# Unanimism

Unanimism (French: L’Unanisme) was a French literary movement initiated by Jules Romains (1885-1972) in 1905, which included Georges Chennevière (1884-1927) and other poets from the Abbaye de Créteil group: Charles Vildrac (1882-1971), René Arcos (1881-1959) and Georges Duhamel (1884-1966). Pierre Jean Jouve (1887-1976) renounced his membership shortly after joining them, although he owes the first part of his work to the Unanimists; F. T. Marinetti also joined the Abbaye group for a brief while. Inspired by Émile Durkheim’s nascent sociology and Gustave Le Bon’s (1841-1931) notion of ‘crowd psychology’, the manifesto ‘Les Sentiments unanimes et la poésie’ was published by the periodical *Le Penseur* in 1905. It advocated a strong, at times epic, lyricism, exalting the collective soul, which was thought to be organically embodied by the modern city. One of the main literary effects the Unanimists strove for was the sense of aesthetic simultaneity favoured by modernists; through simultaneity, the poet hopes to raise awareness of the collective and to elicit solidarity between individuals, as well foster feelings of kinship. *La Vie unanime* (1908) is a long epic poem by Jules Romains, which portrays vast crowds layered with simultaneous lives in a city set in motion. This literary endeavour anticipated both Futurist representations of simultaneity in the urban setting and the fragmented plots of the ‘Wandering Rocks’ episode in James Joyce’s *Ulysses* (1922) and John Dos Passos’s *Manhattan Transfer* (1925).

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**References and further reading**

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