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| **About you** | **[Salutation]** | Nina | [Middle name] | Ennemark |
| [Enter your biography] | | | |
| University of Glasgow | | | |

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| **Your article** |
| Butts, Mary (1890 – 1937) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Mary Butts was a well-known and prolific novelist, essayist, poet and writer of short stories in her time. First published by ROBERT MCALMON, Butts was acquainted with and admired by a host of familiar modernist figures, such as ERNEST HEMINGWAY, JEAN COCTEAU, HILDA DOOLITTLE, EZRA POUND, MARIANNE MOORE, DJUNA BARNES, and married for many years to the important publisher of modernist writing JOHN RODKER. Despite her prominence on the scene of modernist writing, and being published in leading modernist journals such as the *Dial*, the *Little Review* and the *Transatlantic Review*, she was largely forgotten after her death until her rediscovery in the early 1990s.  Notorious for her flamboyant and bohemian lifestyle, Butts was a socialist and pacifist during the war, intently engaging with the modern cultural landscape of her day marked by psychoanalysis, quantum physics, primitivism and, crucially, the trauma caused by the conflict. At the same time, her work is marked by a tension between the old and modern world. Butts developed a love of classical mythology in early childhood, which deepened in adolescence as she became profoundly influenced by the writings of the classicist JANE ELLEN HARRISON, who celebrated ritual as the forgotten origin of art and religion, and ancient matriarchal cults and goddesses. This led to a greater interest in anthropology for Butts and its extensive use in her writing. Her work explores the bewilderment felt in response to changes wrought by the technological and scientific progress of modernity. It seeks both to give voice to and counteract the typical rootlessness of the period by showing continuity with the past through a revival of a link with the ‘primitive’ and also through the use of classical allusions and fairy tales. |
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| Further reading:  (Blondel)  (Foy)  (Radford) |