

# Zauberberg Der Thomas Mann

High Modernism Aestheticism and Performativity in  
Literature of the 1920s Boydell & Brewer

## Publisher Description

Thomas Mann owes his place in world literature to the dissemination of his works through translation. Indeed, it was the monumental success of the original English translations that earned him the title of 'the greatest living man of letters' during his years in American exile (1938-52). This book provides the first systematic exploration of the English versions, illustrating the vicissitudes of literary translation through a principled discussion of a major author. The study illuminates the contexts in which the translations were produced before exploring the transformations Mann's work has undergone in the process of transfer. An exemplary analysis of selected textual dimensions demonstrates the multiplicity of factors which impinge upon literary translation, leading far beyond the traditional preoccupation with issues of equivalence. Thomas Mann in English thus fills a gap both in translation studies, where Thomas Mann serves as a constant but ill-defined point of reference, and in literary studies, which has focused increasingly on the author's wider reception.

"You can't truly understand the country you're living in without reading Williamson." —Rich Lowry, National Review "His observations on American culture, history, and politics capture the moment we're in—and where we are going."

—Dana Perino, Fox News An Appalachian economy that uses cases of Pepsi as money. Life in a homeless camp in Austin.

A young woman whose résumé reads, "Topless Chick, Uncredited." Remorselessly unsentimental, Kevin D.

Williamson is a chronicler of American underclass dysfunction

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unlike any other. From the hollows of Eastern Kentucky to the porn business in Las Vegas, from the casinos of Atlantic City to the heroin rehabs of New Orleans, he depicts an often brutal reality that does not fit nicely into any political narrative or comfort any partisan. Coming from the world he writes about, Williamson understands it in a way that most commentators on American politics and culture simply can't. In these sometimes savage and often hilarious essays, he takes readers on a wild tour of the wreckage of the American republic—the “white minstrel show” of right-wing grievance politics, progressive politicians addicted to gambling revenue, the culture of passive victimhood, and the reality of permanent poverty. Unsparing yet never unsympathetic, *Big White Ghetto* provides essential insight into an enormous but forgotten segment of American society.

Explores the performative role of canonical literary works from the 1920s, providing a more nuanced understanding of high modernism and resituating it within literary history.

Praised highly by Mann himself, Weigand's book (originally published in 1933) is an essential piece of criticism on Mann's monumental novel. In his study of *The Magic Mountain* Weigand comments on the novel's genre and organization before dissecting the themes of disease and mysticism, Mann's use of irony, and other aspects of this masterpiece of German literature.

*The Magic Mountain* (German: *Der Zauberberg*) is a novel by Thomas Mann, first published in German in November 1924. It is widely considered to be one of the most influential works of twentieth-century German literature. Mann started writing what was to become *The Magic Mountain* in 1912. It began as a much shorter narrative which revisited in a comic

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manner aspects of *Death in Venice*, a novella that he was preparing for publication. The newer work reflected his experiences and impressions during a period when his wife, who was suffering from a lung complaint, resided at Dr. Friedrich Jessen's Waldsanatorium in Davos, Switzerland for several months. In May and June 1912, Mann visited her and became acquainted with the team of doctors and patients in this cosmopolitan institution. According to Mann, in the afterword that was later included in the English translation of his novel, this stay inspired his opening chapter ("Arrival"). The outbreak of World War I interrupted his work on the book. The savage conflict and its aftermath led the author to undertake a major re-examination of European bourgeois society. He explored the sources of the destructiveness displayed by much of civilised humanity. He was also drawn to speculate about more general questions related to personal attitudes to life, health, illness, sexuality and mortality. Given this, Mann felt compelled to radically revise and expand the pre-war text before completing it in 1924. *Der Zauberberg* was eventually published in two volumes by S. Fischer Verlag in Berlin. The narrative opens in the decade before World War I. It introduces the protagonist, Hans Castorp, the only child of a Hamburg merchant family. Following the early death of his parents, Castorp has been brought up by his grandfather and

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later, by a maternal uncle named James Tienappel. Castorp is in his early 20s, about to take up a shipbuilding career in Hamburg, his home town. Before beginning work, he undertakes a journey to visit his tubercular cousin, Joachim Ziemssen, who is seeking a cure in a sanatorium in Davos, high up in the Swiss Alps. In the opening chapter, Castorp leaves his familiar life and obligations, in what he later learns to call "the flatlands", to visit the rarefied mountain air and introspective small world of the sanatorium.

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