

# LIVES OF SOME GREAT NOVELISTS

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# INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

## Human history as cultural history

We need to reform our teaching of history so that the emphasis will be placed on the gradual growth of human culture and knowledge, a growth to which all nations and ethnic groups have contributed.

This book is part of a series on cultural history. Here is a list of the other books in the series that have, until now, been completed:

- lives in Mathematics
- Lives in Exploration
- Lives in Education
- Lives in Poetry
- Lives in Painting
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- Lives in Astronomy
- Lives in Chemistry
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- Lives in Ecology
- Lives in Physics
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- Lives in the Peace Movement

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<sup>1</sup>This book makes some use of my previously-published book chapters, but most of the material is new.

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# Chapter 1

## MIGUEL DE CERVANTES

### 1.1 The life of Cervantes

#### Spain's greatest writer

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (1547-1616) is considered to be the greatest writer in the Spanish language. Many of the details of his life are uncertain, but we can try to outline what is reliably known.

#### Cervantes becomes a soldier

In 1569, Cervantes, who was then 22 years old, was forced to leave Spain and move to Rome, where he worked in the household of a cardinal. The following year, in 1570, Cervantes enlisted in the Spanish Navy infantry regiment. He was badly wounded at the battle of Lepanto.

#### Captured by Barbary pirates

Cervantes continued to serve as a soldier until 1575. In that year the 28-year-old Cervantes was captured by Barbary pirates and held in captivity. Finally, after five years of captivity, he was ransomed and returned to Spain.

#### Publication of *Don Quixote*

In 1585, Cervantes first significant novel was published. It was entitled *La Galatea*. He continued to work as a purchasing agent, and afterwards as a government tax collector.

Parts One and Two of Cervantes most famous novel, *Don Quixote* were published respectively in 1605 and 1615.



Figure 1.1: This may be a portrait of Cervantes, but its authenticity is uncertain.



Figure 1.2: Don Quixote de la Mancha and Sancho Panza, 1863, by Gustave Doré.



Figure 1.3: Don Quixote on a 1951 1 Peseta banknote.

## 1.2 *Don Quixote*

*The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha*, by Miguel de Cervantes, was published in two parts, in 1605 and 1615. It is considered to be the first modern novel - a founding work of western literature, and one of the greatest novels ever written. It is also one of the most translated books in the world.

*Don Quixote* tells the story of a nobleman who loses his mind after reading too many romantic works about chivalry. He decides to become a knight errant, and recruits a simple farmer, Sancho Panza, to be his squire.

The novel has had a major influence on other writers, and it underlined definitively the end of the Middle Ages. It ends with the words, "Such was the end of the Ingenious Gentleman of La Mancha, whose village Cide Hamete would not indicate precisely, in order to leave all the towns and villages of La Mancha to contend among themselves for the right to adopt him and claim him as a son, as the seven cities of Greece contended for Homer."

## 1.3 Literary works of Cervantes

### Main surviving books

- La Galatea (1585);
- El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha (1605): First volume of Don Quixote.
- Novelas ejemplares (1613): a collection of 12 short stories of varied types about the social, political, and historical problems of Cervantes's Spain:
- Segunda Parte del Ingenioso Cavallero [sic] Don Quixote de la Mancha (1615): Second volume of Don Quixote.
- Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda (1617).

### Dramatic works

- Trato de Argel; based on his own experiences, deals with the life of Christian slaves in Algiers;
- La Numancia; intended as a patriotic work, dramatization of the long and brutal siege of Numantia, by Scipio Aemilianus, completing the transformation of the Iberian peninsula into the Roman province Hispania, or Espana.
- El gallardo espanol,
- Los banos de Argel,
- La gran sultana, Dona Catalina de Oviedo,
- La casa de los celos,
- El laberinto de amor,
- La entretenida,
- El rufián dichoso,
- Pedro de Urdemalas, a sensitive play about a picaro, who joins a group of Gypsies for love of a girl.

## Short farces

- El juez de los divorcios.
- El rufián viudo llamado Trampagos.
- La elección de los Alcaldes de Daganzo.
- La guarda cuidadosa (The Vigilant Sentinel).
- El vizcaÿno fingido.
- El retablo de las maravillas.
- La cueva de Salamanca.
- El viejo celoso (The Jealous Old Man).

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# Chapter 2

## JANE AUSTEN

### 2.1 Jane Austen's life

#### Jane Austen's novels

Jane Austen (1775-1817) wrote seven novels, the most famous of which are *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park* and *Emma*. They were published anonymously and they brought Jane Austen little income or recognition during her own lifetime. Today, however, Jane Austen's novels enjoy both critical acclaim and wide readership.

#### Jane Austen wrote about the situation of women in the 18th century

Jane Austen's novels explored the situation of women during the time when she lived. Since independent careers were impossible for women at that time, their only way of achieving financial security and social position was through marriage, Jane Austen's novels explored this predicament of women with realism, biting humor, and irony.

#### Modern film and television adaptations

Immensely popular adaptations of Jane Austen's novels have been made, both for film and for television. One can think, for example of the film *Sense and Sensibility*, starring Hugh Grant and Emma Thompson. Besides starring in the film, Emma Thompson also wrote its script, an effort which won her an Academy Award, one of the numerous honors gained by the film, which was also a great commercial success.



Figure 2.1: Jane Austen (1775-1817). Her novels, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abby*, *Persuasion* and *Lady Susan*. were published anonymously, and during her own lifetime they brought her little money or recognition. However, today, the film and television versions of Jane Austen's writings have become enormously popular. The books themselves have been translated into many languages and are read throughout the world. Jane Austen explored the condition of women of her own time, when marriage was the only way that they could achieve financial security and social position.



Figure 2.2: Steventon rectory, as depicted in *A Memoir of Jane Austen*, was in a valley and surrounded by meadows. This was the house in which Jane Austen grew up.



Figure 2.3: Austen was a regular visitor to her brother Edward's home, Godmersham Park in Kent, between 1798 and 1813. The house is regarded as an influence on her works.

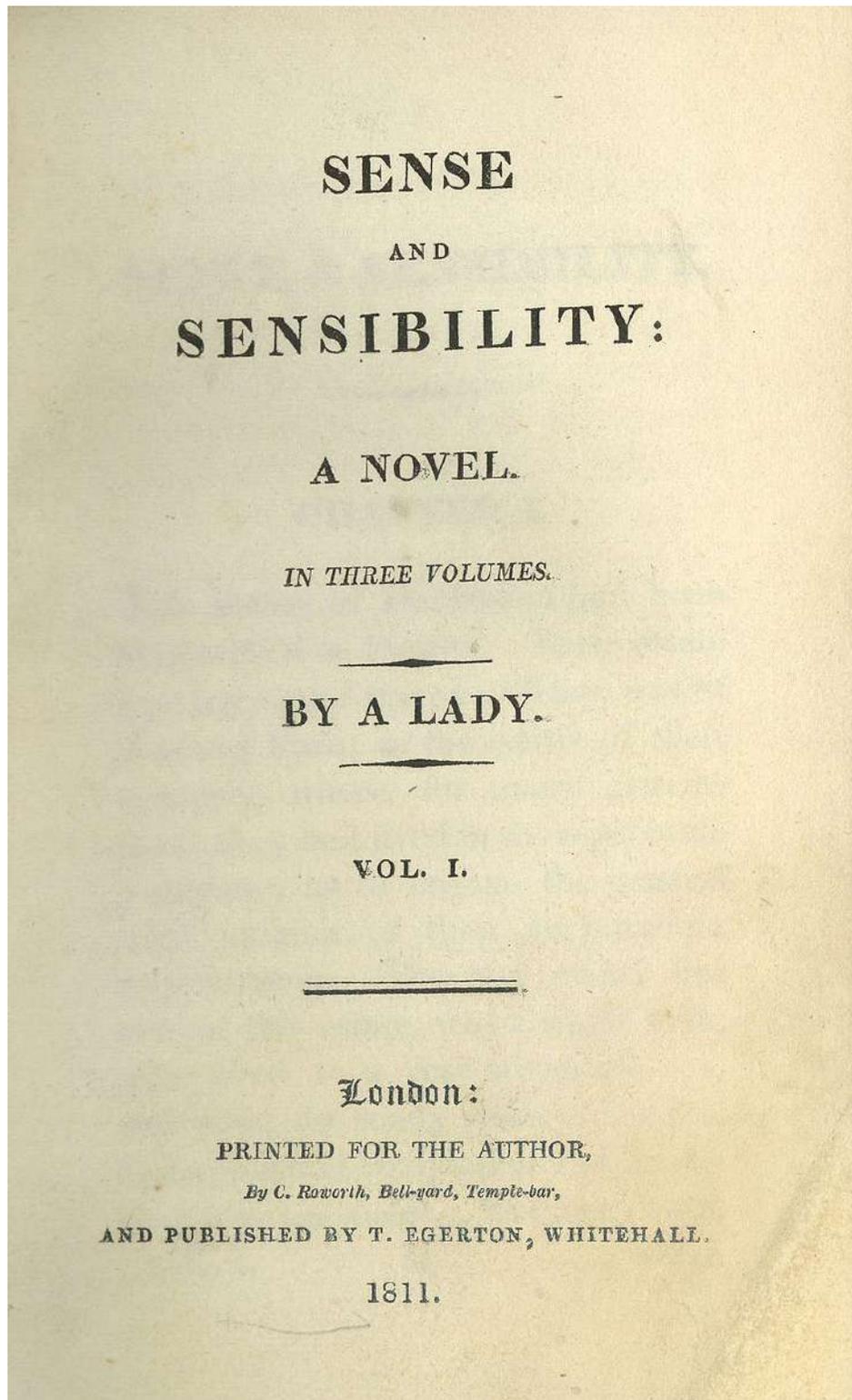


Figure 2.4: First edition title page from *Sense and Sensibility*, Austen's first published novel (1811).

## 2.2 Edward Austen Knight and Admiral Sir Francis Austen

Although Jane Austen's parents had only a small income, her two elder brothers, Edward Austen Knight and Admiral Sir Francis Austen, were both quite wealthy.

When Edward Austen was 12 years old, he was presented to Thomas and Catherine Knight, wealthy but childless relatives of Edward's father George Austen. The Knights took an interest in Edward, and in about 1783. Edward Austen later changed his surname to Knight.

Wikipedia states that "Edward inherited three estates from Thomas Knight, in Steventon, Chawton and Godmersham (which included a manor at Wittersham). The libraries from these estates were used extensively by Jane Austen."

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Francis William Austen, (1774-1865) was another elder brother of Jane Austen. He distinguished himself in naval battles between England and France.

## 2.3 Love between Jane Austen and and Tom Lefroy ends in tears

When Jane Austen was 20, she met the Irish law student Tom Lefroy. Jane wrote to her sister Cassandra, "I am almost afraid to tell you how my Irish friend and I behaved. Imagine to yourself everything most profligate and shocking in the way of dancing and sitting down together." Jane also wrote to Cassandra that Lefroy was a "very gentlemanlike, good-looking, pleasant young man", and that she expected an offer from her friend. However, the next day, Jane wrote to Cassandra, "The day will come on which I flirt my last with Tom Lefroy and when you receive this it will be all over. My tears flow as I write at this melancholy idea".

## 2.4 List of Jane Austen's publications

### Novels

- Sense and Sensibility (1811)
- Pride and Prejudice (1813)
- Mansfield Park (1814)
- Emma (1815)
- Northanger Abbey (1818, posthumous)
- Persuasion (1818, posthumous)
- Lady Susan (1871, posthumous)

### **Unfinished fiction**

- The Watsons (1804)
- Sanditon (1817)

### **Other works**

- Sir Charles Grandison (adapted play) (1793, 1800)
- Plan of a Novel (1815)
- Poems (1796-1817)
- Prayers (1796-1817)
- Letters (1796-1817)

### **Juvenilia - Volume the First**

- Frederic & Elfrida
- Jack & Alice
- Edgar & Emma
- Henry and Eliza
- The Adventures of Mr. Harley
- Sir William Mountague
- Memoirs of Mr. Clifford
- The Beautiful Cassandra
- Amelia Webster
- The Visit
- The Mystery
- The Three Sisters
- A Fragment
- A beautiful description
- The generous Curate
- Ode to Pity

### **Juvenilia - Volume the Second**

- Love and Freindship
- Lesley Castle
- The History of England
- A Collection of Letters
- The female philosopher
- The first Act of a Comedy
- A Letter from a Young Lady
- A Tour through Wales
- A Tale

## Juvenilia - Volume the Third

- Evelyn
- Catherine, or The Bower

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# Chapter 3

## MARY SHELLEY

### 3.1 Mary Shelley's famous parents

Largely unrecognized during his lifetime because his radical views prevented his poems from being published, Shelley is today considered to be one of the major English-language poets. Less well known is the fact that he was a pioneer of non-violent resistance to tyranny, whose ideas influenced Henry David Thoreau, Leo Tolstoy and Mahatma Gandhi.

Percy Bysshe Shelley was the eldest legitimate son of Sir Timothy Shelley, Baronet and Whig Member of Parliament. His mother was a wealthy Sussex landowner. Shelley was thus the heir to a baronetcy and a large estate. He had a happy childhood, but was unhappy at Eton College, where he was regularly mobbed because of his strong principles and his refusal to take part in sports.

In 1810, after graduating from Eton, Shelley became a student at Oxford University. Legend has it that he attended only one lecture. However, while at Oxford, he was extremely active as a writer, publishing a series of books: the Gothic novel, *Zastrozzi* (1810), *St. Irvyne; or, The Rosicrucian: A Romance* (dated 1811), *Original Poetry by Victor and Cazire* (written together with his sister Elizabeth) and a collection of poetry entitled *Posthumous Fragments of Margaret Nicholson* (written in collaboration with Thomas Jefferson Hogg).

All these books could have been considered subversive by the Oxford authorities, but no action was taken. However, when Shelley anonymously published *The Necessity of Atheism* in 1811, the University authorities threatened to expel him if he did not renounce his authorship. Shelley refused and was expelled. His influential father then intervened, and persuaded the authorities to reinstate his son if he would renounce his authorship as well as the principles expressed in the pamphlet. However, Shelley once again refused. This led to an estrangement between father and son.

Sir Thomas cut off his son's allowance, and from then on, Shelley's financial circumstances became precarious. He was still the heir to an estate with an income of 6,000 pounds per year, in those days an enormous sum, and he could (and did) borrow money against his future inheritance, but the amount that he could raise in that way was limited.



Figure 3.1: Richard Rothwell's portrait of Mary Shelley was shown at the Royal Academy in 1840, accompanied by lines from Percy Shelley's poem "The Revolt of Islam" calling her a "child of love and light" Mary's father was the famous reformist author and philosopher, William Godwin, and her mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, was also a famous author; but today, Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*, conceived in a half-waking dream by herself, and written in collaboration with her husband, is perhaps known more widely than the books of her famous parents.

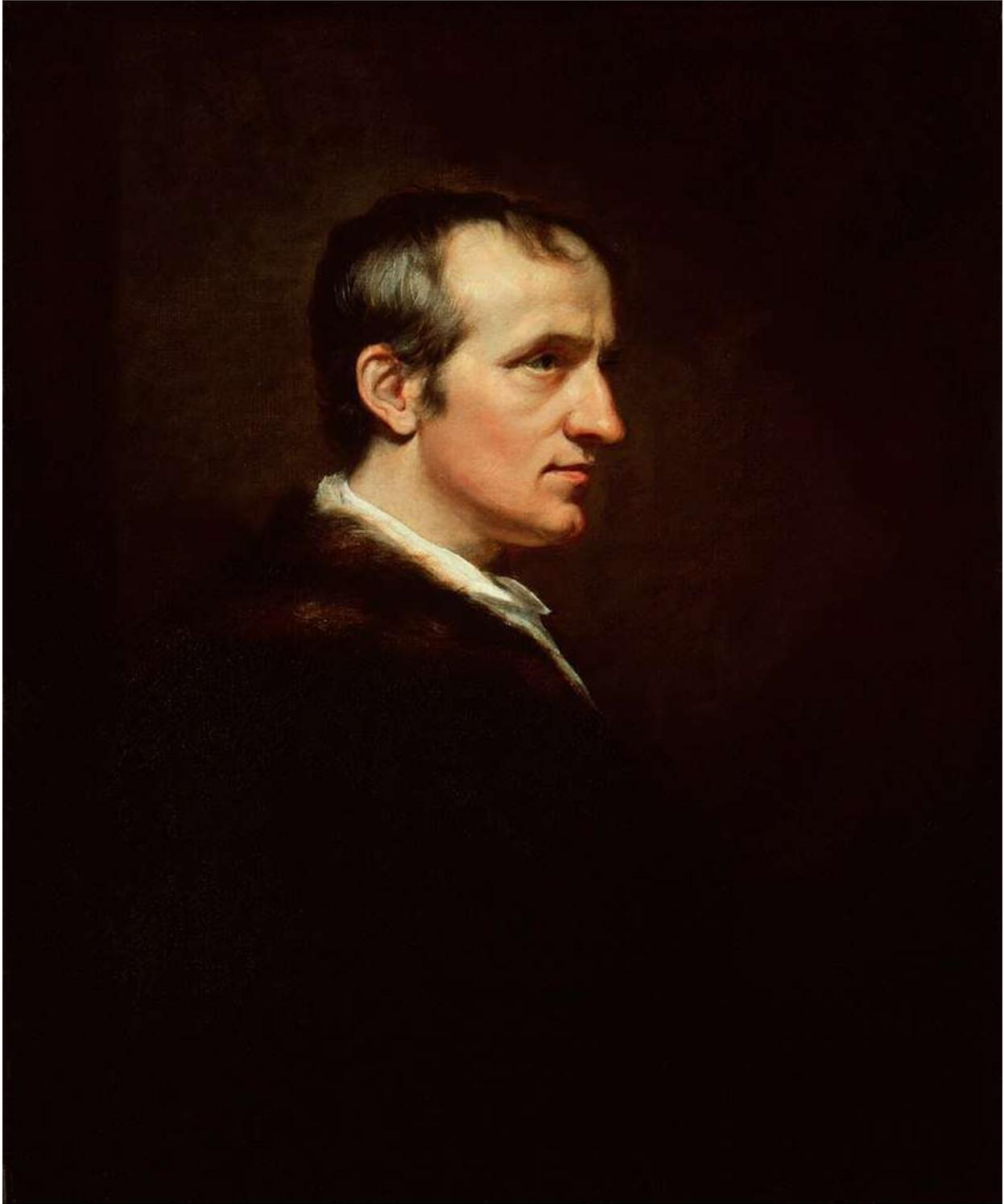


Figure 3.2: Portrait of William Godwin, Mary Shelley's father. He was an enormously famous writer and social reformer.



Figure 3.3: Mary Shelley's mother, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, was also a famous writer, and a pioneering defender of the rights of women.



Figure 3.4: Percy Bysshe Shelley in a portrait by Alfred Clint.

After reading William Godwin's *Political Justice*, Shelly wrote in his verse-drama *Prometheus Unbound*:

*The loathsome mask has fallen, the man remains  
Sceptreless, free, uncircumscribed, but man  
Equal, unclassed, tribeless, and nationless,  
Exempt from awe, worship, degree, the king  
Over himself; just, gentle, wise...*

After being expelled from Oxford, Shelley visited the poet Robert Southey, who informed him that the once universally popular revolutionary author William Godwin was still alive. Shelley who had always been an ardent admirer of Godwin's writing, was greatly excited by the news, and he immediately contacted Godwin, offering himself as a disciple.

At that time, England was going through a period of reaction against the excesses of the French Revolution, and Godwin's books and articles were no longer popular. Left with two infant daughters to care for after the death of his wife, Godwin had been driven to marry his neighbor, Mary Jane Claremont, a widow who herself had a young daughter. Thus, when Shelley arrived at Godwin's household he met three attractive young girls, Fanny Imlay, Jane Claremont and Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin. All three had been educated by Godwin.

Here is Jane Claremont's description of the household: "All the family worked hard, learning and studying: We all took the liveliest interest in the great questions of the day. Common topics, gossiping, scandal, found no entrance in our circle for we had been taught by Mr. Godwin to think it the greatest misfortune to be fond of the world, or worldly pleasures or of luxury or money; and that there was no greater happiness than to think well of those around us, to love them, and to delight in being useful or pleasing to them".

"The name of Godwin has been used to excite in me feelings of reverence and admiration", the 20-year-old Shelley had written in his letter to Godwin. "...I had enrolled your name on the list of the honourable dead. I had felt regret that the glory of your being had passed from this earth of ours. It is not so. You still live, and I firmly believe are still planning the welfare of human kind.

"I am young", Shelley wrote, "You have gone before me, I doubt not a veteran to me in the years of persecution. Is it strange that, defying persecution as I have done, I should outstep the limits of custom's prescription, and endeavour to make my desire useful by friendship with William Godwin?"

Godwin answered immediately, and in the voluminous correspondence which followed he soon recognized Shelley's genius.

Inspired by Godwin's *Political Justice*, Shelley had decided to devote both his life and his fortune to political reform. (The fortune, however, was only a distant future prospect.) In his letters, Godwin advised slow changes through education as the best means of reform but Shelley's whole temperament rebelled against caution and gradualism.

During the spring of 1812 Shelley wrote *An Address to the Irish People* and travelled

to Ireland to work for the cause of Catholic emancipation. He assured the worried Godwin that the pamphlet contained ‘no religion but benevolence, no cause but virtue, no party but the world’. Shelley soon found himself so surrounded by beggars and government spies that he was forced to leave Ireland.

Shelley’s letters had by this time captured the imagination of the entire Godwin household, and whenever a new one arrived with its familiar handwriting, all three daughters and Mary Jane waited excitedly “on tiptoe” to know the news. Shelley, who dreamed of establishing a utopian community of free and enlightened friends, invited Godwin to come to Devon for a visit and Godwin (who was in the habit of making a small excursion during his summer vacation) did so; but after a terrible journey by boat in stormy weather he arrived at Lynemouth only to find Shelley gone. Alarmed by the arrest of his servant Dan (who had been posting Shelley’s *Declaration of Rights* and his ballad *The Devil’s Walk*), the young poet had left quietly with his entourage before he himself was arrested.

## 3.2 A wild romance

In 1814, Shelley had lodgings in Fleet Street but, between May and July, he lived mainly with the Godwin family. Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin was at that time sixteen and a half years old and extremely pretty, with long blond hair and her father’s expressive eyes. She had just returned from Scotland, where she had lived for two years with family friends, ostensibly for the sake of her health. Probably the real reason for Mary’s stay in Scotland was friction with her step-mother: Mary’s affection for her father had been enough to excite the jealousy of the new Mrs Godwin.

Shelley was immediately electrified by meeting Mary. As she told him of her daydreams, of her writing, and of the wild Scottish landscapes which she had just experienced, Mary seemed to him to combine the emotional sensitivity of Mary Wollstonecraft with the imagination and mental power of William Godwin. In an ode to Mary, Shelley wrote:

*They say that thou wert lovely from thy birth,  
Of glorious parents, thou aspiring Child.  
I wonder not, for One then left this earth  
Whose life was like a setting planet mild,  
Which clothed thee in a radiance undefiled  
Of its departing glory, still her fame  
Shines on thee through the tempests dark and wild  
Which shake these latter days; and thou canst claim  
The shelter from thy Sire of an immortal name.*

For her part, Mary was fascinated by the openness, generosity and warmth of the brilliant young writer who was her father’s best-loved disciple. In her copy of Shelley’s revolutionary poem *Queen Mab*, she wrote: ‘This book is sacred to me... I love the author beyond all power of expression...’

Because of her step-mother's jealousy, it was uncomfortable for Mary to be at home; and she was in the habit of taking a book to the old St Pancreas churchyard where her mother was buried. Shelley followed her there and under the willow tree beside Mary Wollstonecraft's grave they declared their love for each other. Meanwhile, Mary's step-sister Jane, who had stage-managed the meeting, watched from a distant tombstone. Jane was (of course) also in love with Shelley and Fanny, the third sister, was in love with him too.

On 28 July 1814, Godwin awoke to find a note on his dressing table: Shelley had eloped with Mary and, amazingly, he and Mary had taken Jane with them. Mary was 16 years old, Jane 15, and Shelley 21.

The fugitives had left at five in the morning and hurried to Dover where they embarked for France in a small boat. After a stormy and dangerous night on the Channel, they arrived at Calais. Meanwhile, Mrs Godwin set off in pursuit, hoping to rescue Jane and with the help of information from the London stables, she traced the runaways to their lodgings in Calais. Jane spent the next night with her mother, but in the morning she decided firmly to continue with Mary and Shelley.

Why had Shelley and Mary taken Jane? For one thing, Jane was the only one of the three who spoke fluent French and she was good at making practical arrangements. Shelley also thought that Jane needed to be rescued from the influence of the new Mrs Godwin. "I am not in the least in love with her", Shelley is said to have explained, "but she is a nice little girl, and her mother is such a vulgar, commonplace woman, without an idea of philosophy. I do not think she is a proper person to form the mind of a young girl."

After arriving in Paris, Shelley, Mary and Jane bought a mule and they set out for Switzerland, sometimes riding the mule but for the most part walking. Switzerland was the country of Rousseau and the setting of Godwin's novel, *Fleetwood*. They hoped that it would prove to be a land of enlightenment and freedom. After a few weeks in Switzerland, however, Shelley's financial problems forced them to return to England. Mary later described the journey in her *History of a Six Week's Tour*.

### 3.3 Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

Jane now changed her name to one which she considered to be more romantic: Claire. Since she was no longer permitted a share of Shelley, Claire decided to capture a poet of her own and with remarkable resourcefulness and determination she managed to seduce Lord Byron, then at the height of his fame. This was an extraordinary accomplishment since Byron was being pursued by hordes of fashionable and beautiful women, including the famous Lady Caroline Lamb. However, Byron was soon forced to leave England because of scandals resulting from his affairs, especially his relationship with his half-sister Augusta.

On 2 May 1816, Shelley and Mary left England too, planning never to return. Shelley's financial position had improved following the death of his grandfather in 1815. Shelley and Mary took Claire Clairmont with them. She was already pregnant with Lord Byron's child, although probably none of them knew it. They headed for Geneva, hoping to meet

Lord Byron there. Claire was anxious to show off her catch to Shelley and the two poets were looking forward to meeting each other. Although Shelley was not yet famous as a writer, Byron had read and admired his work.

Byron had rented a large house called Villa Diadoti, near Lake Geneva, and he was staying there with his personal physician, Dr Polidori. Shelley, Mary and Claire found quarters at the nearby Maison Chapuis, and before long the whole Villa Diadoti group had settled into a routine of excursions on the lake or walks along the shore, followed by long evenings of conversation at Villa Diadoti. Whenever the weather was bad, as it frequently was that summer, Shelley, Mary and Claire spent the night at Diadoti instead of returning to Maison Chapuis.

Because of Byron's fame, their movements were followed avidly by scandalized English tourists, who spent hours looking at the party through field-glasses and telescopes. Stories of immorality filtered back to England; and the rumors had some foundation, since Byron had resumed his affair with Claire. He looked down on her, but Claire was very pretty, and, as Byron explained, "I could not exactly play the stoic with a woman who has scrambled eight hundred miles to unphilosophize me".

Byron was writing the third canto of *Childe Harold*, and in the evenings he often read new sections of it to the others. The romantic mood of the poem and the splendor of the distant Alps contributed to the atmosphere of the summer evenings at Diadoti.

Byron also retold for his friends the myth of Prometheus Porphyros, which he had translated from Aeschylus at Harrow. In this myth, Prometheus steals the sacred fire of the gods and gives it to mankind. Punished by Zeus, Prometheus is chained forever to a rock in the Caucasus, while an eagle tears out his vitals. A later version of the myth, Prometheus Plasticator, was popular among the Romans, and in this later version, Prometheus creates or recreates mankind by giving life to a figure of clay.

Both Byron and Shelley recognized the symbolic possibilities of the myth. Prometheus had already been used as a symbol of the creative artist but Shelley, with his interest in science, saw that Prometheus could also stand as a symbol for scientific creativity. Benjamin Franklin had recently performed the famous experiment in which he flew a kite during a thunderstorm, thus drawing down lightning and showing it to be identical with electricity. Franklin, Shelley realized, could be thought of as a modern Prometheus, who defied the thunderbolts of Zeus and brought the sacred fire of the gods down from heaven for the use of mankind.

The weather worsened at Diadoti, and for many days, heavy rain and lightning confined the party to the villa. To pass the time, they read aloud to each other from a book of German ghost stories. The storm outside and the strange Gothic stories had a strong effect on Shelley's imagination, and one night he rushed out of the room with a cry of terror, explaining later that he had seen a vision of a woman with eyes instead of breasts.

"We will each write a ghost story", Byron said, and his idea was adopted with enthusiasm. Dr Polidori began a tale of a skull-headed woman; and both Byron and Shelley began stories too but, being poets, they soon tired of writing prose. Mary was unable to think of an idea sufficiently horrible to produce terror in a reader. Every morning she was asked whether she had found a theme and she was forced to answer sadly that she had

not.

Meanwhile, Byron and Shelley continued to talk of the possibilities of the myth of Prometheus, especially as a symbol for scientific creativity. Perhaps, one day, science might achieve the Promethean feat of creating life. Shelley was especially interested in experiments with electricity, such as the discovery by Galvani that an electrical current could cause the legs of a dismembered frog to move.

“Many and long were the conversations between Lord Byron and Shelley”, Mary wrote later. Finally, well past midnight, Mary went to bed; but she was unable to sleep. Images from the conversation, to which she had been an attentive but almost silent listener, passed uncontrollably through her mind. Later, remembering this half-waking dream, she wrote:

“I saw, with shut eyes, but acute mental vision, I saw the pale student of unhallowed arts kneeling beside the thing he had put together. I saw the hideous phantasm of a man stretched out, and then, on the working of some powerful engine, show signs of life, and stir with an uneasy, half vital motion. Frightful must it be; for supremely frightful would be the effect of any human endeavour to mock the stupendous mechanism of the Creator of the world.”

Mary realized that she had found her theme. In fact, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, not yet 19 years old, had discovered an enduring symbol for science out of control, science pursued without regard for its social consequences. The next day, encouraged by Shelley, she began to write *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*,

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# Chapter 4

## VICTOR HUGO

### 4.1 The life of Victor Hugo

#### Reputation, outside and inside France

Victor-Marie Hugo (1802-1885) was a French novelist, poet, playwright, essayist and politician, who is especially remembered outside France for his famous novels, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Les Misérables*. However, within France, he is also remembered as a major poet, a social reformer, and fearless opponent of tyranny.

#### Son of a general

Victor Hugo's father, Joseph Lópold Sigisbert Hugo (1774-1828), was a general in Napoleon's army. In 1810 he was created Count Hugo de Cogolludo y Sigüenza by the King of Spain Joseph Bonaparte.

#### Marriage

Against his mother's wishes, Victor Hugo became engaged to his childhood friend, Adèle Foucher. They were married in 1819. Hugo was only 17 at the time of his marriage.

#### First publications

Wikipadia states that:

“Hugo published his first novel the year following his marriage (*Han d'Islande*, 1823), and his second three years later (*Bug-Jargal*, 1826). Between 1829 and 1840, he published five more volumes of poetry (*Les Orientales*, 1829; *Les Feuilles d'automne*, 1831; *Les Chants du crépuscule*, 1835; *Les Voix intérieures*, 1837; and *Les Rayons et les Ombres*, 1840), cementing his reputation as one of the greatest elegiac and lyric poets of his time.”



Figure 4.1: Victor Hugo with his son Francois-Victor by Auguste de Chatillon, 1836.

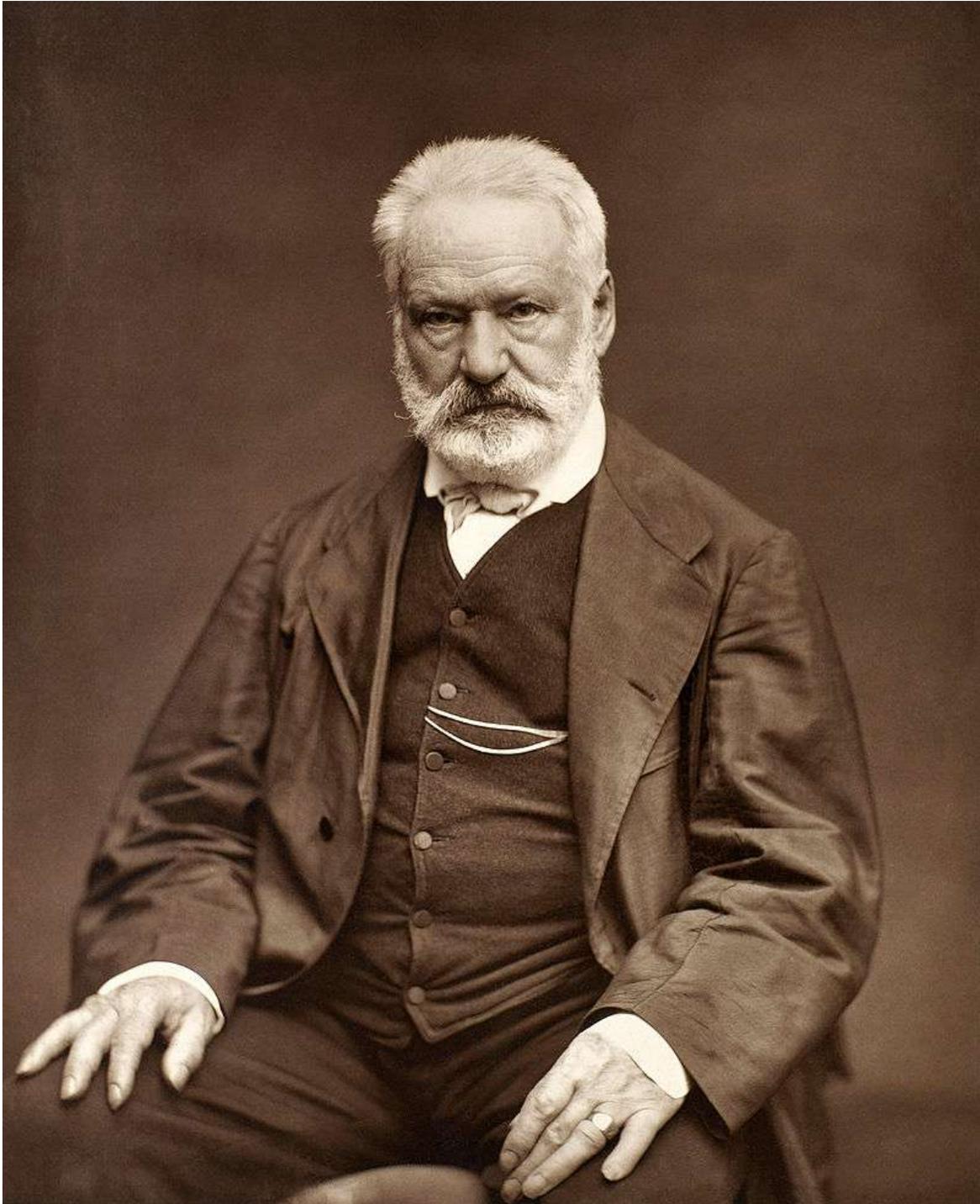


Figure 4.2: Hugo by Étienne Carjat, 1876.

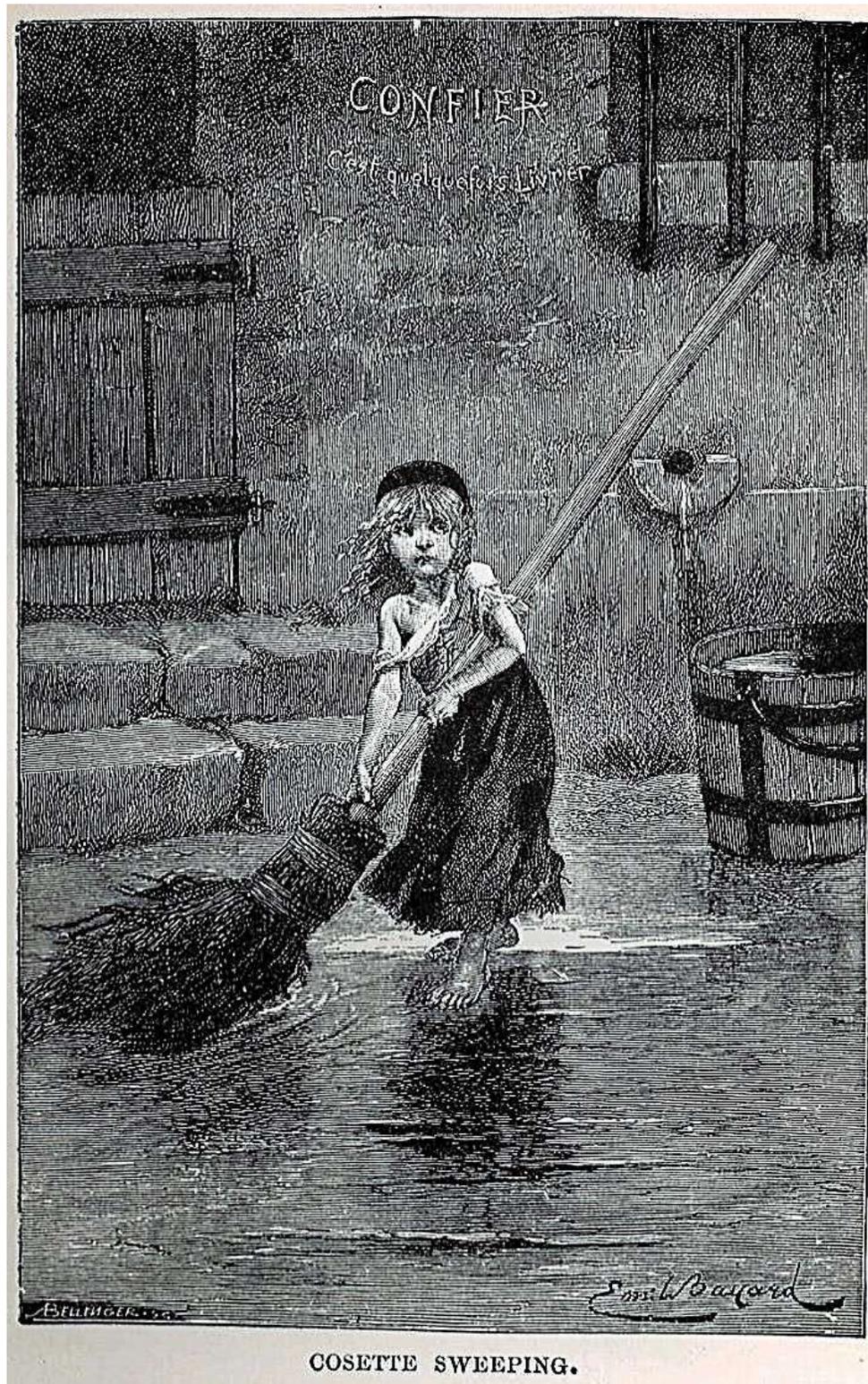


Figure 4.3: Illustration by Émile Bayard from the original edition of *Les Misérables* (1862).



