## Novelists and Newspapers, 1900-1939

## Komaba Museum, Tokyo

This exhibition features little-known and scarce original examples of richly illustrated serialized fiction, short-stories, and poems that appeared in daily and weekly newspapers during a period of extraordinary creativity, from the early twentieth century until the beginning of World War Two. The remarkable success of newspaper fiction resulted from the convergence of improvements in print technology, increasing and widespread literacy, and intense competition between newspaper owners for readers.

As the exhibition reveals, fierce commercial rivalry between newspaper barons, especially in the field-leading American 'Big-city' papers, spawned the development of 'author cults', and the promotion of novelists as celebrities, and in some cases, public intellectuals. In the first decades of the twentieth century, before other media such as radio and later television, were in direct competition with newspapers as the entertainment package par excellence, newspaper

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Howard Chandler Christy, 'Buy American', The American Weekly, 26 March 1933.

fiction had an unparalleled cultural penetration and pervasiveness within mainly middle-class readerships, profoundly affecting literary 'taste'. In part due to the ephemerality of the newsprint medium, but also the 'highbrow' approach to literature that dominated post-war literary criticism, newspaper fiction, as distinct from periodical literature, has until very recently been neglected and its richness and diversity lamentably ignored. This exhibi-



Charles Dickens, 'The Life of Our Lord'. San Francisco Examiner, variously serialized during April 1934.

tion therefore uses pertinent original examples of newspaper fiction, illustrations, and related-items to chronicle how newspapers became purveyors of (albeit not always fine) fiction, reinforcing class values, and fostering national pride and solidarity, in what amounted to a highly choreographed collective reading experience in this little-understood literary flourishing.

Among the works on display by famous authors, are Charles Dickens' The Life of Our Lord (vari-

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ously serialized posthumously in 1934), Erich Maria Remarque's Im Westen nichts Neues [All Quiet on the Western Front] (serialized in the Vossische Zeitung, 1928), Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Valley of Fear (serialized in the New York Tribune Sunday Magazine in 1914), and Hugh Lofting's Adventures of Dr. Dolittle (serialized in the New York Tribune in the early 1920s), as well as poems by Rudyard Kipling and Robert Louis Stevenson. However, as well as showcasing examples of work by famous literary figures, the exhibition also aims to introduce patrons to some of the hundreds of writers who were widely read one hundred years ago, but who now languish in the cemetery of forgotten writers. Writers, who coalesced on the fiction pages of newspapers, with amongst the most celebrated writers of all time, but whose works, for various reasons did not continue to resonate with changing readerships.

Over the course of the two-month exhibition there will be a programme of public lectures/talks by invited speakers on aspects related to the exhibition's central theme.

2017年 4月29日(土)-6月25日(日)

まり知られていない、日したものの、今日ではあ

示に関連するテー 一か月の展示期

特別展

には公の知識人とし ラジオやテレビなど 紀初頭の数十年 ユ 日

ホームページ:http://museum.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/

」現象を引き起て 体験を創出した過程を描

ーリヒ・ 『西部戦

いっても、 供するようになり 新聞がフィクションを提 文学批評を長らく支配し 階級的価値 また国家の威信 いつも良質 挿絵な 観 関 による詩が挙げられま さらに本展示ではこ

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