

# Good Books to continue study with

**Helen Gardner, The Art of T.S. Eliot**

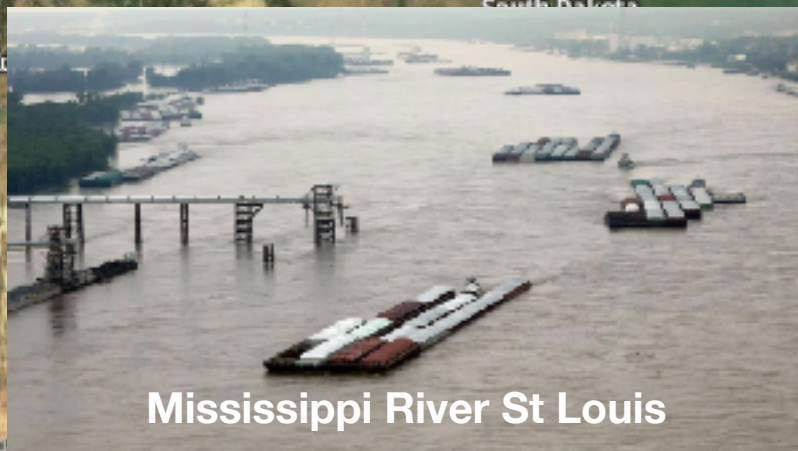
**Allen Tate. T.S. Eliot, The Man and his Work, \_\_\_\_\_**

**Christopher Ricks. T.S. Eliot and Prejudice, \_\_\_\_\_**

**[Michael.Griffith@acu.edu.au](mailto:Michael.Griffith@acu.edu.au)**



# The Dry Salvages



Mississippi River St Louis

St Louis  
Missouri

Dry  
Salvages

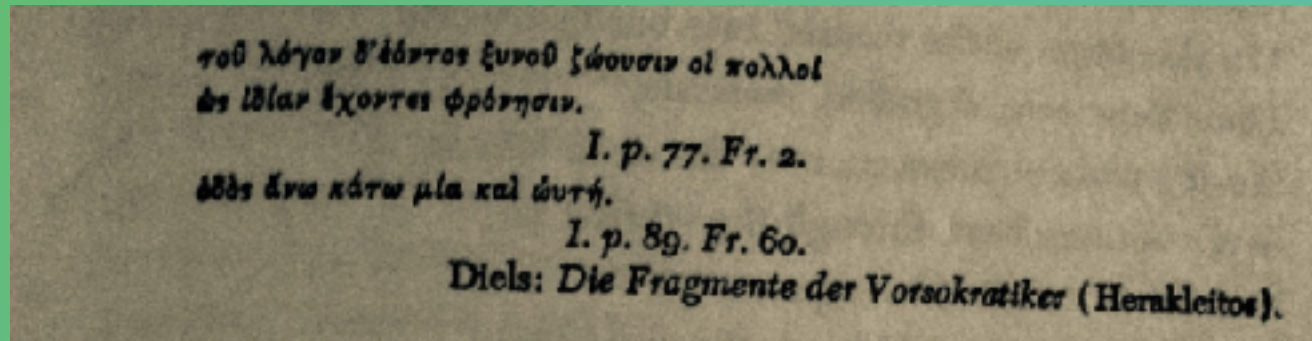


Rockport Massachusetts

I The river is within us, the sea is all about us



# Influences & Epigraphs



- The Dry Salvages is the only quartet that begins with a headnote- advised by his friend John Hayward: “your title is not, like East Coker, a place-name so much as the name of a place....”
- TSE “Long before I was a Christian, I was a student of Indian philosophy, and of the Buddhist scriptures in Pali.... The task remains... to reconcile and incorporate Eastern religious thought into that of Christianity. So far, most students of the East have known little, and cared less about their own western tradition of thought; or else have started from the assumption that the East had nothing to teach us. The result is, that we have largely learned the wrong things.... I do think that my poetry is peculiar in a kind of poetic fusion of Eastern and Western currents of feeling.
- “Although the Word (Logos) is common to all, most men live as though they had each a private wisdom of his own I.p.77.Fr.2.
- “The way up and the way down are one the same” III

| Sequential Pattern |                      |                        |                      |                      |                        |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
|                    | I                    | II                     | III                  | IV                   | V                      |
| BN:<br>(Air)       | Lotos<br>Rose        | Still<br>Point         | Descend<br>Lower     | Kingfisher's<br>Wing | The Co-<br>existence   |
| EC:<br>(Earth)     | Open<br>Field        | Wisdom of<br>Humility  | Be<br>Still          | Wounded<br>Surgeon   | Union and<br>Communion |
| DS:<br>(Water)     | River and<br>Sea     | Sudden<br>Illumination | Fare<br>Forward      | Queen of<br>Heaven   | Impossible<br>Union    |
| LG:<br>(Fire)      | Tongued with<br>Fire | Compound<br>Ghost      | Purify the<br>Motive | Pyre or<br>Pyre      | Dancing<br>Together    |

