

vant thematic material. Together with the paraphrases, it covers the complete *Collected Poems*, and all the poetry in *Opus Posthumous* that is of importance.

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NOTES

¹ See, for example, "The Comedian as the Letter C," V, 15, and my explication of "Esthétique du Mal," II. For an attempt to work out a key to Stevens' use of colors, see George McFadden, "Probing for an Integration: Color Symbolism in Wallace Stevens," *Modern Philology*, LVIII (Feb., 1961), 186-93.

² "Examples of Wallace Stevens," *Form and Value in Modern Poetry* (Garden City, New York, 1957), p. 202.

A Stevens Chronology*

- 1879 Born at 323 North Fifth Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, October 2, to Garrett B. Stevens, lawyer, and the former Margaretha Catherine Zeller. He was the second of three brothers; he had two sisters, one of whom died shortly after the end of World War I, while serving with the Red Cross in France. His father occasionally published poetry and prose in the local papers.
- 1896 In high school he won the *Reading Eagle* Prize for essay, and the Alumni Medal for Oration.
- 1897 Graduated with merit from Reading Boys High School. He had worked for the *Reading Times* in the summers. Enrolled at Harvard as a special student (not a degree candidate).
- 1899 One of Stevens' undergraduate poems at Harvard elicited a sonnet in reply by Santayana ("Cathedrals by the Sea"), who was then teaching there, and whom Stevens knew.
- 1900 Graduated from a special three year course in English at Harvard. President of the *Harvard Advocate* from March, 1900, to the end of the college year. Between 1898 and 1900, many contributions, both prose and verse, to the *Advocate* and to the *Harvard Monthly*. After graduation he worked on the editorial staff of the *New York Tribune*, and on the periodical, *The World's Work*.
- 1901 Entered New York Law School.
- 1904 Admitted to the bar in New York. Began legal practice.
- 1909 Married September 21, 1909, to Elsie Viola Kachel (who
- * Much of the material in this chronology was taken from LWS or, when possible, was checked against that volume.

- used her stepfather's surname, Moll) of Reading. The Stevenses had one daughter, Holly.
- 1913 Bust of Elsie Stevens made by sculptor Adolph A. Weinman, the profile of which was later used on the Mercury Head dime and the Liberty Standing half dollar, issued from 1916 to 1945 and 1947, respectively.
- 1914 At thirty-five, first publication, since his undergraduate work, in *Trend* and Harriet Monroe's *Poetry*.
- 1915 Publication in the Nortons' magazine, *Rogue*, and in Alfred Kreymborg's *Others*, including "Peter Quince at the Clavier." A version of "Sunday Morning" published in *Poetry*, November issue. In New York he was acquainted with such artistic and literary people as Louise and Allan Norton, Donald Evans, Carl Van Vechten, Mina Loy, Walter Conrad Arensberg, William Carlos Williams, Alfred Kreymborg, Witter Bynner, Pitts Sanborn, Carl Zigrosser, Walter Pach, and Marcel Duchamp—he was, according to Williams, "part of the gang."
- 1916 Joined Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company, legal staff; transferred to Hartford, which remained his place of residence throughout his life. The one act play "Three Travelers Watch a Sunrise" appeared in *Poetry*, July, as winner of that magazine's prize for a verse play.
- 1920 "Three Travelers Watch a Sunrise" produced at the Provincetown Playhouse in New York. Won *Poetry's* Levinson prize for the group of poems called "Peck-sniffiana."
- 1922 An early version of "The Comedian as the Letter C" ("From the Journal of Crispin") won first honorable mention for the Blindman Prize of the Poetry Society of South Carolina, judged by Amy Lowell.
- 1923 Publication of *Harmonium* by Alfred A. Knopf. Stevens was forty-four. The edition sold fewer than one hundred copies, but was praised by such reviewers as Marianne Moore and Matthew Josephson.
- 1924-1929 Almost no writing; consolidation in the business world.

- 1930 First periodical publication since 1924.
- 1931 Second edition of *Harmonium*, dropping three poems from the original and adding fourteen.
- 1934 Became vice president of the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company.
- 1935 *Ideas of Order* (Alcestis Press edition). Stanley Burnshaw's review of that volume, attacking Stevens on grounds of social indifference, to which Stevens responded in *Owl's Clover*.
- 1936 *Owl's Clover*. Knopf edition of *Ideas of Order*. "The Men That Are Falling" named the *Nation's* prize poem.
- 1937 *The Man with the Blue Guitar and Other Poems*.
- 1942 *Parts of a World. Notes toward a Supreme Fiction*. "The Noble Rider and the Sound of Words," after having been read by Stevens at Princeton, was published by the Princeton University Press along with addresses given on the same occasion by Philip Wheelwright, Cleanth Brooks, and I. A. Richards.
- 1943 "The Figure of the Youth as Virile Poet" was read by Stevens at Mount Holyoke College.
- 1945 *Esthétique du Mal* published in a limited edition by The Cummings Press (first published in *Kenyon Review*, Autumn, 1944).
- 1946 Member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters.
- 1947 *Transport to Summer*.
- 1950 *The Auroras of Autumn*. Bollingen Prize for 1949. The first book-length study of Stevens: William Van O'Connor's *The Shaping Spirit*.
- 1951 National Book Award. *The Necessary Angel: Essays on Reality and the Imagination*. Gold Medal of the Poetry Society of America. One of Stevens' several honorary degrees awarded by Harvard at the time of the fiftieth reunion of his class.
- 1953 *Selected Poems* published in England with the selection made by Stevens.
- 1954 *Collected Poems*. Declined an offer to be Charles Eliot

Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard for 1955–1956 because he did not want to retire from business.

1955 Pulitzer Prize. Second National Book Award. Died August 2.

1957 *Opus Posthumous*.

1958–1967 Sixteen books published about Stevens, including several collections of critical essays, a bibliography, a concordance to his poetry, and a number of full-length studies.

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