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## Cravens, Margaret (1881–1912)

Born into a wealthy family in Madison, Indiana, Margaret Lanier Cravens studied piano in Boston and Florence before going to Paris in 1907 to study with Ravel, Harold Bauer, and possibly Pound's friend and music collaborator Walter Rummel. In Paris, Cravens knew artists and writers and pursued mystical thought, modern languages, and Italian poetry. She met Pound through Rummel in March 1910 and shortly afterward arranged to provide the young poet with a sum of around \$1,000 a year. Pound wrote to her often of his travels, friends, and hopes for an American Risorgimento of the arts and discussed his work on *The Spirit of Romance* and his Cavalcanti translations.

Cravens funded Pound for two years. Ill health, depression, and a family history of suicide contributed to Cravens's suicide in June 1912. Pound learned the news while on a walking tour of southern France. One of her final

notes suggested that she had loved Rummel. It was also rumored that she had just received a telegram message from Pound, "I sleep with my love tonight," which some of her friends believed had upset her. But these words, if sent at all, likely alluded to some aspect of Pound's initial encounter with troubadour country. In *Patria Mia*, Pound paid indirect tribute to Cravens's patronage by urging "the American individual" to assist American artists: "I suggest that a sane form of bequest would be an endowment of 1,000 dollars per year, settled on any artist whose work was recognized as being of value to the community." Pound recalls Cravens in "His Vision of a Certain Lady Post Mortem," "Dans un Omnibus de Londres," and Cantos 7 and 77.

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