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Marie Nordlinger (1876–1961)

Proust's Muse from Manchester

Cynthia Gamble

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Binding	Paperback / softback
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Size	5.08 in x 7.75 in
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- 150th anniversary of Marie Nordlinger's birth
- First full-length biography of Marie Nordlinger in English, being an adaptation of the author's book first published in French in 2024
- Based on original manuscripts and images stored in an attic for many decades, now seen for the first time by the English-speaking world
- Marie Nordlinger's unique relationship with Marcel Proust as friend and translator of John Ruskin laid bare
- Her unrequited love for her musician cousin Reynaldo Hahn revealed
- Account given of Marie Nordlinger's work and travels in the United States
- Hitherto unpublished information on Marie Nordlinger's ex-husband Rudolf Meyer-Riefstahl, an eminent historian of Islamic art who worked in the United States

The daughter of a cotton industrialist in Manchester, Marie Nordlinger met Marcel Proust in Paris through her cousin the Venezuelan composer Reynaldo Hahn. It was there that a friendship with the French novelist began and soon blossomed thanks to the help she gave him to translate two of John Ruskin's works into French. This talented, multilingual artist and sculptor, the "Parisienne from Manchester"**,** went on to lead a remarkable life in the art world. She sculpted in Hamburg and in Belle Époque Paris; she negotiated contracts in America for the Paris-based art dealer and disseminator of Japonisme Siegfried Bing; she helped catalogue in Detroit the precious art collections of the industrialist Charles Lang Freer; back in Paris, she opened her own antique shop. With great stoicism, Marie overcame personal tragedies: her marriage to the German art historian Rudolf Meyer-Riefstahl ended in divorce; during the Great War her belongings were confiscated; and in the Second World War her beloved son was killed in a flying accident. After the publication of her correspondence from Proust, *Lettres à une amie***,** in 1942, she became a celebrity, her Manchester home the center of pilgrimage for Proustians from all over the world. Her later years she spent promoting the memory of Proust and that of her cousin Reynaldo, with whom she had been in love

Cynthia Gamble is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Exeter, and a member of the Académie des Sciences, Belles-Lettres et Arts de Rouen. She has written many articles and books about Marcel Proust. Among these books are: *Voix entrelacées de Proust et de Ruskin* (2021); *Ruskin, Proust et la Normandie. Aux sources de la Recherche* (co-authored with Matthieu Pinette, 2022); and more recently, *Marie Nordlinger, la muse anglaise de Marcel Proust* (2024), from which this book has been adapted. She takes delight in working in a Franco-British framework.

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