Robert Musil and the Culture of Vienna

Hannah Hickman

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Robert Musil's The Man Without Qualities had a tortuous publishing history but... Set in Vienna in the year before the First World War, it depicts a social and intellectual world that was at once sophisticated and naive, While the novel is a masterpiece of modernist writing, it also provides a glimpse into the political and social history of Austria. In this study, Hickman examines the cultural context in which Musil wrote and explores the ways in which his work reflects and comments on the Vienna of his time. She also considers the influence of other writers and artists of the period, and the impact of Musil's work on later writers and critics. The book is illustrated with maps and photographs, and includes a comprehensive bibliography of secondary sources.

Hannah Hickman is the author of Robert Musil and the Culture of Vienna and has written extensively on Austrian literature and culture. She is currently a professor of German at the University of California, Berkeley.

Robert Musil 1880-1942 was one of the handful of most important writers of the last fifty years of the 19th century, and one of the handful of most important writers of the 20th century. His work has influenced a wide range of writers, from the modernists to the postmodernists, and has been translated into more than thirty languages. His novel, The Man Without Qualities, is considered a masterpiece of modernist fiction, and has been described as a "potent and profound" exploration of the nature of human beings and their relationship to the world around them.

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