

Macavity: The Mystery Cat

classmate

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- Thomas Stearns Eliot.

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Class - Intermediate
Sub - English (100)
Lecture - I

Thomas Stearns Eliot.

Biography :-

Thomas Stearns Eliot is considered as one of the most important modernist poets. The content of his poetry as well as his poetic style give elements of the modern movement that was famous during time. He was born in 1888 in UK. His father's name is Henry Wau Eliot and mother's name is Charlotte Champe Stearns. He got educated from Harvard University and Merton College Oxford. He belongs to a Boston Brahmin family.

He began to write poetry when he was fourteen under the influence of Edward Fitzgerald's Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, a translation of the poetry of Omar Khayyam. His first published poem 'A Fable for Feasterne' was written as a school exercise and was published in the Smith Academy Record in

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1905. He also published three, short stories in 1905, 'Birds of Prey', 'A Tale of a Whale', and 'The Man who was King'. In 1905 he went to Milton Academy in Massachusetts where he met Scofield Thayer who later published 'The Waste Land'. He went to England on fellowship from Merton College, Oxford in 1914. On 22 Sep. 1914 he met Ezra Pound. On 26th June, 1915 he got married Vivien Haig Wood, a Cambridge Governess. The marriage was unhappy because of Vivien's health issue. Eliot himself says, "To her marriage brought no happiness to me, it brought the state of mind out of which came The Waste Land. Their relationship became the subject of a 1984 play 'Tom & Viv'. He specially identified as Anglo Catholic, proclaiming himself "Classicist in literature.

In 1948 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his outstanding, pioneer contribution to present day poetry. The same year he got order of Merit. On 10 Jan. 1957, at the age of 68, Eliot married Esme Valerie Fletcher, who was 30 and his secretary of Faber and Faber since August 1949. In 1964, he was awarded the US Medal of Freedom. He died of emphysema at his home in Kensington in London, on 4th January, 1965 and was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium.