

A Chronology of Wyndham Lewis

- 1882 Percy Wyndham Lewis born, Amherst Nova Scotia
- 1888-93 Isle of Wight
- 1897-8 Rugby School
- 1898-1901 Slade School of Art (expelled)
- 1902 Visits Madrid with Spencer Gore, copying Goya in the Prado
- 1904-6 Living in Montparnasse, Paris. Meets Ida Vendel ('Bertha' in *Tarr*)
- 1906 Munich (February – July).
- 1906-7 Paris
- 1907 Ends relationship with Ida
- 1908 – 11 Writes first draught of *Tarr*, a satirical depiction of Bohemian life in Paris
- 1908 London
- 1909 First published writing, 'The "Pole"', *English Review*
- 1911 Member of Camden Town Group. 'Cubist' self-portrait drawings
- 1912 Decorates 'Cave of the Golden Calf' nightclub
Exhibits 'cubist' paintings and illustrations to *Timon of Athens* at 'Second Post-Impressionist Exhibition'
- 1913 Joins Fry's Omega Workshops; walks out of Omega in October with Frederick Etchells, Edward Wadsworth and Cuthbert Hamilton after quarrel with Fry. Portfolio, *Timon of Athens* published. Begins close artistic association with Ezra Pound
- 1914 Director, 'Rebel Art Centre', Great Ormond Street (March – July)
- Dissociates self from Futurism and disrupts lecture by Marinetti at Doré Gallery (June)
- Vorticism launched in *Blast* (July; edited by Lewis)
- Introduced to T. S. Eliot by Pound
- 1915 Venereal infection; *Blast* no. 2 (June); completes *Tarr*

- 1916-18 War service in Artillery, including Third Battle of Ypres and as Official War Artist for Canada and Great Britain
- 1918-21 With Iris Barry, with whom he has two children
- 1918 *Tarr* published. It is praised in reviews by Pound, Eliot and Rebecca West
Meets future wife, Gladys Hoskins
- 1919 Paints *A Battery Shelled*. 'Guns' exhibition of war paintings and drawings. December: portfolio, *Fifteen Drawings* published
Writes *The Caliph's Design: Architects! Where is your Vortex?*, a pamphlet urging the continuance of modernism in art and its spread to architecture and town-planning.
- 1920 Forms 'X Group' of artists in attempt to restore the avant-garde momentum of Vorticism in opposition to Bloomsbury conservatism.
Holiday in France with T. S. Eliot; meets James Joyce
- 1921 Meets Sidney Schiff. Edits *The Tyro*, no. 1, a 'review of art and literature'; 'Tyros and Portraits' exhibition at Leicester Galleries
Drinking sessions with Joyce in Paris (May – June)
- 1922 *The Tyro*, no. 2, containing major aesthetic statement, 'Essay on the Objective of Plastic Art in our Time'.
Commissioned to paint portrait of Edwin Evans
Affair with Nancy Cunard; visits Venice with her and the Sitwells
Starts work on portrait of Violet Schiff
- 1923-6 Writing major works of the 1920s, and producing fewer paintings
- 1923-1924 (December – May) Monthly fund from Edward and Fanny Wadsworth, O. R. Drey and Richard Wyndham – all later satirised in *The Apes of God*.
- 1925 (February) Submits '500,000 word book', 'The Man of the World' submitted unsuccessfully to publishers. This was split up, revised and extended into separate books.
- 1926 *The Art of Being Ruled*, a work of political theory and analysis, attempting to distinguish sources of revolutionary change in society. Visits Joyce in eye clinic.

- 1927 Launches new magazine which he largely writes: *The Enemy*. no. 1, containing critiques of literary avant-garde (including Pound and Joyce) for the political and philosophical naivety of their work
- Time and Western Man* (which reprints essays from *Enemy* and extends critique to cover contemporary metaphysical theory).
- Enemy* no. 2 (on the cult of the 'primitive' in D. H. Lawrence and Sherwood Anderson); *The Lion and the Fox* (a study of Shakespeare); *The Wild Body* (revisions of early short stories set in Brittany and Spain)
- 1928 *The Childermass: Section 1*, a fantasy of posthumous existence 'outside Heaven'. Revised version of *Tarr*
- 1929 *Paleface: The Philosophy of the Melting Pot* (reprints and extends essays in *Enemy*, no. 2); *The Enemy*, no. 3 (critique of Paris avant-garde)
- Meets W. H. Auden and Stephen Spender
- 1930 *The Apes of God* published in a limited, signed edition: a satirical novel depicting the London art-world of the 1920s; visits Berlin; meets Naomi Mitchison. Marries Gladys Hoskins
- 1931 Compiles *Hitler* from articles written for *Time and Tide* derived from visit to Berlin; argues that Hitler is a 'man of peace'
- May-July, visits Morocco
- 1932 *Thirty Personalities and a Self Portrait* (portfolio) and 'Thirty Personalities' exhibition, Lefevre Gallery.
- Snooty Baronet*, a comic novel satirising behaviourism (banned by Smiths and Boots lending libraries)
- Filibusters in Barbary* (travel book based on Moroccan experiences) and *Doom of Youth* (a study of 'youth-politics'); both suppressed after libel actions
- 1933 Resumes painting in oils after 10 years
- One-Way Song*, a book of poems
- 1934 Bladder operation. *Men without Art* published, with critiques of T. S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf, William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway
- Begins composing *The Revenge for Love*

