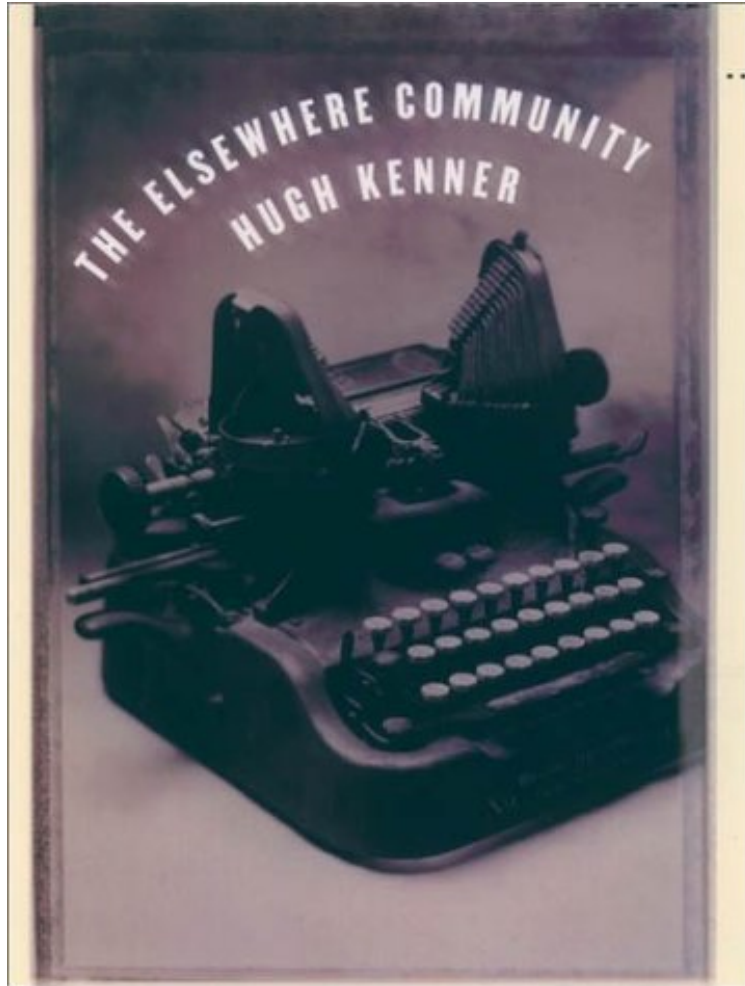


(Free) The Elsewhere Community (Massey Lectures Series)

## The Elsewhere Community (Massey Lectures Series)

*Hugh Kenner*

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**Hugh Kenner : The Elsewhere Community (Massey Lectures Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Elsewhere Community (Massey Lectures Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well worth readingBy Bob BrownAn engaging book by the later Dr. Kenner. He writes about travel -- his own and others' -- from from steamship crossings of the Atlantic for the Grand Tour of Europe that was expected of educated people at the turn of the Twentieth Century, to air travel, to the virtual communities that were developing using the Internet at the time Kenner wrote this. I had the distinct pleasure of knowing him through one such virtual community. I've bought three copies of this book, one for myself and two as gifts. Buy, read, and enjoy.21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. A Great Place to Visit (and to Live...)By Mark Wait"The Elsewhere Community" examines the role of "elsewhere" in learning. One learns by going (or being) elsewhere -- geographically, with other people, in another frame of mind, or with other types of literature.

One learns by being around what one doesn't know -- something else. And among other things, this is a fascinating account of Hugh Kenner's own voyage to elsewhere. In 1948, driving from Toronto to New Haven (via New York and Washington) with Marshall McLuhan, Kenner went to visit Ezra Pound, then incarcerated at St. Elizabeth's hospital for the mentally ill in Washington. That visit led to Kenner's subsequent career as one of the leading critics of our time. For fifty years, Kenner has explained Modernism and its leading writers (Pound, Joyce, Beckett, T. S. Eliot, William Carlos Williams, and others) to us with his comprehensive intelligence and wit. This book is perhaps the closest we will come to having Kenner's autobiography, and it's a treasure. Early on in their friendship, Ezra Pound told Kenner that he had "an ob-li-ga-tion" to visit the great people of his time. And so began Kenner's trips to Europe to meet the writers he has explained so eloquently. The stories of his experiences with these people (with Beckett and Eliot, for example) are always revealing. Kenner has always amazed readers with his power to see and to hear things that the rest of us might miss. His eye misses nothing, and his ear is musical in its ability to catch just the right inflection and the meaning beneath it. Some of these stories have appeared in Kenner's earlier books, but here they are presented not to Explain Literature, but rather in the form of five radio scripts. They are warm, personal, fascinating, and charming. Read this book, whether or not you know Modernism. If you don't know Pound, Eliot, and Beckett, you'll want to after you read this. And you'll want to read more Kenner. Above all, you'll want to discover and explore your own "elsewheres." This book is a treasure. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Like new By J. Blakemore Book in excellent shape.