Figure 4.4: A 1959 French banknote featuring Hugo.

## 4.2 Exile on the Channel Islands

After Napoleon III's coup d'état in 1851, Victor Hugo decided to live in exile, so that he could safely denounce and oppose Napoleon III. After spending some time in Belgium, he finally settled on the island of Guernsey, where he lived until Napoleon II fell from power in 1870, and again from 1872 to 1873. The years of exile were productive ones for Hugo as a writer. He composed some of his best-known works during these years, including *Les Misérables*.

## 4.3 A national hero

Here are some quotations from Wikipedia:

### A march in Hugo's honor

“To honour the fact that he was entering his 80th year, one of the greatest tributes to a living writer was held. The celebrations began on 25 June 1881, when Hugo was presented with a Sèvres vase, the traditional gift for sovereigns. On 27 June, one of the largest parades in French history was held.

“Marchers stretched from the Avenue d'Eylau, where the author was living, down the Champs-Élysées, and all the way to the centre of Paris. The paraders marched for six hours past Hugo as he sat at the window at his house. Every inch and detail of the event was for Hugo; the official guides even wore cornflowers as an allusion to Fantine's song in *Les Misérables*. On 28 June, the city of Paris changed the name of the Avenue d'Eylau to Avenue Victor-Hugo. Letters addressed to the author were from then on labelled ‘To Mister Victor Hugo, In his avenue, Paris’... ”

### Victor Hugo's funeral

“Although he had requested a pauper's funeral, he was awarded a state funeral by decree of President Jules Grévy. More than two million people joined his funeral procession in Paris from the Arc de Triomphe to the Panthéon, where he was buried. He shares a crypt within the Panthéon with Alexandre Dumas and Émile Zola. Most large French towns and cities have a street or square named after him. ”

## 4.4 Victor Hugo's literary works

### Novels, Novellas, and Short Stories

- Bug-Jargal (1820)

- Han d'Islande (1823), (Hans of Iceland)
- Bug-Jargal (1826)
- Le Dernier jour d'un condamné (The Last Day of a Condemned Man; 1829)
- Notre-Dame de Paris (The Hunchback of Notre-Dame; 1831)
- Claude Gueux (1834)
- Les Misérables (1862)
- Les Travailleurs de la Mer (Toilers of the Sea; 1866)
- L'Homme qui rit (The Man Who Laughs; 1869)
- Quatrevingt-treize (Ninety-Three; 1874)

### Other Works Published during Hugo's lifetime

- Cromwell, preface only (1819)
- Odes et poésies diverses (1822)
- Odes (1823)
- Nouvelles Odes (1824)
- Odes et Ballades (1826)
- Cromwell (1827)
- Les Orientales (1829)
- Hernani (1830)
- Marion de Lorme (1831)
- Les Feuilles d'automne (Autumn Leaves; 1831)
- Le roi s'amuse (1832)
- Lucrezia Borgia (1833)
- Marie Tudor (1833)
- Littérature et philosophie mêlées (A Blend of Literature and Philosophy; 1834)
- Angelo, Tyrant of Padua (1835)
- Les Chants du crépuscule (Songs of the Half Light; 1835)
- La Esmeralda (only libretto of an opera written by Victor Hugo himself) (1836)
- Les Voix intérieures (1837)
- Ruy Blas (1838)
- Les Rayons et les Ombres (1840)
- Le Rhin (1842)
- Les Burgraves (1843)
- Napoléon le Petit (Napoleon the Little; 1852)
- Les Chatiments (1853)
- Les Contemplations (The Contemplations; 1856)
- Les TRYNE (1856)
- La Légende des siècles (The Legend of the Ages; 1859)
- William Shakespeare (1864)
- Les Chansons des rues et des bois (Songs of Street and Wood; 1865)
- La voix de Guernsey (1867)
- L'Année terrible (1872)

- Mes Fils (1874)
- Actes et paroles - Avant l'exil (1875)
- Actes et paroles - Pendant l'exil (Deeds and Words; 1875)
- Actes et paroles - Depuis l'exil (1876)
- La Légende des Siècles 2e série (1877)
- L'Art d'être grand-père (The Art of Being a Grandfather; 1877)
- Histoire d'un crime 1re partie (History of a Crime; 1877)
- Histoire d'un crime 2e partie (1878)
- Le Pape (1878)
- La Pitié suprême (1879)
- Religions et religion (Religions and Religion; 1880)
- L'Ane (1880)
- Les Quatre vents de l'esprit (The Four Winds of the Spirit; 1881)
- Torquemada (1882)
- La Légende des siècles Tome III (1883)
- L'Archipel de la Manche (1883)

### Published posthumously

- Théâtre en liberté (1886)
- La Fin de Satan (1886)
- Choses vues (1887)
- Toute la lyre (1888), (The Whole Lyre)
- Amy Robsart (1889)
- Les Jumeaux (1889)
- Actes et Paroles - Depuis l'exil, 1876-1885 (1889)
- Alpes et Pyrénées (1890), (Alps and Pyrenees)
- Dieu (1891)
- France et Belgique (1892)
- Toute la lyre - dernière série (1893)
- Les fromages (1895)
- Correspondences - Tome I (1896)
- Correspondences - Tome II (1898)
- Les années funestes (1898)
- Choses vues - nouvelle série (1900)
- Post-scriptum de ma vie (1901)
- Dernière Gerbe (1902)
- Mille francs de récompense (1934)
- Océan. Tas de pierres (1942)
- L'Intervention (1951)
- Conversations with Eternity (1998)

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# Chapter 5

## CHARLES DICKENS

### 5.1 A passionate social reformer

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) is regarded as one of the greatest English-language novelists of the Victorian era. His novels and short stories were immensely popular during his own lifetime. They have been translated into many languages, and they continue to be read and loved throughout the world.

Dickens' early childhood was very happy. He spent time outdoors, but also read voraciously. This wide reading and his excellent memory later helped him as an author.

This idyllic period ended when he was 12 years old. His father was thrown into debtors' prison, and to help support the family, Charles was forced to work in a shoe-blackening factory. Here is his own description of the work:

“The blacking-warehouse was the last house on the left-hand side of the way, at old Hungerford Stairs. It was a crazy, tumble-down old house, abutting of course on the river, and literally overrun with rats. Its wainscoted rooms, and its rotten floors and staircase, and the old grey rats swarming down in the cellars, and the sound of their squeaking and scuffling coming up the stairs at all times, and the dirt and decay of the place, rise up visibly before me, as if I were there again. The counting-house was on the first floor, looking over the coal-barges and the river. There was a recess in it, in which I was to sit and work. My work was to cover the pots of paste-blackening; first with a piece of oil-paper, and then with a piece of blue paper; to tie them round with a string; and then to clip the paper close and neat, all round, until it looked as smart as a pot of ointment from an apothecary's shop. When a certain number of grosses of pots had attained this pitch of perfection, I was to paste on each a printed label, and then go on again with more pots. Two or three other boys were kept at similar duty down-stairs on similar wages. One of them came up, in a ragged apron and a paper cap, on the first Monday morning, to show me the trick of using the string and tying the knot. His name was Bob Fagin; and

**I took the liberty of using his name, long afterwards, in *Oliver Twist*.”**

In 1832, when Dickens was 20, he began working as a journalist, covering the Houses of Parliament. His writings were collected and published in 1836 as *Sketches of Boz*, “Boz” being his nickname within his family, and his chosen pen-name.

*Sketches of Boz* was a great success with the reading public, and it led the publishers Chapman and Hall to propose that Dickens should supply the text for a serial publication illustrated by engravings. The result was *Pickwick Papers*. The first few installments did not sell very well, but in the fourth installment, Dickens introduced the Cockney character, Sam Wells, and after that the series became hugely popular, making Dickens famous at the age of 24.

Wikipedia states that:

**“The unprecedented success led to numerous spin-offs and merchandise ranging from *Pickwick* cigars, playing cards, china figurines, Sam Weller puzzles, Weller boot polish and joke books.”**

## Marriage

In 1836, Dickens married Catherine Thomson Hogarth (1815-1879), the daughter of George Hogarth, editor of the *Evening Chronicle*. They had ten children together. However, they separated in 1858, when Catherine discovered that Dickens had begun an affair with the young actress, Ellen Ternan.

## Queen Victoria

Young Queen Victoria was an avid reader of Dickens. After reading *Pickwick Papers* and *Oliver Twist*, she stayed up until midnight discussing the books.

## Public readings

During the later part of his life, much of Dickens’ energy went into public reading of his work, in England, Scotland, Ireland and the United States. Sometimes he donated the proceeds to charity. For example, he helped in this way to put Great Drumond Street Hospital on a sound financial basis.

## Campaigning for social reform

Charles Dickens campaigned tirelessly for social reform. He did this not only through his novels and short stories, but also more directly, for example with speeches. Among his special goals were better treatment of poor workers, and securing the rights of children.



Figure 5.1: Illustration by Fred Bernard of Dickens at work in a shoe-blackening factory after his father had been sent to the Marshalsea, published in the 1892 edition of Forster's *Life of Charles Dickens*.



Figure 5.2: Catherine Hogarth Dickens by Samuel Lawrence (1838). She met the author in 1834, and they became engaged the following year before marrying in April 1836.



Figure 5.3: Dickens at his desk, 1858.



Figure 5.4: Dickens and Little Nell statue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Figure 5.5: Tiny Tim, from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. When he is informed that Tiny Tim will die unless he receives medical treatment, Scrooge remarks, "Then he had better die and reduce the surplus population!". Many of the events in Dickens' books can be viewed as protests against the ideas of Malthus regarding population.



Figure 5.6: Charles Dickens *Oliver Twist* asks for a second portion of gruel, provoking a storm of outrage.

## 5.2 Novels by Charles Dickens

Here is a list of Dickens' novels. They were usually first serialized, and then published as books.

- The Pickwick Papers (The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club; monthly serial, April 1836 to November 1837)
- Oliver Twist (The Adventures of Oliver Twist; monthly serial in Bentley's Miscellany, February 1837 to April 1839)
- Nicholas Nickleby (The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby; monthly serial, April 1838 to October 1839)
- The Old Curiosity Shop (weekly serial in Master Humphrey's Clock, April 1840 to November 1841)
- Barnaby Rudge (Barnaby Rudge: A Tale of the Riots of Eighty; weekly serial in Master Humphrey's Clock, February to November 1841)
- A Christmas Carol (A Christmas Carol in Prose: Being a Ghost-story of Christmas; 1843)
- Martin Chuzzlewit (The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit; monthly serial, January 1843 to July 1844)
- The Chimes (The Chimes: A Goblin Story of Some Bells That Rang an Old Year Out and a New Year In; 1844)
- The Cricket on the Hearth (The Cricket on the Hearth: A Fairy Tale of Home; 1845)
- The Battle of Life (The Battle of Life: A Love Story; 1846)
- Dombey and Son (Dealings with the Firm of Dombey and Son: Wholesale, Retail and for Exportation; monthly serial, October 1846 to April 1848)
- The Haunted Man (The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain: A Fancy for Christmas-time; 1848)
- David Copperfield (The Personal History, Adventures, Experience and Observation of David Copperfield the Younger of Blunderstone Rookery [Which He Never Meant to Publish on Any Account]; monthly serial, May 1849 to November 1850)
- Bleak House (monthly serial, March 1852 to September 1853)
- Hard Times (Hard Times: For These Times; weekly serial in Household Words, 1 April 1854, to 12 August 1854)
- Little Dorrit (monthly serial, December 1855 to June 1857)
- A Tale of Two Cities (weekly serial in All the Year Round, 30 April 1859, to 26 November 1859)
- Great Expectations (weekly serial in All the Year Round, 1 December 1860 to 3 August 1861)
- Our Mutual Friend (monthly serial, May 1864 to November 1865)
- The Signal-Man (1866), first published as part of the Mugby Junction collection in the 1866 Christmas edition of All the Year Round.
- Edwin Drood (The Mystery of Edwin Drood; monthly serial, April 1870 to September 1870), left unfinished due to Dickens's death

## *A Tale of Two Cities*

Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* is one of the best-selling historical novels of all time. It opens with the famous sentence:

**“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.”**

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# Chapter 6

## GEORGE ELIOT

### 6.1 Mary Anne Evans

#### **An unusually good education**

Mary Anne Evans (1819-1880) was judged by her father to be not beautiful enough to have a good chance of marrying. She also showed great intelligence, and he therefore decided to prepare her for life by giving her an unusually good education. She was an avid reader, and had access to the library of the estate on which her father was the manager. There she read books on ancient Greek literature and drama which influenced her later writing. Her education was an unusually good one for a woman of the time, and it even included study of mathematics.

#### **Introduced to a freethinking community**

When Mary Anne Evans was 16, her mother died, and when she was 21, her brother Isaac married and took over the family home. She and her father then moved to Foleshill, near Coventry, where they were introduced to the freethinking circle of friends of the wealthy ribbon manufacturer, Charles Bray, and his wife Cara. There they met a number of famous thinkers of the time, including Robert Owen, Herbert Spencer, Harriet Martineau and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

#### **Translation of Strauss's *Das Leben Jesu kritisch bearbeitet***

Mary Anne Evans first published work was a translation of Strauss's book, which had created a furor in Germany by maintaining that the miracles described in the Bible were unlikely to have actually taken place. The effect of her translation, entitled *The life of Jesus Critically Examined* was to create an even greater furor in England. The Earl of Shaftesbury called her translation "the most pestilential book ever vomited out of the jaws of hell". Later Evans translated Feuerbach's *The Essence of Christianity* (1854).

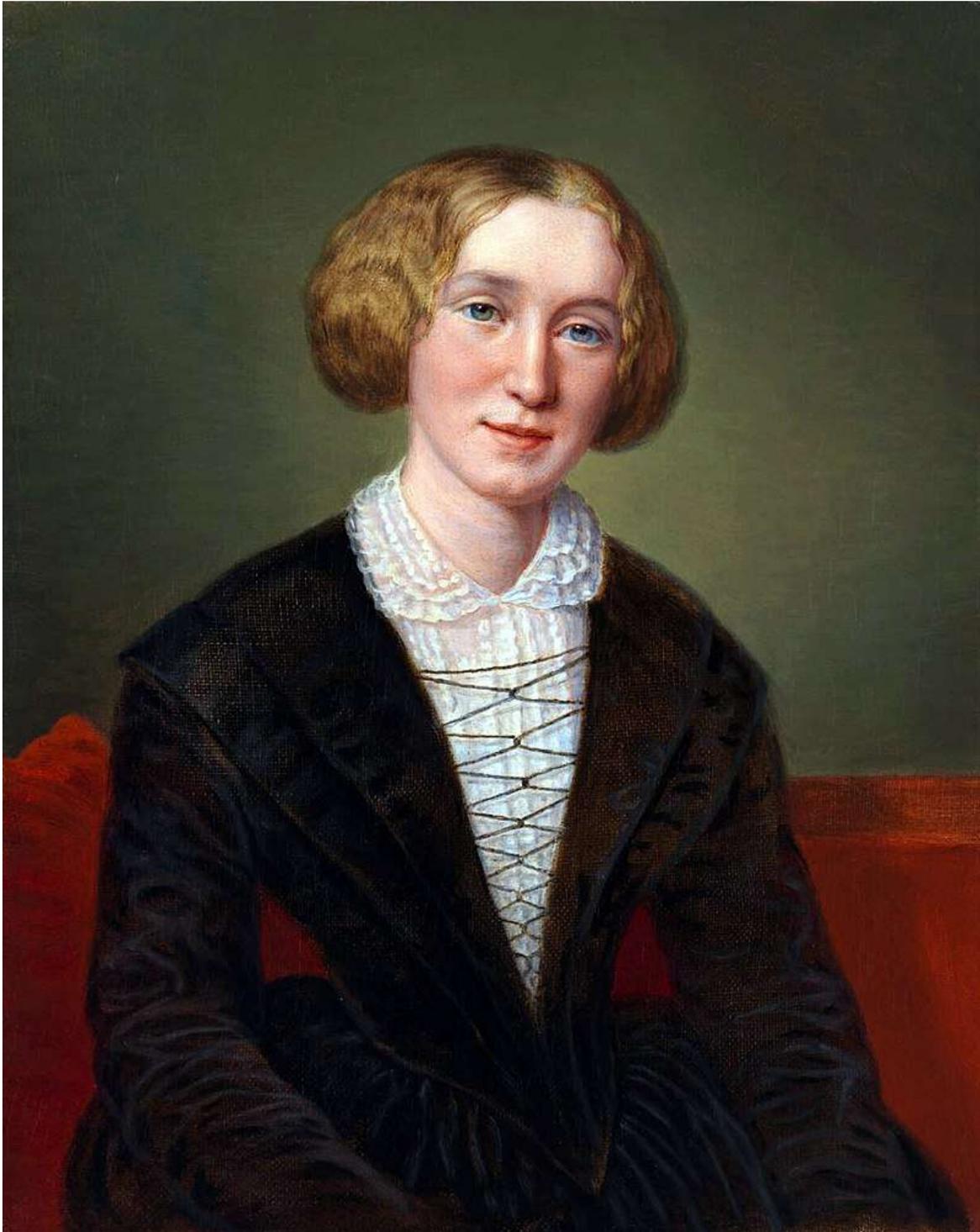


Figure 6.1: Portrait of George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) by Francois D'Albert Durade, 1850.



Figure 6.2: Blue plaque, Holly Lodge, 31 Wimbledon Park Road, London.

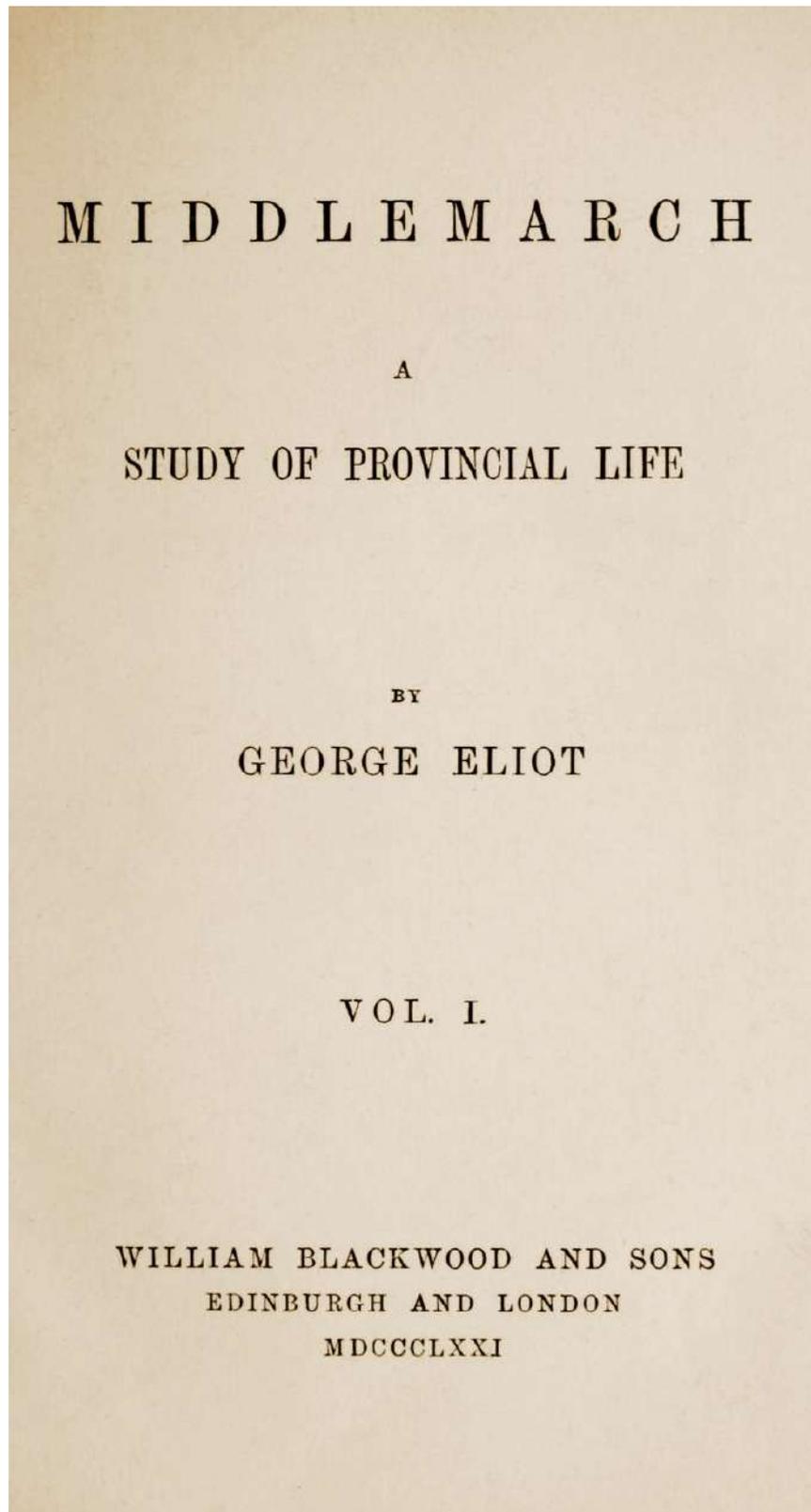


Figure 6.3: First edition title page of *Middlemarch*.

## 6.2 Editorship of *The Westminster Review*

In 1850, Mary Anne Evans moved to London, where she stayed at the house of the radical publisher, John Chapman, whom she had met previously, and who had published her Strauss translation. In 1851, she became the Assistant Editor of *The Westminster Review*, a campaigning journal that Chapman had recently purchased. Although she was nominally only the Assistant Editor the running of the journal was almost completely in Evans' hands. She contributed very numerous articles, and concerned herself with the finances and format of the journal.

## 6.3 Career as a novelist

Although she continued to contribute articles to the *The Westminster Review*, Mary Ann Evans decided to become a novelist. She adopted the pen-name "George Eliot", partly because she did not want her novels to be judged as the work of a woman, partly because she did not want them to be mixed in the public mind with her already well-known work as a translator and social critic, and partly to shield her private life from the public.

*Adam Bede* (1859), Evans first complete novel, was an instant success. Her most acclaimed novel, *Middlemarch* (1871-1872) is one of the great classics of English literature. Virginia Woolf called *Middlemarch* "One of the few English novels written for grown-up people", and Julian Barnes believed it to be the greatest novel in the English language.

## 6.4 Living in sin with Lewis, and marriage to Cross

In 1851, Mary Anne Evans met the philosopher and critic George Henry Lewis. A warm relationship developed between them, and by 1854, they had decided to live together. Lewis was already married, but his marriage was an open one. Although Mary Anne and Lewis were not legally married, she referred to Lewis as "My beloved husband".

Shortly before her death in 1880, she married the much younger John Walter Cross (1840-1924). This pleased her brother Isaac, who had broken off relations with his sister because of her relationship with Lewis. When she legally married Cross, he sent congratulations.

## 6.5 Literary work by George Eliot

### Novels

- Adam Bede, 1859
- The Mill on the Floss, 1860
- Silas Marner, 1861
- Romola, 1863

- Felix Holt, the Radical, 1866
- Middlemarch, 1871-72
- Daniel Deronda, 1876

## Poetry

- In a London Drawingroom, 1865
- Two Lovers, 1866
- The Choir Invisible, 1867
- The Spanish Gypsy, 1868
- Agatha, 1868
- Brother and Sister, 1869
- How Lisa Loved the King, 1869
- Armgart, 1871
- Stradivarius, 1873
- The Legend of Jubal, 1874
- I Grant You Ample Leave, 1874
- Arion, 1873
- A Minor Prophet, 1865
- A College Breakfast Party, 1879
- The Death of Moses, 1879

## Other publications

- Digital facsimile of manuscript "Quarry for Middlemarch", MS Lowell 13, Houghton Library, Harvard University
- Translation of Das Leben Jesu, kritisch bearbeitet (The Life of Jesus, Critically Examined) Volume 2 by David Strauss, 1846
- Translation of Das Wesen des Christentums (The Essence of Christianity) by Ludwig Feuerbach, 1854
- Translation of The Ethics of Benedict de Spinoza by Benedict de Spinoza, 1856
- "Three Months in Weimar", 1855
- "Silly Novels by Lady Novelists", 1856
- "The Natural History of German Life", 1856
- Scenes of Clerical Life, 1857
- The Lifted Veil, 1859
- Brother Jacob, 1864
- "The Influence of Rationalism", 1865
- Impressions of Theophrastus Such, 1879
- Review of John Ruskin's Modern Painters in Westminster Review, April 1856

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# Chapter 7

## COUNT LEO TOLSTOY

Leo Tolstoy was born in 1828. While he was still a child, his parents died, and he became Count Tolstoy, with responsibility for the family estate at Yasnaya Polyana. As a young man, he was attracted to the gay and worldly social life of Moscow, but his diary during this period shows remorse over his pursuit of sensual pleasures. Disgusted with himself, he entered the army, and during idle periods he began his career as a writer. While still a soldier, he published a beautiful nostalgic work entitled “Childhood” as well as a number of skillful stories describing army life.

### 7.1 Schools and textbooks for peasants

At the age of 28, Tolstoy left the army and spent a brief period as a literary idol in St. Petersburg. He then became concerned about lack of education among Russian peasants, and he traveled widely in Europe, studying educational theory and methods. Returning to Yasnaya Polyana, he established schools for the peasants, published an educational magazine and compiled a number of textbooks whose simplicity and attractiveness anticipated modern teaching methods.

### 7.2 *War and Peace*

Tolstoy married in 1862 at the age of 34. His wife, Sonya Bers, shared his wide intellectual interests, and they had a happy family life with thirteen children<sup>1</sup>. During this period, Tolstoy managed his estate with much success, and he produced his great literary masterpieces “War and Peace” and “Anna Karenina”. He modeled the characters in “War and Peace” after members of his own family. For example, Tolstoy’s famous heroine, Natasia, is modeled after his sister-in-law, Tanya Bers. Pierre in “War and Peace” and Levin in “Anna Karenina” reflect Tolstoy’s own efforts to understand the meaning of life, his concern with the misery of the Russian peasants, and his ultimate conclusion that true happiness and peace of mind can only be found in a simple life devoted to the service of others.

### 7.3 *Anna Karenina*

#### 7.4 Search for life's meaning

By the time Tolstoy had finished “Anna Karenina”, he had become very dissatisfied with the life that he was leading. Despite having achieved in great measure all of the goals for which humans usually strive, he felt that his existence lacked meaning; and in 1879 he even contemplated suicide. He looked for life's purpose by systematically studying the writings of scientists and philosophers, but he could not find an answer there that satisfied him.

Finally Tolstoy found inspiration in the humble and devout lives of the peasants. He decided that the teachings of Jesus, as recorded in the New Testament, could provide the answer for which he was searching. Tolstoy published an account of his spiritual crisis in a book entitled “A Confession”, in which he says:

“I searched for enlightenment everywhere in the hard-won accumulated knowledge of mankind. I searched passionately and long, not in a lazy way, but with my whole soul, day and night. I searched like a drowning man looking for safety - and found nothing. I searched all the sciences, and not only did I find nothing, but I also came to the conclusion that everyone who, like myself, had searched in the sciences for life's meaning had also found nothing.”

“I then diligently studied the teachings of Buddhism and Islam in the holy books of those religions; but most of all I studied Christianity as I met it in the holy Scriptures and in the living Christians around me...”

#### 7.5 Love for the poor

“I began to approach the believers among the poor, simple ignorant people: pilgrims, monks and peasants... The whole life of Christians of our own circle seemed to be a contradiction of their faith. By contrast, the whole life of Christians of the peasant class was an affirmation of the view of life which their religious faith gave to them. I looked more and more deeply into the faith of these people, and the more deep my insight became, the more I became convinced that they had a genuine belief, that their faith was essential to them, and that it was their faith alone which gave their life a meaning and made it possible for them to live... I developed a love for these simple people.”

Moved by the misery of the urban poor whom he encountered in the slums of Moscow, Tolstoy wrote: “Between us, the rich and the poor, there is a wall of false education, and before we can help the poor, we must first tear down that wall. I was forced to the conclusion that our own wealth is the true cause of the misery of the poor.”

## **7.6 *What Then Must We Do?***

Tolstoy's book, "What Then Must We Do?", tells of his experiences in the slums and analyses the causes of poverty. Tolstoy felt that the professed Christian belief of the Czarist state was a thin cosmetic layer covering a structure that was fundamentally built on violence. Violence was used to maintain a huge gap between the rich and the poor, and violence was used in international relations. Tolstoy felt especially keenly the contradiction between Christianity and war. In a small book entitled "The Kingdom of God is Within Us" he wrote:

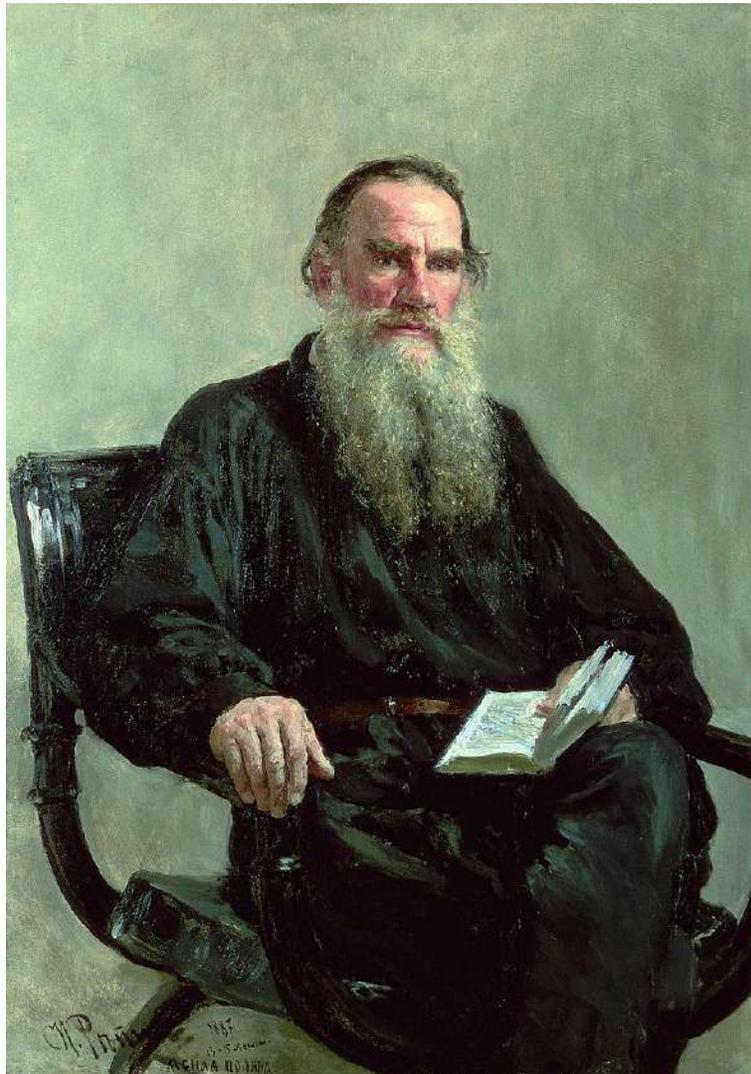


Figure 7.1: Portrait of Count Leo Tolstoy made in 1887 by Ilya Repin. Public domain, Wikimedia Commons

## 7.7 The contradiction between Christianity and war

“All other contradictions are insignificant compared with the contradiction which now faces humankind in international relations, and which cries out for a solution, since it brings the very existence of civilization into danger. This is the contradiction between the Christian conscience and war.”

“All of the Christian peoples of the world, who all follow one and the same spiritual life, so that any good and fruitful thought which is put forward in any corner of the world is immediately communicated to all of Christendom, where it arouses feelings of pride and happiness in us regardless of our nationality; we who simply love the thinkers, humanitarians, and poets of other countries; we who not only admire their achievements, but also feel delight in meeting them and greet them with friendly smiles; we will all be forced by the state to participate in a murderous war against these same people, a war which if it does not break out today will do so tomorrow.”

“...The sharpest of all contradictions can be seen between the government’s professed faith in the Christian law of the brotherhood of all humankind, and the military laws of the state, which force each young man to prepare himself for enmity and murder, so that each must be simultaneously a Christian and a gladiator.”

## 7.8 Banned and excommunicated

Tolstoy’s writings on Christianity and on social questions were banned by the public censor, and he was excommunicated from the Russian Orthodox Church. However, his universally recognized stature as one of the world’s greatest writers was undiminished, and his beliefs attracted many followers, both inside and outside of Russia.

## 7.9 Tolstoy and Gandhi

In 1894, the young Indian lawyer, Mohandas K. Gandhi, (who was then working for the civil rights of Indians in South Africa), read Tolstoy’s books on Christianity and was greatly influenced by them. Gandhi wrote a review of “The Kingdom of God is Within Us”, and in 1909 he sent Tolstoy an account of the activities of the civil rights movement in South Africa. He received a reply in which Tolstoy said:

“...The longer I live, and especially now, when I vividly feel the nearness of death, the more I want to tell others what I feel so particularly clearly and what to my mind is of great importance, namely that which is called passive resistance, but which is in reality nothing else but the teaching of love, uncorrupted by false interpretations. That love, i.e. the striving for the union of human souls and the activity derived from that striving, is the highest and only law of human life, and in the depth of his soul every human being knows this (as we most clearly see in children); he knows this until he is entangled in the false teachings of the world. This law was proclaimed by all, by the Indian as by the Chinese,

Hebrew, Greek and Roman sages of the world. I think that this law was most clearly expressed by Christ, who plainly said that in this alone is all the law and the prophets..."

"...The peoples of the Christian world have solemnly accepted this law, while at the same time they have permitted violence and built their lives on violence; and that is why the whole life of the Christian peoples is a continuous contradiction between what they profess, and the principles on which they order their lives - a contradiction between love accepted as the law of life, and violence which is recognized and praised, acknowledged even as a necessity in different phases of life, such as the power of rulers, courts, and armies..."

## 7.10 Nonviolent resistance to governmental violence

Tolstoy believed that violence can never under any circumstances be justified, and that therefore an individual's resistance to governmental violence must be passive and non-violent. He also believed that each individual ought to reduce his needs to a minimum in order to avoid exploiting the labor of others.

Tolstoy gave up meat, alcohol, tobacco, and hunting. He began to clean his own room, wore simple peasant clothes, worked in the fields, and made his own boots. He participated in famine relief, and he would have liked to give away all of his great wealth to feed the poor, but bowing to the protests of his family, he gave his wealth to them instead. Because he had been unable to convert his family to his beliefs, Tolstoy left home secretly on a November night in 1910, accompanied, like King Lear, by his youngest daughter. He died of pneumonia a few days later at a remote railway junction.



Figure 7.2: **Count Leo Tolstoy**



Figure 7.3: Mahatma Gandhi firmly rejected the pernicious doctrine that “the end justifies the means”. Gandhi said: “They say ‘means are after all means’. I would say ‘means are after all everything’. As the means so the end..... There is no wall of separation between means and end. Indeed the Creator has given us control (and that too very limited) over means, none over the end... The means may be likened to a seed, the end to a tree, and there is just the same inviolable connection between the means and the end as there is between the seed and the tree.”

## 7.11 *The Kingdom of God Is Within You*

Wikipedia states that “the book was first published in Germany in 1894 after being banned in his home country of Russia. It is the culmination of 30 years of Tolstoy’s thinking, and lays out a new organization for society based on an interpretation of Christianity focusing on universal love.”

### Suggestions for further reading

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6. *Why we fail as Christians* by Robert Hunter, The Macmillan Company, 1919 at Google Books



# Chapter 8

## FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

### 8.1 Russia's great existentialist writer

#### Ancestry

Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky (1821-1881) was descended from an ancient noble family which, in 1509, had been granted lands in the Pinsk region of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

Fyodor Dostoevsky's father was a distinguished military doctor working at the Mariinsky Hospital for the poor. In 1828, he was promoted to a position which gave him the rank of nobility and which enabled him to buy a small estate in a town about 100 miles from Moscow. It was here that the family usually spent their summers.