**4 ways:**

the way of darkness,

the way of stillness,

the way of yogic  
action,

the way of  
purification

While *East Coker* revisits Eliot's ancestral roots in England The *Dry Salvages*, rediscovers Eliot's youthful ventures and awakenings in the New World... these two quartets connect the earth of the Old World with the sea of the New. (Kramer).

In his address to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1959 "The Influence of Landscape upon the Poet" Eliot told his audience *The Dry Salvages* "begins where I began, with the Mississippi; and that it ends where I and my [2nd] wife expect to end, at the parish church of a tiny village in Somerset."



## Contemplative Pattern in *Four Quartets*

### PREPARATORY RECOLLECTIONS

First Movement

Landscape Meditation

Composition of Place

Second Movement

Temporal Illumination

Interior Geography of Soul

### INTERIOR QUIETUDE

Third Movement

Spiritual Direction

*Via Negativa / Positiva*

Fourth Movement

Purification

*Via Purgativa*

### UNITIVE CONTEMPLATION

Fifth Movement

Reconciliation

*Middle Way Immediacy*



## Section 1:

I do not know much about gods; but I think that the river  
Is a strong brown god -

Sister, mother

And spirit of the river, spirit of the sea,

Suffer me not to be separated

*Ash Wednesday VI*

**TSE on Mark Twain: “A river, a very big and powerful rivers, is the only natural force that can wholly determine the course of human peregrination... the river with its strong, swift current is the dictator to the raft or to the steamboat. It is a treacherous and capricious dictator... Twain is a native, and the River God is his God. It is as a native that he accepts the River God, and it is the subjection of Man that gives to Man his dignity. For without some kind of God, Man is not very interesting.**

## Section II:

Where is there an end of it, the soundless wailing,  
The silent withering of autumn flowers

.....the sudden illumination

We had the experience but missed the meaning

TSE to Geoffrey Faber, 1927 “There is another ‘good thing’ of life too which I have only had in flashes. It is the sudden realisation of being separated from all enjoyment, from all things of this earth, even from Hope; a sudden separation and isolation from *everything*; and at that moment of illumination, a recognition of the fact that one can do without all these things, a joyful recognition of what John of the Cross means when he says that the soul cannot be possessed of the divine union until it has divested itself of the craving for all created beings.”

## Section III:

I sometimes wonder if that is what Krishna meant-

“Whosoever at the time of death thinks only of Me, and thinking thus leaves the body and goes forth, assuredly he will know Me. **On whatever sphere of being the mind of a man by be intent at the time of death,** thither he will go. Therefore meditate always on Me, and fight; if thy mind and thy reason be fixed on Me, to Me shalt thou surely come. He whose mind does not wander, and who is engaged in constant meditation, attains the Supreme Spirit.” *The Geeta* tr. Shri Purohit Swami, 1935.

“Arjuna is required to engage in battle against a hostile but related clan; but at the sight of his near relatives in the opposing army he hesitates to begin the fight, and is recalled to a sense of duty by Krishna... The way of salvation, Krishna says, lies in action performed in fulfilment of duty, but action performed in complete freedom from personal desires or interests.” *Preston 4 Quartets Rehearsed*, 1946



## Section IV:

Lady whose shrine stands on the promontory  
Pray for all those who are in ships

“Figlia del tuo figlio” Dante *Paradiso*: *Virgin mother, daughter of they son.*

*Queen of Heaven Paradiso: The Queen of Heaven from whom I am all burning with love*

Angelus- Roman Catholic devotions at morning, noon and sunset.

Whitman: “the tolling tolling bells’ perpetual clang”



## Section V:

To communicate with Mars, converse with spirits,  
To report the behaviour of the sea monster...

The point of the intersection of the timeless/ With time

Karl Barth “In this name two worlds meet and go apart, two planes intersect... The point of the line of intersection at which the relation becomes observable and observed is Jesus”.

