Literary Networks: Agglomeration, peers, and productivity*

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Abstract

Recent studies have shown agglomeration benefits in literary writing, yet the mechanisms behind the benefits remain unclear, specifically the role of proximity to other writers. Using annual data for 370 authors in the United Kingdom and Ireland, between 1725 and 1975, we combine locations, social ties, and publication outcomes including canonical status. We compare exposure to (i) all co-located authors and (ii) co-located personally connected authors, and we identify dense local "creative circles" as years in which an author co-locates with at least four of their documented personal connections. Panel regressions with author and year fixed effects show that, once we account for location type, general co-location does not raise overall publication quantity, whereas residence in London is associated with higher output. By contrast, co-location with personally connected peers significantly increases the likelihood of producing canonical works, with the largest effects in dense creative circles. These findings suggest that urban infrastructure scales production, while intensive peer interactions shape the creation of enduring, high-quality literature.

Keywords: Economic geography, geographic concentration, peer effects, cities, productivity, urban history, literary artists
JEL Classifications: J24, J61, N30, N90, R19, Z11

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1 Introduction

In 1897, young Thoby Stephen began his studies at King's College, Cambridge, where he became friends with several members of the semi-secret university club known as *the Apostles*, including John Maynard Keynes, Lytton Strachey, Leonard Woolf, Clive Bell, and E.M Forster. Thoby introduced this circle to his sisters, Virginia and Vanessa Stephen, later Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell, who were living in London. After graduation, many of these *Apostles* moved to the Bloomsbury district of London, forming the group that would become famous as the Bloomsbury circle of writers, artists, and intellectuals. Some natural questions arise: Would the *Bloomsbury Group* have been so successful if they had not lived in London? Was their success due to spillovers within their highly localised social group? Or, was their success due to the wider agglomeration of creatives and related cultural infrastructure in London?

This paper explores the social and personal channels through which localisation affects literary production. Recent studies have shown agglomeration effects on the quantity and/or quality of works produced by writers and other artists.[1] The focus on individual artists and the long time horizons in these studies offers valuable insights as there have been major limitations to research on such effects in innovative and creative industries. As Crescenzi et al. (2016) note "we still know relatively little about *individual innovative agents* - most studies aggregate outcomes to firms, cities and regions...[D]ue to data constraints, there are few studies that have been able to explore time periods above a decade" (p. 179).

We add to these studies on agglomeration by focusing on personal connections between co-located authors and by differentiating the impact on publication quantity and quality. Mitchell (2019) and Cox and Figueroa (2025) demonstrate that writers living in London tend to publish more, and Cox and Figueroa (2025) further find that London-based authors were more likely to have close collaborators and become members of the Royal Society. However, it remains unclear to what extent the observed London premium reflects the number and quality of writers living there, and whether the effect depends on personal connections among them. Alternatively, as discussed by Kuld et al. (2025), agglomeration benefits may arise from improved access to publishers and other cultural infrastructure rather than from peer effects.

In this paper, we quantify the productivity effects of co-location with other writers distinguishing between different types of co-location: general proximity versus proximity to personally connected peers. In addition, since peers may impact the quality of published works rather than the quantity, we extend the analysis done in Mitchell (2019) in the context of English literature to understand the link between co-location and canonical, high-quality works. As discussed in the data section, high-quality is measured by entry in the *Kindler* encyclopedia of world literature.

The study employs a purpose-built panel dataset of 370 historical authors from the UK and

[1] See e.g., Borowiecki (2015); Hellmanzik (2016); Hodgson and Hellmanzik (2019); Mitchell (2019); Borowiecki (2022); Borowiecki et al. (2023); O'Hagan (2022b); Kuld and Mitchell (2023); Kuld et al. (2025); Cox and Figueroa (2025); Borowiecki and Law (2025).

Ireland, covering the period 1725–1975.[2] In addition to annual data on the location and publications of these authors, we construct variables that conceptualise and quantify personal and geographic connections between writers. Our key connection variables are co-location, defined as writers residing in the same city or town in the same year, and personal connections, identified through references in three major encyclopedias. For example, a writer may co-locate with 50 other writers in London in a given year, but be personally connected to only three of them. The personal connections include social connections and literary influences as described in Section 2.

Estimating the effects of these connections on a writer's output, we find no general increase in quantity from co-location, even when writers are personally connected, once we control for location type (e.g., living in London). However, we do find a significant association between co-location with personally connected writers and the likelihood of publishing a major literary work. Therefore, co-location appears to influence the quality rather than the quantity of output. We then focus on large creative circles, defined as groups of five or more personally connected, co-located writers (that is a writer with at least four peers) and find a substantial positive effect on both the publication of major literary works and the overall productivity of authors who produce such works.

These findings contribute to understanding how different peer groups shape literary output. This matters because agglomeration may operate through multiple mechanisms, including facilitating the flow of information, influencing tastes and preferences, and providing risk-sharing devices.[3]

We build on a growing body of evidence linking location, networks, and creative success across fields. Prior work highlights direct spillovers within creative circles of artists and scientists (see, e.g., Kim et al., 2009; Azoulay et al., 2010; Waldinger, 2012). In the arts, dense high-quality peer groups increased the market value of paintings (Hellmanzik, 2016), while influential teachers shaped music composition over centuries (Borowiecki, 2022; Borowiecki et al., 2023). Closest to our study, using an older version of the location data and without considering co-location and personal connections, Mitchell (2019) shows that writers living in London publish significantly more after moving there. Cox and Figueroa (2025) extend this analysis and show agglomeration benefits in London from the sixteenth century onward. Using similar data and methods, Kuld et al. (2025) explore the heterogeneity of the agglomeration effect for writers in New York City over time and by author characteristics, highlighting how publication quantity effects are dependent on the state of New York's publishing industry. See also (Hanlon and Heblich, 2022) for an overview of the productivity effects of agglomeration in historical contexts.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows. Section 2 describes the data and empirical context. Section 3 outlines the identification strategy. The results are presented in Section 4.

[2]The dataset and all replication code are available at `https://github.com/lkuld/Mitchell-Kuld-Literary-Networks-JCE`.

[3]See Granovetter, 1973; Helsley and Strange, 2002; Storper and Venables, 2004; Duranton and Puga, 2004; Singh, 2005; Agrawal et al., 2006; Lobo and Strumsky, 2008; Ter Wal and Boschma, 2009; D'Este et al., 2013; Topa and Zenou, 2015; Breschi and Lenzi, 2016; Coll-Martínez, 2019, among others

Section 5 concludes.

2 The data and empirical context

This paper combines the Mitchell (2019) dataset containing location and biographical data on 370 prominent authors (born 1700-1925) with new data on personal connections and publication quality based on entry in a major encyclopedia of world literature. A list of authors included in this study is available in the Data Appendix. This purpose-built dataset was constructed by manually transcribing unstructured information from encyclopaedia entries to a structured environment.[4,5] These data include age, number of publications per annum, and location for every year of the author's life. We limit the study to authors' prime working ages defined as age 18 to 65. The sample used in the analysis begins in 1725 and ends in 1975.

To measure publication quality, we obtain data from *Kindlers Literatur Lexikon (2018)*, henceforth *Kindler*, a comprehensive German encyclopedia on literature that aims to only cover the most important works in all languages in cultural history.[6] As such, it is a valuable source of authors' best or canonical works as judged by the editorial team and therefore the measure represents experts' opinion.[7] Ultimately, 455 publications included in the *Kindler* encyclopedia could be linked to 171 authors in our dataset with almost half of these authors only having one publication listed. We consider inclusion in the *Kindler* encyclopedia as a very long-run quality assessment.

The dataset also includes a measure of author eminence, defined as the total word count of the entries dedicated to the respective authors in the following online encyclopaedias: Encyclopaedia Britannica (2014); The Literary Encyclopaedia (2014); and Literature Online (2014). This eminence or quality measure is modern derivation of the column-inch method used by O'Hagan and Kelly (2005) and Hellmanzik (2010), among others. With the column-inch method, an artist's prominence is determined by the amount of space (in terms of columns and inches) dedicated to that author in hard copies of dictionaries and encyclopaedias. This method was commonly used before these reference materials were digitised and thus automatically extracting the word count was not possible. The three encyclopaedias used in this study were available online, thus allowing for a more precise measure of the amount of critical attention each author receives.[8]

[4]Celtic literature includes literature associated with Celtic nations within the British Isles (Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man, Wales, and Cornwall) and does not strictly refer to literature written in the Celtic languages.

[5]Authors are defined as individuals who made at least one unique contribution to poetry or prose, which eliminated individuals whose contributions were strictly limited to translations, textbooks, manuals or guides, song-writing, literary criticism, or publishing.

[6]See Arnold, Heinz Ludwig (2009) for more information on the aims of the encyclopedia, the curatorial process, and the contributors.

[7]We received permission to collect data from the *Kindlers Literatur Lexikon* web portal through personal correspondence on 5 December 2017. The data collection process via webscraping was conducted in early 2018.

[8]In a personal correspondence with J.E. Luebering (Encyclopaedia Britannica Executive Director, Core Editorial) and Adam Augustyn (Encyclopaedia Britannica Managing Editor) on 27 August 2019, we confirmed that the column-inch method and word count method were, historically, reasonably good reflections of the contemporaneous significance of a person (artist, author or otherwise). There were physical constraints to the traditional

Furthermore, data on author personal connections were collected from the three original sources (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2014; The Literary Encyclopaedia, 2014; and Literature Online, 2014) in a separate data collection process. All fellow authors mentioned in a given author's biographical entries were recorded, and connections in this study were limited to other authors in the existing dataset. This allows us to explore the role of physical space compared to social and idea space (see Azoulay et al., 2010, Agrawal et al., 2006, among others) by identifying the years when an author and her connections were co-located. (We are not able to time personal connections precisely, and therefore we rely on variation in co-location with associates to estimate their impact.)

