T.S. Eliot: Biographical Timeline

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

1898 A student at Smith Academy in St. Louis

1905 To Milton Academy in Massachusetts


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

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

1914 To England on fellowship; meets Ezra Pound.

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

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

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


1920 *The Sacred Wood* published.

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

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

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

1927 Enters the Church of England and assumes British citizenship

1928 *For Lancelot Andrewes* published.
1930 *Ash-Wednesday* published.

1932 *Selected Essays 1917-1932*

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

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

1935 *Murder in the Cathedral* performed.

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


1940 *East Coker* published.

1941 *The Dry Salvages* published.

1942 *Little Gidding* published.

1947 Vivien Eliot dies.

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

1949 *The Cocktail Party* performed.

1953 *The Confidential Clerk* performed.


1958 *The Elder Statesman* performed.


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