TSE “In every moment of time you live where two worlds cross, / In every moment you live at a point of intersection ....transecting, bisecting the world of time (*The Rock*); “language... the intersection of the timeless moment” (*Little Gidding* I)

**But to apprehend**

**The point of the timeless**

**With time, is an occupation for the saint**





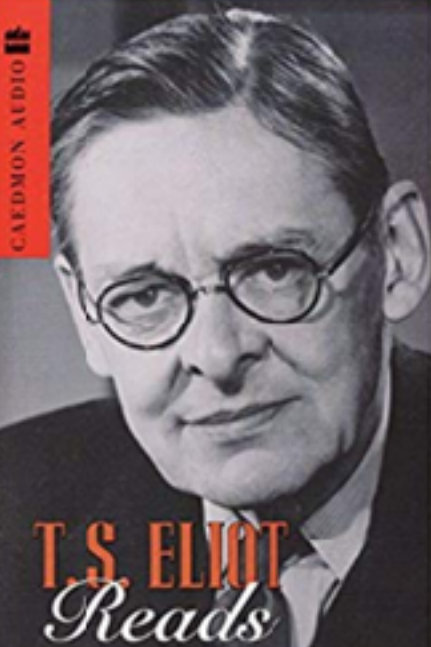
# T.S. Eliot

## 1888-1965

| Four Quartets            |       |               |
|--------------------------|-------|---------------|
| <i>East Coker</i> (1940) | Earth | The Old World |



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ga8tQrG4ZSw>



# T.S. Eliot



## Four Quartets: IV Little Gidding (15th Oct. 1942):

**“the end is where we start from” V**

**The power of the poetry is such that we cannot rest until we have both “experience” and “meaning”. And it is the arriving at the meaning, not the explaining of it, that matters. Anyone who attempts to ‘elucidate’ *Four Quartets* must be aware that the poems themselves supply the light.**

**“Words, after speech, reach into the silence” *Burnt Norton***

- Raymond Preston, *‘Four Quartets’ Rehearsed: A Commentary on T.S. Eliot’s Cycle of Poems* (1946).  
Quoted in *Reading T.S. Eliot*, G. Douglas Atkins, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012
- Christopher Ricks & Jim McCue (eds), *The Annotated Text, The Poems of T.S. Eliot* (2 Vols), Faber & Faber, London, 2015
- Kenneth Paul Kramer, *Redeeming Time: T.S. Eliot’s Four Quartets*, Cowley, Plymouth, 2007
- Herman Servotte and Ethel Grene, *Annotations to T.S. Eliot’s Four Quartets*, iUniverse, Bloomington, 2010
- A.L. Maycock, *Nicholas Ferrar of Little Gidding*, Erdmans, Grand Rapids, 1938
- The Friends of Little Gidding, *Little Gidding an Illustrated History and Guide*, Strathmore, London, 2006







THIS IS NONE  
HOUSE OF GOD & THE

OTHER BUT THE  
GATE OF HEAVEN













What we call the beginning is often the end  
 And to make an end is to make a beginning.  
 The end is where we start from. And every phrase *large*  
 And sentence that is right (where every word is at home,  
 Taking its place to support the others,  
 The word neither diffident nor ostentatious,  
 In easy commerce of the old and the new,  
 The common word exact without vulgarity,  
 The formal word precise but not pedantic,  
 The complete consort dancing together)  
 Every phrase and every sentence is an end and a beginning,  
 Every poem an epitaph. And any action  
 Step to the block, to the fire, down the sea's throat  
 To an illegible stone: and that is where we start.  
 Lie with the dying:  
 They depart, and we go with them.  
 We are born with the dead:  
 They return, and bring us with them.  
 The moment of the rose and the moment of the yew-tree  
 Of equal duration. A people without history  
 Redeemed from time, for history is a pattern  
 Of less moments. So, while the light fails  
 Winter's afternoon, in a secluded chapel  
 Of this now and England.

With the drawing of this  
 Calling

We shall not cease from  
 And the end of all our exp  
 Will be to arrive where v  
 And know the place for t  
 Through the unknown,  
 When the last of earth l  
 Is that which was the b  
 At the source of the lo  
 The voice of the hidd  
 And the children in t  
 Not known, because  
 But heard, half-hear  
 Between two wave  
 Quick now, here,  
 A condition of cor  
 (Costing not less  
 And all shall be v  
 All manner of th  
 When the tong  
 Into the crown  
 And the fire ar