The list of personal connections is not a comprehensive list of all individuals an author met or interacted with. Rather, the list includes individuals such as friends, family, professional contacts, important rivals, etc. who played an important role in an author's personal life, professional life, or both. We argue that this data limitation is a reasonable one. Not all personal connections would have an impact on an author's writing process or access to important literary actors. The experts chosen to write the biographies are selected because of their specialised knowledge on the respective author, and we rely on their expertise to determine which connections are important enough to merit mention in a biography.[9]

It is important to note that there is often substantial overlap between "idea space" and "social space" in the creative circles of authors, with some fellow connections both assisting in the creative process and serving as important gatekeepers providing influence and access.[10] Our initial example of the Bloomsbury Group included two members, Virginia Woolf and Leonard Woolf, who were both fellow authors and founders of the Hogarth Press which published a number of works by members of the group (Marcus, 1996). Thus, we only make the distinction between co-located, otherwise unconnected authors (physical space) and co-located personal connections (idea/social space).

Given the historical limitations in travel and communication technology, physical proximity to personal connections is likely to play an important role in productivity in addition to the economies of scale effects from the geographic concentration of authors in general or agglomeration of the publishing and book selling industries. In particular, social connections may facilitate knowledge spillovers through three possible mechanisms:

> "First, once a relationship is established, it may actually be pleasurable for the

printed encyclopaedia sets, and so the editorial board had to determine both who should be included in the encyclopaedia and how much space should be devoted to that person in each edition. They believe this is still broadly the case now; however, they note that the digitisation of encyclopaedias and the low cost of digital storage has relaxed these constraints. They do provide word count targets when they commission articles, but they noted that they would not reduce the length of an article if an expert contributor went beyond the target word count.

[9] In the 27 August 2019 personal correspondence with J.E. Luebering (EB Executive Director, Core Editorial), we asked about their editorial process, how the editorial team decide who to include in the encyclopaedia, and who writes the encyclopaedia entries. They noted that the articles are written by commissioned experts and staff contributors. Each article includes a list of article contributors and their qualifications, as well as an article history detailing the changes made to the article since it was digitised.

[10] Farrell (2003) details a number of collaborative literary circles and how the members' relationships influenced the authors' work.

> parties to exchange information about their work. Second, even where the information exchange is costly, the establishment of a long-term relationship may allow for the development of trust that facilitates reciprocal knowledge transfer. Third, where inventors care about the opinions their colleagues hold about their work and their willingness to cooperate, the development of social relationships may contribute to social pressures to reveal (at least) the non-rivalrous part of what they know." (Agrawal et al., 2006, p. 4)

Indeed, there is anecdotal evidence of this in authors' correspondences and other historical records. For example, J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis were members of an informal collaborative group of Oxford-based writers known as *the Inklings* who met regularly through the 1930s and 1940s. The group began with casual meetings between Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and Owen Barfield, during which they discussed politics and philosophy. The group slowly expanded to include other writers, and eventually – and perhaps most influentially – they began to discuss their own unfinished works. Encyclopaedia Britannica (2014) notes that:

> "The group contributed significantly to its members' success through its criticism, support, and encouragement, an indebtedness evident in the acknowledgment pages and dedication pages of many of their works: Lewis's *The Problem of Pain*, Williams's *The Forgiveness of Sins*, and the first edition of Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* were dedicated to the Inklings. Lewis wrote of the Inklings, "What I owe to them all is incalculable," and Tolkien noted that "only by [Lewis's] support and friendship did I ever struggle to the end" of *The Lord of the Rings*."[11]

Thus, there is evidence that the co-location of authors enabled collaborations that resulted in knowledge being shared within social groups.

While J.R.R. Tolkien certainly had contact with many other people throughout his life, it is reasonable to assume that spillovers between authors are most likely to occur within literary circles rather than among all people they ever had contact with. It is important to note, though, that collaborations in literature typically do not result in co-authored works, unlike collaborations among innovators and academics which often result in collaborative works such as co-patents and co-authored research papers. The only quantifiable outcome of such literary collaborations is any resulting increase in individual productivity or quality of works being produced.

There may be concern that authors born outside the UK and Ireland may be systematically disadvantaged in establishing social connections with other authors in the network.[12] However, all such individuals successfully integrated into British society. There is no evidence to suggest that being born abroad or being an immigrant systematically disadvantaged any of the

[11] See Encyclopaedia Britannica (2014) entry on *The Inklings*

[12] The locations elsewhere in the world primarily consist of parts of the British Empire: India (6), Australia (1), Burma – now Myanmar (1), New Zealand (2), South Africa (1), and Southern Rhodesia – now Zimbabwe (1). Others were born to British parents living abroad but outside the British Empire who often returned to the British Isles at relatively young ages. There are some notable exceptions.

authors.[13]

Summary statistics and network visualisation

Our dataset contains 24,957 author–year observations for 370 authors. For estimation and summary statistics, we restrict the data to ages 18–65 and years 1725–1975 and remove 834 observations with unknown location. The resulting estimation sample contains 14,556 observations.

Summary statistics for both the full and final estimation samples are presented in Table 1. As expected, mean yearly publications are higher in the estimation sample: 0.69 publications per year as opposed 0.5 publications per year in the full dataset where childhood and years after 65 are included.

Entries in the *Kindler* encyclopaedia are rare with 0.02 to 0.06 yearly publications depending on the sample. This is roughly one-twentieth of total publications for all authors, and about one-tenth among the around 50% of authors with at least one *Kindler* entry. 57 to 64% of observations are for writers with at least one co-located author (CLA) and 38 to 44% of observations are in London.

Figure 1 details population trends. The share of authors residing in London declines during the twentieth century. While the total author population peaks after 1925, the London-based author population peaks around 1900. Author quality, as proxied by encyclopaedia text length, also peaks around this time, both for the overall sample and for London-based authors. However, the relationship between author quality and the number of authors residing in London appears weak.

As shown in Figure 2, yearly publications per author increase from the mid-19$^{\text{th}}$ century onwards, with a notable decline during the Second World War. Due in part to the relatively low

[13]For example, Wyndham Lewis was born to a British father and an American mother. Though he was born on his father's yacht off the coast of Canada, his parents subsequently returned to England. W.H. Hudson's parents were Americans (of British and Irish origin). While Hudson was born in Buenos Aires, he moved to England at age 28. Hudson became a naturalised British citizen in 1900. T.S. Eliot was born in Missouri, USA to American parents. Eliot moved to England at age 25, became a naturalised British citizen, and renounced his US citizenship. Encyclopaedia Britannica (2014) entries on *Wyndham Lewis, W.H. Hudson, and T.S. Eliot* for more information.

Similarly, Jennie Jerome Churchill was born in New York, USA to American parents. Churchill moved to Paris at age 13 and never lived in the US again. She married Lord Randolph Churchill at age 20 and became a well-known British socialite. Churchill is also famously the mother of Sir Winston Churchill (the former Prime Minister of the UK), who is also an author included in this dataset. Although he is more famous as a politician and non-fiction writings, Sir Winston Churchill also wrote a novel, a short-story, and poetry. See Encyclopaedia Britannica (2014) entries on *Jennie Jerome Churchill* and *Winston Churchill* for more information.

Joseph Conrad is notable as the only author who was not a native English speaker. Joseph Conrad was born in Ukraine to Polish parents. Conrad first travelled to England in 1878 after serving on a British freighter. At the time, he had very limited knowledge of the English language (though his literary works were written almost exclusively in English). He eventually settled in England and was naturalised in 1886. Despite the language disadvantage, Conrad is recognised as "a writer of complex skill and striking insight, but above all of an intensely personal vision, he has been increasingly regarded as one of the greatest English novelists" (*Joseph Conrad*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2014.)

frequency, there is no clear temporal pattern in publications featured in the *Kindler* encyclopaedia of world literature.

Figure 3 shows that the average author increases their yearly publication output throughout their twenties and thirties, eventually reaching a stable level of nearly one publication per year. In contrast, authors are most likely to produce works included in the *Kindler* between the ages of 30 and 45, as depicted in Figure 3b.

Turning to co-location, both overall and with personally connected peers, Figure 4 shows a rapid increase when authors are in their twenties. This coincides with authors' migration to London and smaller urban centres. Co-location peaks in the early thirties. After this age, the total number of co-located authors declines gradually, while the number of co-located personally connected authors declines more steeply.

These age- and year-based patterns of publication and proximity to other writers are broadly consistent and are further explored in O'Hagan (2022a,b); Kuld and Mitchell (2023) and Kuld et al. (2025).

As discussed previously, *creative circles*, defined as groups of writers who are both co-located and personally connected, may play a particularly important role in creative production. Figure 5 shows the number of local personal connections in the final dataset, that is, personal connections that are co-located. On the one hand, relatively few yearly observations are of authors co-locating with more than three personal connections (1,060 or seven percent). On the other hand, a substantial part of the writers in our sample co-locate with more than three personal connections during at least a few years of their life: Nearly one quarter of all authors (85) co-locate with more than three local personal connections in at least one year between the ages of 18 and 65. Figure 6 shows all 85 of these highly connected authors and their connections. Nodes without a label represent authors with three or fewer local personal connections. Given the long time span of the data, the network shown indicates a high degree of social/personal connectivity persisting across generations.