#### Childhood

As a young child, Fyodor Dostoevsky was introduced to literature at a very early age. When he was three years old, his nanny, Alena Frolovna, read to him many heroic sagas, fairy tales and legends. When he was four, his mother taught him to read and write, using the Bible as a textbook.

Dostoevsky remembered later that his imagination was brought alive by nightly readings by his parents. They introduced him to Russian writers Karamzin, Pushkin and Derzhavin; Gothic fiction such as the works from writer Ann Radcliffe; romantic works by Schiller and Goethe; heroic tales by Miguel de Cervantes and Walter Scott; and Homer's epics. Dostoevsky was especially influenced by the Russian writer, Nikolai Gogol.



Figure 8.1: Dostoevsky in 1847, when he was 26 years old. Dostoevsky was a Russian novelist, philosopher, short story writer, essayist, and journalist. Dostoevsky's literary works explore human psychology in the troubled political, social, and spiritual atmospheres of 19th-century Russia, and engage with a variety of philosophical and religious themes. His most acclaimed works include *Crime and Punishment* (1866), *The Idiot* (1869), *Demons* (1872), and *The Brothers Karamazov* (1880). Dostoevsky's body of works consists of 12 novels, four novellas, 16 short stories, and numerous other works. Many literary critics rate him as one of the greatest psychological novelists in world literature. His 1864 novel *Notes from Underground* is considered to be one of the first works of existentialist literature.

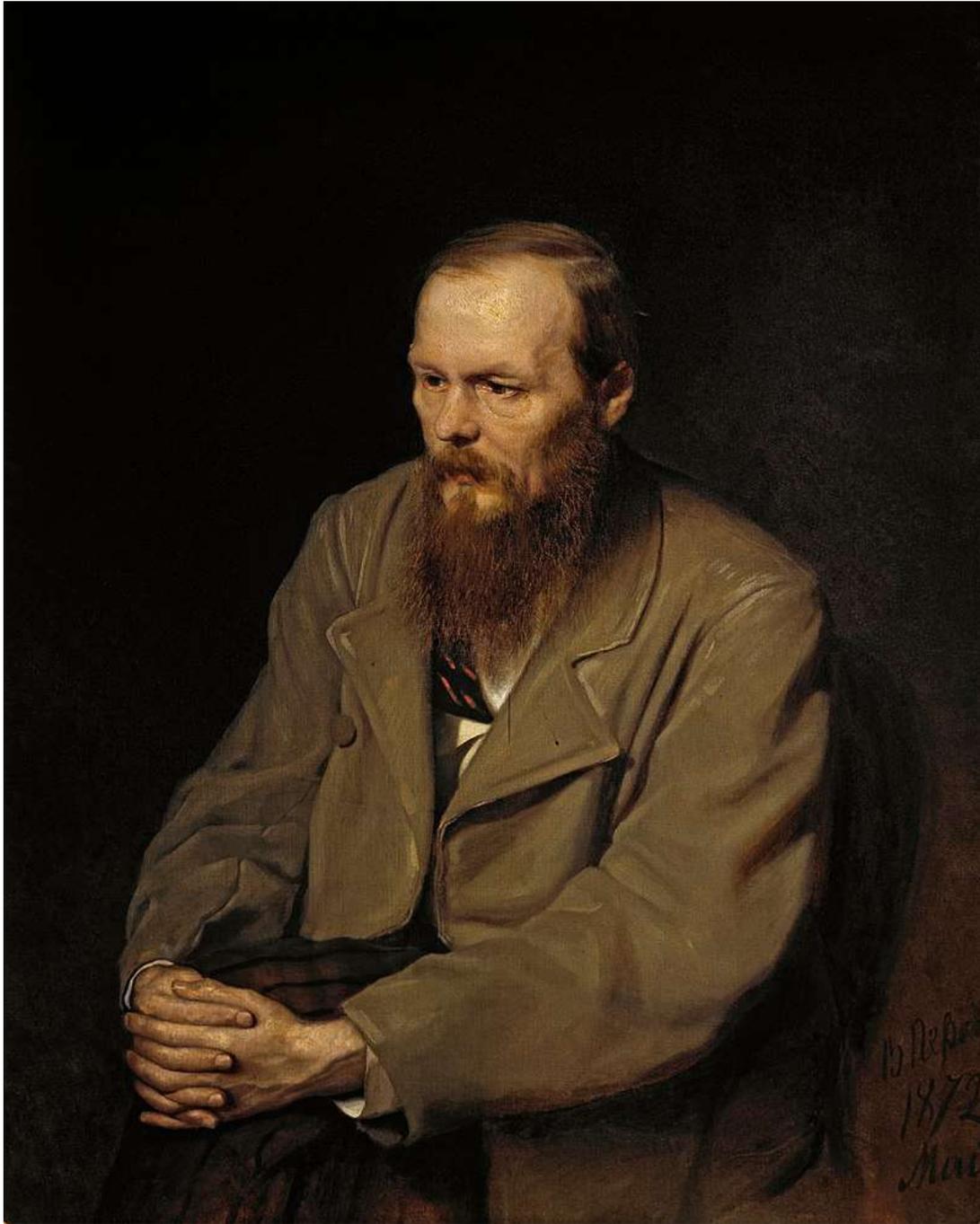


Figure 8.2: Portrait of Dostoevsky by Vasili Perov, 1872. Dostoevsky's 1864 novel, *Notes From Underground* is considered to be one of the the first works of existentialist literature. His books have been translated into 170 languages, and they have influenced such writers and philosophers as Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and Anton Chekhov, Friedrich Nietzsche and Jean-Paul Sartre.

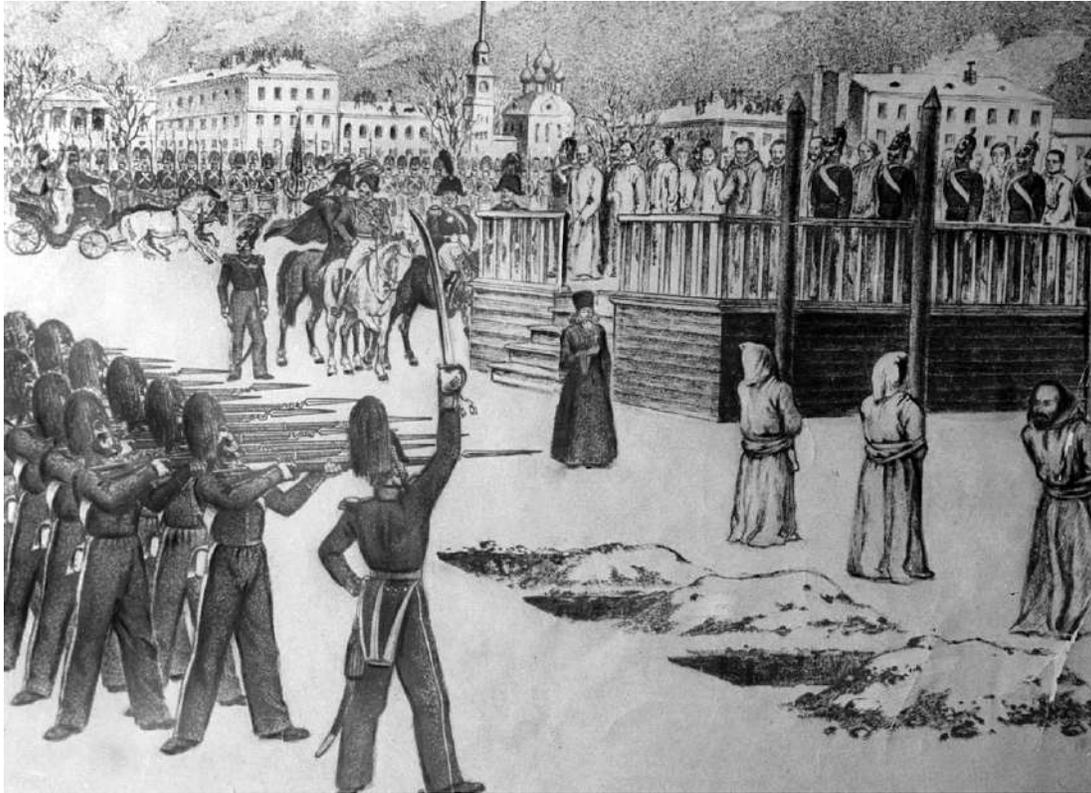


Figure 8.3: A sketch of the Petrashevsky Circle aborted execution. The Petrashevsky Circle was a literacy group to which Dostoevsky belonged. Its members were accused of reading and circulating books that were critical of the government, and all of the members were sentenced to death. At the last moment, a letter from the Czar arrived, commuting the sentences. Dostoevsky was sent to Siberia where, for many years, he suffered terrible hardships as a prisoner.

## 8.2 International recognition

Wikipedia describes the international recognition achieved by Dostoevsky towards the end of his life as follows:

### Last Years (1876-1881)

“In early 1876, Dostoevsky continued work on his *Diary*. The book includes numerous essays and a few short stories about society, religion, politics and ethics. The collection sold more than twice as many copies as his previous books. Dostoevsky received more letters from readers than ever before, and people of all ages and occupations visited him. With assistance from Anna’s brother, the family bought a dacha in Staraya Russa. In the summer of 1876, Dostoevsky began experiencing shortness of breath again. He visited Ems for the third time and was told that he might live for another 15 years if he moved to a healthier climate. When he returned to Russia, Tsar Alexander II ordered Dostoevsky to visit his palace to present the *Diary* to him, and he asked him to educate his sons, Sergey and Paul. This visit further increased Dostoevsky’s circle of acquaintances. He was a frequent guest in several salons in Saint Petersburg and met many famous people, including Princess Sophia Tolstaya, Yakov Polonsky, Sergei Witte, Alexey Suvorin, Anton Rubinstein and Ilya Repin.

“Dostoevsky’s health declined further, and in March 1877 he had four epileptic seizures. Rather than returning to Ems, he visited Maly Prikol, a manor near Kursk. While returning to St Petersburg to finalize his *Diary*, he visited Darovoye, where he had spent much of his childhood. In December he attended Nekrasov’s funeral and gave a speech. He was appointed an honorary member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, from which he received an honorary certificate in February 1879. He declined an invitation to an international congress on copyright in Paris after his son Alyosha had a severe epileptic seizure and died on 16 May. The family later moved to the apartment where Dostoevsky had written his first works. Around this time, he was elected to the board of directors of the Slavic Benevolent Society in Saint Petersburg. That summer, he was elected to the honorary committee of the Association Littéraire et Artistique Internationale, whose members included Victor Hugo, Ivan Turgenev, Paul Heyse, Alfred Tennyson, Anthony Trollope, Henry Longfellow, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Leo Tolstoy. Dostoevsky made his fourth and final visit to Ems in early August 1879. He was diagnosed with early-stage pulmonary emphysema, which his doctor believed could be successfully managed, but not cured.

“On 3 February 1880 Dostoevsky was elected vice-president of the Slavic Benevolent Society, and he was invited to speak at the unveiling of the Pushkin memorial in Moscow. On 8 June he delivered his speech, giving an impressive

performance that had a significant emotional impact on his audience. His speech was met with thunderous applause, and even his long-time rival Turgenyev embraced him...”

## Death and funeral

Dostoevsku died on the 9th of February, 1881, from a pulmonary haemorrhage. According to one reporter, more than 100,000 mourners were present at his funeral, while other reports maintained that the number was between 40,000 and 50,000.

## 8.3 Dostoevsky’s writings

### Novels and novellas

- (1846) Poor Folk (novella)
- (1846) The Double (novella)
- (1847) The Landlady (novella)
- (1849) Netochka Nezvanova (unfinished)
- (1859) Uncle’s Dream (novella)
- (1859) The Village of Stepanchikovo
- (1861) Humiliated and Insulted
- (1862) The House of the Dead
- (1864) Notes from Underground
- (1866) Crime and Punishment
- (1867) The Gambler (novella)
- (1869) The Idiot
- (1870) The Eternal Husband (novella)
- (1872) Demons (also titled: The Possessed, The Devils)
- (1875) The Adolescent
- (1880) The Brothers Karamazov

### Short stories

- (1846) “Mr. Prokharchin”
- (1847) “Novel in Nine Letters”
- (1848) “Another Man’s Wife and a Husband Under the Bed” (merger of “Another Man’s Wife” and “A Jealous Husband”)
- (1848) “A Weak Heart”
- (1848) “Polzunkov”
- (1848) “An Honest Thief”
- (1848) “A Christmas Tree and a Wedding”
- (1848) “White Nights”
- (1849) “A Little Hero”

- (1862) "A Nasty Story"
- (1865) "The Crocodile"
- (1873) "Bobok"
- (1876) "The Heavenly Christmas Tree" (also titled: "The Beggar Boy at Christ's Christmas Tree")
- (1876) "A Gentle Creature" (also titled: "The Meek One")
- (1876) "The Peasant Marey"

### Essay collections

- Winter Notes on Summer Impressions (1863)
- A Writer's Diary (1873-1881)

### Translations

- (1843) Eugénie Grandet (Honoré de Balzac)
- (1843) La derni re Aldini (George Sand)
- (1843) Mary Stuart (Friedrich Schiller)
- (1843) Boris Godunov (Alexander Pushkin)

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# Chapter 9

## LEWIS Carroll

### 9.1 A mathematician at Oxford

#### Both father and son were mathematically gifted

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-1898), better known by his pen-name, Lewis Carroll, was the son of the Anglican cleric, scholar and author Charles Dodgson (1800-1868), who obtained a double first in Mathematics and Classics at Oxford. However, when the older Charles Dodgson married his cousin, Francis Jane Lutwidge, he was no longer allowed to continue teaching at Oxford, and he then became an Anglican Cleric.

Like his father, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) was also mathematically gifted. He obtained a teaching position at Christ Church College, which he held during the remainder of his life. He wrote a number of important books on mathematical topics.

### 9.2 *Alice in Wonderland*

#### The Liddell family

In 1856 Henry Liddell became Dean of Christchurch College. His daughter, Alice Pleasance Liddell, is almost certainly the model for Alice in Lewis Carroll's two famous books, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, although Carroll always denied this.

#### A pioneer of photography

Besides being a mathematician and author, Lewis Carroll was also a pioneer of photography. He took over 3,000 photographs, but of these, only about 1,000 survive.



Figure 9.1: Lewis Carroll self-portrait c. 1856, aged 24 at that time.



Figure 9.2: 1863 photograph of Carroll by Oscar G. Rejlander.



Figure 9.3: One of Carroll's own illustrations.



Figure 9.4: “The chief difficulty Alice found at first was in managing her flamingo”. Illustration by John Tenniel, 1865.



Figure 9.5: The White Rabbit.



Figure 9.6: The Cheshire Cat.



Figure 9.7: The Queen of Hearts glaring at Alice, screaming “Off with her head! Off-”. “Nonsense!” said Alice, very loudly and decidedly, and the Queen was silent.



Figure 9.8: Three cards painting the white rose tree red to cover it up from the Queen of Hearts. A red rose symbolized the English House of Lancaster, a white rose their rival House of York.



Figure 9.9: Alice by John Tenniel, 1865.



Figure 9.10: *Alice in Wonderland* (1886). Popular among London theatergoers, the play was frequently revived during Christmas season over the next four decades.



Figure 9.11: Olivia de Havilland as Alice for the 1933 stage play.



Figure 9.12: Production of *Alice in Wonderland* by the Kansas City Ballet in 2013.

### 9.3 *Through the Looking-Glass*

#### Reversed logic in the looking-glass world

*Through the Looking Glass*, published in 1871, is a sequel to Lewis Carroll's famous *Alice in Wonderland* (1865). In the story, after playing with her two kittens, Alice climbs onto the mantelpiece and looks at her reflection in a mirror, speculating on the reversal of everything in the reflected image. She wonders what life would be like in the world on the other side.

Reaching forward, she touches the mirror, and is surprised to find that she can pass through it. She enters a world where logic is reversed. For example, you have to run very fast to stay where you are.

#### The landscape is a giant chess board

In this sequel to *Alice in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll uses chess as the overall framework of the narrative. Many of the principle characters are chess pieces, and the landscape that they inhabit is a giant chess board, with the squares separated by difficult-to-cross streams. Alice herself is a pawn, but she is promised that if she can reach the final row of the chess board, she will become a queen.

#### Queen Alice

When Alice finally becomes a queen, she is welcomed with the anthem: "Then fill up the glasses with treacle and ink, and anything else that is pleasant to drink. Mix sand with water, and wool with wine, and welcome Queen Alice with ninety times nine,"

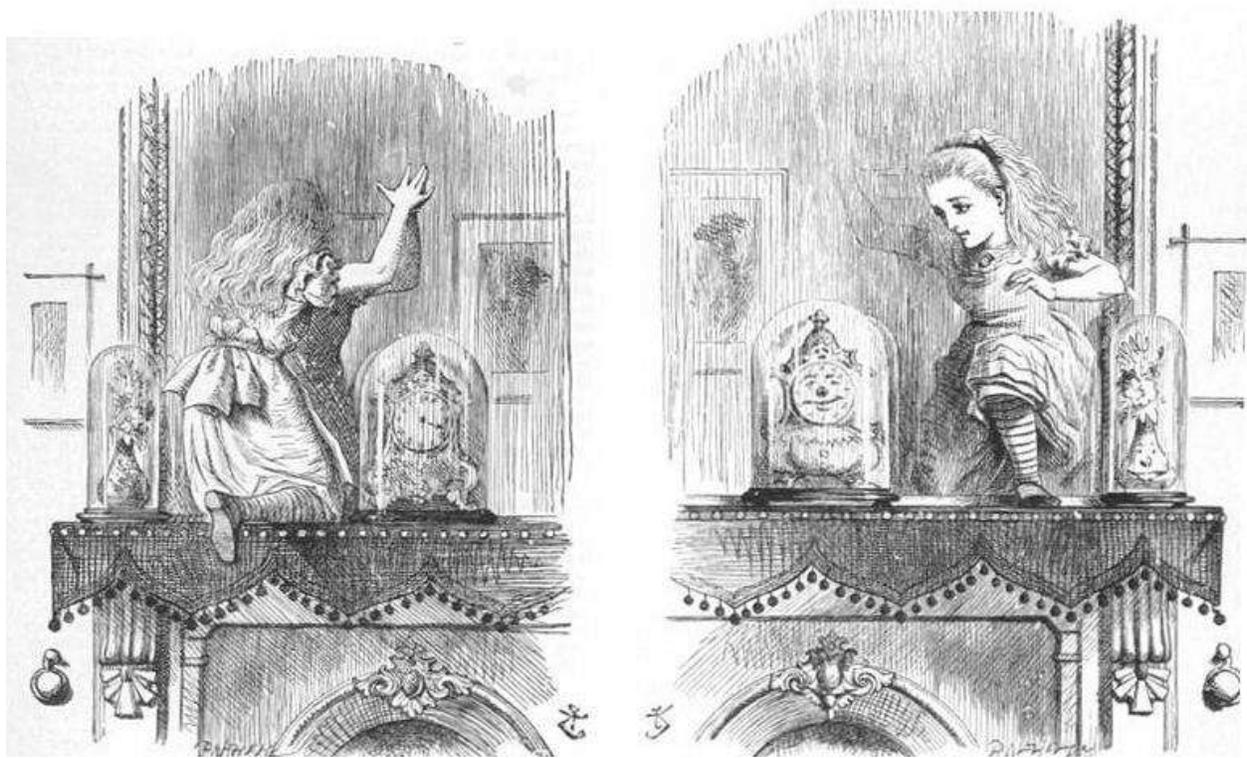


Figure 9.13: Alice entering the looking-glass.

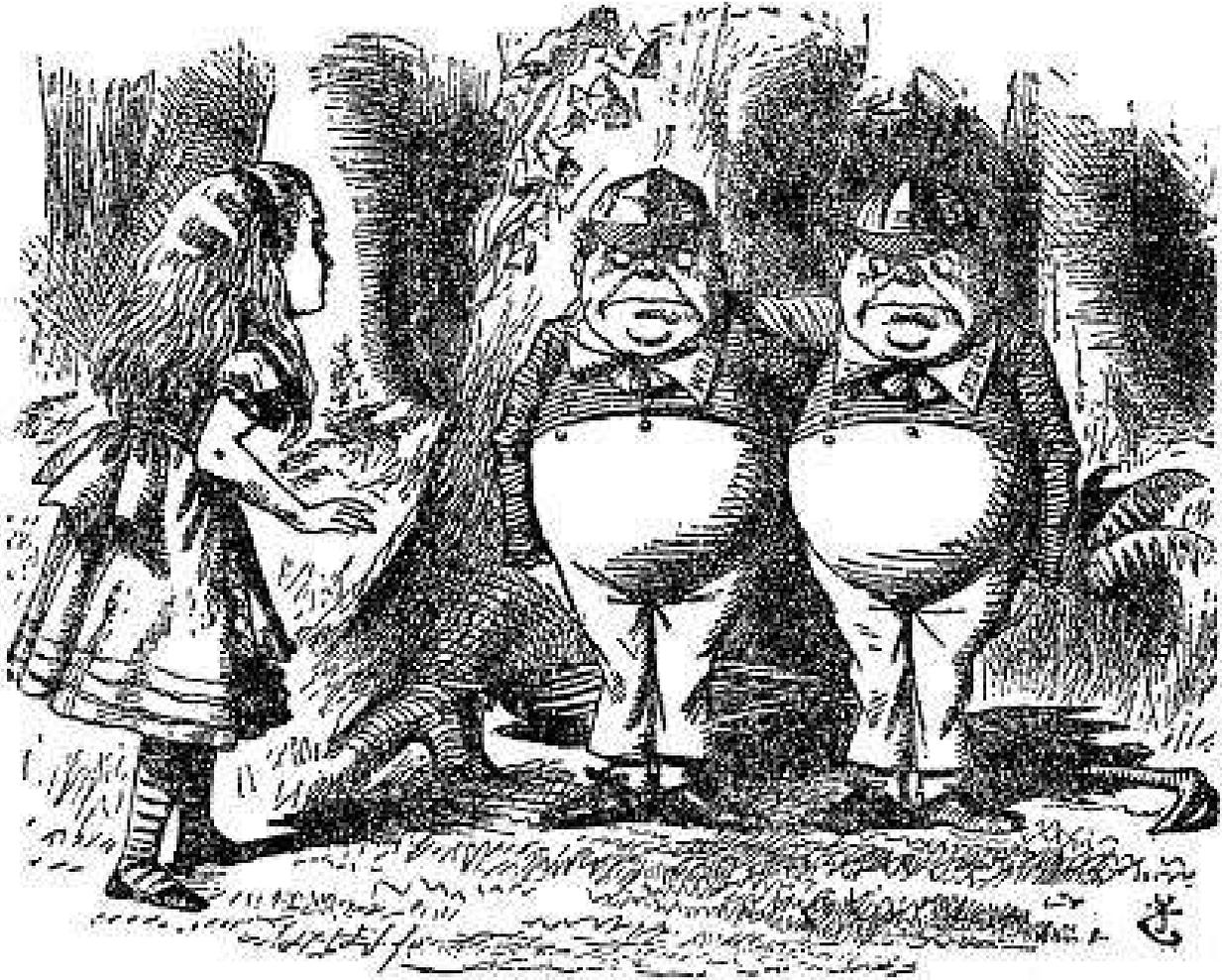


Figure 9.14: Alice meeting Tweedledum (centre) and Tweedledee (right).



Figure 9.15: The Red King dreaming.



Figure 9.16: The White Knight.



Figure 9.17: The Walrus and the Carpenter.



Figure 9.18: *The Jabberwock*, as illustrated by John Tenniel for Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass*.



Figure 9.19: Photo of Alice Liddell taken by Lewis Carroll (1858).

## 9.4 Some poems from the two books

### Father William

“You are old, Father William,” the young man said,  
“And your hair has become very white;  
And yet you incessantly stand on your head  
Do you think, at your age, it is right?”

“In my youth,” Father William replied to his son,  
“I feared it might injure the brain;  
But now that I’m perfectly sure I have none,  
Why, I do it again and again.”

“You are old,” said the youth, “as I mentioned before,  
And have grown most uncommonly fat;  
Yet you turned a back-somersault in at the door  
Pray, what is the reason of that?”

“In my youth,” said the sage, as he shook his grey locks,  
“I kept all my limbs very supple  
By the use of this ointment - one shilling the box-  
Allow me to sell you a couple.”

“You are old,” said the youth, “and your jaws are too weak  
For anything tougher than suet;  
Yet you finished the goose, with the bones and the beak-  
Pray, how did you manage to do it?”

“In my youth,” said his father, “I took to the law,  
And argued each case with my wife;  
And the muscular strength, which it gave to my jaw,  
Has lasted the rest of my life.”

“You are old,” said the youth, “one would hardly suppose  
That your eye was as steady as ever;  
Yet you balanced an eel on the end of your nose-  
What made you so awfully clever?”

“I have answered three questions, and that is enough,”  
Said his father; “don’t give yourself airs!  
Do you think I can listen all day to such stuff?  
Be off, or I’ll kick you down stairs!”

### **How Doth the Little Crocodile**

How doth the little crocodile  
Improve his shining tail  
And pour the waters of the Nile  
On every golden scale!

How cheerfully he seems to grin  
How neatly spreads his claws,  
And welcomes little fishes in  
With gently smiling jaws!

### **I Sent a Message to the Fish**

In winter, when the fields are white,  
I sing this song for your delight—  
"In spring, when woods are getting green,  
I'll try and tell you what I mean:  
In summer, when the days are long,  
Perhaps you'll understand the song:  
In autumn, when the leaves are brown,  
Take pen and ink, and write it down.

I sent a message to the fish:  
I told them 'This is what I wish.'  
The little fishes of the sea,  
They sent an answer back to me.  
The little fishes' answer was,  
'We cannot do it, Sir, because—'

I sent to them again to say  
'It will be better to obey.'  
The fishes answered, with a grin,  
'Why, what a temper you are in!'  
I told them once, I told them twice:  
They would not listen to advice.  
I took a kettle large and new,  
Fit for the deed I had to do.  
My heart went hop, my heart went thump:

I filled the kettle at the pump.

Then some one came to me and said,  
 'The little fishes are in bed.'  
 I said to him, I said it plain,  
 'Then you must wake them up again.'  
 I said it very loud and clear:  
 I went and shouted in his ear.  
 But he was very stiff and proud:  
 He said, 'You needn't shout so loud!  
 And he was very proud and stiff:  
 He said, 'I'd go and wake them, if—'

I took a corkscrew from the shelf:  
 I went to wake them up myself.  
 And when I found the door was locked,  
 I pulled and pushed and kicked and knocked.  
 And when I found the door was shut,  
 I tried to turn the handle, but—

### **A Sitting On A Gate**

I'll tell thee everything I can:  
 There's little to relate.  
 I saw an aged aged man,  
 A-sitting on a gate.  
 "Who are you, aged man?" I said,  
 "And how is it you live?"  
 And his answer trickled through my head,  
 Like water through a sieve.

He said "I look for butterflies  
 That sleep among the wheat:  
 I make them into mutton-pies,  
 And sell them in the street.  
 I sell them unto men," he said,  
 "Who sail on stormy seas;  
 And that's the way I get my bread -  
 A trifle, if you please."

But I was thinking of a plan  
 To dye one's whiskers green,  
 And always use so large a fan

That they could not be seen.  
So, having no reply to give  
To what the old man said,  
I cried "Come, tell me how you live!"  
And thumped him on the head.

His accents mild took up the tale:  
He said "I go my ways,  
And when I find a mountain-rill,  
I set it in a blaze;  
And thence they make a stuff they call  
Rowlands' Macassar-Oil -  
Yet twopence-halfpenny is all  
They give me for my toil."

But I was thinking of a way  
To feed oneself on batter,  
And so go on from day to day  
Getting a little fatter.  
I shook him well from side to side,  
Until his face was blue:  
"Come, tell me how you live," I cried,  
"And what it is you do!"

He said "I hunt for haddocks' eyes  
Among the heather bright,  
And work them into waistcoat-buttons  
In the silent night.  
And these I do not sell for gold  
Or coin of silvery shine,  
But for a copper halfpenny,  
And that will purchase nine.

"I sometimes dig for buttered rolls,  
Or set limed twigs for crabs:  
I sometimes search the grassy knolls  
For wheels of Hansom-cabs.  
And that's the way" (he gave a wink)  
"By which I get my wealth—  
And very gladly will I drink  
Your Honour's noble health."

I heard him then, for I had just

Completed my design  
To keep the Menai bridge from rust  
By boiling it in wine.  
I thanked him much for telling me  
The way he got his wealth,  
But chiefly for his wish that he  
Might drink my noble health.

And now, if e'er by chance I put  
My fingers into glue,  
Or madly squeeze a right-hand foot  
Into a left-hand shoe,  
Or if I drop upon my toe  
A very heavy weight,  
I weep, for it reminds me so  
Of that old man I used to know—  
Whose look was mild, whose speech was slow  
Whose hair was whiter than the snow,  
Whose face was very like a crow,  
With eyes, like cinders, all aglow,  
Who seemed distracted with his woe,  
Who rocked his body to and fro,  
And muttered mumblingly and low,  
As if his mouth were full of dough,  
Who snorted like a buffalo—  
That summer evening long ago,  
A-sitting on a gate.

### **The Walrus and the Carpenter**

The sun was shining on the sea,  
Shining with all his might:  
He did his very best to make  
The billows smooth and bright  
And this was odd, because it was  
The middle of the night.

The moon was shining sulkily,  
Because she thought the sun  
Had got no business to be there  
After the day was done  
“It’s very rude of him,” she said,  
“To come and spoil the fun.”

The sea was wet as wet could be,  
The sands were dry as dry.  
You could not see a cloud, because  
No cloud was in the sky:  
No birds were flying overhead  
There were no birds to fly.

The Walrus and the Carpenter  
Were walking close at hand;  
They wept like anything to see  
Such quantities of sand:  
If this were only cleared away,'  
They said, it would be grand!'

If seven maids with seven mops  
Swept it for half a year,  
Do you suppose,' the Walrus said,  
That they could get it clear?'  
I doubt it,' said the Carpenter,  
And shed a bitter tear.

O Oysters, come and walk with us!'  
The Walrus did beseech.  
A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk,  
Along the briny beach:  
We cannot do with more than four,  
To give a hand to each.

The eldest Oyster looked at him,  
But never a word he said:  
The eldest Oyster winked his eye,  
And shook his heavy head  
Meaning to say he did not choose  
To leave the oyster-bed.

But four young Oysters hurried up,  
All eager for the treat:  
Their coats were brushed, their faces washed,  
Their shoes were clean and neat  
And this was odd, because, you know,  
They hadn't any feet.

Four other Oysters followed them,  
And yet another four;  
And thick and fast they came at last,  
And more, and more, and more  
All hopping through the frothy waves,  
And scrambling to the shore.

The Walrus and the Carpenter  
Walked on a mile or so,  
And then they rested on a rock  
Conveniently low:  
And all the little Oysters stood  
And waited in a row.

The time has come,' the Walrus said,  
To talk of many things:  
Of shoes - and ships - and sealing-wax  
Of cabbages - and kings  
And why the sea is boiling hot  
And whether pigs have wings.'

But wait a bit,' the Oysters cried,  
Before we have our chat;  
For some of us are out of breath,  
And all of us are fat!  
No hurry!' said the Carpenter.  
They thanked him much for that.

A loaf of bread,' the Walrus said,  
Is what we chiefly need:  
Pepper and vinegar besides  
Are very good indeed  
Now if you're ready, Oysters dear,  
We can begin to feed.'

But not on us!' the Oysters cried,  
Turning a little blue.  
After such kindness, that would be  
A dismal thing to do!  
The night is fine,' the Walrus said.  
Do you admire the view?

It was so kind of you to come!

And you are very nice!’  
 The Carpenter said nothing but  
 Cut us another slice:  
 I wish you were not quite so deaf  
 I’ve had to ask you twice!’

It seems a shame,’ the Walrus said,  
 To play them such a trick,  
 After we’ve brought them out so far,  
 And made them trot so quick!’  
 The Carpenter said nothing but  
 The butter’s spread too thick!’

I weep for you,’ the Walrus said:  
 I deeply sympathize.’  
 With sobs and tears he sorted out  
 Those of the largest size,  
 Holding his pocket-handkerchief  
 Before his streaming eyes.

O Oysters,’ said the Carpenter,  
 You’ve had a pleasant run!  
 Shall we be trotting home again?’  
 But answer came there none  
 And this was scarcely odd, because  
 They’d eaten every one.

### Suggestions for further reading

1. Clark, Ann (1979). *Lewis Carroll: A Biography*. London: J. M. Dent.
2. Cohen, Morton (1996). *Lewis Carroll: A Biography*. Vintage Books. pp. 30-35.
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12. Bowman, Isa (1899). *The Story of Lewis Carroll: Told for Young People by the Real Alice in Wonderland*, Miss Isa Bowman. London: J.M. Dent & Co.
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21. Wakeling, Edward (2015). *The Photographs of Lewis Carroll: A Catalogue Raisonné*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
22. N.N.: *Dreaming in Pictures: The Photography of Lewis Carroll*. Yale University Press & SFMOMA, 2004. (Places Carroll firmly in the art photography tradition.)

# Chapter 10

## JOSEPH CONRAD

### 10.1 A Polish nobleman

#### Conrad's family worked for Polish independence

Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski (1857-1924) , better known by his pen-name, Joseph Conrad, was born into a noble Polish land-owning family. However, at the time of his birth, Poland did not exist as a nation, and the region in which Joseph Conrad was born was then part of the Russian Empire. Conrad's family was active in working for Polish independence.

#### Orphaned at the age of 11

Joseph Conrad was orphaned at the age of 11, and was placed in the care of his maternal uncle, Tadeusz Bobrowski. Since Conrad was not a good student, his uncle thought that it was essential that he should be prepared for a trade. He decided that this should be a combination of maritime activity and business.

#### Conrad becomes a sailor

In 1874, Bobrowski sent the 16-year-old Conrad to Marseilles to join the French merchant marine service. According to Wikipedia, **“Though Conrad had not completed secondary school, his accomplishments included fluency in French (with a correct accent), some knowledge of Latin, German and Greek; probably a good knowledge of history, some geography, and probably already an interest in physics. He was well read, particularly in Polish Romantic literature.”**



Figure 10.1: Conrad in 1904 by George Charles Beresford.

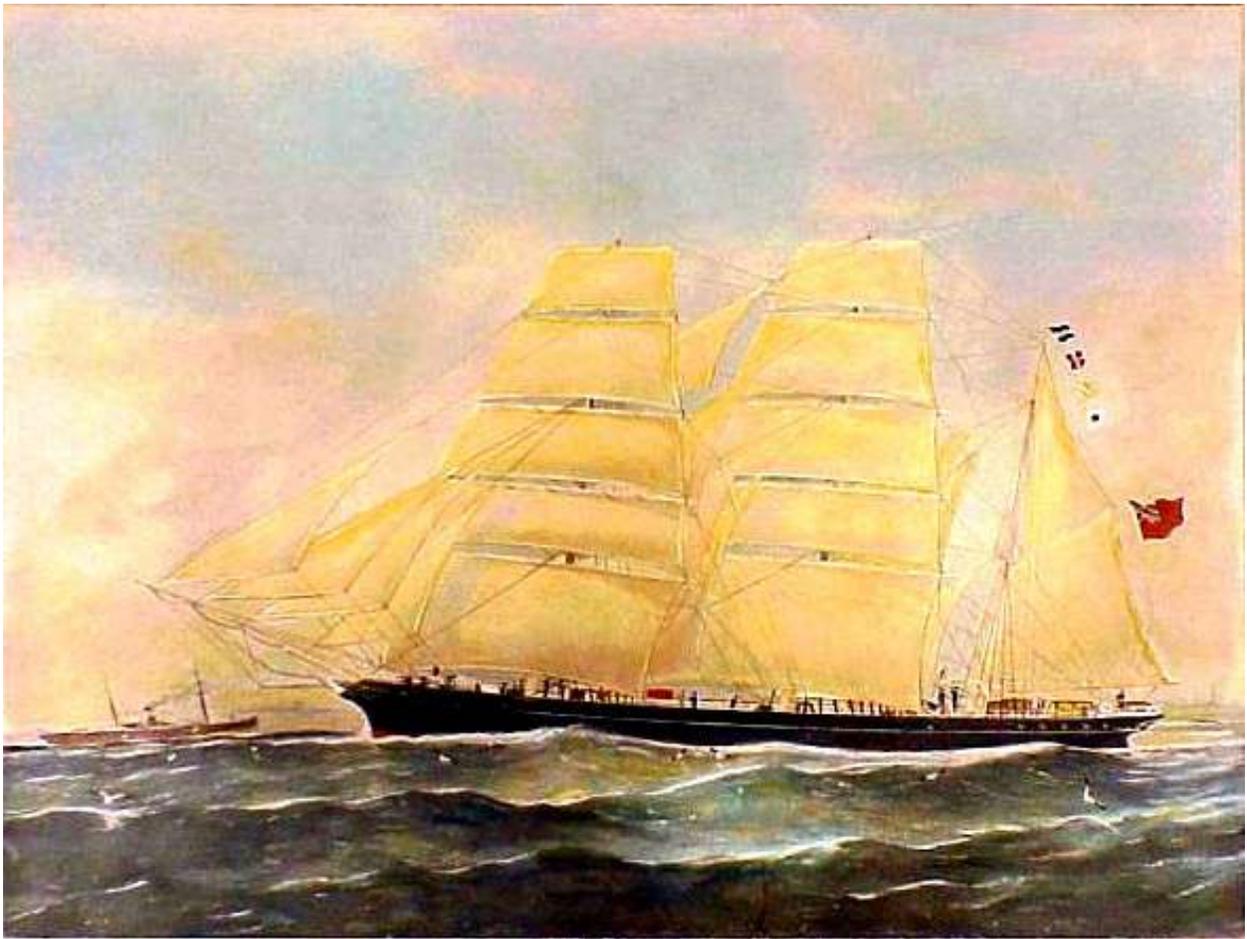


Figure 10.2: Barque Otago, captained by Conrad in 1888 and first three months of 1889.

