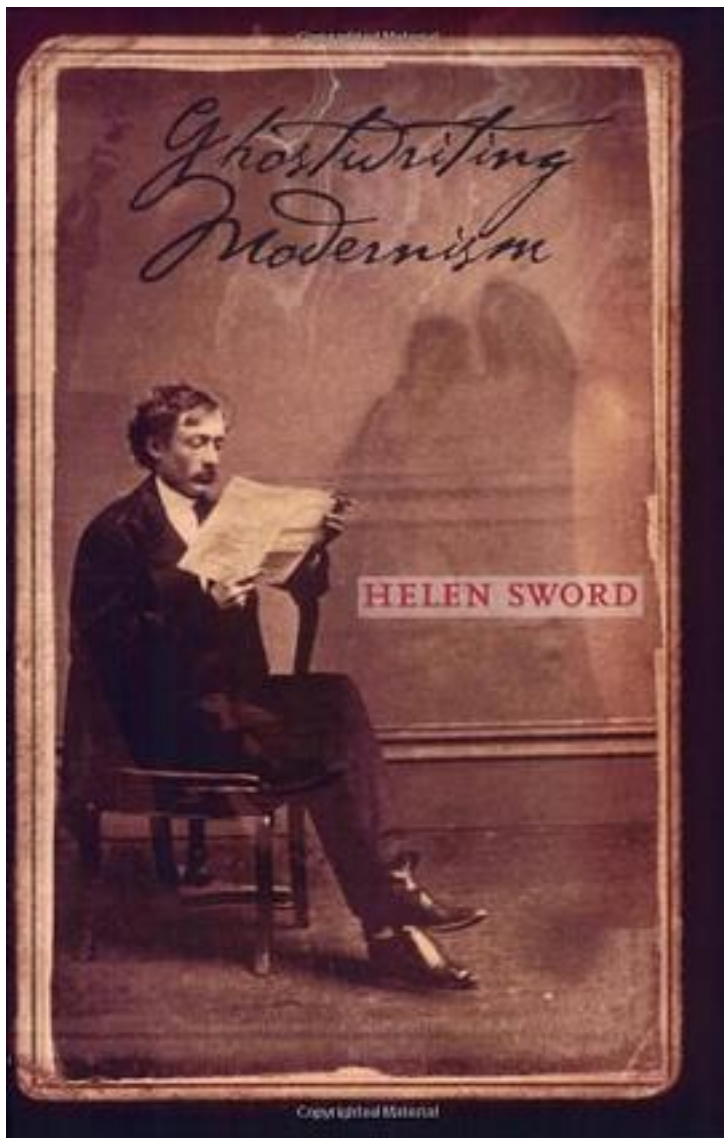


Ghostwriting Modernism



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著者:Sword, Helen

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Spiritualism is often dismissed by literary critics and historians as merely a Victorian fad. Helen Sword demonstrates that it continued to flourish well into the twentieth century and seeks to explain why. Literary modernism, she maintains, is replete with ghosts and spirits. In *Ghostwriting Modernism* she explores spiritualism's striking persistence and what she calls "the vexed relationship between mediumistic discourse and modernist literary aesthetics." Sword begins with a brief historical review of popular spiritualism's roots in nineteenth-century literary culture. She also discusses the forms of mediumship most closely allied with writing, the forms of writing most closely allied with mediumship, and the thematic and aesthetic alliances between popular spiritualism and modernist literature. Finally, she accounts for the recent proliferation of a spiritualist-influenced vocabulary (ghostliness, hauntings, the uncanny) in the works of historians, sociologists, philosophers, and especially literary critics and theorists. Sword offers compelling readings of works by James Joyce, T. S. Eliot, W. B. Yeats, H.D., James Merrill, Sylvia Plath, and Ted Hughes. Even as modernists mock spiritualism's ludicrous lingo and deride its metaphysical excesses, she finds, they are intrigued and attracted by its ontological shiftiness, its blurring of the traditional divide between high culture and low culture, and its self-serving tendency to favor form over content (medium, so to speak, over message). Like modernism itself, Sword asserts, spiritualism embraces rather than eschews paradox, providing an ideological space where conservative beliefs can coexist with radical, even iconoclastic, thought and action.

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标签

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评论

有一个细节太欢乐了：乔伊斯在《尤利西斯》第九章里委婉地讽刺过著名莎学家爱德华·道登，其女赫斯特·道登一直怀恨在心，后来赫斯特成了灵媒，声称自己和奥斯卡·

王尔德的鬼魂交谈过，借王尔德之口狠批了《尤利西斯》及其作者一通，称其“令人作呕”，甚至连叶芝（在回忆录里对爱德华·道登批评爱尔兰文艺复兴之事颇有微词）都没逃过王尔德鬼魂的口诛。大有“我说不过你，就召唤王尔德的鬼魂来怼你”的气势。19、20世纪的通灵论（Spiritualism）不是迷信一词可简单概括的，因为它不是前现代社会的产物，它体现的恰恰是现代性的一个侧面。研究者们甚至会用严谨的唯物主义和科学态度来探查通灵与鬼魂的本质，从鬼魂附体者身上渗出形成死者外形的物质还专门有个名词ectoplasm，一直沿用至今。

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书评

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