3 Empirical strategy

We broadly follow the estimation approach taken, among others, by Borowiecki (2015); Mitchell (2019) and Kuld et al. (2025). More specifically, we begin by estimating the effect of mean characteristics of co-located authors with the following equation.

$$y_{ilt} = \beta_1 n_{lt-i} + \beta_2 \overline{q}_{lt-i} + \beta_3 n^p_{ilt} + X_{ilt}\gamma + \mu_i + \tau_t + \alpha_{it} + \epsilon_{ilt} \tag{1}$$

in which output y_{ilt} of individual i in location l at time t is a function of the number n_{lt-i} and mean quality $\overline{q}_{lt-i}$ of authors in location l at time t excluding author i, and the number of

personally connected authors n^p_{ilt} of author i in location l at time t .[14] μ_i are author fixed-effects, τ_t are year fixed-effects, and α_{it} are age fixed-effects.

X_{ilt} is a vector of further characteristics of author, location, and year. For instance, we include a dummy variable indicating at least one other co-located author (CLA). The rationale for the dummy is that we set $\overline{q}_{lt-i} = 0$ if no other author co-locates with author i in year t. We also include a dummy variable for London in several specifications. London is the centre of the British literature throughout the time period considered, both as the centre of the publishing industry and the number of authors living there. As we will discuss below, the number of co-located authors can be interpreted as a proxy for living in London without the inclusion of the London dummy.

As described in the data section, output y is either (i) a count of all publications in a year as a measure of overall publication quantity or (ii) counting only those included in the *Kindler* encyclopedia as measure of canonical, high-quality works. It is important to note that the output indicates when a work was published but not when that work was written. This measurement error is not unique to this study. The same problem is encountered in studies of scientific production or invention, as it is only possible to know when an academic article was published or when a patent was registered but not when the actual idea occurred. For example, Hanlon (2015) finds evidence of an rapid increase in patents for technologies related to lower-quality Indian cotton after the US Civil War made them more profitable, while it is likely that the inventions had been made prior to the blockade of higher-quality US cotton.

4 Results

We discuss our findings on agglomeration, co-location, and personal connections in three subsections: the effect on publication quantity, on publication quality, and the effects of creative circles.

4.1 Publication quantity

Table 2 and Tables A1–A4 in the appendix report associations between authors' annual publication counts and (i) the numbers of co-located authors with and without a documented personal connection and (ii) the quality and productivity of co-located authors. (We refer to co-located authors as CLA in the regression tables.)

The first observation is that authors publish more when they co-locate with at least one other author and/or reside in London, consistent with Mitchell (2019) and Cox and Figueroa (2025). Because London hosts a large share of authors throughout the period, the unconditional correlation between the number of co-located authors and publication quantity is also positive; see

[14] Mean quality is calculated as $\bar{q}_{lt-i} = \frac{1}{n_{lt}} \sum_{j=1, j\neq i}^{n_{lt}} Quality_j$, where *Quality* refers to the number of words in the encyclopedia entry of author j.

Columns (1) and (9) of Table A1 in the appendix, where no location controls are included.

However, once we control for living in London and/or for having at least one co-located author, publication quantity shows no positive association with the number, eminence/quality, or productivity of additional co-located authors. In addition, Column (5) in Table 2 shows that there is no positive connection between output and co-located authors within or outside London. Therefore, output increases with being in London or not being isolated, but not with having more or more eminent co-located authors per se. The following estimates with additional specifications further support this conclusion.

It is important to note that co-location captures place-specific characteristics that attract writers. The "1+ co-located author" (1+ CLA) indicator picks up smaller centres, while the London dummy arguably reflects access to gatekeepers and publishing infrastructure (publishers, editors) as much as proximity to peers; see Mitchell (2019) and Kuld et al. (2025) for a discussion of these mechanisms. Our empirical setting cannot fully separate London's role from co-location since no other city matches London's scale during this period.

Focusing on co-location with authors who are personally connected or similar in age or gender, we again find no association with publication quantity (see Tables 2 and A3).

Turning to the quality or eminence of co-located authors—proxied by the average length of their encyclopaedia entries—we find no positive association with publication quantity. In some specifications (cols. 1, 3, and 4 of Table 2), co-location with eminent but not personally connected writers is even associated with a negative effect on publications, suggestive of a crowding-out effect. Therefore, competition with co-locating and more eminent peers might hurt the publication prospects.

We show additional estimates that include the mean lagged output y_{t-1} of other authors in city l at time t excluding author i as $\bar{y}_{lt-1} = \frac{1}{n_{lt-1}} \sum_{j=1, j\neq i}^{n_{lt}} Output_{jt-1}$ in Table A2 in the appendix. We do not include this variable in the main specifications because its interpretation is ambiguous once lagged outcomes and fixed effects are included. Consistent with our main results, we do not find a positive association between peer productivity and an author's publication quantity.

These findings are robust to estimating proportional instead of linear changes in co-located authors or publication counts. The former is shown by taking the logarithm of the number of co-located authors in columns 9 and 10 of Table A1. Proportional changes in publication counts are explored in quasi-Poisson regressions show in Table A4.

4.2 Publication of Major Literary Works

Looking at the quality of published works via entry in an encyclopedia of major literary works, we find a very different pattern compared to overall publication quantity.

Table 3 shows that the number of co-located personal connections has a positive association with

publications that are listed in the *Kindler* encyclopedia. Each additional co-located personally connected writer is associated with an increase of 0.006 to 0.008 such works per year. The corresponding estimates are 0.009 to 0.014 for writers with at least one such publication. While these estimates are not large by itself, they imply a substantial percentage increase on the average number of *Kindler* publications (see Table 1).

Estimating the proportional effect in Table A5, we see that each additional co-located and personally connected author is associated with a an increase in major literary works of around 15%.

Conversely, living in London has no positive association with publication quality without personal connections, and living remotely might be more inducing to produce high quality literary works than living in locations that attract other writers. It could also be the case that authors producing high quality literary works do not need to locate in a literary cluster in order to get their work published. In both cases, there does not appear to be a link between location type and publication quality other than through personal connections.

4.3 Creative Circles

Finally, we repeat the analysis with respect to both quantity and quality of publications but now look at the effect of larger groups of co-located personal connections. We define these creative circles as groups of at least five co-located writers, as described above in the introduction and data section and depicted in Figure 6. To this end we introduce the dummy variable *Creative Circle* that equals one if an author co-locates at least four personal connections in a given year.

Table 4 shows that being co-located with a larger number of personally connected writers has a strong positive association with publication quality (see Columns (4-6)). High-quality (canonical) publications increase by an average of 0.04–0.06 per year, effectively doubling the previous average output.

Table A6 presents quasi-Poisson estimates of the proportional effect of creative-circle exposure on the annual number of major literary works. The coefficients around 0.70 imply an incidence-rate ratio of around $e^{0.70} \approx 2.01$, indicating that years spent in a creative circle are associated with roughly double the yearly count of major works.

As Panels B in Tables 4 and A6 shows, belonging to a creative circle also increases overall publication output among authors with at least one Kindler publication. By contrast, the publication output of Kindler authors rises relatively less from living in London alone. For authors without a Kindler publication, however, living in London has a greater impact on productivity than participation in creative circles.

This highlights the importance of peers for more artistically ambitious writers. This could also indicate that less eminent or artistically less ambitious writers might be more dependent on proximity to London's publication industry and less dependent on proximity to creative peers.

As discussed in (Kuld et al., 2025), critically acclaimed and mass market writers may target different audiences, with the former targeting peers and tastemakers such as editors and critics. Therefore, authors writing for critical acclaim benefit relatively more from personal ties with the literary elite.

4.4 Robustness of estimates with respect to timing of connections

We estimate alternative specifications to assess robustness. First, we use three-year rolling lags of co-location/connection, and find no material difference to the findings presented earlier.

Second, we study the dynamics of the *Kindler* publication effect from co-location with a creative circle, defined as at least four co-located personal connections, in an event-study framework. Figure 7 shows no pre-trends in *Kindler publications*, supporting the identifying assumption. Post-event coefficients are generally positive but imprecise and show no clear temporal pattern, which is consistent with the low frequency of canonical publications and imprecise timing of personal connections.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we confirm the positive association between living in a literary centre and publication quantity. As discussed in Mitchell (2019) and Kuld et al. (2025), there are several possible channels for this effect. We find little evidence that the raw number or eminence of co-located writers has a major impact on publication quantity even if writers are personally connected. However, we find a persistent association between co-location with personally connected writers and producing canonical literature.

The absence of a London premium for *Kindler* publications, together with the positive effect of co-locating with personally connected peers, suggests that the production of high-quality, canonical works depends more on peer interactions than on access to publishing infrastructure. Living in London likely raised publication opportunities, for example, through increasing the probability of high-quality matches between authors and editors. On the other hand, repeated feedback, support, and critique within creative circles raise quality.

While we find the agglomeration effect on quality to work primarily through personal connections, agglomeration might play an important role in facilitating social ties as highlighted by Cox and Figueroa (2025). In addition, the presence of a large number of authors in London might have driven the development of literary infrastructure. This makes it difficult to distinguish the quantitative London effect from the effect of co-location with a large number of authors conceptually and, as discussed earlier, empirically.

The findings rely on the usual assumptions to allow a causal interpretation, in particular, that co-location or personal connections are not purely a reflection of a writer's output. It is also

important to note that the author fixed effects absorb much of the potential impact of co-location or personal connections and, therefore, their impact on quantity and/or quality might be more positive than estimated in this study.

Our findings may also have implications for other areas such as scientific research. With the right institutional setting, the quantity of research publications might not depend on personal connections as much as the quality of these publications.

