

D.H.Lawrence: *The Rainbow*, published by the Oxford University Press in the World's Classics Series, 1997

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Rosemary Howard

In March 1997, the O.U.P produced a new edition of *The Rainbow* in paperback consisting of five hundred pages which include an introduction, a short commentary on the text and eighteen pages of explanatory notes. This should prove to be a useful text for A-level students as well as for the general reader who wants a handy copy. The task facing the Editor, Kate Flint, Fellow of Linacre College Oxford, must have seemed a daunting one, in view of the monumental C.U.P. Edition of Professor Kinkead-Weekes, published in 1989. Flint acknowledges the importance of this work, particularly in view of the complexity of its "compositional and publishing history", saying simply that Kinkead-Weekes' edition is indispensable.

In her own introduction she attacks the problems head on with a challenging first sentence, "*The Rainbow* is a bold novel", and suggests that the two aspects of existence so intensely mirrored in D.H.Lawrence's great work - the temporal and the ideal - can never be fully reconciled. Thus the reader is introduced to the philosophical significance of the novel as well as being made aware of its revolutionary approach to the social conventions of the time and to the novel in its traditional form.

In the notes on the text, Flint cleverly lists the passages deleted from the American Edition of December 1915, thus highlighting our changed attitudes to

sexual mores and the problems of censorship aroused by explicit descriptions of physical love.

Footnotes to the Introduction suggest lines for future study and are supported by a select bibliography and a short chronology of D.H.Lawrence's life. Altogether this is an attractive text, highly to be recommended.