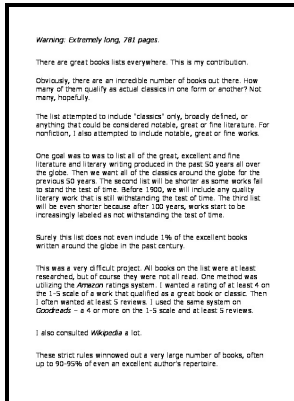


# Thresholds of reality - George Santayana and modernist poetics

## - - Thresholds of Reality



Description: -

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Santayana, George, 1863-1952 -- Poetic works

Santayana, George, 1863-1952 -- Knowledge --

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## Thresholds of reality : George Santayana and modernist poetics

For related reasons, one might expect American poetry, like American culture generally, to display threads of Protestantism and post-Protestant culture. Edited by John and Shirley Lachs.

## Thresholds of Reality

Measure is a condition of perfection, for perfection requires that order should be pervasive, that not only the whole before us should have a form, but that every part in turn should have a form of its own, and that those parts should be coördinated among themselves as the whole is coördinated with the other parts of some greater cosmos. This approach challenges traditional Western reading practices and enables scholars and students to read Popol Wuj—and other Indigenous texts—from within the worldview that created them.

## Thresholds of Reality

His mother, Josefina Sturgis formerly Josefina Borrás y Carbonell, was born in Scotland and was the daughter of a Spanish diplomat. There are many issues I have not addressed. Given what I have just said about his belief, it is curious to observe the poet lambasting Cambridge students for having forgotten the creeds, and the symbolic and ritual accouterments of them, that once made education a profoundly Christian act.

## Vol. 49, No. 3, Nov., 1977 of American Literature on JSTOR

His undergraduate years at Harvard reveal an energetic student with an active social life. Our standards are seldom as precise as he makes them out to be.

## The Poetics of Transition: Emerson, Pragmatism, & American Literary Modernism

Building on his naturalism, institutional pragmatism, social realism, and poetic religion, Santayana on leaving Harvard moves even farther from the role of philosophical statesman by removing the representative authority of language from the quest for a comprehensive synthesis, by narrowing

the line between literature and philosophy as he had earlier done between religion and poetry , and by wrestling more with the influence of James than of Emerson.

### **Thresholds of reality : George Santayana and modernist poetics**

He continued to write poems occasionally, well after his successful publishing career as a poet had mostly ended and it was successful indeed, especially by contemporary standards, with his three volumes of poems being reprinted several times and even reaching multiple editions. The humanitarian was, he said, a sentimentalist, one who felt for humanity at large and wanted to make life better for everyone.

### **Thresholds of Reality**

Persons and Places, 169 The full statement and development of his materialism did not occur until later in his life. He was a principal figure in making modernism possible but was not a modernist in poetry or literature. But what is particularly significant is the way in which this medievalism, this nostalgia, plowed the field for some important American poets of the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries, whose literary vocation actually led them through religious conversion to Catholicism, or who, in several important instances, were baptized though not necessarily believing Catholics, playing up the long-established tension between Catholic and American identity in order to critique the latter and to construct their art within the cosmic scaffold of the former.

### **Thresholds of reality : George Santayana and modernist poetics**

It includes frank, intellectual portraits of his Harvard colleagues and of American culture. Nevertheless, he never held an academic appointment at one of the leading universities until, near the end of his life, he became the first Professor of Roman Catholic Studies at Harvard.

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