

from John Lehmann VW and her world

"I thought, driving through Richmond last night, something very profound about the synthesis of my being: how only writing composes it: how nothing makes a whole unless I'm writing" (Diary 31 May 1933).

"I used to think of him & mother daily; but writing The Lighthouse laid them in my mind. . . . I believe this to be true--that I was obsessed by them both, unhealthily; & writing of them was a necessary act" (Diary 28 Nov. 1928).

CHRONOLOGY

- 1924 January: Virginia buys lease of 52 Tavistock Square, to which they move in March, with Hogarth Press. July: George Rylands becomes trainee manager at Hogarth Press. November-December: George Rylands leaves Hogarth Press, and is succeeded as trainee manager by Angus Davidson.
- 1925 April: *The Common Reader* published. May: *Mrs Dalloway* published.
- 1927 May: *To the Lighthouse* published. October: Virginia starts to write *Orlando*. December: Angus Davidson leaves Hogarth Press.
- 1928 April-June: Virginia awarded *Femina Vie Heureuse* prize. October: *Orlando* published, and Virginia spends week in France with Vita. Virginia visits Cambridge and reads at Gifford and Newnham Colleges two papers which form basis of *A Room of One's Own*.
- 1929 October: *A Room of One's Own* published.
- 1930 February: Virginia first meets Julia Duckworth--Herbert Duckworth (Julia's age in parens.)
- George 1868 (22)
Stella 1869 (23)
Gerald 1870 (24)
- Julia Duckworth-Stephen-Leslie Stephen
- Vanessa 1879 (33)
Thoby 1880 (34)
Virginia 1882 (36)
Adrian 1883 (37)
- 1907 April: Virginia and Adrian leave Gordon Square and take up residence at 29 Fitzroy Square. They renew 'Thursday Evenings' at new address.
- 1908 February: Julian Bell born to Vanessa and Clive.
- 1909 February: Lytton Strachey proposes marriage to Virginia; is accepted, but engagement cancelled shortly after.
- 1910 10 February: 'The Dreadnought Hoax'. August: Birth of Claudian, later re-named Quentin, Bell. November: Opening of first Post-Impressionist Exhibition, arranged by Roger Fry at Grafton Galleries.
- 1911 July: Leonard Woolf, on leave from Ceylon, dines at 46 Gordon Square and meets Virginia again. August: Virginia stays at The Old Vicarage, Grantchester, with Rupert Brooke. November: Virginia starts living at 38 Brunswick Square, W.C.1, with Adrian, Maynard Keynes, Duncan Grant and (in December) Leonard Woolf. Virginia takes Asheham House, Sussex.
- 1912 May: Leonard resigns from Colonial Service and Virginia agrees to marry him. They are married in August and spend honeymoon on Continent.
- 1913 April: *The Voyage Out* (originally called *Melambrosia*) accepted for publication by Duckworth. In summer Virginia begins to be seriously ill, and in September attempts suicide.
- 1914 February: Virginia apparently cured of mental illness.
- 1915 L. and V. take Hogarth House, Richmond. By end of February Virginia begins to be seriously ill again. March: *The Voyage Out* published. November: Virginia once more on road to recovery.
- 1917 L. and V. order a hand printing machine and start Hogarth Press.
- 1918 May: Publication of Lytton Strachey's *Eminent Victorians*.
- 1919 May: *Night and Day* accepted by Duckworth and published in October. Hogarth Press publishes *Kew Gardens* and T.S. Eliot's *Poems*. July: L. and V. buy Monk's House, Rodmell, having left Asheham.
- 1921 March: *Monday or Tuesday* published.
- 1922 October: *Jacob's Room* published. December: Virginia meets Vita Sackville-West (Mrs Harold Nicolson) at dinner party given by Clive Bell.
- 1923 25 January: Birth of Virginia Stephen, third child of Leslie Stephen and Julia Duckworth (née Jackson) at 22 Hyde Park Gate, Kensington. Sister Vanessa born 1879, brothers Thoby 1880 and Adrian 1883.
- 305 May: Death of Mrs Leslie Stephen. Virginia has first breakdown that summer.
- 307 July: Stella Duckworth, Virginia's half-sister, dies.
- 309 September: Thoby enters Trinity College, Cambridge, at same time as Lytton Strachey, Leonard Woolf, Clive Bell and Saxon Sydney-Turner.
- 304 22 February: Death of (Sir) Leslie Stephen. 10 May: Beginning of Virginia's second serious breakdown. 14 December: Virginia's first publication, unsigned review in the *Guardian*.
- 305 Thoby Stephen starts 'Thursday Evenings' at 46 Gordon Square, to which address all Stephen children have moved.
- 306 September: Stephen children make expedition to Greece. Violet Dickinson with them. 20 November: Thoby dies in London of typhoid fever contracted in Greece. 22 November: Vanessa agrees to marry Clive Bell.
- 1931 January: John Lehmann begins as trainee manager at Hogarth Press. April: L. and V. make tour of France by car, and visit Montaigne's Tower. October: *The Waves* published. Before and after publication Virginia suffers from severe headaches and depression.
- 1932 January: Death of Lytton Strachey. April-May: L. and V. make tour of Greece with Roger and Margery Fry. July: *Letter to a Young Poet* published. September: John Lehmann leaves Hogarth Press. October: *The Common Reader* (Second Series) published.
- 1933 October: *Flush* published.
- 1934 September: Death of Roger Fry.
- 1935 January: Virginia's play *Freshwater* performed by family and friends in Vanessa's studio at 8 Fitzroy Square. All this year and next Virginia writing and re-writing *The Years* under great mental strain.
- 1937 March: *The Years* published. Julian Bell returns from China and joins International Brigade in Spanish Civil War; in July is killed.
- 1938 John Lehmann returns to Hogarth Press, and in March takes over Virginia's half-share in Hogarth Press. June: *Three Guineas* published.
- 1939 August: L. and V. move from 52 Tavistock Square to 37 Mecklenburgh Square, and take Hogarth Press with them.
- 1940 April: Virginia gives lecture (*The Leaning Tower*) to Workers' Educational Association in Brighton. July: Roger Fry, a Biography published. September: 37 Mecklenburgh Square badly damaged by fire bombs. Hogarth Press moved to Garden City Press at Letchworth.
- 1941 February: Virginia finishes *Between the Acts*. March: Virginia's mental health deteriorating again. On 28 March she drowns herself in the River Ouse.
- 1925 - ideas for TTL
1926 - Part I finished April
- Part II finished May
1927 - January - finishing novel
published 5 May 1927 121