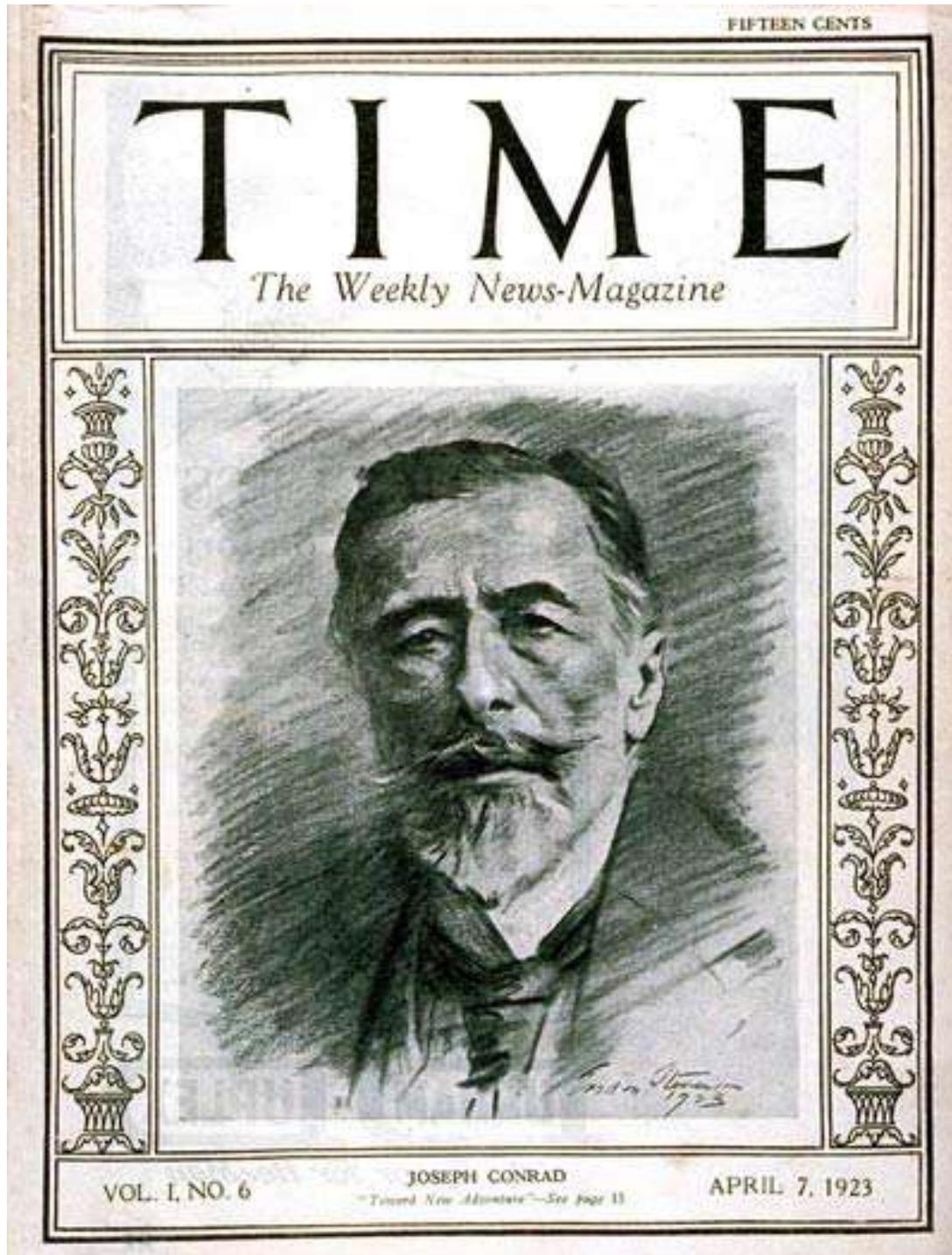


Figure 10.3: Conrad on the cover of *Time*, 7 April 1923.

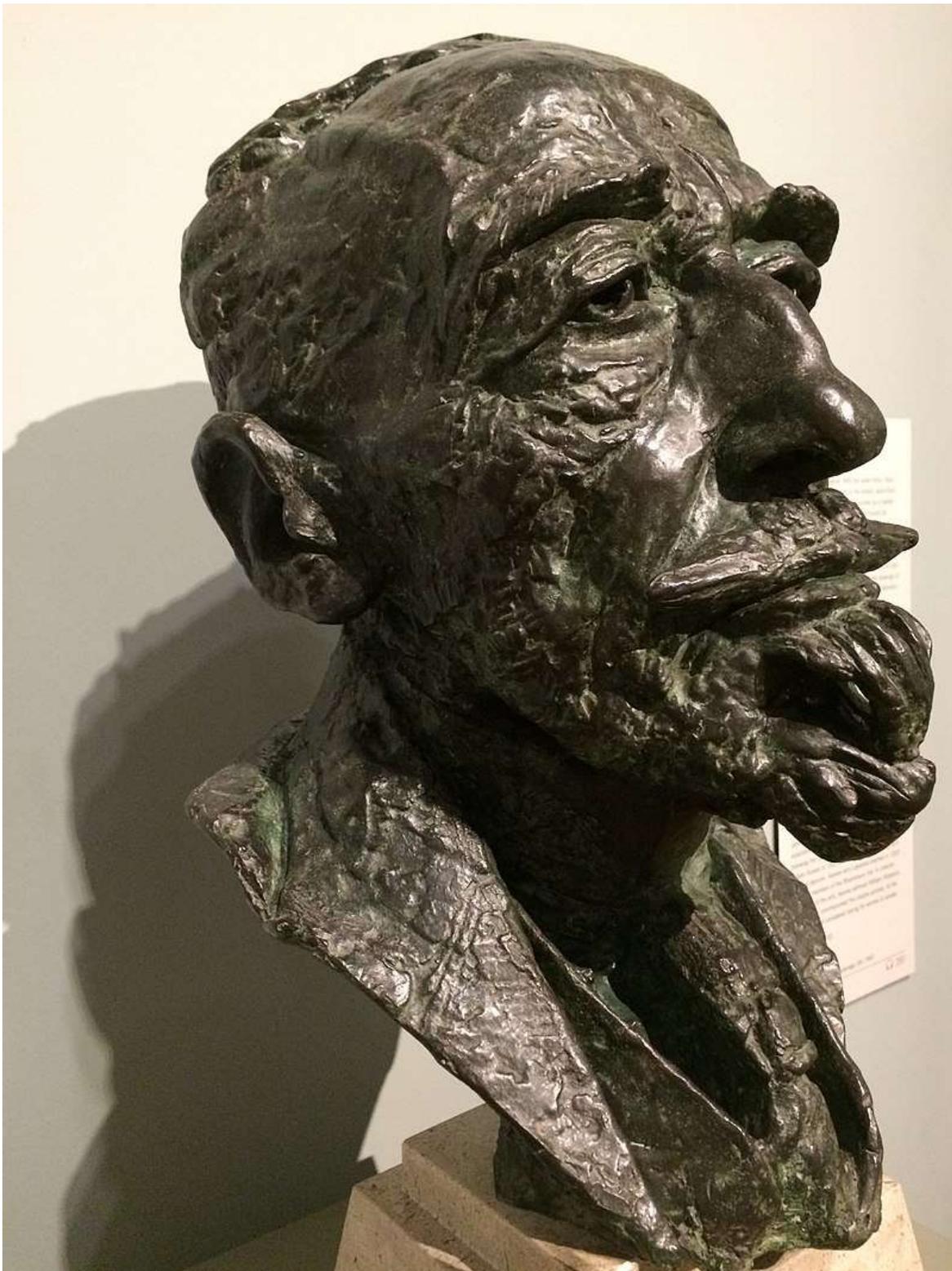


Figure 10.4: Bust of Joseph Conrad, by Jacob Epstein, 1924, at National Portrait Gallery, London.

## 10.2 Conrad's career at sea

As mentioned above, in 1874, his uncle Bobrowski sent the 16-year-old Conrad to Marseilles to join the French merchant marine service. However, three years later, in 1877, the Russian Counsel refused to provide the documents needed for Conrad to continue in the French maritime service. Therefore in 1878, Conrad enlisted in the British merchant marine. By this time, he had probably started to learn English. He continued to serve under the British flag for the next fifteen years, finally rising to the rank of Captain.

## 10.3 Writing in English

Conrad finally settled in England, and began writing in English. His first novel, *Almayer's Folly* (1895) was submitted to the young publisher and literary critic, Edward Garnett, who was impressed with the manuscript, but wondered whether the English was good enough for publication. He showed the manuscript to his wife, who thought the Conrad's foreignness was a positive merit.

The novel was a success in England, as were Conrad's subsequent novels, despite their foreignness, or perhaps because of it.

To the astonishment and dismay of his friends, Conrad married an uneducated English girl, much younger than himself, and very much his intellectual inferior. They lived together in a series of houses in the English countryside. Conrad's nervous temperament seemed to require frequent moves from one house to another.

Here is Lady Ottoline Morrell's impression of a meeting with Joseph Conrad. She was a member of the famous Bloomsbury Group.

"I found Conrad himself standing at the door of the house ready to receive me.... [His] appearance was really that of a Polish nobleman. His manner was perfect, almost too elaborate; so nervous and sympathetic that every fibre of him seemed electric... He talked English with a strong accent, as if he tasted his words in his mouth before pronouncing them; but he talked extremely well, though he had always the talk and manner of a foreigner.... He was dressed very carefully in a blue double-breasted jacket. He talked... apparently with great freedom about his life—more ease and freedom indeed than an Englishman would have allowed himself. He spoke of the horrors of the Congo, from the moral and physical shock of which he said he had never recovered... [His wife Jessie] seemed a nice and good-looking fat creature, an excellent cook, ... a good and reposeful mattress for this hypersensitive, nerve-wracked man, who did not ask from his wife high intelligence, only an assuagement of life's vibrations.... He made me feel so natural and very much myself, that I was almost afraid of losing the thrill and wonder of being there, although I was vibrating with intense excitement inside .... His eyes under their pent-house lids revealed the suffering and the intensity of his experiences; when he spoke of his work, there came over them a sort of misty, sensuous, dreamy look, but they seemed to hold deep down the ghosts of old adventures and experiences—once or twice there was something in them one almost suspected of being wicked.... But then I believe whatever strange wickedness would

tempt this super-subtle Pole, he would be held in restraint by an equally delicate sense of honour.... In his talk he led me along many paths of his life, but I felt that he did not wish to explore the jungle of emotions that lay dense on either side, and that his apparent frankness had a great reserve.”

Bertrand Russell (who was at that time Lady Ottoline’s lover) recorded the following impression of Conrad in his *Autobiography*:

“My first impression was one of surprise. He spoke English with a very strong foreign accent, and nothing in his demeanor in any way suggested the sea. He was an aristocratic Polish gentleman to his fingertips.... At our very first meeting, we talked with continually increasing intimacy. We seemed to sink through layer after layer of what was superficial, till gradually both reached the central fire. It was an experience unlike any other... I have known. We looked into each other’s eyes, half appalled and half intoxicated to find ourselves together in such a region...”

## 10.4 *Heart of Darkness*

### **The novel was based on Conrad’s experiences**

In 1890, at the age of 32, Conrad was appointed by a Belgian trading company to serve on one of its steamers. While sailing up the Congo River from one station to another, the captain became ill and Conrad assumed command. Conrad’s novel, *Heart of Darkness*, is based on these experiences.

### **Wider meaning**

In a 1902 letter to William Blackwood, Conrad remarked, “I call your own kind self to witness ... the last pages of *Heart of Darkness* where the interview of the man and the girl I locks in - as it were - the whole 30000 words of narrative description into one suggestive view of a whole phase of life and makes of that story something quite on another plane than an anecdote of a man who went mad in the Centre of Africa.”

### **Much analyzed today**

According to literary critic Harold Bloom *Heart of Darkness* has been analyzed more than any other work of literature that is studied in universities and colleges.

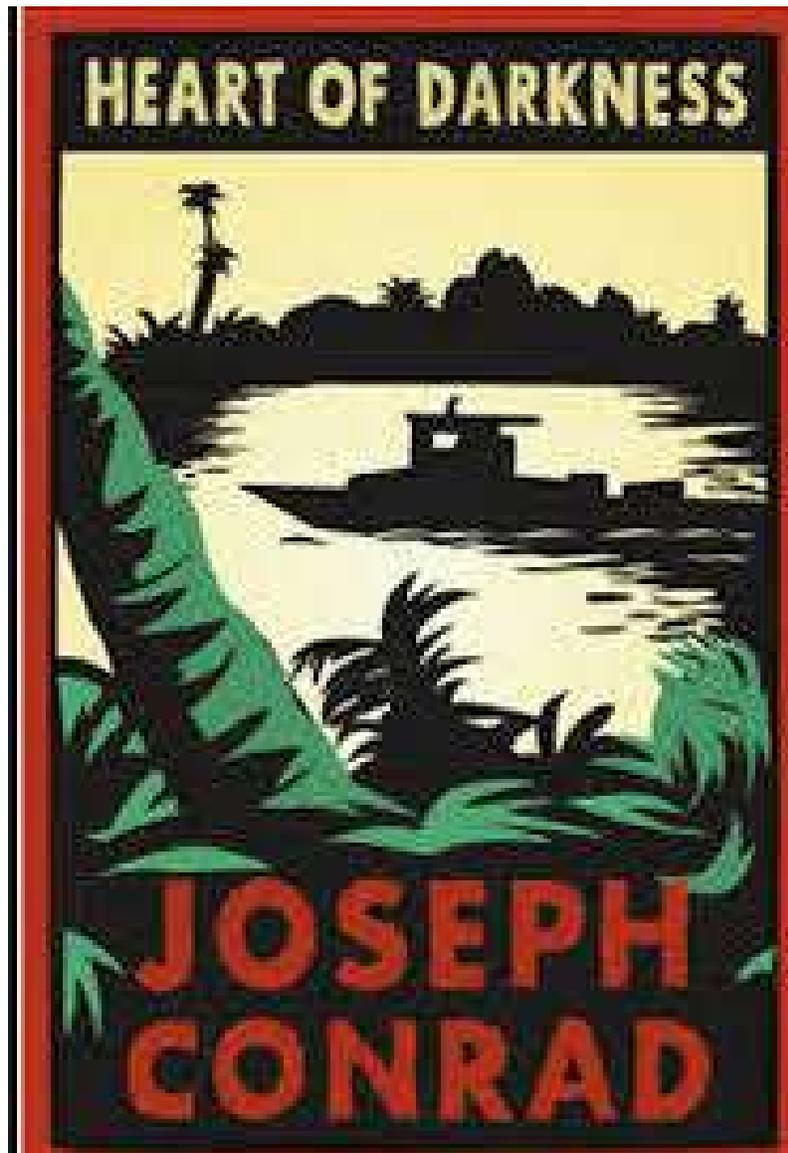


Figure 10.5: Joseph Conrad's famous book was written against the background of Leopold's atrocities.

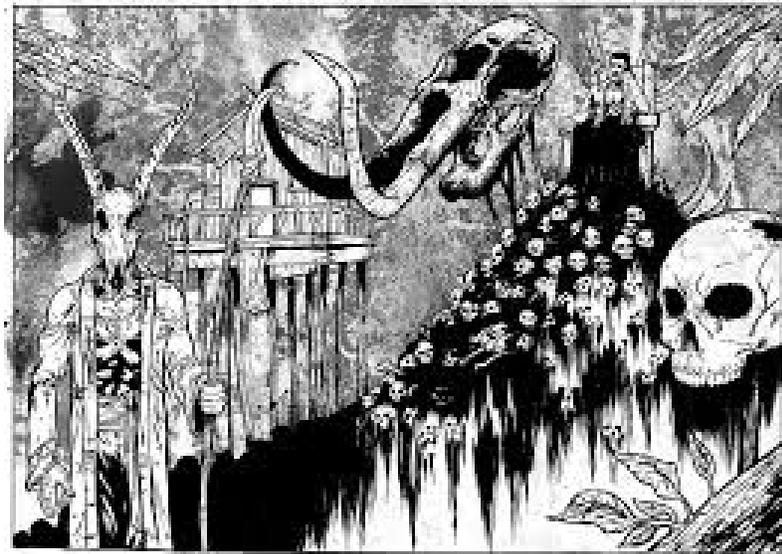


Figure 10.6: Heart of Darkness: An illustration for Joseph Conrad's book.



Figure 10.7: Heart of Darkness: Another illustration for Conrad's book.



Figure 10.8: Heart of Darkness: Joseph Conrad.



Figure 10.9: *Heart of Darkness*: King Leopold II of Belgium and some of his victims.

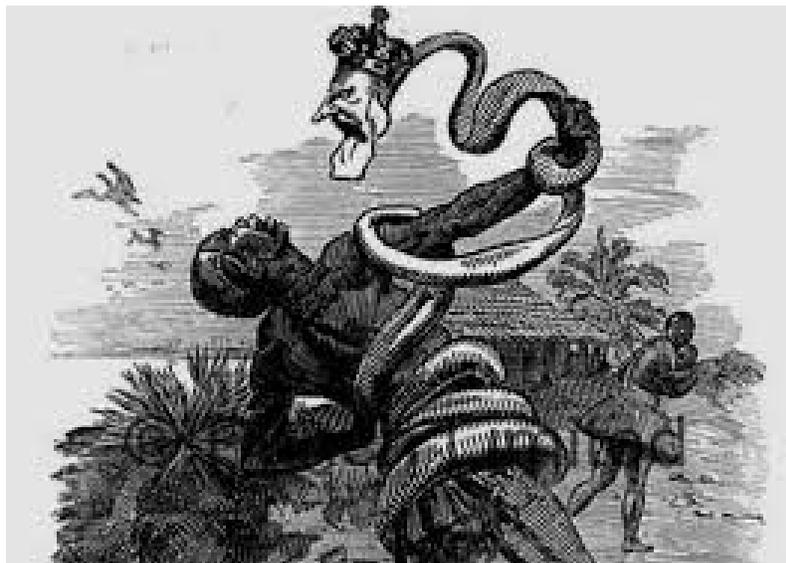


Figure 10.10: *Heart of Darkness*: A drawing used in the campaign to end Leopold's personal ownership of the Congo.



Figure 10.11: **Heart of Darkness: In Leopold’s Congo, human hands became a currency.**

## 10.5 Leopold II and Atrocities in Belgian Congo

It seems to be possible for nations, and the majority of their citizens, to commit the worst imaginable atrocities, including torture, murder and genocide, while feeling that what they are doing is both noble and good. Some understanding of how this is possible can be gained by watching the 3-part BBC documentary, “The History of Racism”.<sup>1</sup>

The series was broadcast by BBC Four in March 2007, and videos of the broadcasts are available on the Internet. Watching this eye-opening documentary can give us much insight into the link between racism and colonialism. We can also begin to see how both racism and colonialism are linked to US exceptionalism and neocolonialism.

Looking at the BBC documentary we can see how often in human history economic greed and colonial exploitation have been justified by racist theories. The documentary describes almost unbelievable cruelties committed against the peoples of the Americas and Africa by Europeans. For example, in the Congo, a vast region which King Leopold II of Belgium claimed as his private property, the women of villages were held as hostages while the men were forced to gather rubber in the forests. Since neither the men nor the women could produce food under these circumstances, starvation was the result.

Leopold’s private army of 90,000 men were issued ammunition, and to make sure that they used it in the proper way, the army was ordered to cut off the hands of their victims and send them back as proof that the bullets had not been wasted. Human hands became a kind of currency, and hands were cut off from men, women and children when rubber quotas were not fulfilled. Sometimes more than a thousand human hands were gathered in a single day. During the rule of Leopold, roughly 10,000,000 Congolese were killed, which

<sup>1</sup><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efI6T8lovqY>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdBDRbjx9jo>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCJHJWaNl-g>

was approximately half the population of the region.

According to the racist theories that supported these atrocities, it was the duty of philanthropic Europeans like Leopold to bring civilization and the Christian religion to Africa. Similar theories were used to justify the genocides committed by Europeans against the native inhabitants of the Americas.

Racist theories were also used to justify enormous cruelties committed by the British colonial government in India. For example, during the great famine of 1876-1878, in which ten million people died, the Viceroy, Lord Lytton, oversaw the export to England of a record 6.4 million hundredweight of wheat.

Meanwhile, in Europe, almost everyone was proud of the role which they were playing in the world. All that they read in newspapers and in books or heard from the pulpits of their churches supported the idea that they were serving the non-Europeans by bringing them the benefits of civilization and Christianity. On the whole, the mood of Europe during this orgy of external cruelty and exploitation, was self-congratulatory.

Can we not see a parallel with the self-congratulatory mood of the American people and their allies, who export violence, murder, torture and neocolonialism to the whole world, and who justify it by thinking of themselves as "exceptional"?

## 10.6 Joseph Conrad's literary work

### Novels

- Almayer's Folly (1895)
- An Outcast of the Islands (1896)
- The Nigger of the 'Narcissus' (1897)
- Heart of Darkness (1899)
- Lord Jim (1900)
- The Inheritors (with Ford Madox Ford) (1901)
- Typhoon (1902, begun 1899)
- The End of the Tether (written in 1902; collected in *Youth, a Narrative and Two Other Stories*, 1902)
- Romance (with Ford Madox Ford, 1903)
- Nostromo (1904)
- The Secret Agent (1907)
- Under Western Eyes (1911)
- Chance (1913)
- Victory (1915)
- The Shadow Line (1917)
- The Arrow of Gold (1919)
- The Rescue (1920)
- The Nature of a Crime (1923, with Ford Madox Ford)
- The Rover (1923)
- Suspense (1925; unfinished, published posthumously)[248]

## Stories

- "The Black Mate": written, according to Conrad, in 1886; may be counted as his opus double zero; published 1908; posthumously collected in *Tales of Hearsay*, 1925.
- "The Idiots": Conrad's truly first short story, which may be counted as his opus zero; written during his honeymoon (1896), published in *The Savoy* periodical, 1896, and collected in *Tales of Unrest*, 1898.
- "The Lagoon": composed 1896; published in *Cornhill Magazine*, 1897; collected in *Tales of Unrest*, 1898: "It is the first short story I ever wrote."
- "An Outpost of Progress": written 1896; published in *Cosmopolis*, 1897, and collected in *Tales of Unrest*, 1898: "My next [second] effort in short-story writing"; it shows numerous thematic affinities with *Heart of Darkness*; in 1906, Conrad described it as his "best story".
- "The Return": completed early 1897, while writing "Karain"; never published in magazine form; collected in *Tales of Unrest*, 1898: "[A]ny kind word about 'The Return' (and there have been such words said at different times) awakens in me the liveliest gratitude, for I know how much the writing of that fantasy has cost me in sheer toil, in temper, and in disillusion." Conrad, who suffered while writing this psychological chef-d'oeuvre of introspection, once remarked: "I hate it."
- "Karain: A Memory": written February-April 1897; published November 1897 in *Blackwood's Magazine* and collected in *Tales of Unrest*, 1898: "my third short story in... order of time".
- "Youth": written 1898; collected in *Youth, a Narrative, and Two Other Stories*, 1902
- "Falk": novella / story, written early 1901; collected only in *Typhoon and Other Stories*, 1903
- "Amy Foster": composed 1901; published in the *Illustrated London News*, December 1901, and collected in *Typhoon and Other Stories*, 1903.
- "To-morrow": written early 1902; serialised in *The Pall Mall Magazine*, 1902, and collected in *Typhoon and Other Stories*, 1903
- "Gaspar Ruiz": written after *Nostromo* in 1904-5; published in *The Strand Magazine*, 1906, and collected in *A Set of Six*, 1908 (UK), 1915 (US). This story was the only piece of Conrad's fiction ever adapted by the author for cinema, as *Gaspar the Strong Man*, 1920.
- "An Anarchist": written late 1905; serialised in *Harper's Magazine*, 1906; collected in *A Set of Six*, 1908 (UK), 1915 (US)
- "The Informer": written before January 1906; published, December 1906, in *Harper's Magazine*, and collected in *A Set of Six*, 1908 (UK), 1915 (US)
- "The Brute": written early 1906; published in *The Daily Chronicle*, December 1906; collected in *A Set of Six*, 1908 (UK), 1915 (US)
- "The Duel: A Military Story": serialised in the UK in *The Pall Mall Magazine*, early 1908, and later that year in the US as
- "The Point of Honor", in the periodical *Forum*; collected in *A Set of Six* in 1908 and published by Garden City Publishing in 1924. Joseph Fouché makes a cameo appearance.

- “Il Conde” (i.e., ”Conte” [The Count]): appeared in Cassell’s Magazine (UK), 1908, and Hampton’s (US), 1909; collected in *A Set of Six*, 1908 (UK), 1915 (US)
- “The Secret Sharer”: written December 1909; published in Harper’s Magazine, 1910, and collected in *Twixt Land and Sea*, 1912
- “Prince Roman”: written 1910, published 1911 in *The Oxford and Cambridge Review*; posthumously collected in *Tales of Hearsay*, 1925; based on the story of Prince Roman Sanguszko of Poland (1800-81)
- “A Smile of Fortune”: a long story, almost a novella, written in mid-1910; published in *London Magazine*, February 1911; collected in *Twixt Land and Sea*, 1912
- “Freya of the Seven Isles”: a near-novella, written late 1910-early 1911; published in *The Metropolitan Magazine* and *London Magazine*, early 1912 and July 1912, respectively; collected in *Twixt Land and Sea*, 1912
- “The Partner”: written 1911; published in *Within the Tides*, 1915
- “The Inn of the Two Witches”: written 1913; published in *Within the Tides*, 1915
- “Because of the Dollars”: written 1914; published in *Within the Tides*, 1915
- “The Planter of Malata”: written 1914; published in *Within the Tides*, 1915
- “The Warrior’s Soul”: written late 1915-early 1916; published in *Land and Water*, March 1917; collected in *Tales of Hearsay*, 1925
- “The Tale”: Conrad’s only story about World War I; written 1916, first published 1917 in *The Strand Magazine*; posthumously collected in *Tales of Hearsay*, 1925

## Essays

- “Autocracy and War” (1905)
- *The Mirror of the Sea* (collection of autobiographical essays first published in various magazines 1904-06), 1906
- *A Personal Record* (also published as *Some Reminiscences*), 1912
- *The First News*, 1918
- *The Lesson of the Collision: A monograph upon the loss of the “Empress of Ireland”*, 1919
- *The Polish Question*, 1919
- *The Shock of War*, 1919
- *Notes on Life and Letters*, 1921
- *Notes on My Books*, 1921
- *Last Essays*, edited by Richard Curle, 1926
- *The Congo Diary and Other Uncollected Pieces*, edited by Zdzislaw Najder, 1978.

## Suggestions for further reading

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2. Curle, Richard (1914). *Joseph Conrad. A Study*. Doubleday, Page & Company.
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# Chapter 11

## H.G. WELLS

### 11.1 Scientist, prophet and social reformer

Herbert George Wells (1866-1946) was born into a very poor family in Kent, England. A defining moment in his life came when he was 8 years old. He had broken his leg, and his father brought him books from the local library to help him to pass the time that he was forced to spend in bed. Wells became an avid reader, and started his long process of self-education. He also began to see himself as a future writer.

Since his parents could not afford to support their children, they were apprenticed in trades. H.G. Wells spent three miserable years, from 1880 to 1883, as a draper's apprentice.

In 1883, when Wells was 17 years old, he was able to obtain a position as a student-teacher at Midhurst Grammar School. This allowed him to continue his self-education in earnest.

The following year, Wells won a scholarship to what would later become the Royal College of Science, which is now part of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. There he studied biology under Thomas Henry Huxley.<sup>1</sup>

Wells remained at the Royal College of Science until 1887, when he was 21. He entered the Royal College's Debating Society, and at this time he also began to attend lectures of the newly-formed Fabian Society, which took place at the home of William Morris. In this way, Wells began his lifelong commitment to social reform.

In 1893, when Wells was 27, he published his first book, a two-volume textbook on biology.

After leaving the Royal College of Science, where he had been supported by a scholarship, Wells had no source of income. Luckily, his Aunt Mary, his father's sister, invited him to stay in her home, so at least he had a place to live. While there, Wells became interested in his cousin Isabel, whom he later married. To earn money during this period, Wells began writing short humorous articles for magazines, such as the *Pall Mall Gazette*. Many of these have been collected, but many others are now lost.

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<sup>1</sup>Imperial College now has a Wells Society, commemorating his stay there, where one can hear lectures by distinguished pioneers in science, such as Grey Walter and J.Z. Young.



Figure 11.1: H.G. Wells (1866-1946).

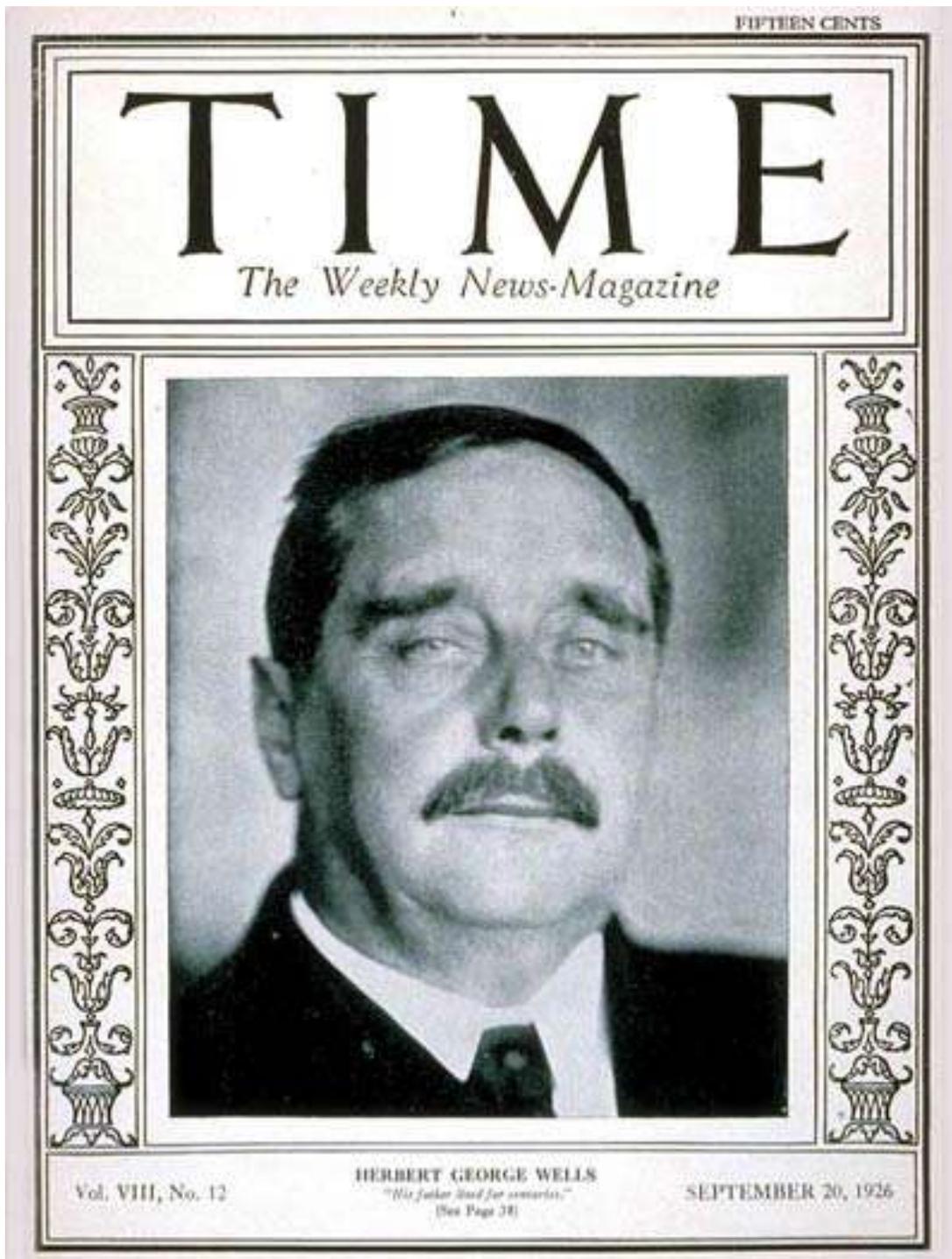


Figure 11.2: H. G. Wells, one day before his 60th birthday, on the front cover of *Time* magazine, 20 September 1926.



Figure 11.3: Churchill avidly read Wells. An October 1906 Churchill speech was partly inspired by Wells' ideas of a supportive state as a "Utopia". Two days earlier, Churchill had written Wells: "I owe you a great debt."

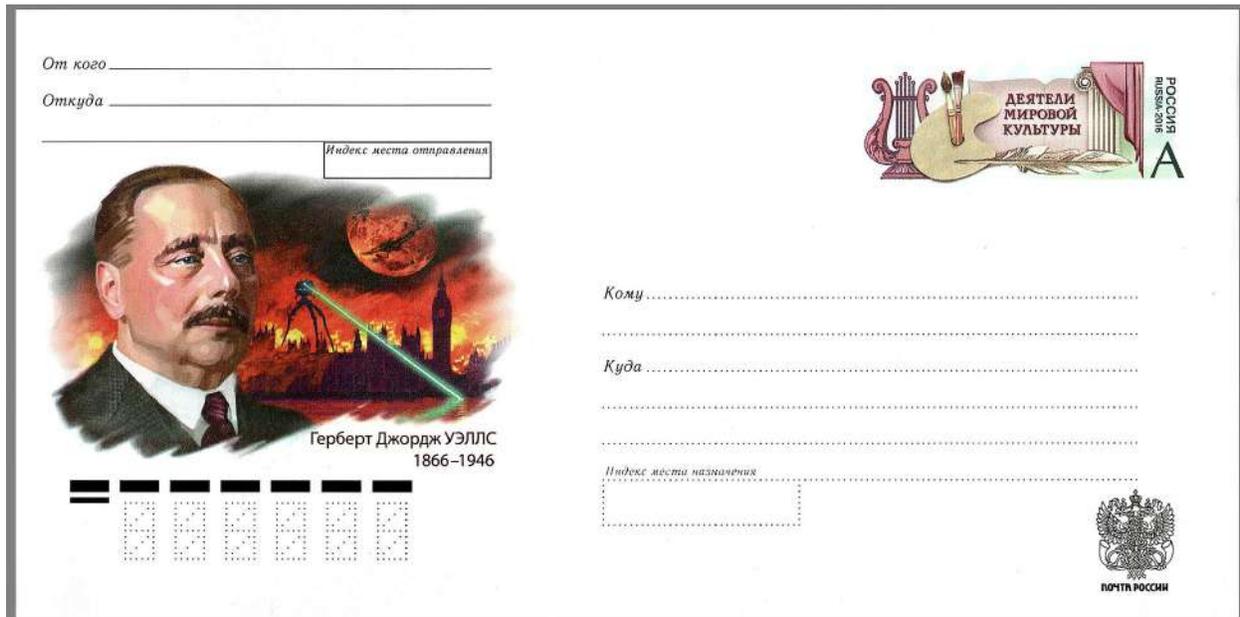


Figure 11.4: 2016 illustrated postal envelope with an image from *The War of the Worlds*, Russian Post, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the author's birth.

## Women

Wells' marriage to his cousin Isabel lasted only until 1894. The couple separated because Wells had fallen in love with one of his students, Amy Catherine Robbins, with whom he moved into a rented house in Surrey. They were later married, and they had two sons.

The time in Surrey with Amy was a very productive one for Wells. During this period he wrote *The War of the Worlds* and *The Time Machine*, completed *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, wrote and published *The Wonderful Visit* and *The Wheels of Chance*, and began writing two other early books, *When the Sleeper Wakes* and *Love and Mr Lewisham*.

Wikipedia states that

“Wells had affairs with a significant number of women. In December 1909, he had a daughter, Anna-Jane, with the writer Amber Reeves, whose parents, William and Maud Pember Reeves, he had met through the Fabian Society. Amber had married the barrister G. R. Blanco White in July of that year, as co-arranged by Wells. After Beatrice Webb voiced disapproval of Wells' ‘sordid intrigue’ with Amber, he responded by lampooning Beatrice Webb and her husband Sidney Webb in his 1911 novel *The New Machiavelli* as ‘Altiora and Oscar Bailey’, a pair of short-sighted, bourgeois manipulators. Between 1910 and 1913, novelist Elizabeth von Arnim was one of his mistresses. In 1914, he had a son, Anthony West (1914-1987), by the novelist and feminist

Rebecca West, 26 years his junior. In 1920-21, and intermittently until his death, he had a love affair with the American birth control activist Margaret Sanger.

