**ÉLUARD, PAUL (1895 – 1952)**

PAUL ÉLUARD (born Eugène Grindel) was a lyrical poet and founding member of the SURREALIST movement. After early service in the army aged 16, Éluard contracted tuberculosis, leading to a protracted period of recuperation, during which time the young poet read extensively, developing a life-long passion for ARTHUR RIMBAUD and WALT WHITMAN. Championed by Jean Paulhan (later editor at the *Nouvelle Revue Française*) after the publication of his early poetry collections *Le Devoir et l’Inquiétude* (1917) and *Poèmes pour la Paix* (1918), in 1918 Éluard met ANDRÉ BRETON, and LOUIS ARAGON, PHILIPPE SOUPAULT, and later MAX ERNST, with whom he would live in a polyamorous arrangementalong with Éluard’s first wife Gala (born Elena Ivanovna Diakonova). When SURREALISM was officially formed in distinction to DADA with Breton’s ‘First Manifesto’ in 1924, Éluard was an original signatory. *Capitale de la douleur,* Éluard’s 1926 collection, sealed the poet’s reputation, with extracts and translations into English appearing in EUGENE JOLAS’s LITTLE MAGAZINE *TRANSITION*. Éluard went on to publish regularly for the rest of his life, with over 70 publications in total. Over the course of the 1930s he distanced himself from the Surrealist movement. He fought in the Spanish Civil War, spent part of the Second World War in hiding from the Gestapo, and joined the French Resistance.

**References and Further Reading**

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**Cathryn Setz,**

**St Anne’s College, University of Oxford**