

T. S. Eliot: Biographical Timeline

1888: September 26: Thomas Stearns Eliot born in St. Louis, Missouri to Henry Ware and Charlotte Stearns Eliot.

1898: A student at Smith Academy in St. Louis

1905: To Milton Academy in Massachusetts

1906-10: Undergraduate years at Harvard. Reads Symonds's *The Symbolist Movement in Literature* and the poetry of Laforgue. Studies with George Santayana and Irving Babbitt.

1910-11: Having finished BA and MA degrees at Harvard, spends a year at the Sorbonne in Paris. In the summer of 1911, finishes a version of "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

1911-14: Returns to Harvard to study philosophy as a graduate student. Begins doctoral thesis on F.H. Bradley.

1914: To England on fellowship; meets Ezra Pound.

1915: Marries Vivien Haigh-Wood on June 26th; begins publishing poems that later appear in the Prufrock volume.

1916: Eliot working as teacher at Highgate Junior School and as University Extension Lecturer.

1917: *Prufrock and Other Observations* published. Eliot takes a position at Lloyds Bank in the Colonial and Foreign Department.

1919: *Ara Vos Prec* published, with "Gerontion" and the poems later published in *Poems* ?
1920. "Tradition and the Individual Talent" appears in *The Egoist*.

1920 *The Sacred Wood* published.

1921 Ill and exhausted, Eliot takes leave from Lloyds Bank. Recuperating at Margate and Lausanne, finishes the drafts of *The Waste Land*, which he then shows to Pound.

1922: *The Waste Land* published. First issue of *Criterion* appears.

1925: *Poems 1909-1925* published (with "The Hollow Men"). Eliot joins the publishing house of Faber & Gwyer, leaves Lloyds bank.

1927: Enters the Church of England and assumes British citizenship

1928: *For Lancelot Andrewes* published.

1930: *Ash-Wednesday* published.

1932: Selected Essays 1917-1932

1933: Eliot's 1932-33 Norton lectures at Harvard published under the title *The Use of Poetry and the Use of Criticism* (1933). At the University of Virginia, he delivers the lectures later published as *After Strange Gods* (1934). Obtains legal separation from Vivien.

1934: *The Rock: A Pageant Play* performed and published.

1935: *Murder in the Cathedral* performed.

1936: *Collected Poems 1909-1935* (first appearance of "Burnt Norton").

1939: *The Family Reunion* performed. *The Idea of a Christian Society* published. Last issue of *Criterion*.

1940: *East Coker* published.

1941: *The Dry Salvages* published.

1942: *Little Gidding* published.

1947: Vivien Eliot dies.

1948: Wins Nobel Prize for Literature. *Notes Towards the Definition of Culture* published.

1949: *The Cocktail Party* performed.

1953: *The Confidential Clerk* performed.

1957: Married Valerie Fletcher on January 10. *On Poetry and Poets* published.

1958: *The Elder Statesman* performed.

1963: *Collected Poems 1909-1962*.

1965: Dies on January 4th; his ashes to East Coker.

Publication Status:

[Original Criticism](#) ^[1]

Review Process:

Single Review

Target:

T. S. Eliot

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