"'All humans, by their nature,' said Aristotle, 'desire to know.' A special and unparalleled way to know is to simply go where you've never been before. And the key to this quest for knowledge is 'elsewhere.'" So begins *The Elsewhere Community* by acclaimed literary critic Hugh Kenner, author of *The Pound Era*, and himself a living archive of modernism in twentieth-century literature. Kenner traces the quest for elsewhere as it manifests itself in various modes of "travel," from the eighteenth century English tradition of a Grand Tour to the continent, to literary meetings-of-the-mind (Milton's visit to Galileo, T.S. Eliot's to Ezra Pound, Kenner's own visit to Beckett), to today's planet-wide Internet journeys, free from all physical limitations. As he chronicles this Elsewhere Community built of people exploring the unknown, Kenner illuminates how this passion has infused literature, from Homer and Dante to Dickens and Joyce. Kenner frames this unique exploration with a witty rumination on the life of the literary expatriate, fondly recalling his friendships with Ezra Pound, Samuel Beckett, Wyndham Lewis, Marianne Moore, William Carlos Williams, and other twentieth-century literary luminaries. Thus a fascinating intellectual autobiography emerges of Hugh Kenner as critic and chronicler, a man whose own life and work uniquely position him to assess the importance of travel in literary life. Written with the confidence, grace, and verve that have always characterized Kenner's work, this delightful book is for anyone seeking to understand the irrepressible human urge to travel and to know.

From *Library Journal* Part memoir, part essay on the theme of the Grand Tour, this work by Kenner Da prolific critic, professor emeritus at the University of Georgia, and the leading authority on the poet Ezra Pound Ddiscusses the role of travel as part of completing one's education and as a metaphor for intellectual discovery. Kenner speaks of travel as a search for mentors, which he refers to as the Elsewhere Community. In addition to examples of the Grand Tour, he draws on his Canadian father's trip to Rome, as well as his own experiences with mentors such as Ezra Pound, Samuel Beckett, Marianne Moore, and William Carlos Williams, each part of Kenner's own Elsewhere Community. He discusses passages from these and other writers, such as Yeats and the poet Patty Kavanagh, to illustrate their own searches for a like group. He also reflects on the meaning of the Internet and reading as part of the community. Originally delivered as five talks on Canadian radio in 1997, Kenner's treatment is accessible, if occasionally repetitive. This thoughtful, witty, and charming book is highly recommended. DT.L. Cooksey, Armstrong Atlantic State Univ., Savannah, GA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Though this homage to the transforming personal encounter may be minor Kenner, it is always readable, charming, and inspiring. Ideally *The Elsewhere Community* will send a few readers, at least, on to the critic's greater works--or back to the master spirits to whom he has devoted his life."--Book World, *The Washington Post* "The five mesmerizing chapters first saw life as a series of talks delivered on CBC Radio. Their presence in print lets alert readers sit and listen with grateful excitement to the elegant, generous and brilliantly stimulating Hugh Kenner."--San Francisco Sunday Examiner and Chronicle "The theme of Hugh Kenner's new book is travel: an experience for modern authors, it is a value in the imaginative consciousness of modernist writers especially, and the excitement it exerts in their texts is recreated here by a critic who is doubtless their foremost commentator. But the book also tells--or retells--the stories of Kenner's own sojourns, in particular his meetings and interactions with the primary characters of first-generation modernism. Pound and Eliot, Wyndham Lewis and William Carlos Williams and Marianne Moore: the legends live here with some of the vivid intimacy of the student's initial exposure. Kenner is in every sense of the term a fellow-traveler with these characters, and he is also a sufficiently important figure to make this account of his own formative ground a compelling piece of intellectual and literary history."--Vincent Sherry, Department of English, Villanova University "Hugh Kenner is one of the great literary critics of the twentieth century. But he is first and foremost a story teller, and like the story tellers

he admires most--Joyce, Beckett, Pound--he knows that great stories always come in quirky, surprising forms. The Elsewhere Community is a great story--the story of how, in the process of inventing himself, Hugh Kenner also invented literary modernism."--James Longenbach, Professor of English, University of Rochester"While much scholarly work has become so dense as to become unreadable, Mr. Kenner's prose has retained the humor and elan that have defined his writing since his first book, a 1947 study of Chesterton."--The New York Observer

About the AuthorHugh Kenner is Franklin and Callaway Professor of English, Emeritus, at the University of Georgia. He has held fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and the American Philosophical Society, and is currently a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He is the author of over thirty books, including *The Pound Era*, *The Mechanic Muse* (Oxford) and *A Sinking Island: The Modern English Writers*. He lives in Athens, GA