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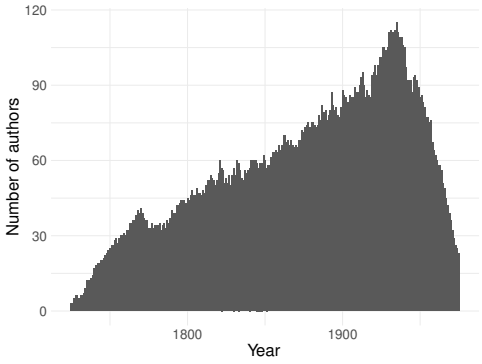
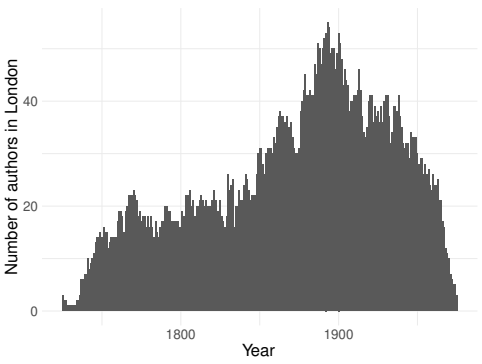
A Figures

Figure 1: Author Population in Effective Sample

(a) No. Authors



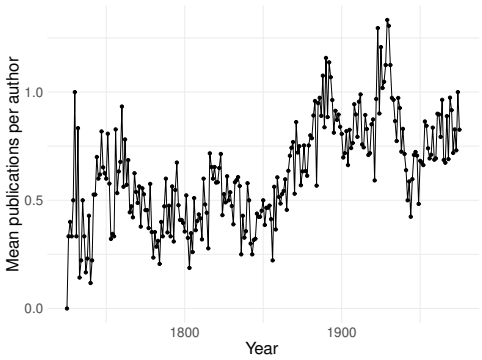
(b) No. Authors in London



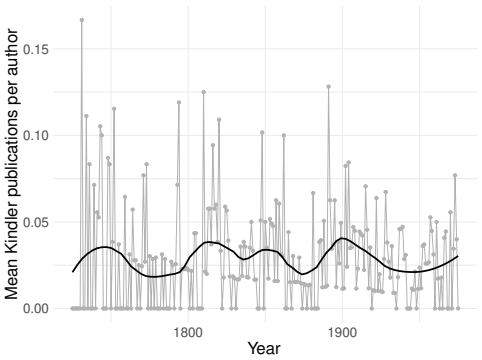
Note: The plots show the overall number of authors as used in the empirical analysis and the number of authors residing in London. All observations are for authors in years with a known location, aged 18 to 65, and between 1725 and 1975.

Figure 2: Author Publications over Time

(a) Mean Publications



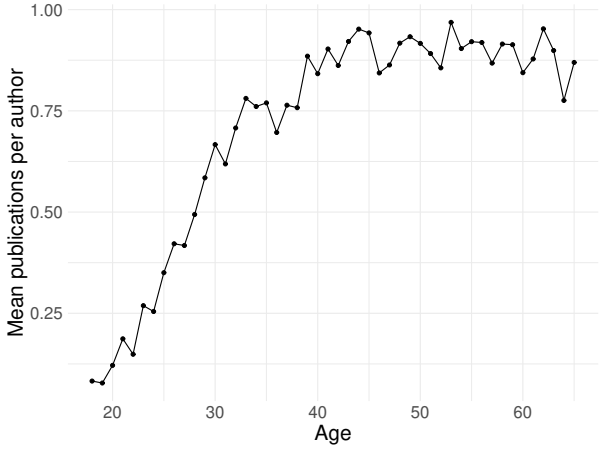
(b) Mean Kindler Publications



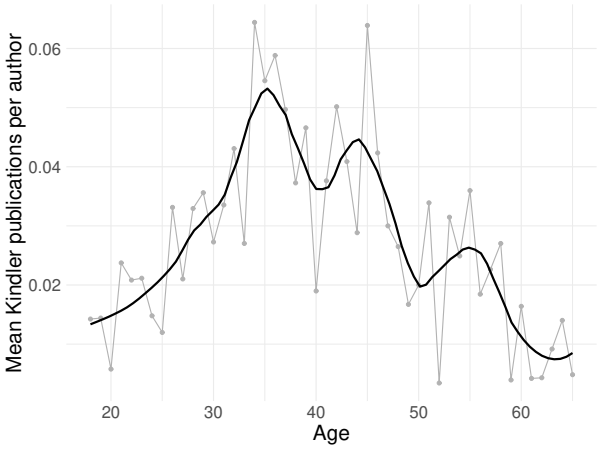
Note: Publications are for authors as used in the empirical analysis. All observations are for authors in years with a known location, aged 18 to 65, and between 1725 and 1975. Kindler publications refer to publications listed in the Kindler encyclopedia. For Kindler publications, only the first year is used where the encyclopedia gives several publication years. We add a smoothed curve in black using local regressions.

Figure 3: Lifecycle Trend in Publications

(a) Mean Publications



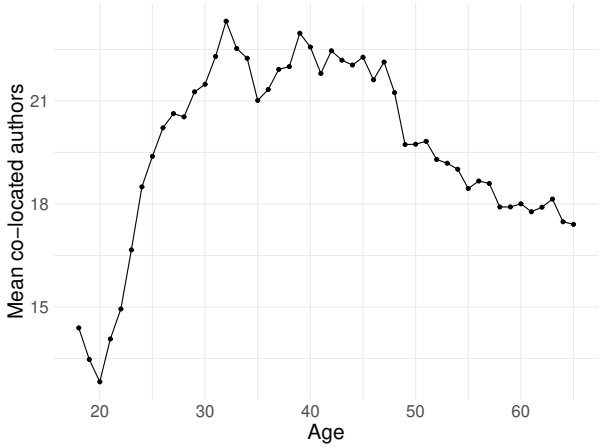
(b) Mean Kindler Publications



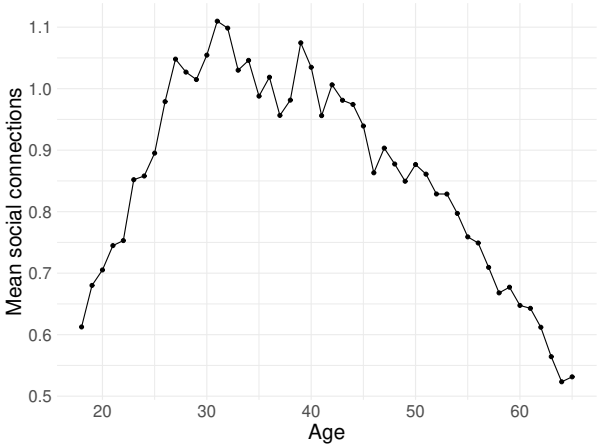
Note: Publications are for authors as used in the empirical analysis. All observations are for authors in years with a known location, aged 18 to 65, and between 1725 and 1975. Kindler publications refer to publications listed in the Kindler encyclopedia. For Kindler publications, only the first year is used where the encyclopedia gives several publication years. We add a smoothed curve in black using local regressions.