“Between 1924 and 1933 he partnered with the 22-year younger Dutch adventurer and writer Odette Keun, with whom he lived in Lou Pidou, a house they built together in Grasse, France. Wells dedicated his longest book to her (*The World of William Clissold*, 1926). When visiting Maxim Gorky in Russia 1920, he had slept with Gorky’s mistress Moura Budberg, then still Countess Benckendorf and 27 years his junior. In 1933, when she left Gorky and emigrated to London, their relationship renewed and she cared for him through his final illness. Wells asked her to marry him repeatedly, but Budberg strongly rejected his proposals.”

## 11.2 The Shakespeare of science fiction

“During his own lifetime, however, he was most prominent as a forward-looking, even prophetic social critic who devoted his literary talents to the development of a progressive vision on a global scale. A futurist, he wrote a number of utopian works and foresaw the advent of aircraft, tanks, space travel, nuclear weapons, satellite television and something resembling the World Wide Web. His science fiction imagined time travel, alien invasion, invisibility, and biological engineering. Brian Aldiss referred to Wells as the “Shakespeare of science fiction”. His most notable science fiction works include *The Time Machine* (1895), *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896), *The Invisible Man* (1897), *The War of the Worlds* (1898) and *The War in the Air* (1907). He was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature four times.

## 11.3 Wells’ enormous literary output

### Novels

- *The Time Machine* (1895). Fragments from the serial form in *The New Review* which were generally excluded in the book version can be found in the anthology edited by Philmus, 1975, as can the untitled version published in seven instalments in the *National Observer* 17 March - 23 June 1984.[2]
- *The Wonderful Visit* (1895)
- *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896)
- *The Wheels of Chance* (1896)
- *The Invisible Man* (1897)
- *The War of the Worlds* (1898)
- *When the Sleeper Wakes* (1899)
- *Love and Mr Lewisham* (1900)
- *The First Men in the Moon* (1901)

- The Sea Lady (1902)
- The Food of the Gods and How It Came to Earth (1904)
- Kipps (1905)
- A Modern Utopia (1905)
- In the Days of the Comet (1906)
- The War in the Air (1908)
- Tono-Bungay (1909)
- Ann Veronica (1909)
- The History of Mr Polly (1910)
- The Sleeper Awakes (1910) - revised edition of When the Sleeper Wakes (1899)
- The New Machiavelli (1911)
- Marriage (1912)
- The Passionate Friends (1913)
- The Wife of Sir Isaac Harman (1914)
- The World Set Free (1914)
- Bealby: A Holiday (1915)
- Boon (1915) (as Reginald Bliss)
- The Research Magnificent (1915)
- Mr Britling Sees It Through (1916)
- The Soul of a Bishop (1917)
- Joan and Peter: The Story of an Education (1918)
- The Undying Fire (1919)
- The Secret Places of the Heart (1922)
- Men Like Gods (1923)
- The Dream (1924)
- Christina Alberta's Father (1925)
- The World of William Clissold (1926)
- Meanwhile (1927)
- Mr. Blettsworthy on Rampole Island (1928)
- The Autocracy of Mr. Parham (1930)
- The Bulpington of Blup (1932)
- The Shape of Things to Come (1933)
- The Croquet Player (1936)
- Brynhild (1937)
- Star Begotten (1937)
- The Camford Visitation (1937), novella
- Apropos of Dolores (1938)
- The Brothers (1938)
- The Holy Terror (1939)
- Babes in the Darkling Wood (1940)
- All Aboard for Ararat (1940)
- You Can't Be Too Careful (1941)

## Short stories

- "A Tale of the Twentieth Century" (Science Schools Journal, no. 6, May 1887) - signed S.B. for Septimus Browne[2]
- "A Talk with Gryllotalpa" (Science Schools Journal, no. 3, February 1887) - published under the pseudonym Septimus Browne[2]
- "A Vision of the Past" (Science Schools Journal, no. 7, June 1887) - signed S.S. for "Sosthenes Smith" [2][3]
- "The Chronic Argonauts" (a.k.a. "Chronic Argonaut", a.k.a. "The Chronic Argonauts") (Science Schools Journal, nos. 17-19, April-June 1888), novelette - the earliest version of The Time Machine.[4]
- "The Devotee of Art" (Science Schools Journal, nos. 24-25, Nov.-Dec. 1888)
- "Æpyornis Island" (Pall Mall Budget, 13 December 1894)
- "A Deal in Ostriches" (Pall Mall Gazette, 20 December 1894)
- "A Family Elopement" (The St. James's Gazette, 3 March 1894)
- "A Misunderstood Artist" (Pall Mall Gazette, 29 October 1894)
- "How Gabriel Became Thompson" (Truth, 26 July 1894)
- "In the Avu Observatory" (Pall Mall Budget, 9 August 1894)
- "In the Modern Vein" (a.k.a. "In the Modern Vein: An Unsympathetic Love Story", a.k.a. "A Bardlet's Romance") (Truth, 8 March 1894)
- "The Diamond Maker" (Pall Mall Budget, 16 August 1894)
- "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid" (a.k.a. "The Strange Orchid") (Pall Mall Budget, 2 August 1894)
- "The Hammerpond Park Burglary" (Pall Mall Budget, 5 July 1894)
- "The Jilting of Jane" (Pall Mall Budget, 12 July 1894)
- "The Lord of the Dynamos" (Pall Mall Budget, 6 September 1894)
- "The Man With a Nose" (Pall Mall Gazette, 6 Feb. 1894)
- "The Stolen Bacillus" (Pall Mall Budget, 21 June 1894)
- "The Thing in No. 7" (Pall Mall Budget, 25 October 1894)
- "The Thumbmark" (Pall Mall Budget, 28 June 1894)
- "The Treasure in the Forest" (Pall Mall Budget, 23 August 1894)
- "The Triumphs of a Taxidermist" (Pall Mall Gazette, 3-15 March 1894)
- "Through a Window" (a.k.a. "At a Window") (Black and White, 25 August 1894)
- "A Catastrophe" (New Budget, 4 April 1895)
- "How Pingwill Was Routed" (New Budget, 27 June 1895)
- "Le Mari Terrible" (New Budget, 23 May 1895)
- "Our Little Neighbour" (New Budget, 4 April 1895)
- "Pollock and the Porroh Man" (New Budget, 23 May 1895)
- "The Argonauts of the Air" (The Phil May's Annual, December 1895)
- "The Cone" (Unicorn, 18 September 1895)
- "The Flying Man" (Pall Mall Gazette, 4 January 1895)
- "The Moth" (a.k.a. "A Moth - Genus Novo") (Pall Mall Gazette, 28 March 1895)
- "The Reconciliation" (a.k.a. "The Bulla") (The Weekly Sun Literary Supplement, 1 December 1895)

- "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes" (a.k.a. "The Story of Davidson's Eyes") (Pall Mall Budget, 28 March 1895)
- "The Sad Story of a Dramatic Critic" (a.k.a. "The Obliterated Man") (New Budget, 15 August 1895)
- "The Temptation of Harringay" (The St. James's Gazette, 9 February 1895)
- "Wayde's Essence" (New Budget, 18 April 1895)
- "A Slip Under the Microscope" (The Yellow Book, January 1896)
- "In the Abyss" (Pearson's Magazine, 1 August 1896)
- "The Apple" (The Idler, October 1896)
- "The Plattner Story" (The New Review, April 1896)
- "The Purple Pileus" (Black and White, December 1896)
- "The Rajah's Treasure" (Pearson's Magazine, July 1896)
- "The Red Room" (a.k.a. "The Ghost of Fear") (The Idler, March 1896)
- "The Sea Raiders" (a.k.a. "The Sea-Raiders") (The Weekly Sun Literary Supplement, 6 December 1896)
- "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvisham" (The Idler, May 1896)
- "Under the Knife" (a.k.a. "Slip Under the Knife") (The New Review, January 1896)
- "A Perfect Gentleman on Wheels" (Woman at Home, April 1897)
- "A Story of the Stone Age" (a.k.a. "Stories of the Stone Age") (The Idler, May-September 1897), novella
- "Mr Marshall's Doppelganger" (Gentlewoman, 18 September 1897)
- "The Crystal Egg" (The New Review, May 1897)
- "The Lost Inheritance" (The Plattner Story and Others., May 1897)
- "The Presence by the Fire" (Penny Illustrated Paper, 14 August 1897)
- "The Star" (The Graphic, December 1897)
- "Jimmy Goggles the God" (The Graphic, December 1898)
- "Miss Winchelsea's Heart" (The Queen, October 1898)
- "Mr. Ledbetter's Vacation" (a.k.a. "Mr Ledbetter's Vacation") (The Strand Magazine, October 1898)
- "The Man Who Could Work Miracles" (a.k.a. "The Man Who Could Work Miracles: A Pantoum in Prose", a.k.a. "Man Who Could Work Miracles") (Illustrated London News, July 1898)
- "The Stolen Body" (The Strand Magazine, November 1898)
- "The Stolen Body" was reprinted in *Weird Tales* in November 1925
- "Walcote" (Science Schools Journal, nos. 25-26, Dec. 1898 - Jan. 1899)
- "A Story of the Days to Come" (Pall Mall Magazine, June-October 1899), novella
- "A Vision of Judgment" (a.k.a. "A Vision of Judgement") (The Butterfly, September 1899)
- "Mr. Brisher's Treasure" (a.k.a. "Mr Brisher's Treasure") (The Strand Magazine, April 1899)
- "A Dream of Armageddon" (Black and White Budget, 25 May 1901)
- "Filmer" (The Graphic, December 1901)
- "The New Accelerator" (The Strand Magazine, December 1901)

- "The Inexperienced Ghost" (a.k.a. "The Story of the Inexperienced Ghost") (The Strand Magazine, March 1902)
- "The Loyalty of Esau Common" (The Contemporary Review, February 1902)
- "Mr. Skelmersdale in Fairyland" (a.k.a. "Mr Skelmersdale in Fairyland") (London Magazine, February 1903)
- "The Land Ironclads" (The Strand Magazine, December 1903)
- "The Magic Shop" (The Strand Magazine, June 1903)
- "The Truth About Pyecraft" (The Strand Magazine, April 1903)
- "The Valley of Spiders" (The Strand Magazine, March 1903)
- "The Country of the Blind" (The Strand Magazine, April 1904; revised, 1939), nov-  
elette
- "The Empire of the Ants" (a.k.a. "Empire of the Ants") (The Strand Magazine,  
December 1905)
- "The Door in the Wall" (1906)
- "The Beautiful Suit" (a.k.a. "A Moonlight Fable") (Collier's Weekly, April 1909)
- "Little Mother Up the MÃ¶rderberg" (The Strand Magazine, April 1910), Little  
Mother series 2
- "My First Aeroplane" (The Strand Magazine, January 1910), Little Mother series 1
- "The Story of the Last Trump" (Boon, 1915)
- "The Wild Asses of the Devil" (Boon, 1915)
- "Peter Learns Arithmetic" (1918)
- "The Invasion from Mars" (1920)
- "The Grisly Folk" (Storyteller Magazine, April 1921), essay
- "Into the Abyss" (1923)
- "The Pearl of Love" (The Strand Magazine, January 1925)
- "The Adventures of Tommy" (1928)
- "A Woman's Heart" (1931)
- "The Queer Story of Brownlow's Newspaper" (The Strand Magazine, February 1932)
- "Answer to Prayer" (The New Statesman, 10 April 1937)
- "Depouillement - the Door in the Wall" (1953, published posthumously)
- "The Desert Daisy" (1957, published posthumously)
- "The Haunted Ceiling" (2016, published posthumously)[

### **Collections and uncollected short stories**

- Select Conversations with an Uncle (Now Extinct) and Two Other Reminiscences (1895), collection of 14 short stories:
- "Of Conversation and The Anatomy of Fashion", "The Theory of The Perpetual Discomfort of Humanity", "The Use of Ideals", "The Art of Being Photographed", "Bagshot's Mural Decorations", "On Social Music", "The Joys of Being Engaged", "La Belle Dame Sans Merci", "On a Tricycle", "An Unsuspected Masterpiece", "The Great Change", "The Pains of Marriage", "A Misunderstood Artist", "The Man with a Nose"

- The Stolen Bacillus and Other Incidents (1895),[6] collection of 15 short stories:
- "The Stolen Bacillus", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", "In the Avu Observatory", "The Triumphs of a Taxidermist", "A Deal in Ostriches", "Through a Window", "The Temptation of Harringay", "The Flying Man", "The Diamond Maker", "Æpyornis Island", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Hammerpond Park Burglary", "The Moth", "The Treasure in the Forest"
- The Plattner Story and Others (1897),[7] collection of 17 short stories:
- "The Plattner Story", "The Argonauts of the Air", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvisham", "In the Abyss", "The Apple", "Under the Knife", "The Sea Raiders", "Pollock and the Porroh Man", "The Red Room", "The Cone", "The Purple Pileus", "The Jilting of Jane", "In the Modern Vein", "A Catastrophe", "The Lost Inheritance", "The Sad Story of a Dramatic Critic", "A Slip Under the Microscope"
- Thirty Strange Stories (1897),[8] collection of 30 short stories:
- "Æpyornis Island", "In the Abyss", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Moth", "The Plattner Story", "Pollock and the Porroh Man", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvisham", "The Argonauts of the Air", "In the Avu Observatory", "The Stolen Bacillus", "The Triumphs of a Taxidermist", "The Apple", "The Red Room", "The Cone", "The Purple Pileus", "The Jilting of Jane", "A Catastrophe", "The Lost Inheritance", "The Sad Story of a Dramatic Critic", "A Slip Under the Microscope", "The Treasure in the Forest", "A Deal in Ostriches", "The Sea-Raiders", "In the Modern Vein: An Unsympathetic Love Story", "The Reconciliation", "Le Mari Terrible", "The Rajah's Treasure", "The Strange Orchid", "Slip Under the Knife"
- Tales of Space and Time (1899),[9] collection of 3 short stories and 2 novellas:
- "The Crystal Egg", "The Star", "A Story of the Stone Age" (novella), "A Story of the Days to Come" (novella), "The Man Who Could Work Miracles"
- Twelve Stories and a Dream (1903),[10] collection of 13 short stories:
- "Filmer", "The Magic Shop", "The Valley of Spiders", "The Truth About Pyecraft", "Mr. Skelmersdale in Fairyland", "The Inexperienced Ghost", "Jimmy Goggles the God", "The New Accelerator", "Mr. Ledbetter's Vacation", "The Stolen Body", "Mr. Brisher's Treasure", "Miss Winchelsea's Heart", "A Dream of Armageddon"
- The Country of the Blind and Other Stories, or The Country of the Blind, and Other Stories (1911), collection of 32 short stories and 1 novelette:
- "The Jilting of Jane", "The Cone", "The Stolen Bacillus", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", "In the Avu Observatory", "Æpyornis Island", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Moth", "The Treasure in the Forest", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvisham", "Under the Knife", "The Sea Raiders", "The Obliterated Man", "The Plattner Story", "The Red Room", "The Purple Pileus", "A Slip Under the Microscope", "The Crystal Egg", "The Star", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "A Vision of Judgment", "Jimmy Goggles the God", "Miss Winchelsea's Heart", "A Dream of Armageddon", "The Valley of Spiders", "The New Accelerator", "The Truth About Pyecraft", "The Magic Shop",

- "The Empire of the Ants", "The Door in the Wall", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Beautiful Suit"
- The Door in the Wall and Other Stories (1911), collection of 7 short stories and 1 novelette:
  - "The Door in the Wall", "The Star", "A Dream of Armageddon", "The Cone", "A Moonlight Fable", "The Diamond Maker", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette)
  - Tales of the Unexpected (1922), collection of 15 short stories:
  - "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Moth", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvesham", "Under the Knife", "The Plattner Story", "The Crystal Egg", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "A Dream of Armageddon", "The New Accelerator", "The Door in the Wall", "The Apple", "The Temptation of Harringay", "Mr. Skelmersdale in Fairyland", "The Inexperienced Ghost", "The Stolen Body"
  - Tales of Wonder (1923), collection of 16 short stories and 1 novelette:
  - "Into the Abyss", "Pollock and the Porroh Man", "The Triumphs of a Taxidermist", "In the Avu Observatory", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", "Æpyornis Island", "The Sea Raiders", "The Red Room", "The Purple Pileus", "The Star", "A Vision of Judgment", "The Valley of Spiders", "The Truth of Pyecraft", "The Magic Shop", "The Empire of the Ants", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Beautiful Suit"
  - The Country of the Blind (1923), collection of 2 short stories and 1 novelette:
  - "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Truth About Pyecraft", "The Beautiful Suit"
  - Tales of Life and Adventure (1923), collection of 21 short stories:
  - "The Argonauts of the Air", "In the Modern Vein: An Unsympathetic Love Story", "A Catastrophe", "The Lost Inheritance", "A Deal in Ostriches", "Through a Window", "The Flying Man", "The Diamond Maker", "The Hammerpond Park Burglary", "The Jilting of Jane", "The Cone", "The Stolen Bacillus", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Treasure in the Forest", "The Obliterated Man", "A Slip Under the Microscope", "Jimmy Goggles the God", "Miss Winchelsea's Heart", "Filmer", "Mr. Ledbetter's Vacation", "Mr. Brisher's Treasure"
  - The Empire of the Ants and Other Stories (1925), collection of 3 short stories:
  - "The Empire of the Ants", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Cone"
  - The Obliterated Man and Other Stories (1925), collection of 4 short stories:
  - "The Obliterated Man", "The Plattner Story", "The Red Room", "A Vision of Judgment"
  - The Stolen Bacillus and Other Stories (1925), collection of 5 short stories:
  - "The Jilting of Jane", "Æpyornis Island", "In the Avu Observatory", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", "The Stolen Bacillus"
  - The Country of the Blind and Other Stories (1926), collection of 8 short stories, 2 novelettes and 1 essay:

- "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Door in the Wall", "The Beautiful Suit", "The Empire of the Ants", "The Land Ironclads" (novelette), "The Grisly Folk" (essay), "Little Mother Up the MÅ¶rderberg" (Little Mother series 2), "My First Aeroplane" (Little Mother series 1), "A Vision of Judgment", "The Story of the Last Trump", "The Pearl of Love"
- The Short Stories of H. G. Wells, or The Famous Short Stories of H. G. Wells, or The Complete Short Stories of H. G. Wells (1927), collection of 1 novel, 57 short stories, 4 novelettes/novellas and 1 essay:
- The Time Machine (novel), "The Empire of the Ants", "A Vision of Judgement", "The Land Ironclads" (novelette), "The Beautiful Suit", "The Door in the Wall", "The Pearl of Love", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Stolen Bacillus", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", "In the Avu Observatory", "The Triumphs of a Taxidermist", "A Deal in Ostriches", "Through a Window", "The Temptation of Harringay", "The Flying Man", "The Diamond Maker", "Æpyornis Island", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Hammerpond Park Burglary", "The Moth", "The Treasure in the Forest", "The Plattner Story", "The Argonauts of the Air", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvisham", "In the Abyss", "The Apple", "Under the Knife", "The Sea-Raiders", "Pollock and the Porroh Man", "The Red Room", "The Cone", "The Purple Pileus", "The Jilting of Jane", "In the Modern Vein: An Unsympathetic Love Story", "A Catastrophe", "The Lost Inheritance", "The Sad Story of a Dramatic Critic", "A Slip Under the Microscope", "The Reconciliation", "My First Aeroplane" (Little Mother series 1), "Little Mother Up the MÅ¶rderberg" (Little Mother series 2), "The Story of the Last Trump", "The Grisly Folk" (essay), "The Crystal Egg", "The Star", "A Story of the Stone Age" (novella), "A Story of the Days to Come" (novella), "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "Filmer", "The Magic Shop", "The Valley of Spiders", "The Truth About Pyecraft", "Mr. Skelmersdale in Fairyland", "The Inexperienced Ghost", "Jimmy Goggles the God", "The New Accelerator", "Mr. Ledbetter's Vacation", "The Stolen Body", "Mr. Brisher's Treasure", "Miss Winchelsea's Heart", "A Dream of Armageddon"
- The Treasure in the Forest and Other Stories (1929), collection
- The Valley of Spiders (1930), collection
- Selections from the Early Prose Works of H. G. Wells (1931), collection of 4 extracts from novels, 1 short story and 1 novelette:
- "The Martians Come to Earth" (extract from *The War of the Worlds*), "The Giant Rats" (extract from *The Food of the Gods*), "The Invisible Man Explains" (extract from *The Invisible Man*), "There and Back Again" (extract from *The Time Machine*), "The New Accelerator", "The Land Ironclads" (novelette)
- The Man Who Could Work Miracles (1931), collection of 3 short stories:
- "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "The Door in the Wall", "The Sea Raiders"
- The Stolen Body and Other Tales of the Unexpected (1931), collection of 13 short stories:

- "The Stolen Body", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Moth", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvesham", "Under the Knife", "The Plattner Story", "The Crystal Egg", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "A Dream of Armageddon", "The New Accelerator", "The Door in the Wall", "The Apple", "The Inexperienced Ghost"
- The Treasure in the Forest and Other Stories (1931), collection of 3 short stories:
- "The Treasure in the Forest", "The Late Mr. Elvesham", "Under the Knife"
- A Slip Under the Microscope (1931), collection of 2 short stories:
- "The Crystal Egg", "A Slip Under the Microscope"
- A Woman's Heart and Other Stories (1931), collection of 2 short stories:
- "A Woman's Heart", "A Dream of Armageddon"
- The Valley of Spiders and Other Stories (1931), collection of 3 short stories:
- "The Valley of Spiders", "The New Accelerator", "The Moth"
- The Favorite Short Stories of H. G. Wells, or The Famous Short Stories of H. G. Wells (1937), collection of 1 novel, 28 short stories and 2 novelettes:
- "A Deal in Ostriches", "A Vision of Judgement", "In the Abyss", "In the Avu Observatory", "Pollock and the Porroh Man", "The Apple", "The Argonauts of the Air", "The Beautiful Suit", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Diamond Maker", "The Door in the Wall", "The Empire of the Ants", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", "The Flying Man", "The Hammerpond Park Burglary", "The Land Ironclads" (novelette), "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Moth", "The Pearl of Love", "The Plattner Story", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Sea-Raiders", "The Stolen Bacillus", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvesham", "The Temptation of Harringay", "The Time Machine (novel)", "The Treasure in the Forest", "The Triumphs of a Taxidermist", "Through a Window", "Under the Knife", "Æpyornis Island"
- Short Stories: First Series (1940), collection of 13 short stories:
- "The Truth About Pyecraft", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "The Star", "The New Accelerator", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvesham", "The Door in the Wall", "The Magic Shop", "The Plattner Story", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", "The Red Room", "The Temptation of Harringay", "The Inexperienced Ghost", "The Beautiful Suit"
- Short Stories: Second Series (1940), collection
- Two Film Stories: Things to Come / The Man Who Could Work Miracles (1940), collection of 1 screenplay from novel and 1 short story:
- Things to Come (screenplay from The Shape of Things to Come), "Man Who Could Work Miracles"
- The Truth About Pyecraft and Other Short Stories (1943), collection
- The Man Who Could Work Miracles (1943), collection of 3 short stories:
- "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "The Hammerpond Park Burglary", "The Apple"
- The Truth About Pyecraft and Other Stories (1944), collection

- The Time Machine: An Invention and Other Stories (1946), collection of 1 novel and 14 short stories:
- The Time Machine (novel), "The Stolen Bacillus", "A Deal in Ostriches", "Through a Window", "The Flying Man", "The Diamond Maker", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Hammerpond Park Burglary", "The Argonauts of the Air", "The Cone", "A Catastrophe", "A Slip Under the Microscope", "Filmer", "Jimmy Goggles the God", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles: A Pantoum in Prose"
- The Country of the Blind and Other Stories (1947), collection of 3 short stories and 1 novelette:
- "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Door in the Wall", "The Truth About Pyecraft", "A Deal in Ostriches"
- 28 Science Fiction Stories of H. G. Wells (1952), collection of 2 novels, 22 short stories and 4 novelettes/novellas:
- Men Like Gods (novel), "The Empire of the Ants", "The Land Ironclads" (novelette), "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Stolen Bacillus", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", "In the Avu Observatory", "A Story of the Stone Age" (novella), "Æpyornis Island", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Plattner Story", "The Argonauts of the Air", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvesham", "In the Abyss", Star Begotten (novel), "Under the Knife", "The Sea Raiders", "The Crystal Egg", "The Star", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "Filmer", "A Story of the Days to Come" (novella), "The Magic Shop", "The Valley of Spiders", "The Truth About Pyecraft", "The New Accelerator", "The Stolen Body", "A Dream of Armageddon"
- Seven Stories (1953), collection of 7 short stories:
- "Depouillement - the Door in the Wall", "The Moth", "The Apple", "The Purple Pileus", "The New Accelerator", "The Inexperienced Ghost", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles"
- Two Tales (1956), collection of 2 short stories:
- "The Truth About Pyecraft", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles"
- Selected Short Stories (1958), collection of 1 novel, 17 short stories, 2 novelettes and 1 essay:
- The Time Machine (novel), "The Land Ironclads" (novelette), "The Door in the Wall", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Stolen Bacillus", "The Diamond Maker", "Aepyornis Island", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Plattner Story", "The Argonauts of the Air", "In the Abyss", "Under the Knife", "The Sea Raiders", "The Cone", "The Purple Pileus", "The Grisly Folk" (essay), "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "The Truth About Pyecraft", "Jimmy Goggles the God", "The New Accelerator"
- Best Stories of H. G. Wells (1960), collection of 14 short stories and 2 novelettes/novellas:
- "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Plattner Story", "The Argonauts of the Air", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvesham", "The Crystal Egg", "The Star", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "The Sea-Raiders", "The Magic Shop", "The Valley of Spiders", "The Truth About Pyecraft", "The Land Ironclads" (novelette), "Mr.

- Skelmersdale in Fairyland", "The New Accelerator", "A Dream of Armageddon", "A Story of the Days to Come" (novella)
- The Time Machine and Other Stories (1963), collection of 1 novel, 2 short stories and 1 novelette:
  - The Time Machine (novel), "The Empire of the Ants", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Man Who Could Work Miracles"
  - The Valley of Spiders (1964), collection of 13 short stories:
  - "Pollock and the Porroh Man", "In the Avu Observatory", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", "The Red Room", "The Valley of Spiders", "The Empire of the Ants", "The Moth", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvisham", "The Temptation of Harringay", "The Inexperienced Ghost", "The Stolen Body", "The Crystal Egg", "The Door in the Wall"
  - The Cone (1965), collection of 12 short stories:
  - "The Cone", "Jimmy Goggles the God", "The Beautiful Suit", "Under the Knife", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "Through a Window", "The Star", "A Dream of Armageddon", "The Treasure in the Forest", "The Apple", "Æpyornis Island", "Mr. Skelmersdale in Fairyland"
  - The Inexperienced Ghost and Nine Other Stories (1965), collection of 9 short stories and 1 novelette:
  - "The Inexperienced Ghost", "The Magic Shop", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Apple", "The Stolen Body", "A Slip Under the Microscope", "The Purple Pileus", "Pollock and the Porroh Man", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid"
  - Best Science Fiction Stories of H. G. Wells, or The Best Science Fiction Stories of H. G. Wells (1966), collection of 1 novel and 17 short stories:
  - "Æpyornis Island", "The Crystal Egg", "In the Abyss", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "The New Accelerator", "The Plattner Story", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Star", "A Dream of Armageddon", "Filmer", "In the Avu Observatory", "The Diamond Maker", "The Apple", "The Purple Pileus", "The Sea-Raiders", "The Strange Orchid", "The Invisible Man" (novel)
  - Early Writings in Science and Science Fiction (1975), collection of 1 novel, 1 extract from novel, 2 short stories and 24 essays:
  - "A Talk with Gryllotalpa", "The Rediscovery of the Unique" (essay), "Flat Earth Again" (essay), "The Limits of Individual Plasticity" (essay), "On Comparative Theology" (essay), The Time Machine (novel), "The Time Machine" (extract from The Time Machine), "The "Cyclic" Delusion" (essay), "The Visibility of Change in the Moon" (essay), "The Possible Individuality of Atoms" (essay), "The Biological Problem of To-day" (essay), "The Rate of Change in Species" (essay), "The Duration of Life" (essay), "Death" (essay), "Concerning Skeletons" (essay), "Another Basis for Life" (essay), "A Vision of the Past", "Zoological Retrogression" (essay), "On Extinction" (essay), "Life in the Abyss" (essay), "Intelligence on Mars" (essay), "Ancient Experiments in Co-Operation" (essay), "Province of Pain" (essay), "The Sun God

and the Holy Stars" (essay), "Bye-Products in Evolution" (essay), "Bio-Optimism" (essay), "Human Evolution, an Artificial Process" (essay), "Morals and Civilisation" (essay)

- The Time Machine (1975), collection of 1 novel and 1 short story:
- The Time Machine (novel), "The Man Who Could Work Miracles"
- Empire of the Ants and 8 Other Science Fiction Stories (1977), collection of 9 short stories:
- "The Crystal Egg", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "The Plattner Story", "A Dream of Armageddon", "Aepyornis Island", "In the Abyss", "The Sea Raiders", "Filmer", "Empire of the Ants"
- The Empire of the Ants (and Other Stories) (1977), collection of 4 short stories and 1 novelette:
- "The Empire of the Ants", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Crystal Egg", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "The Magic Shop"
- The Man with the Nose and Other Uncollected Stories of H. G. Wells (1984), collection The Country of the Blind and Other Science-Fiction Stories (1997), collection of 5 short stories and 1 novelette:
- "The Country of the Blind" (revised novelette), "The Star", "The New Accelerator", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "Under the Knife", "The Queer Story of Brownlow's Newspaper"
- The Inexperienced Ghost (1998), collection of 2 short stories:
- "The Inexperienced Ghost", "The Temptation of Haringay"
- The Red Room and Other Stories (1998), collection
- Selected Stories of H. G. Wells (2004), collection of 24 short stories and 2 novelettes:
- "A Slip Under the Microscope", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Plattner Story", "Under the Knife", "The Crystal Egg", "The New Accelerator", "The Stolen Body", "The Argonauts of the Air", "In the Abyss", "The Star", "The Land Ironclads" (novelette), "A Dream of Armageddon", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Valley of Spiders", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvisham", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "The Magic Shop", "Mr. Skelmersdale in Fairyland", "The Door in the Wall", "The Presence by the Fire", "A Vision of Judgment", "The Story of the Last Trump", "The Wild Asses of the Devil", "Answer to Prayer", "The Queer Story of Brownlow's Newspaper", "The Country of the Blind" (revised novelette)
- The Country of the Blind (2005), collection of 2 short stories and 1 novelette:
- "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Stolen Bacillus"
- The Stolen Bacillus (2005), collection
- The Man Who Could Work Miracles, or A Dream of Armageddon: The Complete Supernatural Tales (2006), collection of 30 short stories and 1 novelette:
- "The Devotee of Art", "Walcote", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Temptation of Haringay", "The Moth", "Pollock and the Porroh Man", "Under the Knife", "The Plattner Story", "The Red Room",

- "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvesham", "The Apple", "The Crystal Egg", "The Presence by the Fire", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "The Stolen Body", "A Vision of Judgment", "A Dream of Armageddon", "The New Accelerator", "The Inexperienced Ghost", "Mr Skelmersdale in Fairyland", "The Truth About Pyecraft", "The Magic Shop", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Door in the Wall", "The Beautiful Suit", "The Wild Asses of the Devil", "The Story of the Last Trump", "The Pearl of Love", "The Queer Story of Brownlow's Newspaper", "Answer to Prayer"
- The Country of the Blind and Other Selected Stories (2007), collection of 21 short stories and 2 novelettes/novellas:
  - "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Moth", "A Catastrophe", "The Cone", "The Argonauts of the Air", "Under the Knife", "A Slip Under the Microscope", "The Plattner Story", "The Story of the Late Mr Elvesham", "In the Abyss", "The Sea Raiders", "The Crystal Egg", "A Story of the Stone Age" (novella), "The Star", "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "A Dream of Armageddon", "The New Accelerator", "The Truth About Pyecraft", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Empire of the Ants", "The Door in the Wall", "The Wild Asses of the Devil"
  - Man Who Could Work Miracles and Things to Come (2010), collection of 1 novel and 1 short story:
    - "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", Things to Come (novel)
  - H. G. Wells: Tales of the Weird and Supernatural (2010), collection of 19 short stories:
    - "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "Pollock and the Porroh Man", "The Stolen Body", "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvesham", "A Dream of Armageddon", "The Magic Shop", "A Vision of Judgement", "The Door in the Wall", "The Temptation of Harringay", "The Apple", "The Red Room", "The Story of the Last Trump", "Mr. Skelmersdale in Fairyland", "Under the Knife", "The Story of the Inexperienced Ghost", "A Moth - Genus Novo", "The Wild Asses of the Devil", "The Presence by the Fire", "Mr. Marshall's Doppelganger"
  - The Door in the Wall (2011), collection of 3 short stories:
    - "The Door in the Wall", "The Sea Raiders", "The Moth"
  - Complete Short Story Omnibus (2011), collection of 78 short stories, 5 novelettes/novellas and 1 essay:
    - "The Stolen Bacillus", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", "In the Avu Observatory", "The Triumphs of a Taxidermist", "A Deal in Ostriches", "Through a Window", "The Temptation of Harringay", "The Flying Man", "The Diamond Maker", "Aepyornis Island", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Hammerpond Park Burglary", "The Moth", "The Treasure in the Forest", "The Plattner Story", "The Argonauts of the Air", "The Story of the Late Mr Elvesham", "In the Abyss", "The Apple", "Under the Knife", "The Sea Raiders" (variant of The Sea-Raiders), "Pollock and the Porroh Man", "The Red Room", "The Cone", "The Purple Pileus", "The Jilting of Jane", "In the Modern

- Vein: An Unsympathetic Love Story", "A Catastrophe", "The Lost Inheritance", "The Sad Story of a Dramatic Critic", "A Slip Under the Microscope", "The Crystal Egg", "The Star", "A Story of the Stone Age" (novella), "A Story of the Days to Come" (novella), "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "Filmer", "The Magic Shop", "The Valley of Spiders", "The Truth About Pyecraft", "Mr Skelmersdale in Fairyland", "The Inexperienced Ghost", "Jimmy Goggles the God", "The New Accelerator", "Mr Ledbetter's Vacation", "The Stolen Body", "Mr Brisher's Treasure", "Miss Winchelsea's Heart", "A Dream of Armageddon", "The Door in the Wall", "The Empire of the Ants", "A Vision of Judgment", "The Land Ironclads" (novelette), "The Beautiful Suit", "The Pearl of Love", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Reconciliation", "My First Aeroplane" (Little Mother series 1), "Little Mother Up the Mårderberg" (Little Mother series 2), "The Story of the Last Trump", "The Grisly Folk" (essay), "A Tale of the Twentieth Century: For Advanced Thinkers", "Walcote", "The Devotee of Art", "The Man with a Nose", "A Perfect Gentleman on Wheels", "Wayde's Essence", "A Misunderstood Artist", "Le Mari Terrible", "The Rajah's Treasure", "The Presence by the Fire", "Mr Marshall's Doppelganger", "The Thing in No. 7", "The Thumbmark", "A Family Elopement", "Our Little Neighbour", "How Gabriel Became Thompson", "How Pingwill Was Routed", "The Loyalty of Esau Common: A Fragment", "The Wild Asses of the Devil", "Answer to Prayer", "The Queer Story of Brownlow's Newspaper", "The Country of the Blind" (revised novelette)
- The War of the Worlds (2013), collection of 1 novel, 1 short story and 1 essay:
  - "The Crystal Egg", The War of the Worlds (novel), "The Things That Live on Mars" (essay)
  - A Slip Under the Microscope (2015), collection of 2 short stories:
  - "The Door in the Wall", "A Slip Under the Microscope"
  - The Crystal Egg and Other Stories (2017), collection of 30 short stories, 3 novelettes/novellas and 1 essay:
  - "The Crystal Egg", "The Cone", "The Country of the Blind" (novelette), "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", "A Story of the Stone Age" (novella), "The Star", "The Red Room", "In the Abyss", "The Plattner Story", "The New Accelerator", "A Slip Under the Microscope", "The Stolen Bacillus", "The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes", "The Lord of the Dynamos", "The Grisly Folk" (essay), "The Door in the Wall", "The Diamond Maker", "Under the Knife", "The Sea-Raiders", "The Purple Pileus", "The Truth About Pyecraft", "Jimmy Goggles the God", "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", "The Argonauts of the Air", "Miss Winchelsea's Heart", "A Vision of Judgement", "The Land Ironclads" (novelette), "The Flying Man", "In the Avu Observatory", "The Triumphs of a Taxidermist", "A Deal in Ostriches", "Through a Window", "The Temptation of Harringay", "The Beautiful Suit"
  - The Island of Doctor Moreau & Other Works (2017), collection
  - A Novel Journal: H. G. Wells (2017), collection
  - The Amazing Stories Collection (2018), collection
  - H. G. Wells Short Stories (2018), collection

**Uncollected short stories:**

- "The Chronic Argonauts" (a.k.a. "Chronic Argonaut", a.k.a. "The Chronic Argonauts") (Science Schools Journal, nos. 17-19, April-June 1888), novelette
- "Peter Learns Arithmetic" (1918)
- "The Invasion from Mars" (1920)
- "The Adventures of Tommy" (1928)
- "The Desert Daisy" (1957, published posthumously)
- "The Haunted Ceiling" (2016, published posthumously)

