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## **When French Writers Meet the American Modernist Avant-Garde: Types of Mediators**

This paper starts with an overview of the history of the American literary avant-garde's reception in France in the twentieth century. This history is made of a long-lasting neglect of French writers towards American modernism from the 1920s through the late 1960s. The paper seeks to evaluate the place within this history of the brief encounter between some French writers in exile in the United States during World War II and the American literary milieu. Although marginal and exceptional this encounter offers an interesting viewpoint for (s)he who seeks to describe the early networks of circulation of American modernist literature in France. Two groups of mediators have been isolated. The first one is made of renowned writers using realist techniques. The second one belongs to the surrealist milieu and its members are more marginal writers and poets. The two groups were the main active networks legitimizing the American modernist poetry in France between the interwar years and the 1970s. The paper will further describe the social and cultural properties of the main actors of this circulation and the national or transnational uses they each made of their mediating activities.