Figure 4: Lifecycle Trend in No. personal Connections

(a) No. Co-located authors

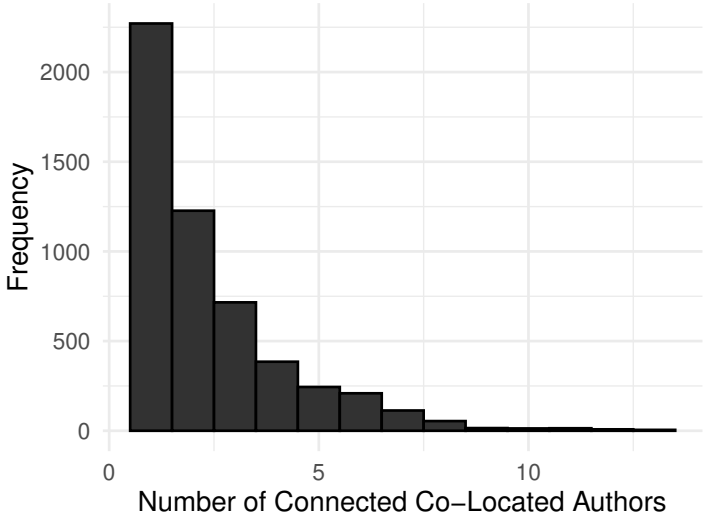


(b) No. co-located and personally connected authors



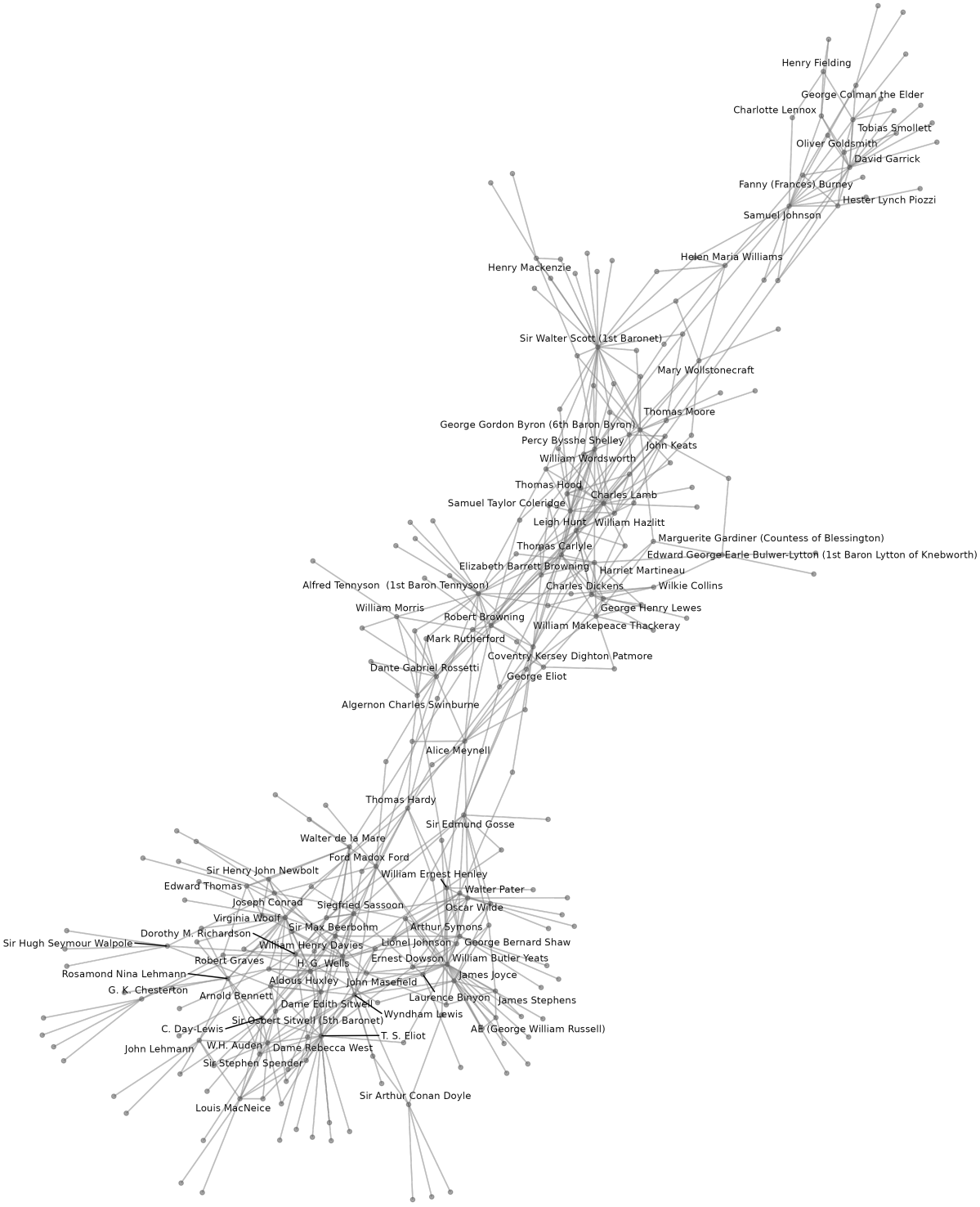
Note: Co-located and connected author statistics are per author, as used in the empirical analysis. All observations are for authors in years with a known location, aged 18 to 65, and between 1725 and 1975.

Figure 5: Co-located Personal Connections Histogram



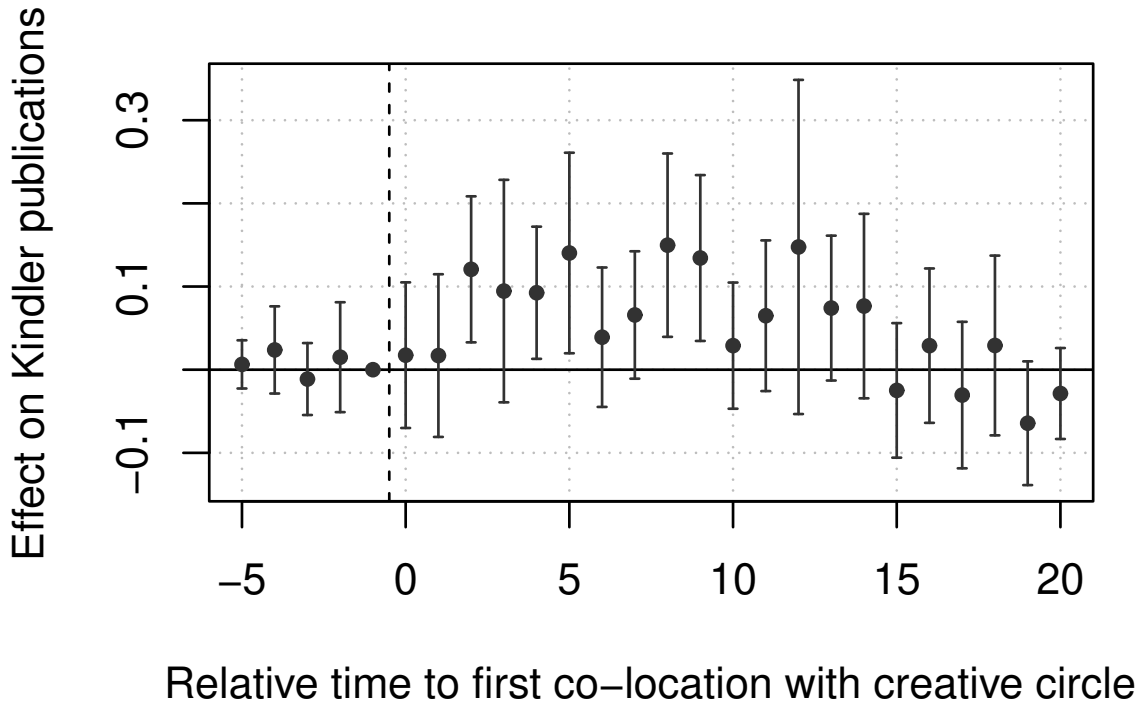
Note: The figure is a histogram of the number of personal connections that are co-located with a given author in a given year. All observations are for authors in years with a known location, aged 18 to 65, and between 1725 and 1975. We exclude the 9,282 zero observations for readability.

Figure 6: Highly Connected Authors



Notes: The graph shows all authors with at least four local personal connections and the personal connections with whom they co-located.

Figure 7: Creative Circle and *Kindler* Publications Event Study



Notes: The graph shows yearly estimates for publications listed in the *Kindler* encyclopedia relative to first co-location with a *creative circle*, that is co-location with at least four personally connected writers in year 0. The estimation is limited to authors with at least one *Kindler* publication. The event study uses the Gardner imputation estimator as implemented in R by Butts and Gardner (2022) to account for staggered treatment entry. The 90% confidence intervals are based on standard errors clustered at the author level.

B Tables

Table 1: Overall Summary Statistics

	Full sample	Final sample
Number of authors	370	370
Number of author-year observations	24,957	14,556
Mean no. publications	0.50	0.69
Share of Kindler authors	0.46	0.46
Mean no. Kindler publications	0.02	0.03
Mean no. Kindler publications (Kindler author)*	0.04	0.06
Mean word count	4078.2	4081.12
Share of female authors	0.20	0.20
Mean no. co-located authors	16.54	19.66
Mean no. co-located personal connections	0.68	0.87
Mean 1+ co-located authors**	0.57	0.64
Mean obs. in London	0.38	0.44
Mean year	1873.43	1876.36

Notes: The final sample includes observations are for authors in years with a known location, aged 18 to 65, and between 1725 and 1975. *A Kindler author refers to an author with at least one publication listed in the Kindler encyclopaedia. **1+ co-located authors is a binary variable equal to 1 if an author is co-located with at least one other author and equal to 0 otherwise. All means are computed using author-year observations.

Table 2: Publication Quantity

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1+ CLA†	0.135*	0.066+	0.149*	0.123*	0.064
	(0.061)	(0.039)	(0.063)	(0.062)	(0.054)
No. CLA	0.002		0.002	−0.003	−0.022
	(0.002)		(0.002)	(0.003)	(0.015)
Quality CLA	−0.060*		−0.068*	−0.064*	
	(0.028)		(0.030)	(0.031)	
Connected CLA		0.009	−0.001	−0.004	−0.028
		(0.018)	(0.021)	(0.021)	(0.053)
Quality of Connected CLA		0.018	0.029	0.030	
		(0.023)	(0.024)	(0.025)	
London				0.244*	0.183
				(0.121)	(0.125)
London:CLA					0.019
					(0.015)
London:Connected CLA					0.028
					(0.058)
No. obs.	14556	14556	14556	14556	14556
Author, Age, Year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
R^2	0.369	0.368	0.369	0.370	0.370

† CLA = co-located author(s) $^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

Notes: The table shows estimates from linear regressions on the publication of writers. Standard errors in parentheses are clustered on the author level. See Table 1 for summary statistics on these variables.

Table 3: Publications of Major Literary Works

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1+ CLA	−0.003	−0.007	−0.011*	−0.009	−0.010		
	(0.005)	(0.011)	(0.005)	(0.011)	(0.011)		
No. CLA		0.000		−0.000	−0.000		
		(0.000)		(0.000)	(0.000)		
Qual. CLA		0.000		0.000	0.000		
		(0.005)		(0.005)	(0.005)		
Connected CLA			0.007*	0.008*	0.008*	0.006*	0.006*
			(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)
Quality CLA			0.001	0.001	0.001		0.001
			(0.004)	(0.004)	(0.004)		(0.004)
London					0.006		
					(0.014)		
No. obs.	14556	14556	14556	14556	14556	14556	14556
Author, Age, Year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
R^2	0.127	0.127	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.127	0.127

† CLA = co-located author(s) $^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

Notes: The table shows estimates from linear regressions on *Kindler* publications of writers, i.e. publications that are listed in the *Kindler* encyclopaedia of world literature. Standard errors in parentheses are clustered on the author level. See Table 1 for summary statistics on these variables.