**Film stories**

- The King Who Was a King: The Book of a Film (1929 - scenario for a film which was never made)
- Things to Come (1935 - adaptation of The Shape of Things to Come and The Work, Wealth and Happiness of Mankind)
- Man Who Could Work Miracles (1936)
- The New Faust (in Nash's Pall Mall Magazine, December 1936 - unmade adaptation of "The Story of the Late Mr. Elvesham")
- Film Stories (1940 - collection of Things to Come and Man Who Could Work Miracles)

**Collections of articles**

- The War That Will End War (1914)
- An Englishman Looks at the World (1914); US title: Social Forces in England and America
- The Elements of Reconstruction (1916) . published under the pseudonym D. P.
- Russia in the Shadows (1920)
- A Year of Prophesying (1925)
- The Way the World is Going (1928)
- The New America: The New World (1935)

**Biographies**

- Experiment in Autobiography (1934)
- Frank Swinnerton (1920) - with Arnold Bennett, Grant Overton
- The Story of a Great Schoolmaster: Being a Plain Account of the Life and Ideas of Sanderson of Oundle (1924) - a biography of Frederick William Sanderson

## Essays

- Certain Personal Matters (1897)
- The Peace of the World (1915)
- In the Fourth Year (1918)
- Washington and the Hope of Peace (a.k.a. "Washington and the Riddle of Peace") (1922)
- World Brain (1938)
- Travels of a Republican Radical in Search of Hot Water (1939)

## History

- What is Coming? (1916)
- War and the Future (a.k.a. Italy, France and Britain at War) (1917)
- The Idea of a League of Nations (1919) - with Viscount Edward Grey, Lionel Curtis, William Archer, H. Wickham Steed, A. E. Zimmern, J. A. Spender, Viscount Bryce and Gilbert Murray
- The Way to the League of Nations (1919) - with Viscount Edward Grey, Lionel Curtis, William Archer, H. Wickham Steed, A. E. Zimmern, J. A. Spender, Viscount Bryce and Gilbert Murray
- The New Teaching of History: with a reply to some recent criticisms of the Outline of History (H. G. Wells) (1921)
- A Short History of the World (1922) (New and Rev Ed. 1946)
- A Short History of Mankind (1925)
- Mr. Belloc Objects to "The Outline of History" (1926)
- The Common Sense of War and Peace (1940)
- The Pocket History of the World (1941)
- Crux Ansata: An Indictment of the Roman Catholic Church (1943)

## Polatics

- This Misery of Boots (1907)
- Will Socialism Destroy the Home? (1907)
- New Worlds for Old (1908)
- The Great State (1912)
- The War and Socialism (1915)
- The Outline of History series:
- The Outline of History (1920)
- The Science of Life (1930) - with Julian S. Huxley and G. P. Wells
- The Work, Wealth and Happiness of Mankind (1931)
- The Salvaging of Civilization (1921)
- Socialism and the Scientific Motive (1923)
- Wells' Social Anticipations (1927)

- The Open Conspiracy (a.k.a. What Are We To Do With Our Lives?) (1928)
- The New Russia (1931)
- What Should be Done-Now: A Memorandum on the World Situation, John Day (1932)
- After Democracy (1932)
- Marxism vs Liberalism (1934) - with J. V. Stalin
- The New World Order (1939)
- The Rights of Man (1940)
- Guide to the New World (1941)
- Modern Russian and English Revolutionaries (1942) - with Lev Uspensky
- Phoenix: A Summary of the Inescapable Conditions of World Reorganization (1942)

## Science

- Text-Book of Biology (1893)
- Honours Physiography (1893) - with R. A. Gregory
- Anticipations of the Reactions of Mechanical and Scientific Progress upon Human Life and Thought (1901)
- Mankind in the Making (1903)

## Sociology

- Great Thoughts From H. G. Wells (1912)
- Thoughts From H. G. Wells (1912)
- Divorce as I See It (1930)
- The Anatomy of Frustration (1936)
- The Fate of Homo Sapiens (a.k.a. The Fate of Man) (1939)
- The Outlook for Homo Sapiens (1942)
- The Conquest of Time (1942)
- '42 to '44: A Contemporary Memoir (1944)
- Reshaping Man's Heritage (1944) - with J. B. S. Haldane, Julian S. Huxley
- The Happy Turning (1945)
- Mind at the End of Its Tether (1945)

## Others

- The Future in America (1906), travels
- First and Last Things (1908), philosophy
- Floor Games (1911), guide
- Little Wars (1913), guide
- God the Invisible King (1917), religion
- Introduction to Nocturne (1917)
- Points of View (1930)
- Selections From the Early Prose Works of H. G. Wells (1931)
- H.G. Wells: Early Writings in Science and Science Fiction (1975)

## Articles

- "Zoological Retrogression" (1891)
- "The Rediscovery of the Unique" (1891)
- "Ancient Experiments in Co-Operation" (1892)
- "On Extinction" (1893)
- "The Man of the Year Million" (1893)
- "The Sun God and the Holy Stars" (1894)
- "Province of Pain" (1894)
- "Life in the Abyss" (1894)
- "Another Basis for Life" (1894)
- "The Rate of Change in Species" (1894)
- "The Biological Problem of To-day" (1894)
- "The 'Cyclic' Delusion" (1894)
- "The Flat Earth Again" *Pall Mall Gazette* (2 April 1894)[2]
- "Bio-Optimism" (1895)
- "Bye-Products in Evolution" (1895)
- "Death" (1895)
- "The Duration of Life" (1895)
- "The Visibility of Change in the Moon" (1895)
- "The Limits of Individual Plasticity" *Saturday Review* (18 January 1895) later incorporated in *The Island Of Dr Moreau*[2]
- "Human Evolution, an Artificial Process" (1896)
- "Intelligence on Mars" (1896)
- "Concerning Skeletons" (1896)
- "The Possible Individuality of Atoms" (1896)
- "Morals and Civilisation" (1897)
- "On Comparative Theology" (1898)
- "The Discovery of the Future" (1902)
- "The English House of the Future" (1903; several other authors)
- "Skepticism of the Instrument" (1903)
- "The So-Called Science of Sociology" (1906)[11]
- "The Things that Live on Mars" (illustrated by William Robinson Leigh) (1908)
- "The Grisly Folk" (1921)
- "Mr. Wells and Mr. Vowles" (1926)[12]
- "The Red Dust a Fact!" (1927)
- "Democracy Under Revision" (1927)
- "Wells Speaks Some Plain Words to us," *New York Times*, 16 October 1927
- "Common Sense of World Peace" (1929)
- "Foretelling the Future" (1938)

### Suggestions for further reading

1. Dickson, Lovat. *H. G. Wells: His Turbulent Life & Times*. 1969.
2. Foot, Michael. *H. G.: History of Mr. Wells*. Doubleday, 1985, Black Swan, New edition, Oct 1996 (paperback,
3. Gilmour, David. *The Long Recessional: The Imperial Life of Rudyard Kipling*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002
4. Gomme, A. W., *Mr. Wells as Historian*. Glasgow: MacLehose, Jackson, and Co., 1921.
5. Gosling, John. *Waging the War of the Worlds*. Jefferson, North Carolina, McFarland, 2009.
6. Lynn, Andrea *The secret love life of H.G. Wells*
7. Mackenzie, Norman and Jean, *The Time Traveller: the Life of H G Wells*, London: Weidenfeld, 1973,
8. Mauthner, Martin. *German Writers in French Exile, 1933-1940*, London: Vallentine and Mitchell, 2007.
9. McLean, Steven. *The Early Fiction of H. G. Wells: Fantasies of Science*. Palgrave, 2009.
10. Partington, John S. *Building Cosmopolis: The Political Thought of H. G. Wells*. Ashgate, 2003.
11. Shadurski, Maxim. *The Nationality of Utopia: H. G. Wells, England, and the World State*. London: Routledge, 2020.
12. Sherborne, Michael. *H. G. Wells: Another Kind of Life*. London: Peter Owen, 2010.
13. Smith, David C., *H. G. Wells: Desperately Mortal: A Biography*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986.
14. West, Anthony. *H. G. Wells: Aspects of a Life*. London: Hutchinson, 1984.

# Chapter 12

## VIRGINIA WOOLF

### 12.1 A great pioneer of stream of conscientiousness writing

#### The Steven family

Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) was born into a well-established family of intellectuals and reformers. Her grandfather, Sir James Steven, was the British Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies and an outspoken opponent of slavery. Her father, Sir Leslie Steven was a distinguished writer and historian, while her mother Julia, famous for her beauty, was the subject of many Pre-Raphaelite paintings. Virginia Woolf's pioneering stream-of-consciousness novels *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925), *To the Lighthouse* (1927) and *Orlando* (1928), became the model and inspiration for all subsequent modernist authors.

#### The Bloomsbury Group

Virginia Woolf and her husband, Leonard Woolf, were central figures in the famous Bloomsbury group of writers and artists, many of whom knew each other through their student days at Cambridge University.

#### The Hogarth Press

Leonard Woolf founded and ran the Hogarth Press, which published his wife's novels, and also other pioneering works, for example *The Waste Land*, by T.S. Eliot.

#### Suicide

Virginia Woolf suffered from bipolar disorder, and the illness led to her suicide in 1941.



Figure 12.1: A photograph of Virginia Woolf, taken in 1902.

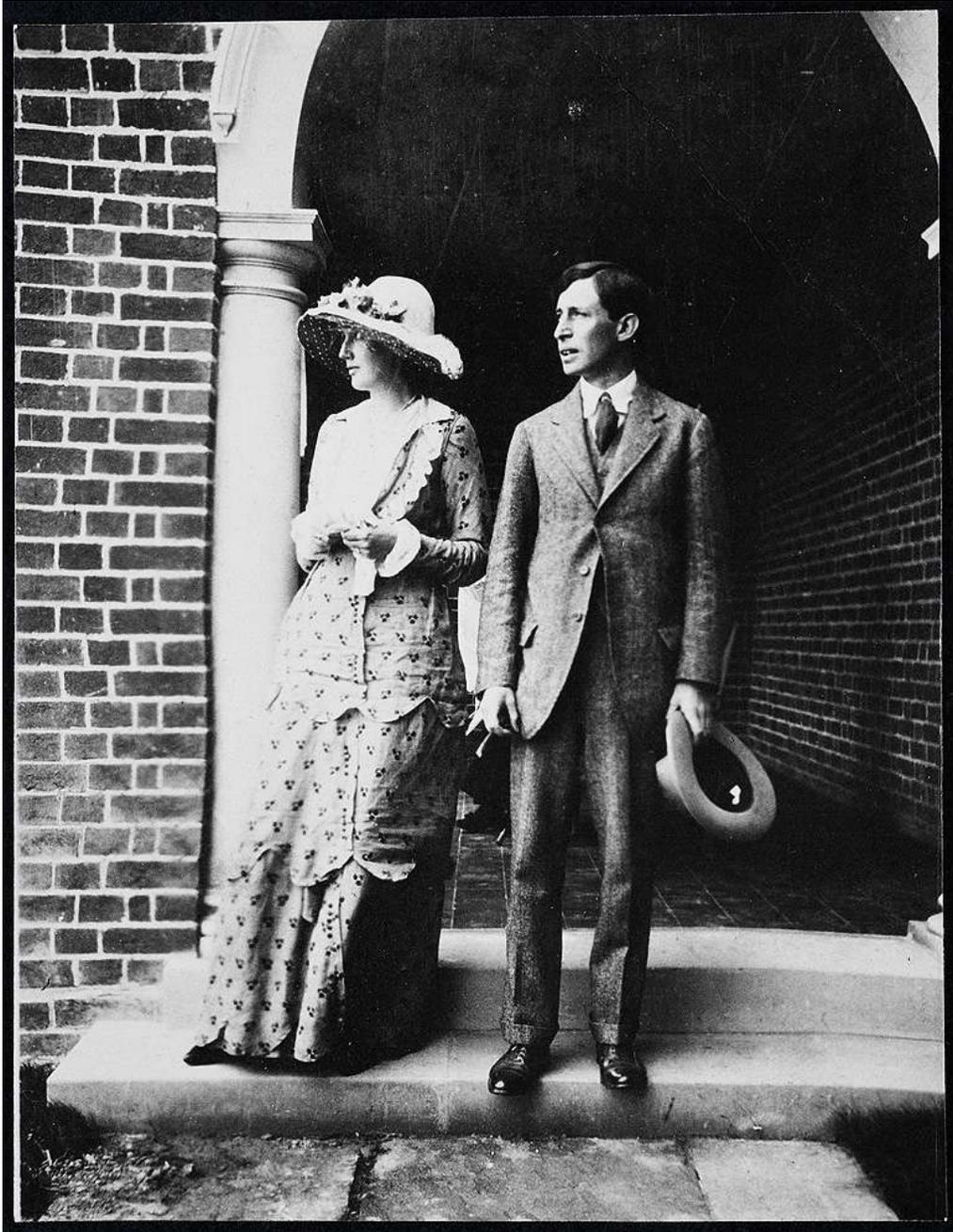


Figure 12.2: Virginia and Leonard Woolf, 1912.



Figure 12.3: A painting by Virginia Woolf's sister, Vanessa Bell (1879-1961).



Figure 12.4: Portrait of Dame Edith Sitwell, by Roger Fry, 1915.



Figure 12.5: A study of Lytton Strachy's face and hands by Dora Carrington.

## 12.2 Virginia Woolf's novels

- The Voyage Out (1915)
- Night and Day (1919)
- Jacob's Room (1922)
- Mrs Dalloway (1925)
- To the Lighthouse (1927)
- Orlando: A Biography (1928)
- The Waves (1931)
- The Years (1937)
- Between the Acts (1941)

## 12.3 Members of the Bloomsbury Group of writers and artists

- Dora Carrington
- S. Sydney Turner
- David and Angela Garnet
- Julia Strachy
- Lytton Strachy
- Thoby Stephen
- Adrian Stephen
- Virginia and Leonard Woolf
- Clive and Vanessa Bell
- Mary and Desmond McCarthy
- E.M. Forster
- Duncan Grant
- Lydia Lokopova and John Maynard Keynes
- Roger Fry
- Francis Partridge
- Vita Sackville-West
- Lady Ottoline Morrell
- Arthur Waley
- Julian Bell



Figure 12.6: Left to right: Lady Ottoline Morrell, Maria Nys, Lytton Strachey, Duncan Grant, and Vanessa Bell.



Figure 12.7: Blue plaque, 51 Gordon Square, London. As Dorothy Parker remarked, "They lived in squares, painted in circles, and loved in triangles".

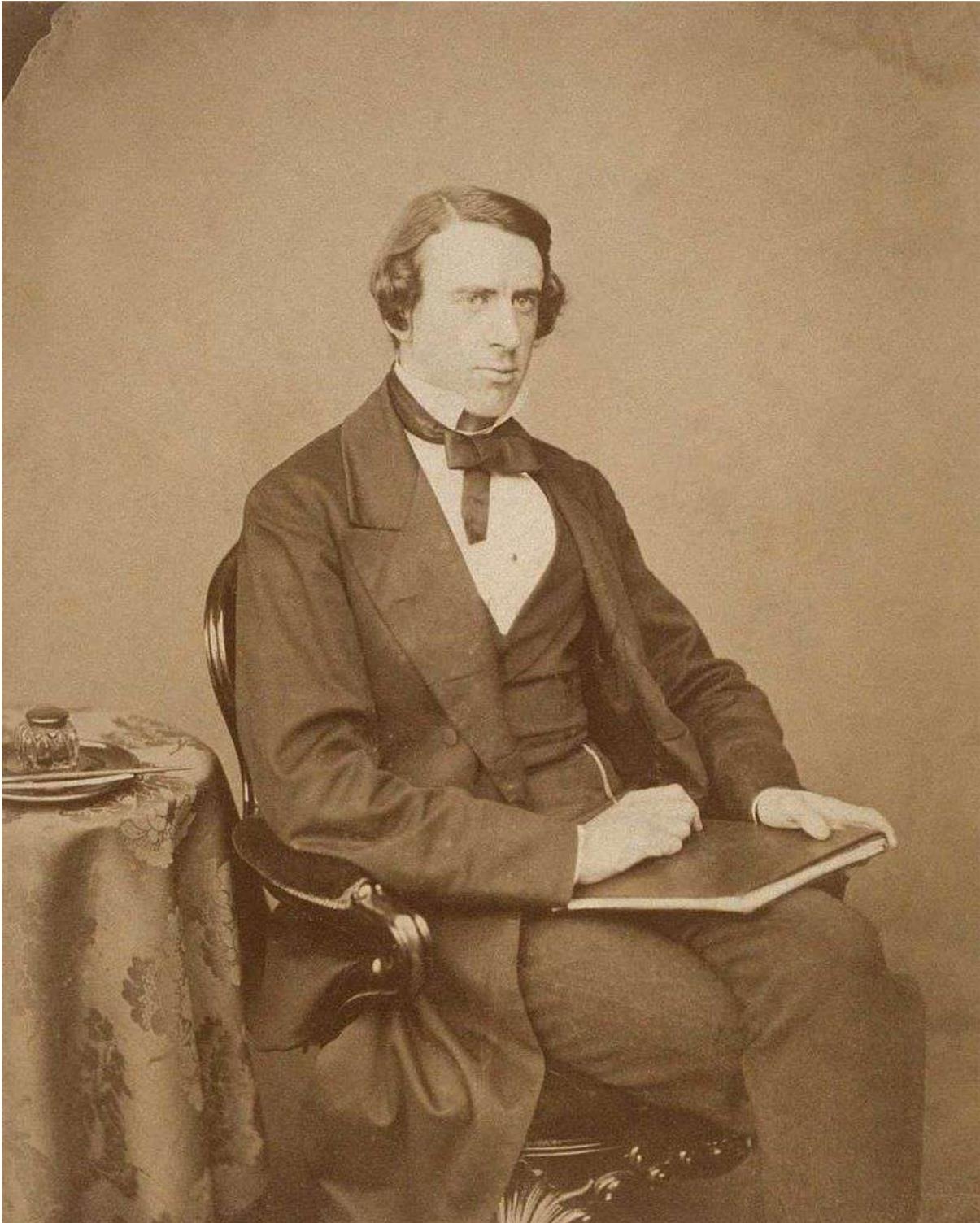


Figure 12.8: Leslie Stephen, 1860.



Figure 12.9: Julia Stephen, 1867.



Figure 12.10: Julia Stephen and Virginia, 1884.



Figure 12.11: Virginia and Leslie Stephen, 1902.



Figure 12.12: E.M. Forster 1917.



Figure 12.13: Duncan Grant (L) John Maynard Keynes 1912.

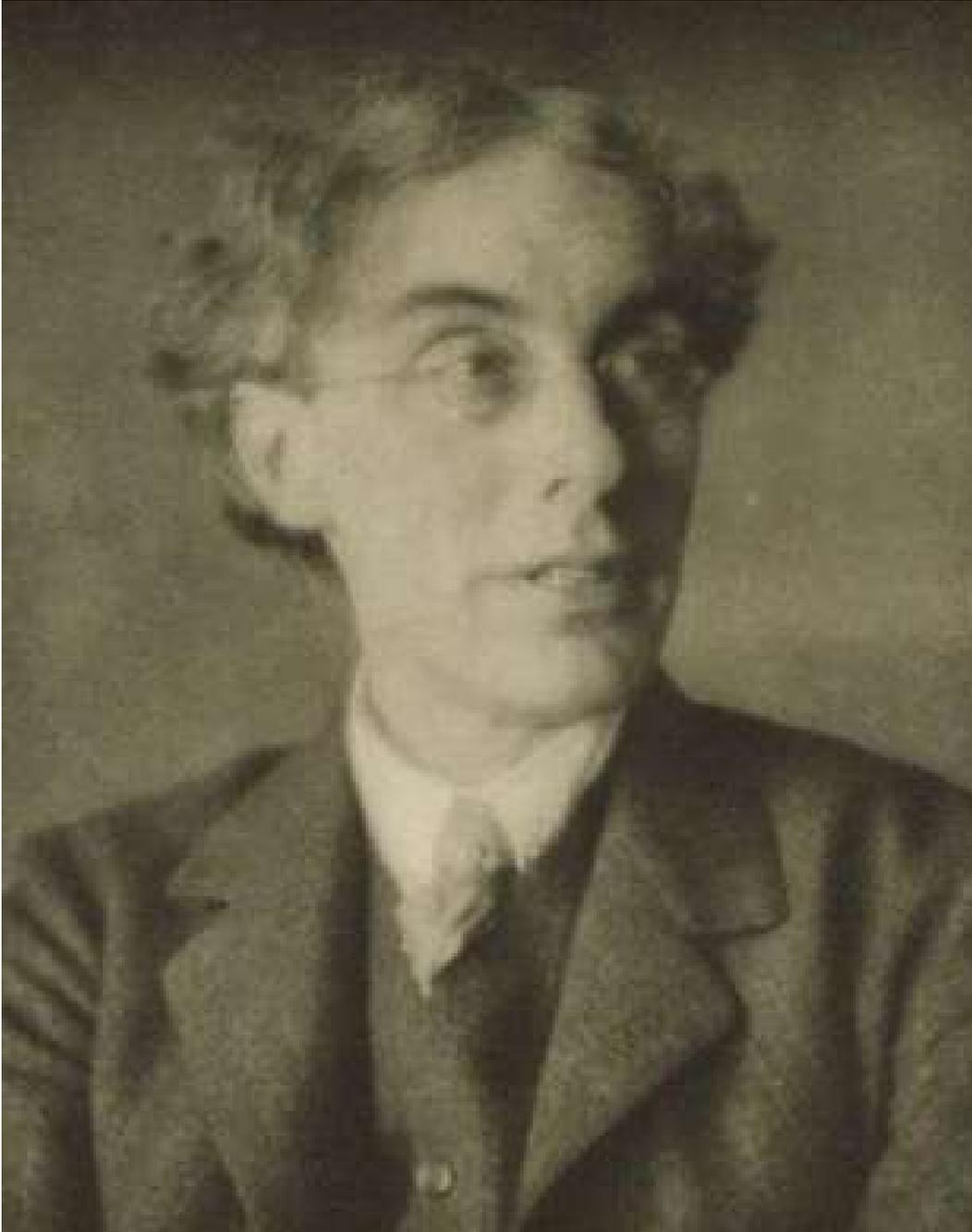


Figure 12.14: **Roger Fry 1913.**

12.3. MEMBERS OF THE BLOOMSBURY GROUP OF WRITERS AND ARTISTS 177



Figure 12.15: Virginia Woolf 1927.



Figure 12.16: Vita Sackville-West, 1926. She was the only child of Baron Lionel Sackville-West and his wife Victoria. She was bitter about the fact that when her parents died, the title and ancestral mansion passed to a nephew rather than to her. A prolific poet and novelist, she won literary prizes for her work, and her novels were published by Leonard Woolf's Hogarth Press. She was the inspiration for *Orlando*, a novel by her lover, Virginia Woolf. Vita later married the writer and diplomat, Sir Harold Nicholson, and together they created a famous garden at their home, Sissinghurst Castle.



Figure 12.17: Virginia Woolf on Romanian stamp 2007.

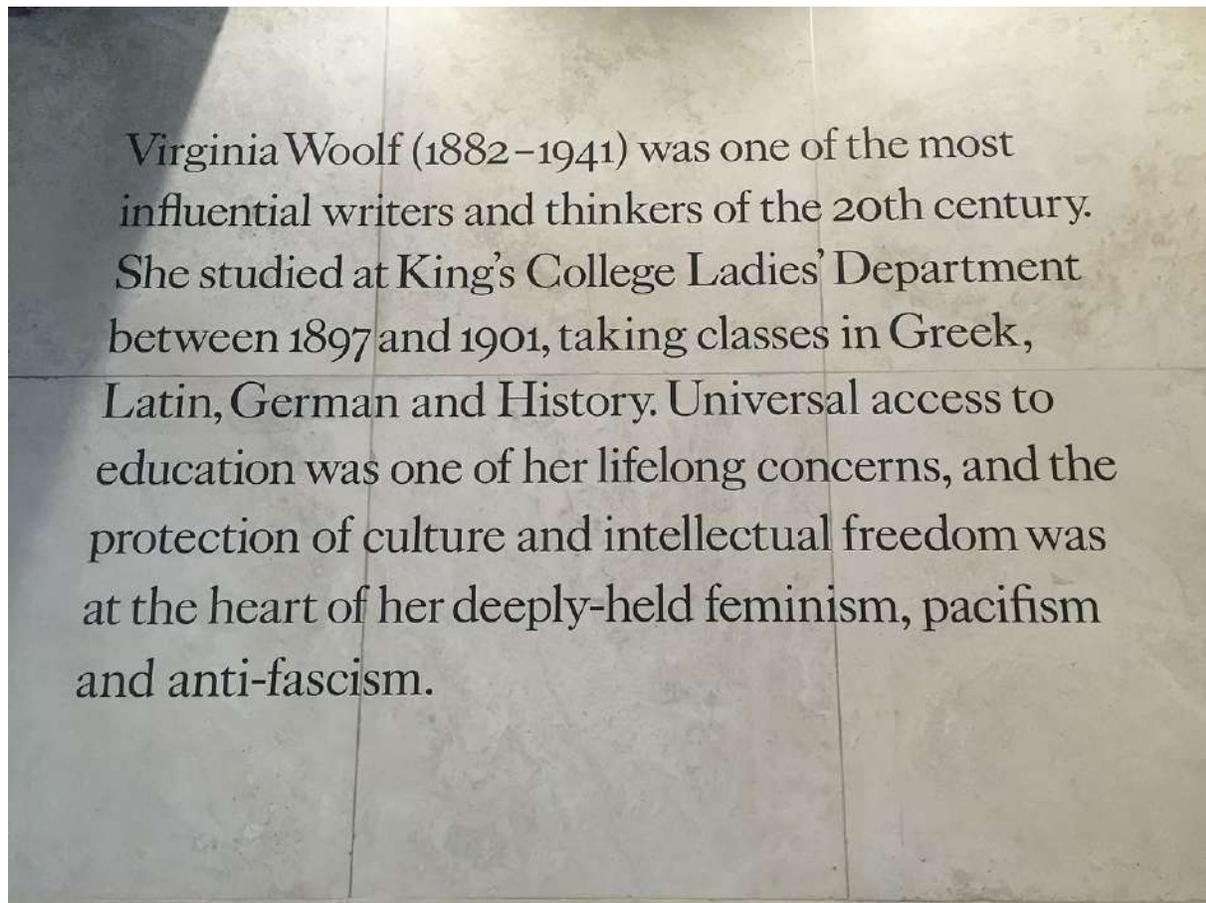


Figure 12.18: Plaque honouring Virginia Woolf on the building bearing her name, King's College.

## 12.4 Some books published by Hogarth Press

- Monday or Tuesday (1921) by Virginia Woolf, with woodcuts by Vanessa Bell
- Jacob's Room (1922) by Virginia Woolf; the first of her novels published by The Hogarth Press
- The Devils (1922) by Dostoevsky - co-translated by Virginia Woolf
- The Waste Land by T. S. Eliot (1924) - first UK book edition
- The Common Reader (1925) by Virginia Woolf
- Karn (1922) and Martha Wish-You-Ill (1926) - poetry by Ruth Manning-Sanders
- Orlando (1928) by Virginia Woolf
- Living (1929) by Henry Green
- The Waves (1931) by Virginia Woolf
- In a Province (1934) - first book by Laurens van der Post
- What I Believe (1939) by E. M. Forster
- Party Going (1939) by Henry Green
- Twilight in Delhi (1940) by Ahmed Ali
- Loving by Henry Green (1945)
- The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud (1956-1974), in collaboration with Anna Freud
- The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis (1977) by Jacques Lacan, his first published Seminar.

## 12.5 Virginia Woolf's suicide note to her husband

Here is the text of the note:

Dearest,

I feel certain that I am going mad again. I feel we can't go through another of those terrible times. And I shan't recover this time. I begin to hear voices, and I can't concentrate. So I am doing what seems the best thing to do. You have given me the greatest possible happiness. You have been in every way all

that anyone could be. I don't think two people could have been happier 'til this terrible disease came. I can't fight any longer. I know that I am spoiling your life, that without me you could work. And you will I know. You see I can't even write this properly. I can't read. What I want to say is I owe all the happiness of my life to you. You have been entirely patient with me and incredibly good. I want to say that - everybody knows it. If anybody could have saved me it would have been you. Everything has gone from me but the certainty of your goodness. I can't go on spoiling your life any longer.

I don't think two people could have been happier than we have been. V.

On 28 March 1941, she put on her overcoat, left the house, filled the pockets with heavy stones and walked into the Ouse River to drown. Her body was found three weeks later

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# Chapter 13

## F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

### 13.1 Scott and Zelda

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald (1896-1940) came from a middle-class family. He began writing at an early age. His first short story, *The Mystery of the Raymond Mortgage*, was published in his school magazine when he was only 13.

In 1917, while he was a student at Princeton University, more preoccupied with writing than with his studies, F. Scott Fitzgerald fell deeply in love with the young socialite Ginevra King. only to be told by her father. "Poor boys shouldn't think of marrying rich girls."

Depressed to the point of suicidal thoughts, Fitzgerald dropped out of Princeton and joined the army, hoping to be killed in battle in the war, which was still raging. Instead he was assigned to a post near Montgomery Alabama. Here he met Zelda Sayre at a country club dance. She was the beautiful, spoiled, attention-seeking daughter of a prominent southern family. She enjoyed flouting conventions, causing scandals, and being the center of gossip.

A romance developed between Scott and Zelda. He proposed marriage, but she initially refused, because of his poor financial prospects. Later, however, when his first novel, *This Side of Paradise* became a cultural sensation, she accepted. They went to New York together, and were married there.

Wikipedia states that **"Scott and Zelda quickly became celebrities of New York, as much for their wild behavior as for the success of *This Side of Paradise*. They were ordered to leave both the Biltmore Hotel and the Commodore Hotel for their drunkenness. Zelda once jumped into the fountain at Union Square. When Dorothy Parker first met them, Zelda and Scott were sitting atop a taxi. Parker said, 'They did both look as though they had just stepped out of the sun; their youth was striking. Everyone wanted to meet him.'** Their social life was fueled with alcohol. Publicly, this meant little more than napping when they arrived at parties, but privately it increasingly led to bitter fights. To their delight, in the pages of the New York newspapers Zelda and Scott had become icons of youth and success - enfants terribles of the Jazz Age."

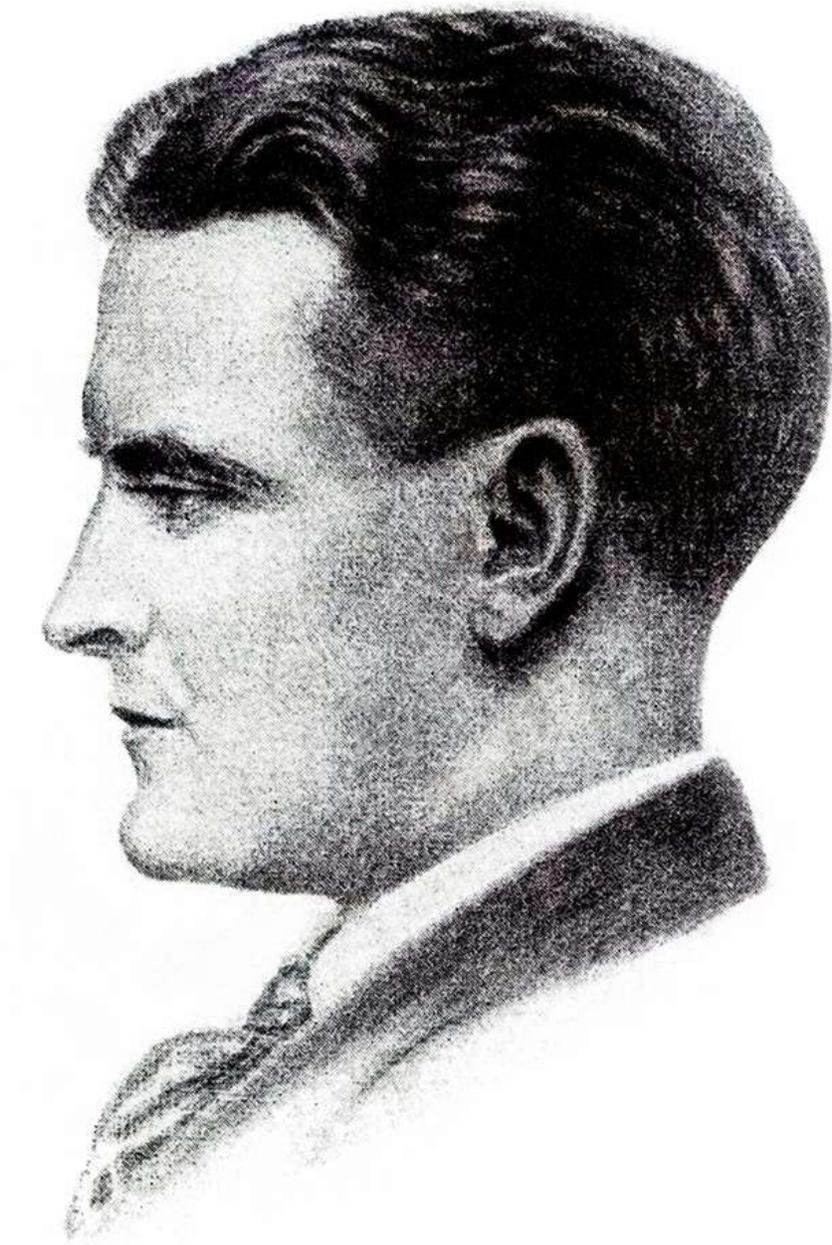


Figure 13.1: A 1921 magazine study of Fitzgerald.



Figure 13.2: A sketch of Zelda by artist Gordan Bryant published in *Metropolitan Magazine*.

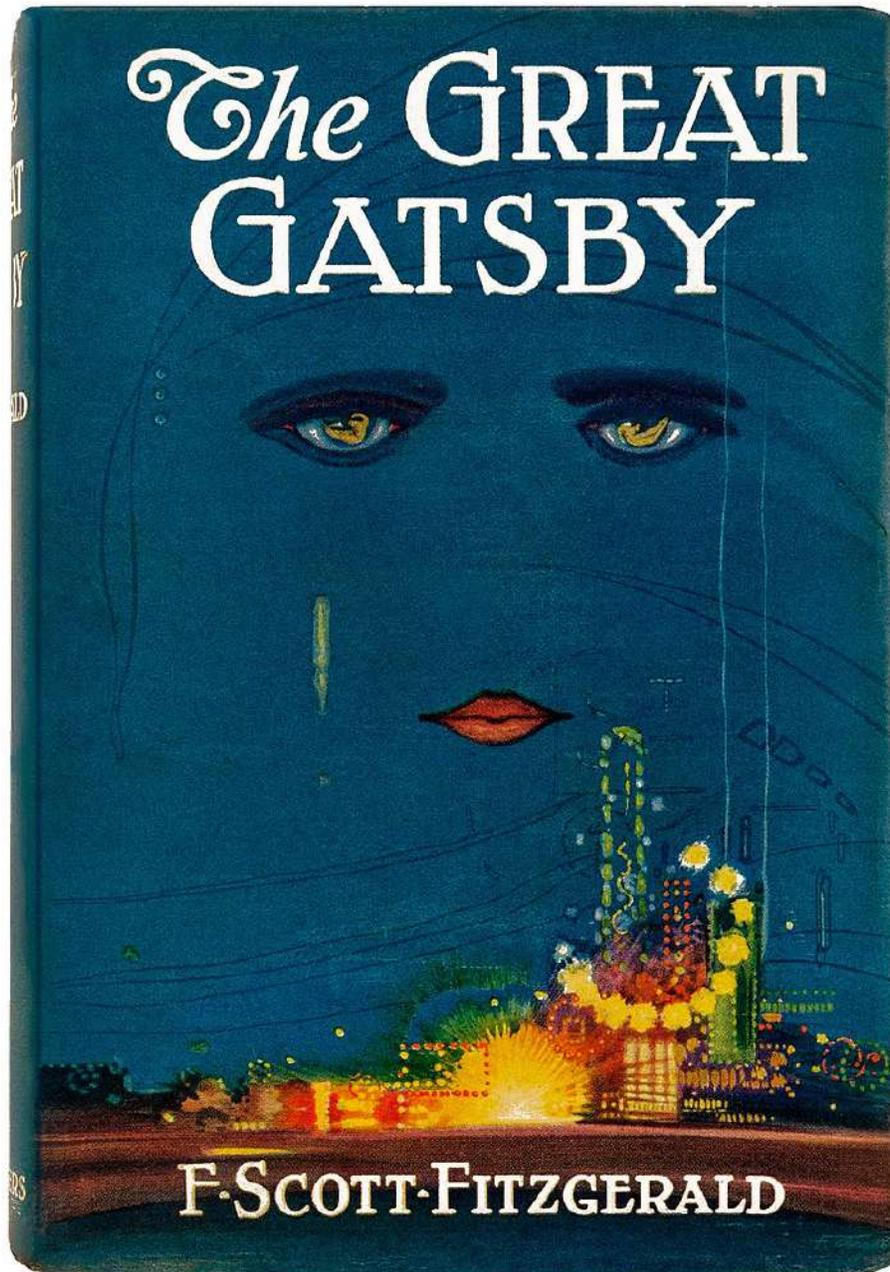


Figure 13.3: In Europe, Fitzgerald wrote and published *The Great Gatsby* (1925), now viewed by many as his magnum opus. The cover, by Barcelona artist Francis Cugat, shows the eyes and mouth of a Jazz Age flapper. A tear falls from one of her eyes. If we look carefully, we can see in each of her eyes a reclining nude. The scene at the bottom suggests Coney Island, to represent the hedonistic lifestyle of the era. Although it was initially not a commercial success, by early 2020, *The Great Gatsby* had sold almost 30 million copies worldwide, and the book continues to sell an additional 500,000 copies every year.

