisco, and Seattle.

*English Hours.*
In January dines in Washington, DC, with Augustus Saint-Gaudens at President Roosevelt’s table. Elected to American Academy of Arts and Letters.
In July returns to England. Works on *The American Scene* and begins revisions for NYE.

Continues to work on NYE.

1907 *The American Scene.*
March to May visits Paris and motors through south of France with Edith Wharton.
May to late June visits Italy for last time.
Hires Theodora Bosanquet as his secretary-typist.


1909 *Italian Hours.*
Becomes friends with Hugh Walpole.
Burns letters sent to him. Suffers depression and attacks of gout.

Suffers ill health; William, himself gravely ill, and Alice come to England to be with him. They travel to Switzerland in June. Robertson (Bob) James dies in Concord of heart failure. Mid-August returns to the United States with William and Alice. William dies August 26.
1911  *The Outcry.*
Honorary degree from Harvard. Returns to England early August.
Resides at Reform Club in London and works in rooms adjoining
Theodora Bosanquet’s flat in Chelsea.

1912  Delivers “The Novel in ‘The Ring and the Book’” at Browning
Centenary.
Receives honorary doctorate of letters at Oxford.
Contracts shingles. Moves to 21 Carlyle Mansions in Chelsea. Sees
Edith Wharton frequently.

1912  Balkan War (1912–13).

1913  *A Small Boy and Others.*
In celebration of his seventieth birthday, James is asked to sit for a
portrait (by Sargent) and is presented with a gilded bowl.

1914  *Notes of a Son and Brother.*

1914  *Notes on Novelists.*
Horrified by the war, James visits hospitals and participates in
Belgian relief. Honorary president of the American Volunteer
Motor Ambulance Corps.

Becomes a British national and stays involved in war relief. Suffers
two strokes in early December.

1916  George V awards him the Order of Merit on January 1. February
28 dies in London. Body is cremated and ashes buried in
Cambridge Cemetery family plot.

1917  *Ivory Tower* and *The Sense of the Past* (two unfinished novels).

1919  *Within the Rim and Other Essays.*

**Notes**

1 For further publication information, see *A Bibliography of Henry James* (Edel and Laurence 1982) and *A Henry James Chronology* (Harden 2005). For further details of James’s life, see Leon Edel’s five-volume biography (Edel 1953–72), R. W. B. Lewis’s *The Jameses* (Lewis 1991), and Fred Kaplan’s *Henry James: The Imagination of Genius* (Kaplan 1992).

2 Habegger writes that the James family left Liverpool for New York on October 12, 1844.

3 First book publication information is noted for the novels. Also noted are works included in the 24-volume New York Edition (NYE) of 1907–9.
Part I

Fiction and Non-Fiction