Table 4: Creative Circles

Panel A: Full sample of authors						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quality	Quality	Quality
Creative Circle	0.137*	0.113^{+}	0.073	0.040**	0.042**	0.042**
	(0.066)	(0.067)	(0.070)	(0.013)	(0.014)	(0.013)
1+ CLA		0.066^{+}	−0.006		−0.007	−0.007
		(0.035)	(0.045)		(0.005)	(0.007)
London			0.122^{+}			0.000
			(0.064)			(0.005)
No. obs.	14556	14556	14556	14556	14556	14556
Author, Age, Year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
R^2	0.368	0.370	0.370	0.128	0.128	0.128
Panel B: Only writers with at least one Kindler publication entry						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Creative Circle	0.203**	0.188*	0.163*	0.062**	0.067**	0.067**
	(0.074)	(0.075)	(0.080)	(0.020)	(0.021)	(0.020)
1+ CLA		0.045	−0.001		−0.015	−0.016
		(0.056)	(0.071)		(0.011)	(0.015)
London			0.074			0.000
			(0.078)			(0.012)
No. obs.	6686	6686	6686	6686	6686	6686
Author, Age, Year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
R^2	0.371	0.371	0.372	0.133	0.133	0.133

† CLA = co-located author(s) $^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

Notes: The table shows estimates from linear regressions on publications (Panel A) and *Kindler* publications of writers (Panel B), i.e. publications that are listed in the *Kindler* encyclopaedia of world literature. Standard errors in parentheses are clustered on the author level. See Table 1 for summary statistics on these variables.

C Table Appendix

Table A1: Additional Specifications for Co-located authors

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
No. CLA	0.002*			0.003+	−0.003			−0.003		
	(0.001)			(0.001)	(0.003)			(0.003)		
Quality CLA		0.014		−0.011		−0.022		−0.016		
		(0.016)		(0.025)		(0.020)		(0.025)		
Lagged Publ. of CLA			0.022	−0.016			−0.035	−0.016		
			(0.029)	(0.029)			(0.024)	(0.029)		
London					0.250*	0.155**	0.145**	0.262*		0.271*
					(0.123)	(0.059)	(0.048)	(0.120)		(0.118)
log(No. CLA + 1)									0.030*	−0.043
									(0.013)	(0.032)
No. obs.	14556	14556	14556	14556	14556	14556	14556	14556	14556	14556
Author, Age, Year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
R^2	0.370	0.368	0.368	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370

† CLA = co-located author(s)

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

Notes: The table shows estimates from linear regressions on publications of authors. Standard errors in parentheses are clustered on the author level. The variable *Lagged Publ. of CLA* refers to the lagged number of publications of co-located authors. See Table 1 for summary statistics on these variables.

Table A2: Additional Specifications for Personal Connections

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Connected CLA	0.018			0.018
	(0.016)			(0.017)
Quality of Connected CLA		0.018		0.019
		(0.023)		(0.023)
Lagged Publ. Connected CLA			0.012	0.001
			(0.021)	(0.022)
No. obs.	14556	14556	14556	14556
Author, Age, Year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
R^2	0.368	0.368	0.368	0.368
† CLA = co-located author(s)	$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$			

Notes: The table shows estimates from linear regressions on publications of authors. Standard errors in parentheses are clustered on the author level. The variable *Lagged Publ. Connected CLA* refers to the lagged number of publications of personally connected co-located authors. See Table 1 for summary statistics on these variables.

Table A3: Age and Gender of Co-located Authors

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1+ CLA	−0.004	0.001	−0.000	0.007
	(0.046)	(0.048)	(0.047)	(0.047)
CLA of Same Gender	−0.001	−0.002		
	(0.003)	(0.003)		
Qual. CLA of Same Gender		−0.042*		
		(0.018)		
Lagged Publ. CLA of Same Gender		0.008		
		(0.029)		
CLA of Same Age			−0.002	−0.002
			(0.004)	(0.004)
Qual. CLA of Same Age				−0.016
				(0.019)
Lagged Publ. CLA of Same Age				−0.029
				(0.033)
London	0.173*	0.165*	0.170*	0.167*
	(0.075)	(0.075)	(0.076)	(0.076)
No. obs.	14556	14556	14556	14556
Author, Age, Year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
R^2	0.369	0.370	0.369	0.369

† CLA = co-located author(s) $^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

Notes: The table shows estimates from linear regressions on publications of authors. Standard errors in parentheses are clustered on the author level. The variable names that include *Lag. Publ.* refer to the lagged number of publications. See Table 1 for summary statistics on related variables.

Table A4: Publication Quantity (quasi-Poisson)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1+ CLA	0.110*	0.159+	0.102*	0.183+	0.134
	(0.047)	(0.093)	(0.051)	(0.096)	(0.094)
No. CLA		0.002		0.002	−0.007+
		(0.001)		(0.002)	(0.004)
Quality CLA		−0.057		−0.069+	−0.060
		(0.036)		(0.039)	(0.040)
Connected CLA			0.006	−0.003	−0.008
			(0.016)	(0.019)	(0.019)
Quality of Connected CLA			0.027	0.038	0.039
			(0.033)	(0.035)	(0.034)
London					0.470*
					(0.184)
No. obs.	14545	14545	14545	14545	14545
Author, Age, Year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

† CLA = co-located author(s) ***$p < 0.001$; **$p < 0.01$; *$p < 0.05$; +$p < 0.1$

Notes: The table shows estimates from quasi-Poisson regressions on the publication of writers. Standard errors in parentheses are clustered on the author level. See Table 1 for summary statistics on these variables.

Table A5: Publications of Major Literary Works (quasi-Poisson)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1+ CLA	−0.030	−0.109	−0.348*	−0.149	−0.192		
	(0.143)	(0.304)	(0.171)	(0.306)	(0.317)		
No. CLA		0.005		−0.002	−0.008		
		(0.005)		(0.006)	(0.011)		
Quality CLA		−0.040		−0.090	−0.081		
		(0.166)		(0.170)	(0.173)		
Connected CLA			0.153**	0.166**	0.160*	0.102*	0.103*
			(0.057)	(0.062)	(0.065)	(0.049)	(0.049)
Quality of Connected CLA			0.037	0.061	0.056		0.032
			(0.114)	(0.106)	(0.106)		(0.109)
London					0.316		
					(0.538)		
No. obs.	4884	4884	4884	4884	4884	4884	4884
Author, Age, Year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

† CLA = co-located author(s) ***$p < 0.001$; **$p < 0.01$; *$p < 0.05$; +$p < 0.1$

Notes: The table shows estimates from quasi-Poisson regressions on *Kindler* publications of writers, i.e. publications that are listed in the *Kindler* encyclopaedia of world literature. Standard errors in parentheses are clustered on the author level. See Table 1 for summary statistics on these variables.

Table A6: Creative Circles (quasi-Poisson)

Panel A: Full sample of authors						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quality	Quality	Quality
Creative Circle	0.119^{+}	0.081	0.018	0.646^{**}	0.766^{**}	0.744^{**}
	(0.070)	(0.072)	(0.077)	(0.228)	(0.240)	(0.245)
1+ CLA		0.099^{*}	−0.001		−0.233	−0.268
		(0.049)	(0.056)		(0.157)	(0.207)
London			0.168^{*}			0.064
			(0.074)			(0.250)
No. obs.	14545	14545	14545	4884	4884	4884
Author, Age, Year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Panel B: Only writers with at least one Kindler publication entry						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Creative Circle	0.177^{*}	0.163^{*}	0.130	0.646^{**}	0.766^{**}	0.744^{**}
	(0.083)	(0.083)	(0.091)	(0.228)	(0.240)	(0.245)
1+ CLA		0.041	−0.013		−0.233	−0.268
		(0.062)	(0.074)		(0.157)	(0.207)
London			0.089			0.064
			(0.093)			(0.250)
No. obs.	6677	6677	6677	4884	4884	4884
Author, Age, Year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

† CLA = co-located author(s) $^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

Notes: The table shows estimates from quasi-Poisson regressions on publications (Panel A) and *Kindler* publications of writers (Panel B), i.e. publications that are listed in the *Kindler* encyclopaedia of world literature. Standard errors in parentheses are clustered on the author level. See Table 1 for summary statistics on these variables.

Table A7: List of authors included in this study

Author Name	Year of Birth	Year of Death	Word Count	Total Works	Years in London
A. A. Milne	1882	1956	3118	65	35
A. E. Housman	1859	1936	3082	11	28
AE (George William Russell)	1867	1935	2315	11	0
Aldous Huxley	1894	1963	7455	70	7
Alexander Harris	1805	1874	153	5	31
Alfred Austin	1835	1913	1273	55	62
Alfred Tennyson	1809	1892	6580	38	16
Algernon Swinburne	1837	1909	6901	81	42
Alice Meynell	1847	1922	6996	36	52
Allan Cunningham	1784	1842	236	23	33
Alun Lewis	1915	1944	1377	3	0
Amelia Opie	1769	1853	5278	35	8
Andrew Lang	1844	1912	2778	128	37
Angela Thirkell	1890	1961	2816	11	63
Ann Radcliffe	1764	1823	5870	6	37
Anna Barbauld	1743	1825	4876	17	39
Anna Seward	1747	1809	2506	15	0
Anna Sewell	1820	1878	713	1	44
Anne Brontë	1820	1849	6373	3	0
Anthony Burgess	1917	1993	4290	63	9
Anthony Hope	1863	1933	2741	48	44
Anthony Trollope	1815	1882	4818	67	32
Arnold Bennett	1867	1931	6788	82	23
Arthur Henry Hallam	1811	1833	1794	4	10
Arthur Hugh Clough	1819	1861	4619	6	10
Arthur Koestler	1905	1983	2420	45	34
Arthur Michell Ransome	1884	1967	2553	19	24
Arthur O'Shaughnessy	1844	1881	167	5	38
Arthur Symons	1865	1945	3242	104	19
Arthur Young	1741	1820	971	24	57
Augusta (Lady Gregory)	1852	1932	4087	54	0
Austin Dobson	1840	1921	787	59	66
Barbara Mary Crampton Pym	1913	1980	4781	9	35
Baron Thomas Babington Macaulay	1800	1859	3791	16	41
Bram Stoker	1847	1912	4979	20	34
Brendan Behan	1923	1964	4172	9	0
Bryher (Annie Winifred Ellerman)	1894	1983	906	12	29
C. Day-Lewis	1904	1972	3681	65	35
C. P. Snow	1905	1980	4521	41	41
C. S. Forester	1899	1966	5881	21	64
C. S. Lewis	1898	1963	5821	45	0
Charles Churchill	1731	1764	2050	17	31
Charles Dickens	1812	1870	12070	33	35