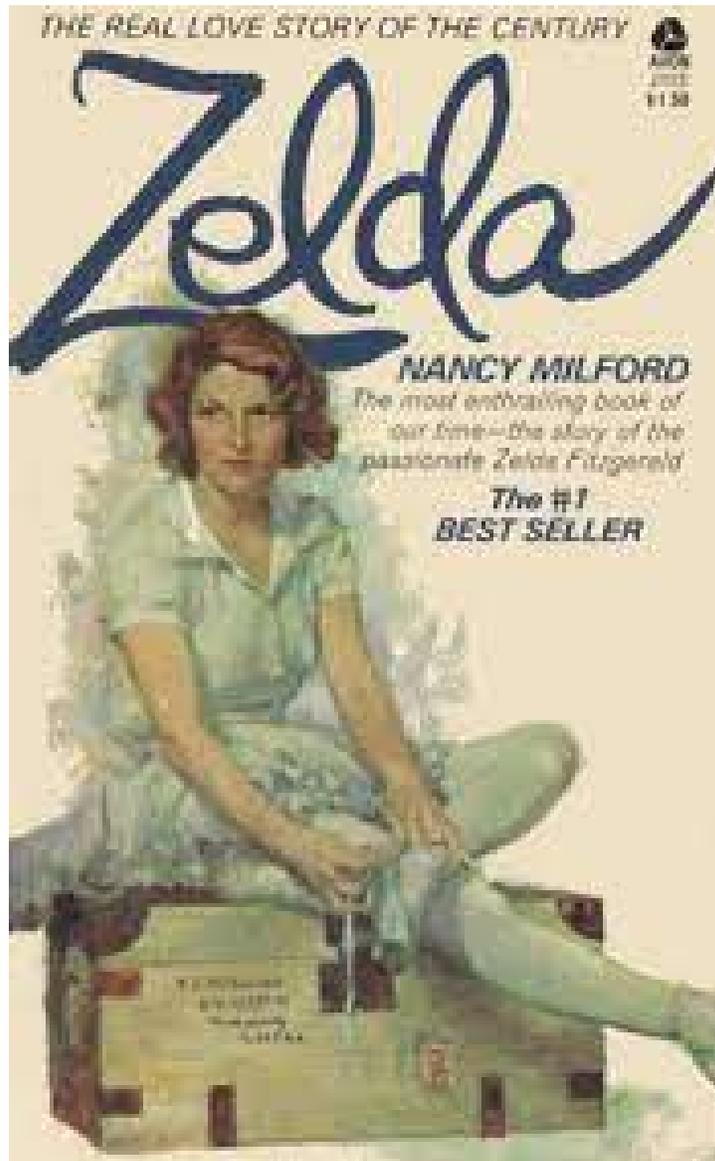


Figure 13.4: Nancy Mitford's famous and shocking biography.

## 13.2 Scott and Zelda in Europe

While in Europe, Scott worked on his novel *The Great Gatsby*. The Fitzgeralds lived both in Italy and in France. In Paris, Scott formed a close friendship with Ernest Hemingway, who was then a relatively unknown writer. He also met Gertrude Stein, James Joyce Ezra Pound and many other writers of their circle.

## 13.3 Hollywood

Wikipedia states that “although he found movie work degrading, Fitzgerald accepted a lucrative exclusive deal with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in 1937 that necessitated his moving to Hollywood, where he earned his highest annual income up to that point: \$29,757.87 (equivalent to \$535,711 in 2020). During his two years in California, Fitzgerald rented a room at the Garden of Allah bungalow complex on Sunset Boulevard. In an effort to abstain from alcohol, Fitzgerald drank large amounts of Coca-Cola and ate many sweets. Estranged from Zelda, he began a relationship with nationally syndicated gossip columnist Sheilah Graham, his final companion before his death.”

## 13.4 Alcohol and insanity

In 1934, H.L. Menken, a literary critic and friend of the Fitzgeralds, wrote in his diary, “the case of F. Scott Fitzgerald has become distressing. He is boozing in a wild manner and has become a nuisance. His wife, Zelda, who has been insane for years, is now confined at the Sheppard-Pratt Hospital, and he is living in Park Avenue with his little daughter, Scottie.”

Scott died in 1940 from heart failure, while Zelda perished in 1948 in a fire at the mental hospital in which she was a patient.

## 13.5 F. Scott Fitzgerald’s literary work

### Novels

- This Side of Paradise, New York: Scribners, 1920
- The Beautiful and Damned, New York: Scribners, 1922
- The Great Gatsby, New York: Scribners, 1925
- Tender Is the Night, New York: Scribners, 1934
- The Last Tycoon, New York: Scribners, 1941

## Short Stories

- The Mystery of the Raymond Mortgage, St. Paul Academy Now and Then (October 1909)
- Reade, Substitute Right Half, St. Paul Academy Now and Then (February 1910)
- A Debt of Honor, St. Paul Academy Now and Then (March 1910)
- The Room with the Green Blinds, St. Paul Academy Now and Then (June 1911)
- A Luckless Santa Claus, Newman News (Christmas 1912)
- Pain and the Scientist, Newman News (1913)
- The Trail of the Duke, Newman News (June 1913)
- Shadow Laurels, Nassau Literary Magazine (April 1915)
- The Ordeal, Nassau Literary Magazine (June 1915)
- The Débutante, Nassau Literary Magazine (January 1917)
- The Spire and the Gargoyle, Nassau Literary Magazine (February 1917)
- Tarquin of Cheapside, Nassau Literary Magazine (April 1917) The Smart Set (February 1921)
- Babes in the Woods, Nassau Literary Magazine (May 1917)
- Sentiment - And the Use of Rouge, Nassau Literary Magazine (June 1917)
- The Pierian Springs and the Last Straw, Nassau Literary Magazine (October 1917)
- Porcelain and Pink, The Smart Set (January 1920)
- Head and Shoulders, The Saturday Evening Post (21 February 1920)
- Benediction, The Smart Set (February 1920)
- Dalrymple Goes Wrong, The Smart Set (February 1920)
- Myra Meets His Family, The Saturday Evening Post (20 March 1920)
- Mister Icky, The Smart Set (March 1920)
- The Camel's Back, The Saturday Evening Post (24 April 1920)
- Bernice Bobs Her Hair, The Saturday Evening Post (1 May 1920)
- The Ice Palace, The Saturday Evening Post (22 May 1920)
- The Offshore Pirate, The Saturday Evening Post (29 May 1920)
- The Cut-Glass Bowl, Scribner's Magazine (May 1920)
- The Four Fists, Scribner's Magazine (June 1920)
- The Smilers, The Smart Set (June 1920)
- May Day, The Smart Set (July 1920)
- The Jelly-Bean, Metropolitan Magazine (October 1920)
- The Lees of Happiness, Chicago Sunday Tribune (12 December 1920)
- Jemina, Vanity Fair (January 1921)
- O Russet Witch!, Metropolitan Magazine (February 1921)
- The Popular Girl, The Saturday Evening Post (11 and 18 February 1922)
- Two for a Cent, Metropolitan Magazine (April 1922)
- The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Collier's (27 May 1922)
- The Diamond as Big as the Ritz, The Smart Set (June 1922)
- Winter Dreams, Metropolitan Magazine (December 1922)
- Dice, Brassknuckles & Guitar, Hearst's International Cosmopolitan (May 1923)

- Hot & Cold Blood, Hearst's International Cosmopolitan (August 1923)
- Gretchen's Forty Winks, The Saturday Evening Post (15 March 1924)
- Diamond Dick and the First Law of Woman, Hearst's International Cosmopolitan (April 1924)
- The Third Casket, The Saturday Evening Post (31 May 1924)
- Absolution, The American Mercury (June 1924)
- The Sensible Thing, Liberty (5 July 1924)
- The Unspeakable Egg, The Saturday Evening Post (12 July 1924)
- John Jackson's Arcady, The Saturday Evening Post' (26 July 1924)
- The Baby Party, Hearst's International Cosmopolitan (February 1925)
- The Pusher-in-the-Face, Woman's Home Companion (February 1925)
- Love in the Night, The Saturday Evening Post (14 March 1925)
- One of My Oldest Friends, Woman's Home Companion (September 1925)
- The Adjuster, The Redbook Magazine (September 1925)
- A Penny Spent, The Saturday Evening Post (10 October 1925)
- Not in the Guidebook, Woman's Home Companion (November 1925)
- The Rich Boy, The Redbook Magazine (January and February 1926)
- Presumption, The Saturday Evening Post (9 January 1926)
- The Adolescent Marriage, The Saturday Evening Post (6 March 1926)
- The Dance, The Redbook Magazine (June 1926)
- Rags Martin-Jones and the Pr-nce of W-les, McCall's (July 1926)
- Your Way and Mine, Woman's Home Companion (May 1927)
- Jacob's Ladder, The Saturday Evening Post (20 August 1927)
- The Love Boat, The Saturday Evening Post (8 October 1927)
- A Short Trip Home, The Saturday Evening Post (17 December 1927)
- The Bowl, The Saturday Evening Post (21 January 1928)
- Magnetism, The Saturday Evening Post (3 March 1928)
- The Scandal Detectives, The Saturday Evening Post (28 April 1928)
- A Night at the Fair, The Saturday Evening Post (21 July 1928)
- The Freshest Boy, The Saturday Evening Post (28 July 1928)
- He Thinks He's Wonderful, The Saturday Evening Post (29 September 1928)
- The Captured Shadow, The Saturday Evening Post (29 December 1928)
- Outside the Cabinet-Maker's, The Century Magazine (December 1928)
- The Perfect Life, The Saturday Evening Post (5 January 1929)
- The Last of the Belles, The Saturday Evening Post (2 March 1929)
- Forging Ahead, The Saturday Evening Post (30 March 1929)
- Basil and Cleopatra, The Saturday Evening Post (27 April 1929)
- The Rough Crossing, The Saturday Evening Post (8 June 1929)
- Majesty, The Saturday Evening Post (13 July 1929)
- At Your Age, The Saturday Evening Post (17 August 1929)
- The Swimmers, The Saturday Evening Post (19 October 1929)
- Two Wrongs, The Saturday Evening Post (18 January 1930)
- First Blood, The Saturday Evening Post (5 April 1930)

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- The Bridal Party, *The Saturday Evening Post* (August 9, 1930)
- A Woman with a Past, *The Saturday Evening Post* (6 September 1930)
- One Trip Abroad, *The Saturday Evening Post* (11 October 1930)
- A Snobbish Story, *The Saturday Evening Post* (29 November 1930)
- The Hotel Child, *The Saturday Evening Post* (31 January 1931)
- Babylon Revisited, *The Saturday Evening Post*, (21 February 1931)
- Indecision, *The Saturday Evening Post* (16 May 1931)
- A New Leaf, *The Saturday Evening Post* (4 July 1931)
- Emotional Bankruptcy, *The Saturday Evening Post* (15 August 1931)
- Between Three and Four, *The Saturday Evening Post* (5 September 1931)
- A Change of Class, *The Saturday Evening Post* (26 September 1931)
- A Freeze-Out, *The Saturday Evening Post* (19 December 1931)
- Diagnosis, *The Saturday Evening Post* (20 February 1932)
- Six of One, Redbook (February 1932)
- Flight and Pursuit, *The Saturday Evening Post* (14 May 1932)
- Family in the Wind, *The Saturday Evening Post* (4 June 1932)
- The Rubber Check, *The Saturday Evening Post* (6 August 1932)
- What a Handsome Pair!, *The Saturday Evening Post* (27 August 1932)
- Crazy Sunday, *The American Mercury* (October 1932)
- One Interne, *The Saturday Evening Post* (5 November 1932)
- On Schedule, *The Saturday Evening Post* (18 March 1933)
- More Than Just a House, *The Saturday Evening Post* (24 June 1933)
- I Got Shoes, *The Saturday Evening Post* (Sep 1933)
- No Flowers, *The Saturday Evening Post* (July 1934)
- New Types, *The Saturday Evening Post* (Sep 1934)
- In the Darkest Hour, Redbook (Oct 1934)
- Her Last Case, *The Saturday Evening Post* (Nov 1934)
- The Fiend, *Esquire* (January 1935)
- The Night of Chancellorsville, *Esquire* (February 1935)
- Shaggy's Morning, *Esquire* (May 1935)
- The Count of Darkness, Redbook (June 1935)
- The Intimate Strangers, *McCall's* (June 1935)
- Zone of Accident, *The Saturday Evening Post* (July 1935)
- The Kingdom in the Dark, Redbook (Aug 1935)
- Fate in Her Hands, *American Magazine* (April 1936)
- Image on the Heart, *McCall's* (April 1936)
- Too Cute for Words, *The Saturday Evening Post* (April 1936)
- Three Acts of Music, *Esquire* (May 1936)
- Inside the House, *The Saturday Evening Post* (June 1936)
- Author's House, *Esquire* (July 1936)
- An Author's Mother, *Esquire* (September 1936)
- I Didn't Get Over, *Esquire* (October 1936)

- An Alcoholic Case, *Esquire* (February 1937)
- Trouble, *he Saturday Evening Post* (March 1937)
- The Long Way Out, *Esquire* (September 1937)
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- The Lost Decade, *Esquire* (December 1939)
- Strange Sanctuary, *Liberty* (Dec 1939)
- Pat Hobby's Christmas Wish, *Esquire* (January 1940)
- A Man in the Way, *Esquire* (February 1940)
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- Pat Hobby, Putative Father, *Esquire* (July 1940)
- The Homes of the Stars, *Esquire* (August 1940)
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- Pat Hobby's Preview, *Esquire* (October 1940)
- No Harm Trying, *Esquire* (November 1940)
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- Fun in an Artist's Studio, *Esquire* (February 1941)
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# Chapter 14

## JOHN STEINBECK

### 14.1 Overcoming financial difficulties

John Steinbeck (1902-1968) was born in California, where his father, John Ernst Steinbeck (1862-1935) served as Monterey County Treasurer. Steinbeck's mother, Olive Hamilton (1867-1934) shared her son's passion for reading and writing.

John Steinbeck studied English literature at Stanford University, but he left without a degree in 1925 and traveled to New York City, intending to make his living as a writer. However, he failed to publish his work in New York, and he was forced to return to California.

His generous parents then gave John free housing in a cottage that they owned on the Monterey Peninsula. They also gave him paper for his manuscripts, and loans that allowed him to write without looking for work. During the Great Depression John Steinbeck bought a small boat, and he claimed that he and his wife could live on fish and crabs that he caught with it, combined with vegetables grown in his garden.

Steinbeck became a close friend of the marine biologist Ed Ricketts, from whose wide-ranging knowledge of ecology he learned a great deal. He helped Ricketts to gather biological specimens to be sold to schools and colleges, and his wife, Carol, worked in Ricketts' laboratory.

Steinbeck's first published book was *Cup of Gold* (1929), was based on the life and death of the privateer, Henry Morgan, This was followed by *The Pastures of Heaven* (1932), *The Red Pony* (1933) and *To a God Unknown* (1933).

His first critical success was *Tortilla Flat*, published in 1935. The book is a comic account of the dissolute life of a group of jobless young men of Mexican-Indian-Spanish extraction, living in two houses inherited by one of them. It won the California Commonwealth Club's Gold Medal, and it was also a great success with readers. It provided relief from the gloom of the Great Depression.

After *Tortilla Flat*, Steinbeck was a well-known writer, something he never doubted that he would become. In fact, he never doubted that he would become a great writer.



Figure 14.1: Steinbeck in 1939.

## 14.2 *The Grapes of Wrath*

### Dust bowl books

After *Tortilla Flat*, Steinbeck began to write a series of novels based on the tragic stories of farmers from Oklahoma, who were forced by dust storms to migrate to California, only to be mercilessly exploited by greedy landowners, who took advantage of the over-full labor market and reduced wages to the starvation level. His three novels, *In Dubious Battle*, *Of Mice And Men*, and *The Grapes of Wrath* belong to this period.

Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939) is based on a series of newspaper articles that he had written about the plight of migrant farm workers. The novel follows the troubles of the Joad family, who are forced by dust storms to leave Oklahoma and travel to California, where they are exploited by the landowners.

### Attacks by the land-owning and banking class

*The Grapes of Wrath* won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. It was also the best-selling book of 1939. However, it brought down on Steinbeck's head the wrath of the landowning class. For example, in 1939, the book was banned in Kansas City, Missouri and Kern County, California. It was also burned by the East St. Louis, Illinois Public Library and barred from the Buffalo, New York Public Library. In 1953, the book was banned in Ireland.

### Films based on Steinbeck's dustbowl books

Two famous films were based on Steinbeck's dustbowl books:

- 1939 *Of Mice and Men*, directed by Lewis Milestone, featuring Burgess Meredith, Lon Chaney, Jr., and Betty Field
- 1940 *The Grapes of Wrath*, directed by John Ford, featuring Henry Fonda, Jane Darwell and John Carradine

Steinbeck visited the studios during the production of both films.

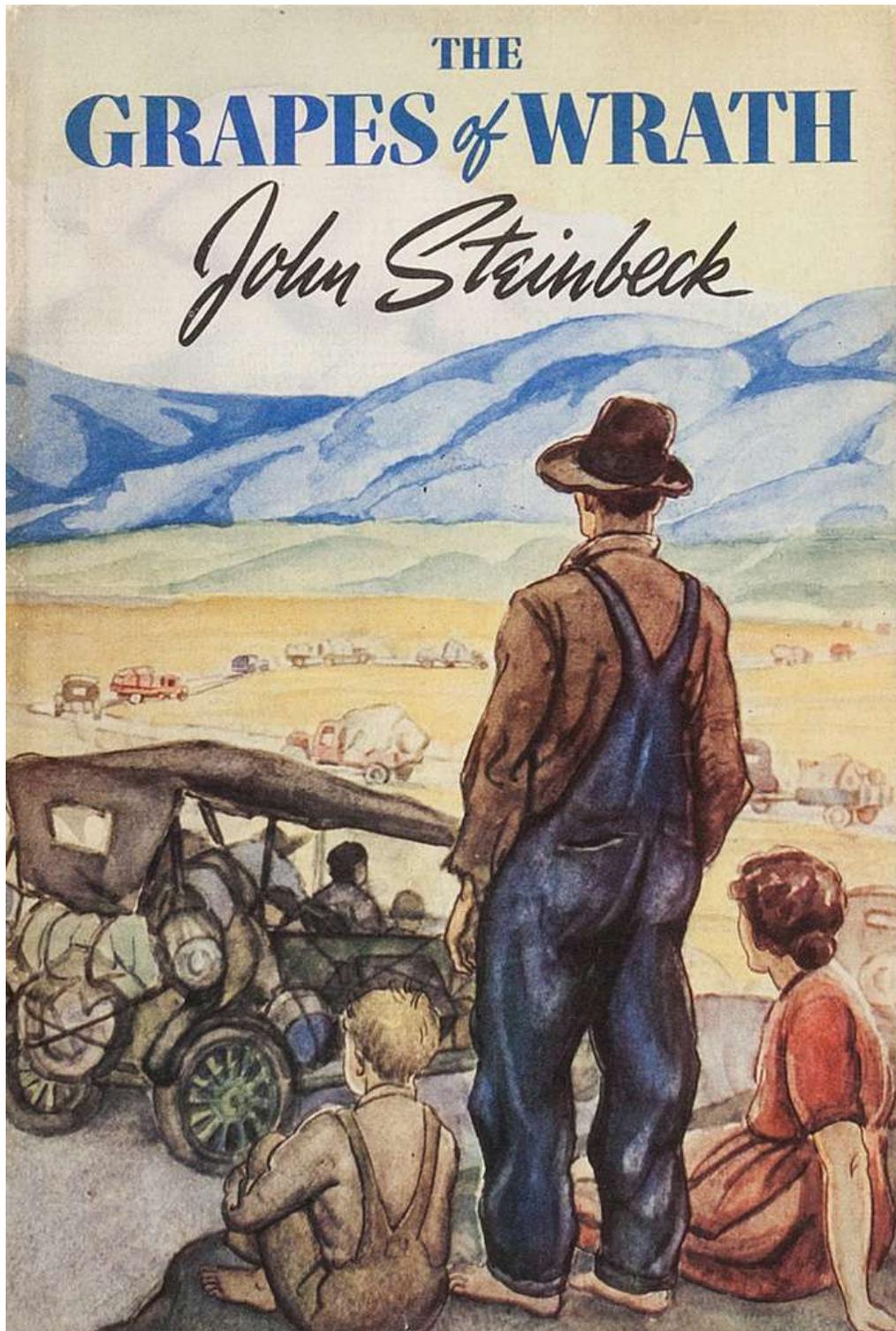


Figure 14.2: Book cover illustration of a child, man, and woman on a roadside watching as dozens of cars and trucks drive off into the distance.

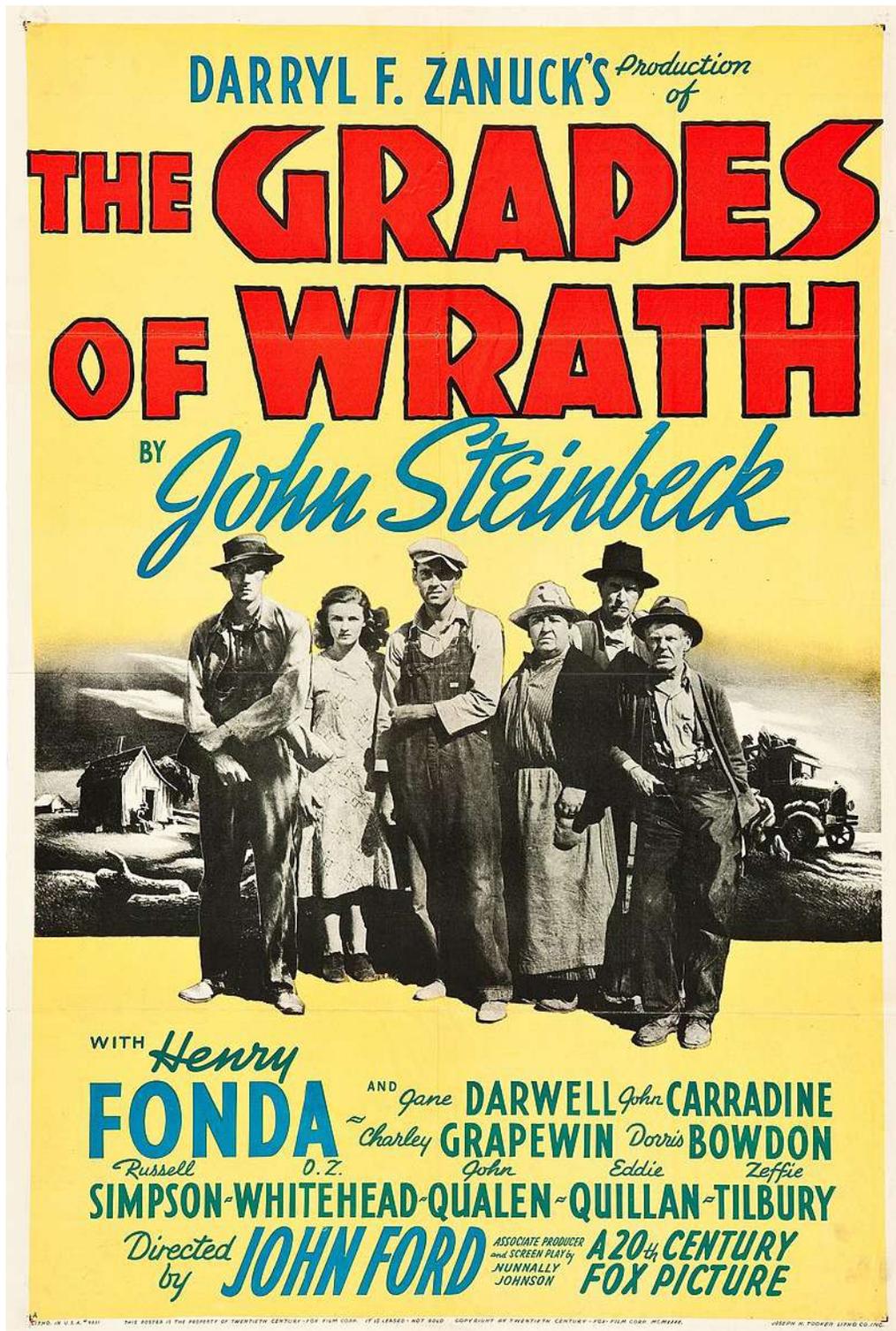


Figure 14.3: Theatrical poster for the 1940 film *The Grapes of Wrath*.



Figure 14.4: **Henry Fonda as Tom Joad.**

## 14.3 *East of Eden*

### Biblical parallels

John Steinbeck's book, *East of Eden* is a family saga which parallels the Biblical story of Adam and Eve and the rivalry between their two sons, Cain and Able. It was a great success with readers, and was also made into a successful 1955 film, directed by Elia Kazan, and featuring James Dean, Julie Harris, Jo Van Fleet, and Raymond Massey.

### Harsh judgement by critics

Steinbeck himself believed *East of Eden* to be one of his best books, but critics at the time of its publication judged the book harshly. They complained the Steinbeck's Biblical parallels were too heavy-handed, and that the depraved behavior of the figure representing Eve was too exaggerated to be believable.

### Steinbeck's own evaluation

Steinbeck wrote to a friend after completing his manuscript, "I finished my book a week ago... Much the longest and surely the most difficult work I have ever done... I have put all the things I have wanted to write all my life. This is *the book*. If it is not good I have fooled myself all the time. I don't mean I will stop but this is a definite milestone and I feel released. Having done this I can do anything I want. Always I had this book waiting to be written"

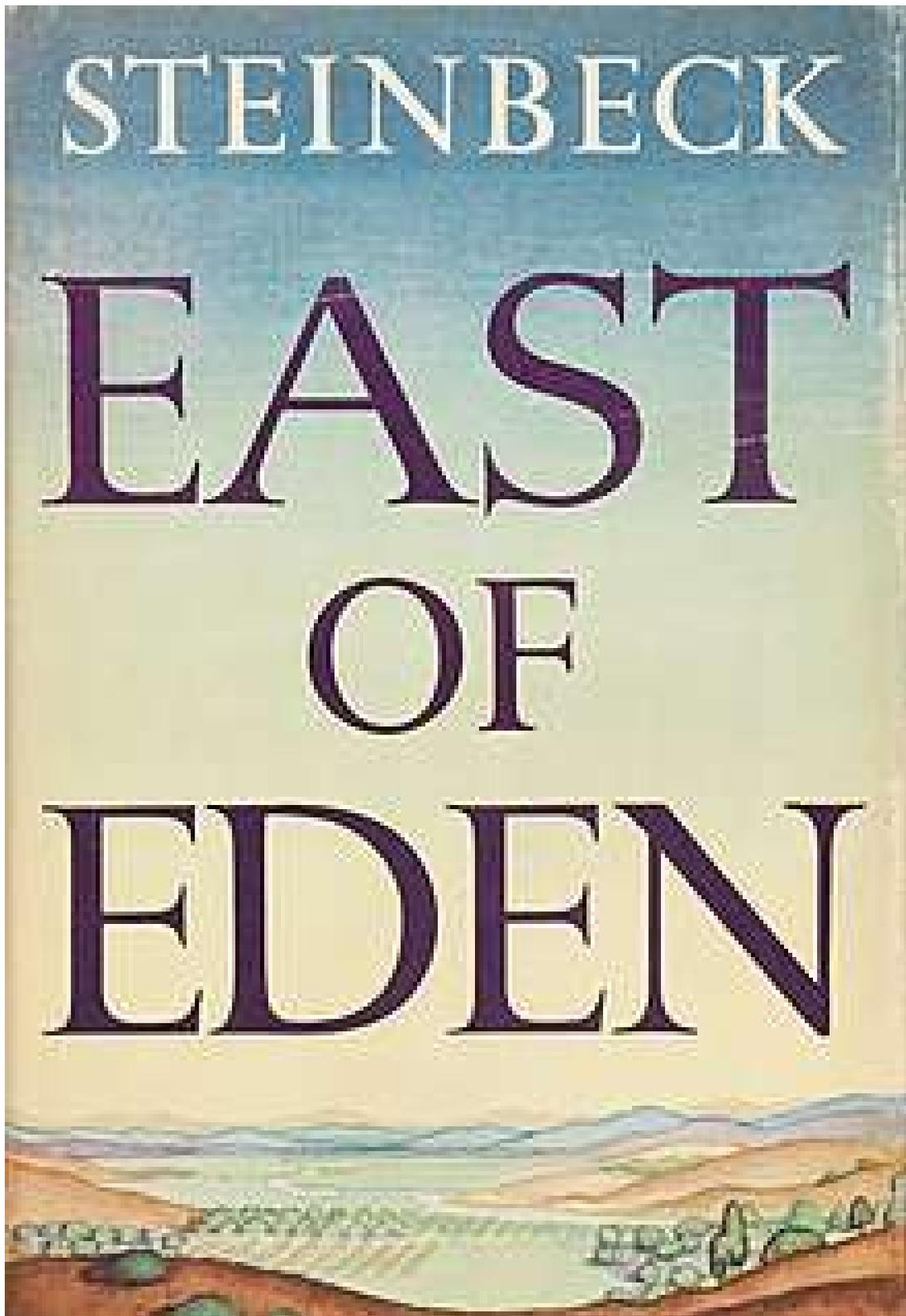


Figure 14.5: First-edition dust jacket cover of *East of Eden* (1952) by John Steinbeck.



Figure 14.6: Theatrical release poster for the 1955 film *East of Eden*, based on John Steinbeck's 1952 novel of the same name.



Figure 14.7: Julie Harris and James Dean in *East of Eden*.

## 14.4 The 1962 Nobel Prize in Literature

Here is the speech given by Anders Österling, Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy, at the award ceremony:

John Steinbeck, the author awarded this year's Nobel Prize in Literature, was born in the little town of Salinas, California, a few miles from the Pacific coast near the fertile Salinas Valley. This locality forms the background for many of his descriptions of the common man's everyday life. He was raised in moderate circumstances, yet he was on equal terms with the workers' families in this rather diversified area. While studying at Stanford University, he often had to earn his living by working on the ranches. He left Stanford without graduating and, in 1925, went to New York as a freelance writer. After bitter years of struggling to exist, he returned to California, where he found a home in a lonely cottage by the sea. There he continued his writing.

Although he had already written several books by 1935, he achieved his first popular success in that year with *Tortilla Flat*. He offered his readers spicy and comic tales about a gang of paisanos, asocial individuals who, in their wild revels, are almost caricatures of King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table. It has been said that in the United States this book came as a welcome antidote to the gloom of the then prevailing depression. The laugh was now on Steinbeck's side.

But he had no mind to be an unoffending comforter and entertainer. The topics he chose were serious and denunciatory, as for example the bitter strikes on California's fruit and cotton plantations which he depicted in his novel *In Dubious Battle* (1936). The power of his literary style increased steadily during these years. The little masterpiece *Of Mice and Men* (1937), which is the story of Lennie, the imbecile giant who, out of tenderness, alone squeezes the life out of every living creature that comes into his hands, was followed by those incomparable short stories which he collected in the volume *The Long Valley* (1938). The way had now been paved for the great work that is principally associated with Steinbeck's name, the epic chronicle *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939). This is the story of the emigration to California which was forced upon a group of people from Oklahoma through unemployment and abuse of power. This tragic episode in the social history of the United States inspired in Steinbeck a poignant description of the experiences of one particular farmer and his family during their endless, heartbreaking journey to a new home.

In this brief presentation it is not possible to dwell at any length on individual works which Steinbeck later produced. If at times the critics have seemed to note certain signs of flagging powers, of repetitions that might point to a decrease in vitality, Steinbeck belied their fears most emphatically with *The Winter of Our Discontent* (1961), a novel published last year. Here he attained the same standard which he set in *The Grapes of Wrath*. Again he holds his

position as an independent expounder of the truth with an unbiased instinct for what is genuinely American, be it good or bad.

In this recent novel, the central figure is the head of a family who has come down in the world. After serving in the war, he fails at whatever he tries until at last he is employed in the simple work of a grocery store clerk in the New England town of his forefathers. He is an honest man and he does not complain without due cause, although he is constantly exposed to temptation when he sees the means by which material success must be purchased. However, such means require both hard scrupulousness and moral obduracy, qualities he cannot muster without risking his personal integrity. Tellingly displayed in his sensitive conscience, irradiated like a prism, is a whole body of questions which bear on the nation's welfare problems. This is done without any theorizing, using concrete, or even trivial, everyday situation, which are nonetheless convincing when described with all of Steinbeck's vigorous and realistic verve. Even with his insistence on the factual, there are harmonic tones of daydreaming, fumbling speculations around the eternal theme of life and death.

Steinbeck's latest book is an account of his experiences during a three-month tour of forty American states *Travels with Charley*, (1962). He travelled in a small truck equipped with a cabin where he slept and kept his stores. He travelled incognito, his only companion being a black poodle. We see here what a very experienced observer and *raisonneur* he is. In a series of admirable explorations into local colour, he rediscovers his country and its people. In its informal way this book is also a forceful criticism of society. The traveller in *Rosinante* - the name which he gave his truck - shows a slight tendency to praise the old at the expense of the new, even though it is quite obvious that he is on guard against the temptation. "I wonder why progress so often looks like destruction", he says in one place when he sees the bulldozers flattening out the verdant forest of Seattle to make room for the feverishly expanding residential areas and the skyscrapers. It is, in any case, a most topical reflection, valid also outside America.

Among the masters of modern American literature who have already been awarded this Prize - from Sinclair Lewis to Ernest Hemingway - Steinbeck more than holds his own, independent in position and achievement. There is in him a strain of grim humour which, to some extent, redeems his often cruel and crude motif. His sympathies always go out to the oppressed, to the misfits and the distressed; he likes to contrast the simple joy of life with the brutal and cynical craving for money. But in him we find the American temperament also in his great feeling for nature, for the tilled soil, the wasteland, the mountains, and the ocean coasts, all an inexhaustible source of inspiration to Steinbeck in the midst of, and beyond, the world of human beings.

The Swedish Academy's reason for awarding the prize to John Steinbeck reads, "for his realistic as well as imaginative writings, distinguished by a

sympathetic humour and a keen social perception.”

Dear Mr. Steinbeck - You are not a stranger to the Swedish public any more than to that of your own country and of the whole world. With your most distinctive works you have become a teacher of good will and charity, a defender of human values, which can well be said to correspond to the proper idea of the Nobel Prize. In expressing the congratulations of the Swedish Academy, I now ask you to receive this year's Nobel Prize in Literature from the hands of His Majesty, the King.

### Films based on Steinbeck's writing

- 1939 *Of Mice and Men*, directed by Lewis Milestone, featuring Burgess Meredith, Lon Chaney, Jr., and Betty Field
- 1940 *The Grapes of Wrath*, directed by John Ford, featuring Henry Fonda, Jane Darwell and John Carradine
- 1941 *The Forgotten Village*, directed by Alexander Hammid and Herbert Kline, narrated by Burgess Meredith, music by Hanns Eisler
- 1942 *Tortilla Flat*, directed by Victor Fleming, featuring Spencer Tracy, Hedy Lamarr and John Garfield
- 1943 *The Moon is Down*, directed by Irving Pichel, featuring Lee J. Cobb and Sir Cedric Hardwicke
- 1944 *Lifeboat*, directed by Alfred Hitchcock, featuring Tallulah Bankhead, Hume Cronyn, and John Hodiak
- 1944 *A Medal for Benny*, directed by Irving Pichel, featuring Dorothy Lamour and Arturo de Cordova
- 1947 *La Perla (The Pearl, Mexico)*, directed by Emilio Fernandez, featuring Pedro Armendariz and Maria Elena Marqués
- 1949 *The Red Pony*, directed by Lewis Milestone, featuring Myrna Loy, Robert Mitchum, and Louis Calhern
- 1952 *Viva Zapata!*, directed by Elia Kazan, featuring Marlon Brando, Anthony Quinn and Jean Peters
- 1955 *East of Eden*, directed by Elia Kazan, featuring James Dean, Julie Harris, Jo Van Fleet, and Raymond Massey
- 1957 *The Wayward Bus*, directed by Victor Vicas, featuring Rick Jason, Jayne Mansfield, and Joan Collins

- 1961 *Flight*, featuring Efrain Ramirez and Arnelia Cortez
- 1962 *Ikimize bir dünya*, (Of Mice and Men, Turkey)
- 1972 *Topoli*, (Of Mice and Men, Iran)
- 1982 *Cannery Row*, directed by David S. Ward, featuring Nick Nolte and Debra Winger
- 1992 *Of Mice and Men*, directed by Gary Sinise and starring John Malkovich and Gary Sinise
- 2016 *In Dubious Battle*, directed by James Franco and featuring Franco, Nat Wolff and Selena Gomez

### Suggestions for further reading

1. DeMott, Robert and Steinbeck, Elaine A., eds. John Steinbeck, Novels and Stories 1932-1937 (Library of America, 1994)
2. DeMott, Robert and Steinbeck, Elaine A., eds. John Steinbeck, The Grapes of Wrath and Other Writings 1936-1941 (Library of America, 1996)
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6. Davis, Robert C. The Grapes of Wrath: A Collection of Critical Essays. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1982.
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11. Ditsky, John. John Steinbeck and the Critics. Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2000
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15. Tamm, Eric Enno (2005). Beyond the Outer Shores: The Untold Odyssey of Ed Ricketts, the Pioneering Ecologist who Inspired John Steinbeck and Joseph Campbell. Thunder's Mouth Press.
16. Benson, Jackson J. "John Steinbeck, Writer" Penguin Putnam Inc., second edition, New York, 1990,

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# Chapter 15

## GEORGE ORWELL

### 15.1 A lower-upper middle class family and education

Eric Arthur Blair (1903-1950), better known by his pen name George Orwell, was the great-grandson of Charles Blair, a wealthy country gentleman, and Lady Mary Fane, daughter of the Earl of Westmorland. Over the generations that separated Eric Blair from his great-grandparents, some of the gentility remained but most of the wealth disappeared, and he described his family as being “lower-upper middle class”.

