

In Search of Lost Time

5CLIR Spring, 2018

Marcel Proust's *A la recherche du temps perdu* (*In Search of Lost Time*) is widely recognized as one of – if not – the major novel of the twentieth century. It is a literary masterpiece, influential to James Joyce, Virginia Woolf and countless other modern writers who focus less on outward plot than on the relationship between experience, memory and writing. (Those among us who have taken *Writing to Remember* seminars will already have a good sense of what this means.) If that is not enough to interest 5CLIR members, there are the work's persisting themes and resonances – artistic, historical, intellectual – that promise to spark interesting research and presentations.

During the course of this seminar, we will read the 2002 Penguin Classics edition of *Swann's Way*, the first of Proust's seven volumes, published 1913-1927. Participants may choose to lead the group in close readings of selected portions. Further readings are suggested in this regard: Patrick Alexander's *Marcel Proust's Search for Lost Time, A Reader's Guide to the Remembrance of Things Past* (2007) and C.K. Scott Moncrieff's "perfect Proust translation", first published in 1924.

Topical presentations and discussions will be scheduled for second half of each seminar session. Some of these may include:

Marcel Proust (1871-1922)

An overview of *Search for Lost Time*

Proust's places (Paris, Normandy, France)

Proust's era (*Fin de Siecle/Belle Epoque*)

 Current events (Dreyfus Affair, WWI)

 Contemporary thinkers (Einstein, Freud, Jung, Bergson et al)

 Contemporary arts (Diaghilev, Picasso, Cocteau, Stravinsky, Satie,
 Duchamp; Symbolists, Nabis, Fauves, Dada et al)

 Contemporary letters (Mauriac, Gide, Zola, Joyce et al)

Memory and other Proustian themes