- 1935 Collaborates with Naomi Mitchison on illustrated fantasy, *Beyond this Limit*
- 1936 Second and third operations
- Left Wings over Europe*, an anti-war book
- Paints *The Surrender of Barcelona* (Tate Gallery)
- 1937 *The Revenge for Love* (a tragic novel concerning deluded political commitments of the fashionable left-wing in the run-up to the Spanish Civil War)
- Count Your Dead: They are Alive!* (anti-war book concerning Spanish Civil War: sympathetic to fascist side)
- Blasting and Bombardiering* (an autobiography)
- Exhibition of portraits, drawings and paintings on metaphysical, historical and other themes at Leicester Galleries; visits Berlin and Warsaw
- Declares he has been ‘much deceived in politicians’ in the special ‘Wyndham Lewis’ issue of *Twentieth Century Verse* (edited by Julian Symons)
- 1938 Painting of T.S. Eliot rejected by R.A.
- Donates a painting for auction in aid of republican Spain
- (June – July) Exhibition, Beaux Arts Gallery
- The Mysterious Mr Bull* (a study of British character, praised by George Orwell: ‘I do not think it is unfair to say that Mr. Wyndham Lewis has “gone left.” ’)
- (December) Ezra Pound visits London; begins portrait of him
- 1939 (March) Attacks Anti-Semitism in *The Jews: Are they Human?*
- Collects writings on art in *Wyndham Lewis the Artist*, including a new essay advocating a return to nature (though not to naturalism)
- (September) Lewis and Froanna leave for North America
- (October – November) Buffalo, New York. Paints Chancellor Samuel Capen
- The Hitler Cult: and How it will End*

- 1939-40 Dec. – May: New York City
- 1940 June-Oct: Sag Harbor, finishing *The Vulgar Streak*
- 1940-43 Toronto, Tudor Hotel, Sherbourne St
- 1941-42 Series of fantastic watercolours on themes of creation, crucifixion, gestation and bathing scenes
- 1941 *Anglosaxony: A League that Works* published by Lorne Pierce at the Ryerson Press
- Entire stock of an illustrated essay, *The Role of Line in Art*, published by Lewis's patron, Lord Carlow destroyed in an air raid on London
- The Vulgar Streak*, a novel set at the time of Munich and criticising English class prejudice published in London
- Notices severe deterioration in eyesight
- 1943-44 Lecture series, Assumption College, Windsor Ontario: 'The Philosophical Roots of Modern Art', the Heywood Broun lectures: 'The Concept of Liberty in America'
- 1943 Meets Marshall McLuhan
- 1944 February – July, St Louis. Paints Nobel Prize winner Dr Joseph Erlanger and Mrs Ernest Stix
- 1945 August, Lewis and Froanna return to UK, with financial assistance from Malcolm MacDonald
- 1945-1957 Lives in Notting Hill
- 1948 *America and Cosmic Man*, a study of American history and society
- 1949 – 1951 Art Critic for *The Listener*: praises work of Michael Ayrton, Francis Bacon, Robert Colquhoun and other young British painters.
- 1949 March – April, works on Portrait of T. S. Eliot
- May, Retrospective exhibition, Redfern Gallery
- 1950 *Rude Assignment*, an autobiography
- 1951 Announces blindness in final *Listener* article as art critic
- Rotting Hill*: short stories on life in England during the period of 'austerity' presided over by Sir Stafford Cripps

- 1952 *The Writer and the Absolute*: essays on Sartre, Malraux, Camus and Orwell
- 1954 *Self Condemned*, a novel based on the Lewises' Canadian 'exile' in Toronto in 1942-3
- 1955 BBC broadcast dramatised sequels to *The Childermass*; published as *The Human Age, Books 2 and 3: Monstre Gai and Malign Fiesta*
- 1956 *The Red Priest*, a novel about a boxing high churchman who kills his curate.
- 'Wyndham Lewis and Vorticism', retrospective exhibition at Tate Gallery
- 1957 March 7: dies in Westminster Hospital

For a fuller chronology, see Jeffrey Meyers, *The Enemy: A Biography of Wyndham Lewis* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1980), pp. 330–42 (to which the above chronology is indebted). Also useful is Paul O'Keeffe, *Some Sort of Genius: A Life of Wyndham Lewis* (London: Jonathan Cape, 2000), to which the above chronology is also indebted.