Eric Blair was born in British India where his father was working, but when he was one year old his mother took the family to England. Eric attended a Catholic boarding school called St. Cyprians, where his work in history and his writing won him scholarships to both Wellington and Eton. He attended both schools, because at first there was no place available at Eton.

### 15.2 *Burmese Days*

While at Eton, Eric Blair paid more attention to extra-curricular activities than to his studies, and his family, who could not afford to send him to university without a scholarship, decided that he would never win one. Instead of attending a university, Eric Blair joined the Imperial Police. He chose Burma, where his maternal grandmother was still living.

After serving several years in Burma in positions of increasing responsibility, Orwell became seriously ill in 1927, and he was allowed to return to England. By this time, he had become disillusioned with colonialism. He now saw it as a system whereby the soldiers held the poor Indian or Burmese citizen down, while the merchant went through his pockets. Orwell described his experiences as a colonial police officer in his book, *Burmese Days*

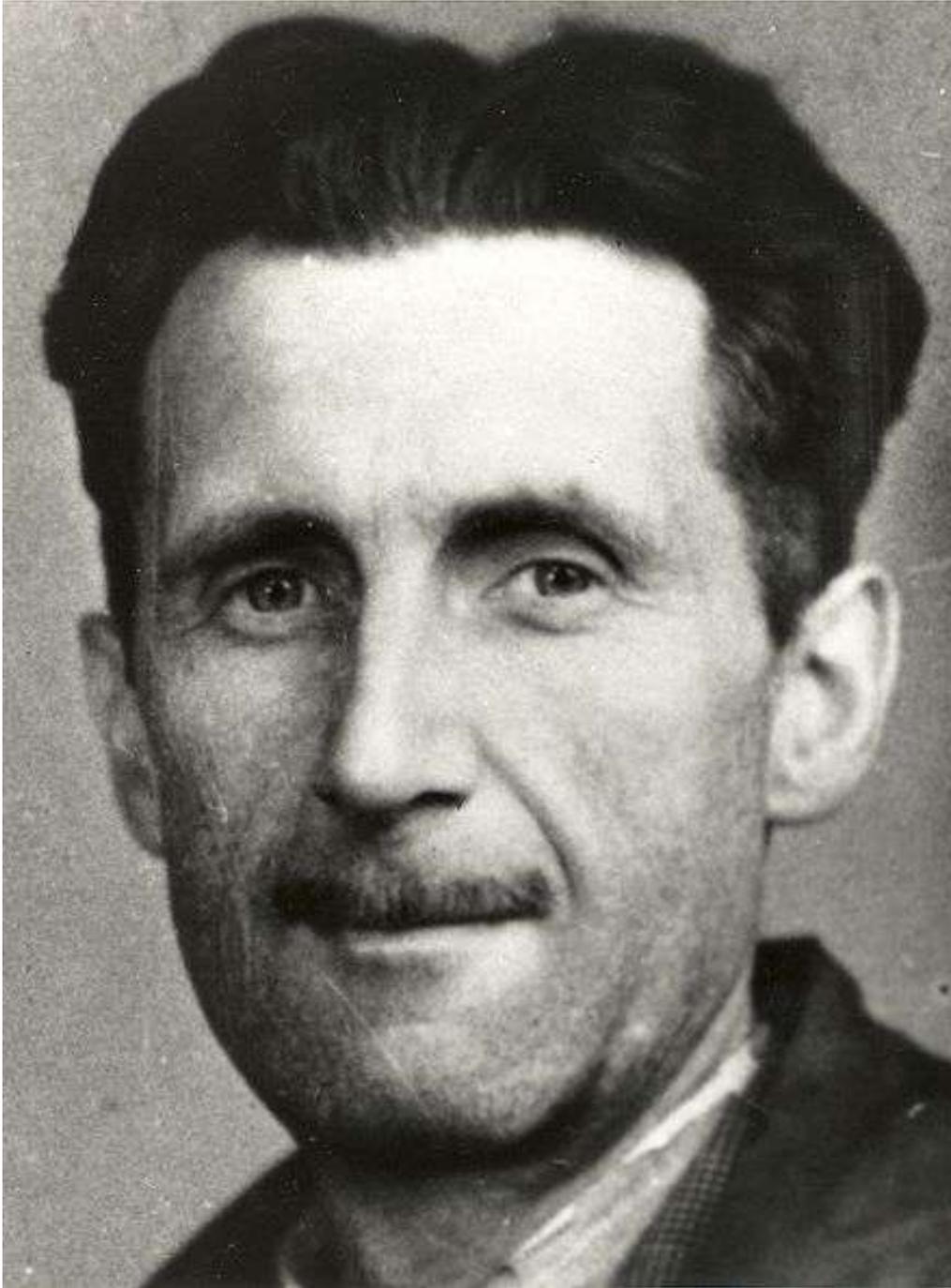


Figure 15.1: George Orwell's press card portrait, 1943.



Figure 15.2: Blair family home at Shiplake, Oxfordshire.

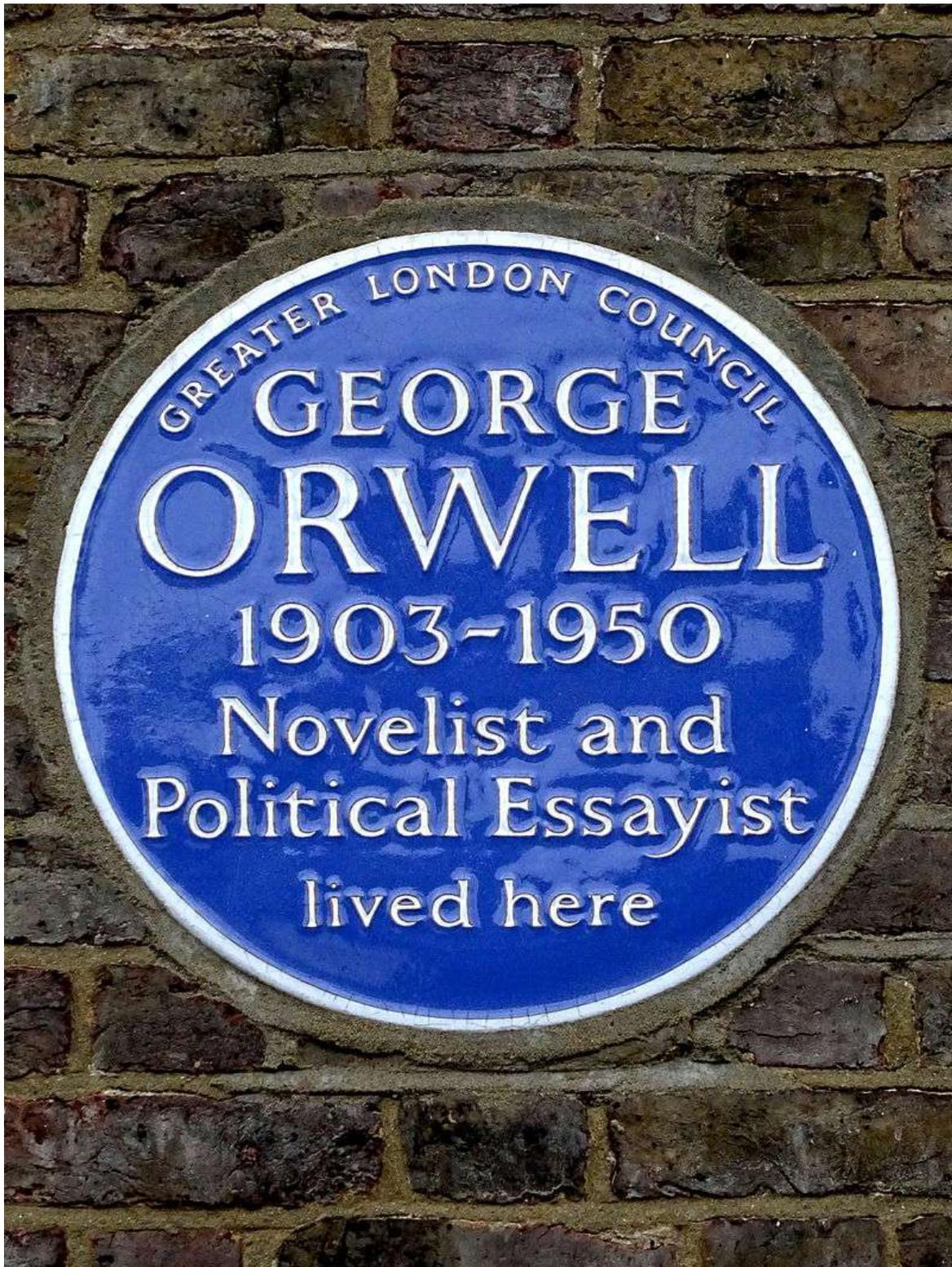


Figure 15.3: English Heritage blue plaque in Kentish Town, London where Orwell lived from August 1935 until January 1936.



Figure 15.4: The square in Barcelona renamed in Orwell's honour.



Figure 15.5: Orwell spoke on many BBC and other broadcasts, but no recordings are known to survive.



Figure 15.6: Statue of George Orwell outside Broadcasting House, headquarters of the BBC.

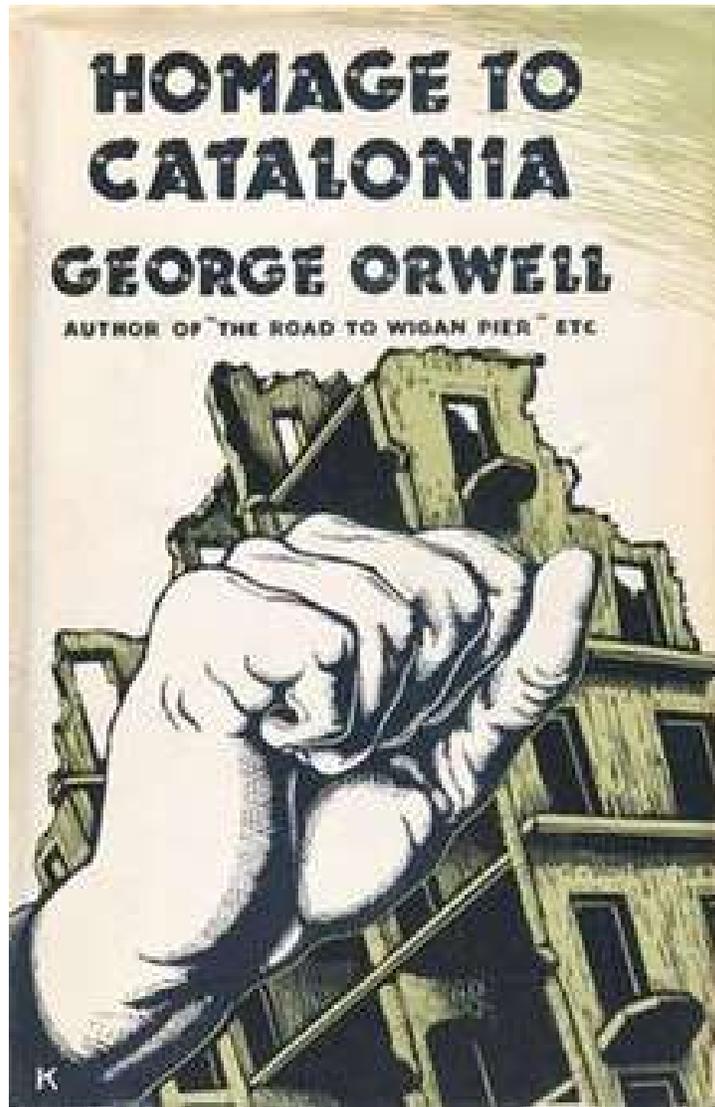


Figure 15.7: George Orwell fought on the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War, and his book, *Homage to Catalonia* describes his experiences, which affected all of his future work as a writer. Regarding the effect of the war on his political outlook, he wrote: “Every line of serious work that I have written since 1936 has been written, directly or indirectly, against totalitarianism and for Democratic Socialism, as I understand it.”

### 15.3 *Down and Out in Paris and London (1933)*

After Orwell returned from Burma, he became interested in the lives of very poor people in Europe. While he was on a visit to Paris, all of his money was stolen. He could have written to his guardian in England to ask for help, but instead he decided to find out for himself what it was like to be completely destitute. Returning to London, he later continued his personal experiment with extreme poverty.

After living at the extreme lower edge of society for several years, Orwell described his experiences in *Down and Out in Paris and London*. Orwell's descriptions are so vivid and his sense of humor so sharp that the book is both riveting and enjoyable to read. Other excellent books by Orwell describing not quite so extreme poverty include *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* (1936), and *The road to Wigan Pier* (1937).

### 15.4 *Homage to Catalonia (1938)*

This book describes Orwell's experiences during the Spanish Civil War. He served as a soldier in the unsuccessful struggle to prevent Franco's fascist army from overthrowing the elected government.

### 15.5 *Animal Farm (1945)*

This brilliant satiric and allegorical novella reflects Orwell's disillusionment with Russia's post-revolutionary government under Stalin. Orwell saw Stalinism as a brutal dictatorship. In his essay *Why I Write* (1946) Orwell says that *Animal Farm* is the first book in which he tried "to fuse political purpose and artistic purpose into one whole".

At the start of *Animal Farm* an old boar called Major (Marx and/or Lenin ?) teaches the animals to sing *Beasts of England* (the *Internationale?*). Orwell describes the tune as being halfway between *La Cucaracha* and *My Darling Clementine*. Here are the words of the song:

*Beasts of England, Beasts of Ireland,  
Beasts of every land and clime,  
Hearken to my joyful tidings  
Of the Golden future time.*

*Soon or late the day is coming,  
Tyrant Man shall be o'erthrown,  
And the fruitful fields of England  
Shall be trod by beasts alone.*

*Rings shall vanish from our noses,  
And the harness from our back,*

*Bit and spur shall rust forever,  
Cruel whips no more shall crack.*

*Riches more than mind can picture,  
Wheat and barley, oats and hay,  
Clover, beans, and mangel-wurzels  
Shall be ours upon that day.*

*Bright will shine the fields of England,  
Purer shall its waters be,  
Sweeter yet shall blow its breezes  
On the day that sets us free.*

*For that day we all must labour,  
Though we die before it break;  
Cows and horses, geese and turkeys,  
All must toil for freedom's sake.*

*Beasts of England, Beasts of Ireland,  
Beasts of every land and clime,  
Hearken well, and spread my tidings  
Of the Golden future time*

After a successful revolution by the animals, Farmer Jones is expelled, and the Seven Principles of Animalism are established, the most important of which is

*All animals are equal.*

The pigs, being (as they say themselves) the most intelligent of the animals, gradually take over the running of the farm. Meetings of all the animals are replaced by meetings of the pigs. The faithful hardworking old horse, Boxer, is sold to the gluemaking knacker in order to buy whisky for the pigs. The first principle of Animalism is replaced by:

*All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.*

Finally, the pigs start to carry whips and to walk on two legs. They become indistinguishable from humans.

Orwell's *Animal Farm*, published at the start of the Cold War, was a great commercial success, and it was translated into many languages.

## 15.6 *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949)

George Orwell's famous dystopian novel *Nineteen Eighty-four* (often published as *1984*) has changed the English language and added new words, for example "Orwellian", "doublethink", "thoughtcrime", "Big Brother", "newspeak", "nonperson" and "memory hole". Like *Animal Farm*, it expresses Orwell's deep dislike of Stalin's brutal dictatorship. However, the novel also so aptly describes recent conditions in the United States and elsewhere that today it has hit the top of best-seller lists.

The novel follows the life of Winston Smith, who lives in Airstrip One (formerly known as Great Britain). Airstrip One is part of the superstate Oceania, which is perpetually at war with two other superstates. Pictures of the ruler of Oceania, Big Brother, are everywhere and a cult of personality surrounds him, although he may not even exist.

Surveillance is also everywhere, performed by ubiquitous "telescreens", which both transmit and record. Under huge photographs of the leader of Oceania, there is usually the caption: "Big Brother is watching you". The Thought Police encourage children to report anyone who might be guilty of "thoughtcrimes", including their own parents.

The citizens of Oceania are divided into three classes. The highest and most privileged class is the Inner Party. Next come members of the Outer Party, and finally come the lowest class, the Proletariat, who make up the bulk of the population.

Winston Smith belongs to the Outer Party, and he works in the Ministry of Truth (Minitruth), where his job is to rewrite history so that it will conform to the constantly-changing doctrines of the Inner Party. He changes written records, alters photographs, and converts people who are out of favour to "nonpersons" by destroying every record of their existence. Winston is good at his job, but he gradually comes to detest the whole system. This, of course is a "thoughtcrime".

Another worker in the Ministry of Truth is Julia, who runs Minitruth's novel-writing machines. She hands Winston a note telling him that she is in love with him. Winston finds out that Julia shares his detestation of the system, and an affair blossoms between them. They meet in a rented room in a proletarian district where they believe they will be free from surveillance.

Later Winston is approached by O'Brien, a member of the Inner Party who is believed by Winston to be a member of the Brotherhood, a secret society that opposes the Party. Winston and Julia tell O'Brien of their detestation of the whole system. But O'Brien is not a member of the Brotherhood. He is actually a member of the Thought Police. Winston and Julia are arrested and tortured so severely that they finally betray each other.

Winston is tortured again and again. Simultaneously he is brainwashed to such an extent that he becomes a believer in the system, and can be sent back into society. The new, brainwashed Winston believes wholeheartedly in the doctrines of the Party, and he has finally learned to love Big Brother.

During the writing of *Nineteen Eighty-four*, Orwell was very ill with tuberculosis, and he died soon afterwards from the disease.

Here are some quotations from *Nineteen Eighty-four*:

*Now I will tell you the answer to my question. It is this. The Party seeks power entirely for its own sake. We are not interested in the good of others; we are interested solely in power, pure power. What pure power means you will understand presently. We are different from the oligarchies of the past in that we know what we are doing. All the others, even those who resembled ourselves, were cowards and hypocrites. The German Nazis and the Russian Communists came very close to us in their methods, but they never had the courage to recognize their own motives. They pretended, perhaps they even believed, that they had seized power unwillingly and for a limited time, and that just around the corner there lay a paradise where human beings would be free and equal. We are not like that. We know that no one ever seizes power with the intention of relinquishing it. Power is not a means; it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship. The object of persecution is persecution. The object of torture is torture. The object of power is power. Now you begin to understand me. (from 1984)*

*War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength.*

### ***Politics and the English Language, and other essays***

George Orwell was a brilliant and prolific essayist, and many of his essays that have been made available by Project Gutenberg<sup>1</sup>

#### **A few things that George Orwell said**

*Actions are held to be good or bad, not on their own merits, but according to who does them. There is almost no kind of outrage - torture, imprisonment without trial, assassination, the bombing of civilians - which does not change its moral color when it is committed by 'our' side. The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them.*

*The essence of oligarchical rule is not father-to-son inheritance, but the persistence of a certain world-view and a certain way of life ... A ruling group is a ruling group so long as it can nominate its successors... Who wields power is not important, provided that the hierarchical structure remains always the same*

*In a time of deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act.*

*The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which.*

---

<sup>1</sup><http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks03/0300011h.html>

*The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.*

*If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face - forever.*

*Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.*

*But if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought.*

*If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.*

*Doublethink means the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them.*

*Until they became conscious they will never rebel, and until after they have rebelled they cannot become conscious.*

*The essence of being human is that one does not seek perfection.*

*Being in a minority, even in a minority of one, did not make you mad. There was truth and there was untruth, and if you clung to the truth even against the whole world, you were not mad.*

*The great enemy of clear language is insincerity.*

*To see what is in front of one's nose requires a constant struggle.*

*Advertising is the rattling of a stick inside a swill bucket.*

*War is a way of shattering to pieces, or pouring into the stratosphere, or sinking in the depths of the sea, materials which might otherwise be used to make the masses too comfortable, and hence, in the long run, too intelligent.*

## List of books by George Orwell

- *Down and Out in Paris and London* (9 January 1933, Victor Gollancz Ltd)
- *Burmese Days* (25 October 1934, Harper & Brothers)
- *A Clergyman's Daughter* (11 March 1935, Victor Gollancz Ltd)

- *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* (20 April 1936, Victor Gollancz Ltd)
- *The Road to Wigan Pier* (February 1937, Left Book Club edition; 8 March 1937 Victor Gollancz Ltd edition for the general public)
- *Homage to Catalonia* (25 April 1938, Secker and Warburg)
- *Coming Up for Air* (12 June 1939, Victor Gollancz Ltd)
- *Animal Farm* (17 August 1945, Secker and Warburg)
- *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (8 June 1949, Secker and Warburg)

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# Chapter 16

## ALDOUS HUXLEY

### 16.1 A famous family of scientists

Aldous Leonard Huxley (1894-1963) was a member of a famous family of biologists. His grandfather was Thomas Henry Huxley (“Darwin’s bulldog”). His brother, Sir Julian Huxley, was an evolutionary biologist, the author of almost 50 books, and the first Director-General of UNESCO. His half-brother, Andrew Huxley, shared a Nobel Prize for his discovery of the mechanism by which nerves transmit signals. Aldous Huxley, who chose a career in literature rather than biology, was nominated seven times for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

### 16.2 *Brave New World*

Like his brother Julian, Aldous Huxley was the author of almost 50 books, but he is most famous for his dystopian novel “Brave New World”, which he wrote in 1931. Huxley said that the book was initially a reaction to H.G. Wells’ Utopian books, such as “A Modern Utopia” (1905) and “Men Like Gods” (1923). In a letter to an American acquaintance, Huxley wrote that he “had been having a little fun pulling the leg of H.G. Wells... but got caught up in the excitement of my own ideas”.

The theme of “Brave New World” was foreshadowed in Huxley’s novel “Chrome Yellow” (1921), which satirizes life at Gossington Hall, the estate of Lady Ottoline Morrell, one of the central figures in the famous Bloomsbury Group of writers and artists. Huxley, who was disqualified for military duty because of serious problems with his vision, spent the duration of World War I working as an agricultural labourer on Lady Ottoline’s estate. One of the characters in “Chrome Yellow” describes the future world in the following words: “Impersonal generation [will] take the place of Nature’s hideous system. In vast state incubators, rows upon rows of gravid bottles will supply the world with the population it requires. The family system will disappear; society, sapped at its very base, will have to find new foundations; and Eros, beautifully and irresponsibly free, will flit like a gay butterfly from flower to flower through a sunlit world.”



Figure 16.1: Aldous Huxley (1894-1963).



Figure 16.2: English Heritage blue plaque at 16 Bracknell Gardens, Hampstead, London, commemorating Aldous, his brother Julian, and his father Leonard.



Figure 16.3: Sir Andrew Fielding Huxley (1917-2012) shared a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his research on the mechanism by which nerves transmit signals.



Figure 16.4: Thomas Henry Huxley (“Darwin’s bulldog”) with his grandson Julian in 1893.

This quotation shows that Huxley's ideas were already taking form in 1921. He wrote "Brave New World" in four months. from May to August 1931, while living in France. Huxley was probably influenced by J.B.S. Haldane's short book "Daedalus; or, Science and the Future" (1924) where a future society making use of in vitro fertilization is described. He was also influenced by a trip which he made to see Sir Alfred Mond's hyper-efficient plant for nitrogen fixation, which greatly impressed him. On a trip to America, Huxley read "My Life and Work" by Henry Ford. On the same trip, he was "outraged by the culture of youth, commercial cheeriness and sexual promiscuity, and the inward-looking nature of many Americans". It seemed to Huxley that Ford's mass production principles dominated American life.

"Brave New World" takes its title from Marinda's speech in Shakespeare's "The Tempest":

Oh wonder!  
 How many goodly creatures are there here!  
 How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world  
 That has such people in't!

In French translations, the English title is often replaced by *Le Meilleur des mondes* (The Best of All Worlds), an allusion to Voltaire's "Candide" which satirizes the optimism of the mathematician and philosopher Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibnitz.

In "Brave New World" Ford everywhere takes the place of God and Jesus. One of the characters. Muphistapha Mond, the Resident Controller of Europe in the World State, is referred to as "his Fordship". When people are upset, they say "Oh Ford! Ford!". When relieved, people exclaim, "Thank Ford!" The Arch-Community-Songster of Canterbury replaces the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, and he presides over services on Our Ford's Day. The novel itself takes place in the year AF (After Ford) 632, or AD 2540 in our familiar calendar. The Christian cross is replaced with the T (for Ford's Model T).

In 1931, when Huxley wrote "Brave New World", economic depression was a great threat, and this is reflected in the novel. In the future society which it visualizes, all other values are sacrificed for the sake of stability. The strong emotions of the pre-Ford era, are replaced by universal continual happiness, sometimes induced by the drug soma, which sends its users into a carefree "soma holiday", in which they are blissfully free from worries of any kind.

Many of the strong dangerous emotions of the pre-Ford viviperpus era, are associated with family life, but in the brave new world of the future, these are non-existent because there no families. Everyone belongs to everyone. Babies are not born, they are decanted. Embryos are produced by in-vitro fertilization in vast hatcheries, where they are also conditioned and predestined for a particular role in society.

One of the main characters in the novel is the D.H.C., the Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning. Another main character is Bernard Marx, who is a high-caste alpha-plus, but nevertheless a misfit, because he is not tall. People suspect that alcohol may have been accidentally added to his blood-surrogate when he was an embryo. Bernard works as

a sleep-learning specialist at the Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre, and he is very good at his job. Also working at the same centre is Lenina Crowne, a young, beautiful and popular fetus technician.

The main events of the novel take place when Bernard invites Lenina to go with him to the Malpais Reservation in New Mexico, where savages are allowed to live viviperously so that they can be studied. After some hesitation (because Bernard is such a strange person) Lenina accepts. She is completely disgusted by the dirt and squalor of Malpais, but nevertheless both she and Bernard find the savages of the reservation fascinating. Even more fascinating is their discovery among the native population, of a much-decayed fat old white woman, who turns out to be the lost wife of the Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning. She disappeared when she and the D.H.C. visited Malpais many years previously. Linda, despite faithfully performing her Malthusian Drill, had become pregnant and given birth to a boy, John. Realizing the hold which this will give him over the sometimes-hostile D.H.C., Bernard invites Linda and John to go with them back to civilized London; and they accept.

As a result, Bernard becomes (temporarily) a celebrity. Everyone, even the Arch-Community-Songster, wants to see the Savage (John). His curious behavior, for example asceticism and self-flagellation, excite enormous interest. At first John is available for viewing, but soon he becomes disgusted by what he sees of "civilization" and refuses to attend Bernard's parties. As a result, Bernard's celebrity status disappears. overnight.

The Savage (John) is very handsome, and Lenina falls in love with him. He is also in love with her, but John has formed his ideas of romance from native American practices and from Shakespeare's dramas. Taught to read by Linda, he had discovered the book containing *Romeo and Juliet* and other now-banned pre-Fordian dramas in an old box at Malpais, and these formed his ideas of what love should be like. When Lenina offers her naked body to John, he denounces her as a strumpet, and violently rejects her.

Meanwhile, John's mother Linda becomes terminally ill. Totally drugged by soma, she is moved to the Park Lane Hospital for the Dying, a place where children are brought to enjoy the spectacle of people dying. This re-enforces the children's conditioning, which makes them accept dying as a joyful event. John rushes to see Linda, but his behavior at the hospital is outrageous. Not only does he show grief, but he also uses the word "mother", which in the brave new civilized world is the worst imaginable obscenity. To make matters still worse, attacks the Bokinofskified (cloned) group of identical twins who have assembled to enjoy Linda's death.

News that John is at the hospital and that he has gone mad reaches Bernard and the gifted writer, Helmholtz Watson, Bernard's only true friend. They rush to the hospital, to find John quoting passages from Shakespeare, and these words are recognized by Helmholtz as the eloquence for which he has been searching. He joins John in attacking the group of cloned identical twins.

The result of this episode is that John, Helmholtz and Bernard are arrested and brought before Mustapha Mond, the highly intelligent and urbane Resident World Controller for Western Europe. Mond is so intelligent that he completely understands the motivations of John, Bernard and Helmholtz, and far from condemning their actions, he sympathizes

with them.

Mond patiently explains to them the principles and philosophy behind the brave new “civilized” world. It would have been possible, he says, to produce a population consisting entirely of highly intelligent alphas, but such a society would not be stable, because there would be a struggle among the alphas to avoid menial work. It was better to produce a society with classes, alphas, betas, gammas, deltas and finally semi-moron epsilons, each with abilities suited to the work which they are predestined to perform, and each happy to be what they are. In order to achieve social stability, Mond explains, culture must be sacrificed, including high art, music, literature and science. These are replaced by Feelies (cinema with tactile and scent effects), scent organs, synthetic music, and expensive equipment-using games like Centrifugal Bumblepuppy, Electromagnetic Golf and Elevator Squash Racquets. Authors from the past, the Greek philosophers, Pascal, Shakespeare and so on must be banned.

Although sympathetic and understanding, Mond judges John, Bernard and Helmholtz to be dangerous to social stability. He exiles Bernard and Helmholtz to live on islands, but explains that this is really a reward, rather than a punishment, because other exiles whom they will meet on the islands are the most interesting men and women in the world.

John is allowed to remain in England in an isolated tower, far from any city. But even here he cannot escape the the curiosity of crowds of people who throng to observe the curious behavior of the Savage. Finally he can stand it no more, and he commits suicide.

### 16.3 A comparison between Orwell and Huxley

Social critic Neil Postman contrasted the worlds of Nineteen Eighty-Four and Brave New World in the foreword of his 1985 book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. He writes:

“What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egotism. Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. Orwell feared we would become a captive culture. Huxley feared we would become a trivial culture, preoccupied with some equivalent of the feelies, the orgy porgy, and the centrifugal bumblepuppy. As Huxley remarked in *Brave New World Revisited*, the civil libertarians and rationalists who are ever on the alert to oppose tyranny ‘failed to take into account man’s almost infinite appetite for distractions.’ In 1984, Orwell added, people are controlled by inflicting pain. In *Brave New World*, they are controlled by inflicting pleasure. In short, Orwell feared that our fear will ruin us. Huxley feared that our desire will ruin us.

Niel Postman’s book, *Amusing Ourselves To Death; or Public Discourse in an Age of Show Business* (1985), had its origins at the Frankfurt Book Fair, where Postman was invited to join a panel discussing George Orwell’s “Nineteen Eighty-Four”. Postman said that our present situation was better predicted by Huxley’s “Brave New World”. Today, he

maintained it is not fear that bars us from truth. Instead, truth is drowned in distractions and the pursuit of pleasure, by the public's addiction to amusement.

Postman sees television as the modern equivalent of Huxley's pleasure-inducing drug, soma, and he maintains that that television, as a medium, is intrinsically superficial and unable to discuss serious issues.

## 16.4 How well did they predict civilization's 21st century crisis?

Here are some of the serious linked problems which human civilization is facing today:

- **THREATS TO THE ENVIRONMENT:** The global environment is being destroyed by excessive consumption in the industrialized countries, combined with rapid population growth in developing nations. Climate change threatens to melt glaciers and polar ice. Complete melting of Greenland's inland ice would result in a 7 meter rise in sea level. Complete melting of the Antarctic ice cap would produce an additional 5 meters of rise.
- **GROWING POPULATION, VANISHING RESOURCES:** The fossil fuel era is ending. By 2050, oil and natural gas will be prohibitively expensive. They will no longer be used as fuels, but will be reserved as feedstocks for chemical synthesis. Within a hundred years, the same will be true of coal. The reserve indices for many metals are between 10 and 100 years. Reserve indices are defined as the size of the known reserves of metals divided by the current annual rates of production.
- **THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS:** It is predicted that by 2050, the world's population of humans will reach 9 billion. This is just the moment when the oil and natural gas, on which modern energy-intensive agriculture depend, will become so expensive that they will no longer be used as fuels. Climate change may also contribute to a global food crisis. Melting of Himalayan glaciers threatens the summer water supplies of both India and China. Rising sea levels threaten to inundate low-lying agricultural land, and aridity produced by climate overdrawn, and water tables are falling. Topsoil is also being lost. These elements combine to produce a threat of widespread famine by the middle of the 21st century, involving billions of people rather than millions.
- **INTOLERABLE ECONOMIC INEQUALITY:** Today 2.7 billion people live on less than \$2 a day - 1.1 billion on less than \$1 per day. 18 million of our fellow humans die each year from poverty-related causes. Meanwhile, obesity is becoming a serious health problem in the rich part of the world. In 2006, 1.1 billion people lacked safe drinking water, and waterborne diseases killed an estimated 1.8 million people. The developing countries are also the scene of a resurgence of other infectious diseases, such as malaria, drug-resistant tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Economic inequality,

both within nations and between nations, also undermines democracy. Powerful oligarchies control many governments.

- **THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR:** Despite the end of the Cold War, the threat of a nuclear catastrophe remains severe. During the Cold War, the number and power of nuclear weapons reached insane heights - 50,000 nuclear weapons with a total explosive power equivalent to roughly a million Hiroshima bombs. Expressed differently, the total explosive power was equivalent to 20 billion tons of TNT, 4 tons for each person on earth. Today the total number of these weapons has been cut approximately in half, but there are still enough to destroy human civilization many times over. The danger of accidental nuclear war remains severe, since many nuclear missiles are on hair-trigger alert, ready to be fired within minutes of a warning being received. Continued over a long period of time, the threat of accident will grow to a near certainty. Meanwhile, the number of nations possessing nuclear weapons is growing, and there is a danger that if an unstable government is overthrown (for example, Pakistan's), the country's nuclear weapons will fall into the hands of sub-national groups. Against nuclear terrorism there is no effective defense.
- **THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX:** In 2008, world military budgets reached a total of 1.47 trillion dollars (i.e. 1.47 million million dollars). This amount of money is almost too large to be imagined. The fact that it is being spent means that many people are making a living from the institution of war. Wealthy and powerful lobbies from the military-industrial complex are able to influence mass media and governments. Thus the institution of war persists, although we know very well that it is a threat to civilization and that it responsible for much of the suffering that humans experience.
- **LIMITS TO GROWTH:** A "healthy" economic growth rate of 4% per year corresponds to an increase by a factor of 50 in a century, by a factor of 2,500 in two centuries and 125,000 in three centuries. No one can maintain that resource-using, waste-producing economic activities can continue to grow except by refusing to look more than a certain distance into the future. It seems likely that the boundaries for economic growth will be reached by the middle of the 21st century. (Culture can of course continue to grow.) We face a difficult period of transition from an economy that depends on growth for its health to a new economic system: steady-state economics.

How well did Mary Shelly, Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, George Orwell and Aldous Huxley predict these current dangers to human civilization and the biosphere?

Mary George Orwell and Aldous Huxley all foresaw that science and technology might not always be beneficial to society. "Frankenstein" depicts the dangers of science out of control. In both "Nineteen Eighty-Four" and "Brave New World", technology is used to enforce conformity.,Shelley

Remarkably, H.G. Wells' 1913 novel, "The World Set Free", predicts the development of an enormously powerful bomb using uranium. He correctly concluded that such a bomb would make war prohibitively dangerous, and that only an effective world government could make the world safe again. But this is not the situation today. We do not have a world government with the powers needed to make the world safe; and we have the much more powerful thermonuclear bombs, possessed by many nations, and the constant threat that human civilization and much of the biosphere will be destroyed in a thermonuclear war, started by technical or human failure, or by the insanity of a person in power.

One thing which all the authors seem to have missed completely is the relationship between industrial society and fossil fuels. The Industrial Revolution marked the start of massive human use of fossil fuels. The stored energy from several hundred million years of plant growth began to be used at roughly a million times the rate at which it had been formed. The effect on human society was like that of a narcotic. There was a euphoric (and totally unsustainable) surge of growth of both population and industrial production. Meanwhile, the carbon released into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels began to duplicate the conditions which led to the 5 geologically-observed mass extinctions, during each of which more than half of all living species disappeared forever.

In Huxley's "Brave New World", the availability of fossil fuels and other resources is not considered at all. In fact the use of resources is encouraged by such slogans as "Ending is better than mending". Energy-using helicopters are universally used for transportation. Games, such as Centrifugal Bumblepuppy, require much energy use. We should remember, however that Huxley's novel is a satire on Fordian society, and that Ford and his contemporaries did not worry about the end of the fossil fuel era or about catastrophic climate change. As a criticism of folly, the novel is certainly valid.

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