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Author Name	Year of Birth	Year of Death	Word Count	Total Works	Years in London
Charles Kingsley	1819	1875	4110	55	2
Charles Lamb	1775	1834	4432	19	60
Charles Montagu Doughty	1843	1926	4207	13	0
Charles Reade	1814	1884	4993	48	46
Charles Robert Maturin	1782	1824	5293	11	0
Charles Wesley	1707	1788	5387	63	41
Charles Wolfe	1791	1823	701	1	0
Charlotte Brontë	1816	1855	6722	4	0
Charlotte Lennox	1729	1804	4870	18	62
Charlotte M. Yonge	1823	1901	4875	187	6
Charlotte Mew	1869	1928	3673	5	60
Charlotte Smith	1749	1806	4988	22	30
Christina Rossetti	1830	1894	4991	19	64
Christopher Anstey	1724	1805	124	3	0
Christopher Smart	1722	1771	4005	31	23
Compton Mackenzie	1883	1972	5820	129	16
Coventry Patmore	1823	1896	2230	18	41
D. H. Lawrence	1885	1930	11105	57	7
Dame Agatha Christie	1890	1976	5140	116	16
Dame Edith Sitwell	1887	1964	6095	53	40
Dame Iris Murdoch	1919	1999	9626	48	15
Dame Ivy Compton-Burnett	1884	1969	3414	19	56
Dame Rebecca West	1892	1983	6111	24	28
Dame Rose Macaulay	1881	1958	5417	38	47
Daniel Owen	1836	1895	220	7	0
Dante Gabriel Rossetti	1828	1882	7133	13	53
David Garrick	1717	1779	4518	91	39
David Jones	1895	1974	5461	6	65
Donagh MacDonagh	1912	1968	129	8	0
Donald Alfred Davie	1922	1995	1914	43	0
Dorothy M. Richardson	1873	1957	3555	15	55
Douglas William	1803	1857	1963	42	45
Dylan Thomas	1914	1953	8572	11	10
E. C. Bentley	1875	1956	1520	8	78
E. M. Forster	1879	1970	7062	45	48
Edmund Charles Blunden	1896	1974	4292	130	8
Edward Carpenter	1844	1929	1918	50	0
Edward Dowden	1843	1913	615	37	0
Edward FitzGerald	1809	1883	5562	16	1
Edward George Bulwer-Lytton	1803	1873	3802	66	62
Edward Lear	1812	1888	5621	10	25
Edward Martyn	1859	1923	4161	15	10
Edward Robert Bulwer-Lytton	1831	1891	315	21	15
Edward Thomas	1878	1917	5520	48	25
Edwin Muir	1887	1959	7896	26	2
Elizabeth Barrett Browning	1806	1861	4776	10	9

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Author Name	Year of Birth	Year of Death	Word Count	Total Works	Years in London
Elizabeth Bowen	1899	1973	6298	42	23
Elizabeth Cleghorn	1810	1865	5250	5	2
Elizabeth Taylor	1912	1975	4462	17	0
Ellis Peters	1913	1995	1121	53	0
Emily Brontë	1818	1848	5176	3	0
Emlyn Williams	1905	1987	1169	10	61
Eric Ambler	1909	1998	3685	26	61
Ernest Dowson	1867	1900	1740	14	26
Evelyn Underhill	1875	1941	2521	7	66
Fanny Burney	1752	1840	5536	6	49
Fanny Kemble	1809	1893	4525	11	26
Felicia Dorothea Hemans	1793	1835	3804	23	0
Flann O'Brien	1911	1966	6303	6	0
Ford Madox Ford	1873	1939	4511	78	23
Forrest Reid	1875	1947	1955	24	0
Frances Cornford	1886	1960	1485	10	0
Francis Thompson	1859	1907	1843	9	17
Francis Turner Palgrave	1824	1897	777	26	52
Frank O'Connor	1903	1966	2824	39	0
Frederic William Farrar	1831	1903	1491	13	38
Frederick Marryat	1792	1848	1156	31	24
Frederick William Rolfe	1860	1913	3794	11	26
G. K. Chesterton	1874	1936	5163	115	35
George Barker	1913	1991	2834	40	37
George Bernard Shaw	1856	1950	8083	76	67
George Borrow	1803	1881	4460	13	24
George Colman the Elder	1732	1794	2046	44	58
George Colman the Younger	1762	1836	2170	34	71
George Crabbe	1754	1832	3499	15	4
George Darley	1795	1846	3202	16	21
George Douglas	1869	1902	1952	2	8
George Eliot	1819	1880	6720	19	30
George Gissing	1857	1903	6327	29	22
George Gordon Byron	1788	1824	9780	43	13
George Henry Lewes	1817	1878	4063	17	56
George Macdonald	1824	1905	5502	55	24
George Mackay Brown	1921	1996	6814	60	0
George Meredith	1828	1909	8612	31	7
George Moore	1852	1933	10278	59	44
George Orwell	1903	1950	10202	21	12
George du Maurier	1834	1896	1525	3	48
Gerard Manley Hopkins	1844	1889	5281	2	26
Graham Greene	1904	1991	7304	95	38
H. G. Wells	1866	1946	6776	145	52
Harriet Martineau	1802	1876	4455	19	4
Hartley Coleridge	1796	1849	2184	3	4

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Author Name	Year of Birth	Year of Death	Word Count	Total Works	Years in London
Helen Maria Williams	1762	1827	5834	29	19
Henry Fielding	1707	1754	8425	42	26
Henry James Pye	1745	1813	127	7	65
Henry Kingsley	1830	1876	1596	20	15
Henry Luttrell	1765	1851	180	3	49
Henry Mackenzie	1745	1831	5191	15	2
Henry Williamson	1895	1977	1061	63	22
Hester Lynch Piozzi	1740	1821	3582	8	29
Hilaire Belloc	1870	1953	5919	158	15
Horace Walpole	1717	1797	4259	46	67
Hugh Kelly	1739	1777	205	8	18
Hugh MacDiarmid	1892	1978	7087	41	1
I. A. Richards	1893	1979	5276	24	0
Ian Fleming	1908	1964	3347	17	29
Isaac Bickerstaff	1735	1812	165	18	9
Isaac Rosenberg	1890	1918	6749	3	17
Israel Zangwill	1864	1926	1551	15	22
J. B. Priestley	1894	1984	2873	131	1
J. M. Barrie	1860	1937	3738	56	49
J. R. R. Tolkien	1892	1973	6310	26	0
Jack Thomas Grein	1862	1935	172	2	51
James Beattie	1735	1803	1296	19	0
James Clarence Mangan	1803	1849	3826	2	0
James Herriot	1916	1995	1009	20	0
James Hogg	1770	1835	4468	34	0
James Joyce	1882	1941	16025	23	0
James Macpherson	1736	1796	3009	10	29
James Montgomery	1771	1854	1120	11	0
James Stephens	1880	1950	3338	35	26
James Thomson	1700	1748	4601	20	20
James Thomson (Bysshe Vanolis)	1834	1882	5253	8	27
Jane Austen	1775	1817	8284	4	0
Jean Ingelow	1820	1897	1773	28	48
Jennie Jerome Churchill	1854	1921	261	4	48
Joanna Baillie	1762	1851	3802	13	66
John Addington Symonds	1840	1893	5038	20	8
John Barrington Wain	1925	1994	1368	54	1
John Braine	1922	1987	1422	15	1
John Buchan	1875	1940	5041	83	15
John Clare	1793	1864	4631	4	1
John Cleland	1709	1789	3918	9	63
John Cowper Powys	1875	1953	5393	43	0
John Davidson	1857	1909	2713	41	18
John Drinkwater	1882	1937	1731	144	27
John Galsworthy	1867	1933	8507	88	42
John Galt	1779	1839	5167	51	23

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Author Name	Year of Birth	Year of Death	Word Count	Total Works	Years in London
John Home	1722	1808	4244	10	0
John Keats	1795	1821	7865	5	24
John Keble	1792	1866	1309	47	0
John Langhorne	1735	1779	89	2	5
John Lehmann	1907	1987	2070	12	51
John Masefield	1878	1967	3865	115	18
John Millington Synge	1871	1909	4083	9	0
John Wilson Croker	1780	1857	259	22	52
John Wyndham	1903	1969	8724	19	38
Joseph Blanco White	1777	1841	1199	5	16
Joseph Conrad	1857	1924	9630	62	6
Joseph Warton	1722	1800	1211	11	1
Joyce Cary	1888	1957	1290	57	5
Katherine Mansfield	1888	1923	5627	7	10
Keith Castellain Douglas	1920	1944	1953	3	0
Kenneth Grahame	1859	1932	3215	4	29
L. P. Hartley	1895	1972	2093	26	17
Lady Anne Barnard	1750	1825	100	1	24
Lady Sydney Morgan	1776	1859	1379	19	21
Lascelles Abercrombie	1881	1938	1766	17	9
Laurence Binyon	1869	1943	4409	135	50
Laurence Sterne	1713	1768	7008	6	6
Laurie Lee	1914	1997	2495	28	21
Lawrence Durrell	1912	1990	6030	61	12
Leigh Hunt	1784	1859	4754	50	72
Letitia Elizabeth Landon	1802	1838	3902	21	36
Lewis Carroll	1832	1898	7100	49	3
Lewis Grassic Gibbon	1901	1935	3391	17	2
Lionel Johnson	1867	1902	2640	8	13
Louis MacNeice	1907	1963	7417	31	16
Malcolm Lowry	1909	1957	4913	3	1
Margaret Oliphant	1828	1897	2919	116	9
Margery Allingham	1904	1966	1684	32	2
Marguerite Gardiner	1789	1849	283	4	29
Maria Edgeworth	1767	1849	5475	33	0
Marie Corelli	1855	1924	3404	55	34
Mark Akenside	1721	1770	2831	16	24
Mark Rutherford	1831	1913	2354	17	40
Mary Elizabeth Braddon	1837	1915	3840	91	69
Mary Gladys Webb	1881	1927	3509	6	6
Mary Russell Mitford	1787	1855	2048	21	4
Mary Wollstonecraft	1759	1797	4165	9	19
Matthew Arnold	1822	1888	6745	49	34
Matthew Gregory	1775	1818	4135	23	37
Mervyn Peake	1911	1968	4620	16	31
Michael Arlen	1895	1956	790	18	14

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Author Name	Year of Birth	Year of Death	Word Count	Total Works	Years in London
Mina Loy	1882	1966	1788	4	20
Mrs. Henry Wood	1814	1887	3014	31	32
Mrs. Humphry Ward	1851	1920	6138	42	40
Nancy Mitford	1904	1973	1943	18	39
Neil Miller Gunn	1891	1973	5122	16	2
Norman Douglas	1868	1952	3039	29	16
Norman MacCaig	1910	1996	3454	26	0
Oliver Goldsmith	1730	1774	4896	45	19
Oliver St. John Gogarty	1878	1957	1641	7	0
Olivia Manning	1908	1980	4116	20	44
Oscar Wilde	1854	1900	6834	16	15
Ouida (Maria Louise Ramé)	1839	1908	801	52	19
Paul Scott	1920	1978	4202	15	50
Percy Bysshe Shelley	1792	1822	7294	27	5
Peter Pindar	1738	1819	241	66	39
Philip James Bailey	1816	1902	147	7	1
Philip Larkin	1922	1985	4274	10	0
Pierce Egan the Elder	1772	1849	75	11	78
R. C. Sherriff	1896	1975	1359	24	34
R. M. Ballantyne	1825	1894	2834	94	12
Rex Ernest Warner	1905	1986	6311	33	4
Richard Aldington	1892	1962	5703	54	15
Richard Brinsley Butler Sheridan	1751	1816	7891	47	54
Richard Cumberland	1732	1811	293	31	25
Richard Doddridge	1825	1900	2931	21	52
Richard Jefferies	1848	1887	2370	23	11
Richard Owen Cambridge	1717	1802	152	2	63
Roald Dahl	1916	1990	5513	39	12
Robert Bloomfield	1766	1823	4425	6	31
Robert Bridges	1844	1930	3158	70	13
Robert Browning	1812	1889	7254	29	61
Robert Burns	1759	1796	7031	6	0
Robert Fergusson	1750	1774	2172	4	0
Robert Graves	1895	1985	8537	131	21
Robert Louis Stevenson	1850	1894	8941	41	0
Robert Southey	1774	1843	7120	52	4
Robert Williams Buchanan	1841	1901	3123	78	33
Ronald Duncan	1914	1982	1357	12	18
Ronald Firbank	1886	1926	3957	11	19
Rosamond Nina Lehmann	1901	1990	4528	17	50
Roy Fuller	1912	1991	2355	57	44
Rudyard Kipling	1865	1936	8752	165	4
Rumer Godden	1907	1998	3119	61	30
Rupert Brooke	1887	1915	4460	5	0
Saint John Ervin	1883	1971	168	10	67
Saki (Hector Hugh Munro)	1870	1916	1894	11	17

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Author Name	Year of Birth	Year of Death	Word Count	Total Works	Years in London
Samuel Bamford	1788	1872	1710	10	8
Samuel Beckett	1906	1989	10085	57	0
Samuel Butler	1835	1902	5777	19	40
Samuel Foote	1720	1777	2137	22	35
Samuel Johnson	1709	1784	11759	46	46
Samuel Lover	1798	1868	670	10	27
Samuel Taylor Coleridge	1772	1834	10129	35	32
Sapper (Herman Cyril McNeile)	1888	1937	1980	18	2
Sara Coleridge	1802	1852	1856	6	24
Sarah Fielding	1710	1768	4134	10	15
Sean O'Faolain	1900	1991	989	12	5
Sheridan Le Fanu	1814	1873	5247	18	1
Siegfried Sassoon	1886	1967	1865	55	13
Sir Angus Frank Johnstone Wilson	1913	1991	3465	37	28
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	1859	1930	6779	69	4
Sir Arthur Thomas Quiller-Couch	1863	1944	2096	16	5
Sir Arthur Wing Pinero	1855	1934	5073	53	78
Sir Edmund Gosse	1849	1928	4979	80	64
Sir Edwin Arnold	1832	1904	1307	50	42
Sir Hall Caine	1853	1931	886	34	11
Sir Henry John Newbolt	1862	1938	1918	13	53
Sir Herbert Read	1893	1968	3033	21	12
Sir Hugh Seymour Walpole	1884	1941	819	8	29
Sir John Betjeman	1906	1984	10112	55	13
Sir Kingsley Amis	1922	1995	8107	73	50
Sir Max Beerbohm	1872	1956	5086	28	29
Sir Noël Coward	1899	1973	5932	53	58
Sir Osbert Sitwell	1892	1969	2133	20	18
Sir Owen Morgan	1858	1920	165	1	0
Sir P. G. Wodehouse	1881	1975	5885	103	34
Sir Stephen Spender	1909	1995	3529	65	62
Sir Terence Rattigan	1911	1977	4393	20	41
Sir W. S. Gilbert	1836	1911	3602	72	66
Sir Walter Besant	1836	1901	2137	87	39
Sir Walter Scott	1771	1832	6502	77	0
Sir William Empson	1906	1984	6860	17	49
Sir William Golding	1911	1993	5170	20	0
Sir Winston Churchill	1874	1965	8332	53	71
Stevie Smith	1902	1971	4213	14	62
Susan Edmonstone Ferrier	1782	1854	3282	3	0
Sydney Thompson Dobell	1824	1874	1565	7	1
Sylvia Townsend Warner	1893	1978	5085	38	40
T. E. Hulme	1883	1917	2854	5	6
T. H. White	1906	1964	2746	25	0
T. S. Eliot	1888	1965	6708	127	51
Theodore Watts-Dunton	1832	1914	1830	17	62

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Author Name	Year of Birth	Year of Death	Word Count	Total Works	Years in London
Thomas Campbell	1777	1844	2868	21	38
Thomas Carlyle	1795	1881	8754	25	44
Thomas De Quincey	1785	1859	7061	28	2
Thomas Gray	1716	1771	4733	5	9
Thomas Hardy	1840	1928	6626	39	10
Thomas Holcroft	1745	1809	3230	8	58
Thomas Hood	1799	1845	2052	13	40
Thomas Hughes	1822	1896	1027	7	16
Thomas Love Peacock	1785	1866	7968	24	18
Thomas Lovell Beddoes	1803	1849	4650	2	7
Thomas Moore	1779	1852	5328	54	7
Thomas Osborne Davis	1814	1845	135	1	0
Thomas Pringle	1789	1834	2610	7	9
Thomas Warton the Younger	1728	1790	4401	24	0
Thomas William Robertson	1829	1871	3701	8	24
Tobias Smollett	1721	1771	6792	33	15
V. S. Pritchett	1900	1997	1906	49	89
Vernon Phillips	1906	1967	2716	11	0
Virginia Woolf	1882	1941	12840	35	59
Vita Sackville-West	1892	1962	3261	56	4
W. H. Hudson	1841	1922	2407	37	49
W. Somerset Maugham	1874	1965	5928	80	26
W.H. Auden	1907	1973	10551	138	0
Walter Macken	1915	1967	686	9	1
Walter Pater	1839	1894	6055	70	27
Walter de la Mare	1873	1956	3030	95	70
Wilfrid Scawen Blunt	1840	1922	254	23	0
Wilkie Collins	1824	1889	5422	48	61
William Archer	1856	1924	1667	19	47
William Barnes	1801	1886	3438	37	0
William Beckford	1760	1844	4258	11	6
William Blake	1757	1827	12099	23	68
William Butler Yeats	1865	1939	10908	84	44
William Collins	1721	1759	3973	5	10
William Cowper	1731	1800	6841	20	22
William Edmondstoune Aytoun	1813	1865	249	4	1
William Ernest Henley	1849	1903	2608	31	29
William Gifford	1756	1826	1375	3	44
William Harrison Ainsworth	1805	1882	2913	50	42
William Hayley	1745	1820	2484	10	15
William Hazlitt	1778	1830	4950	25	34
William Henry Davies	1871	1940	3683	43	16
William Lisle Bowles	1762	1850	265	10	0
William Makepeace Thackeray	1811	1863	5991	37	41
William Morris	1834	1896	6112	75	45
William Soutar	1898	1943	1749	4	0

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Author Name	Year of Birth	Year of Death	Word Count	Total Works	Years in London
William Whitehead	1715	1785	1843	8	38
William Wordsworth	1770	1850	8967	34	2
Winthrop Mackworth Praed	1802	1839	181	7	11
Wyndham Lewis	1882	1957	6212	46	45

Source: All information was obtained from Encyclopaedia Britannica (2014), Literature Online (2014), and The Literary Encyclopaedia (2014).