

331 BCE

April: Alexander, son of Philip of Macedonia, founds the city of Alexandria on the southern shore of the Mediterranean Sea

1851

Samuel Durrell (LD's paternal grandfather) is born in Suffolk, England.

1863

April 29: Constantine P. Cavafy is born in Alexandria, Egypt.

1869

At the age of 18, Samuel Durrell enlists in the British Army.

1874

Having transferred to the Royal Artillery two years previously, Samuel Durrell marries Emma Cooper in Portsmouth, an event shortly followed by the birth of two daughters.

1876

Sergeant Samuel Durrell is posted to India and travels with his family by ship via the Suez Canal, a three week voyage in the equivalent of steerage aboard the troopship *Malabar*. By the end of the year both daughters die.

1879

January 1: Edward Morgan Forster is born in London.

1881

Having given birth to two more children, only one of which, a daughter, survives infancy, Emma Cooper Durrell dies in Allahabad.

1882

January 25: Virginia Woolf (née Stephens) is born in London.
February 2: James Joyce is born in Rathgar, Dublin.

1883

His first wife Emma having died two years previously, Samuel Durrell marries Dora Maria Johnstone at Lucknow.

1884

Lawrence Samuel Durrell is born in Calcutta to Samuel and Dora.

1885

September 11: David Herbert Lawrence is born at Eastwood, Nottinghamshire.

1887

Jack Kahane is born in Manchester, England.

1888

September 26: Thomas Stearns Eliot is born in St. Louis, Missouri.

1891

December 26: Henry Valentine Miller is born in Brooklyn, New York.

1892

July 8: Richard Aldington is born in Portsea, Hampshire.

1896

Alfred Perlès is born in Vienna to a Jewish businessman father and a French Roman Catholic mother.

January 21: Theodore Stephanides is born in Bombay, India, of a Greek father from Thessaly and an English mother.

1897

September 25: William Faulkner is born in New Albany, Mississippi.

1898

Theodore Stephanides and his family move to Corfu, upon his father's retirement, where the young man learns Greek.

1899

George Katsimbalis is born in Athens, Greece.

July 21: Ernest Hemingway is born in Oak Park, Illinois.

1900

March 13: Giorgios Seferiadis (George Seferis) is born in Vourla, now Urla, near present-day Izmir in Asia Minor, Ottoman Empire, today Turkey.

1903

February 21: Anaïs Nin is born in the Paris suburb of Neuilly.

June 23: Eric Arthur Blair (eventually known as George Orwell) is born in Motihari, Bihar, British India.

1910

Lawrence Samuel Durrell marries Louisa Dixie.

1912

Thomas Mann's *Tod in Venedig* is published in Berlin and Paul Claudel's *L'Annonce fait à Marie* is published in Paris.

February 27: Lawrence George Durrell born in Jullundur, India, to Lawrence Samuel and Louisa Durrell (née Dixie).

May 8: Nancy Isobel Myers born in Eastbourne, England.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Gerhard Hauptmann (Germany) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

1913

D. H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers* is published in London and Marcel Proust publishes the first volume of *À la recherche du temps perdu* in Paris.

February 27: LD is one year old.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Rabindranath Tagore (India) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

1914

Now retired Major Samuel Durrell, LD's grandfather, dies in Portsmouth having spent his entire adult life serving in India and China.

February 27: LD is two years old.

- June 28: The Serbian terrorist (or martyred patriot, depending on one's Weltanschauung), Gavrilo Princip, assassinates the Austrian Archduke, Franz Ferdinand, and his wife, Sophie, in Sarajevo.
- July 23: Austria presents an ultimatum to Serbia, noting that if its demands were not met in two days, it would declare war.
- July 29: The Russian Tzar mobilizes troops on the Austrian border.
- July 31: The Russians extend the mobilization to their border with Germany.
- August 1: Germany mobilizes for war against Russia.
- August 2: France mobilizes its armed forces against Germany.
- August 3: Germany declares war on France.
- August 4: Great Britain declares war on Germany, which had refused to respect Belgian neutrality guaranteed by Great Britain, and the slaughter begins.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy does not award a Nobel Prize for Literature.

1915

- Poetry* magazine in Chicago edited by Harriet Munroe publishes T. S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" and changes the way 20th century poetry is conceptualized and written.
- February 27: LD is three years old.
- September: D. H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow* is published in London and subsequently banned by the censors.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Romaine Rolland (France) the Nobel Prize for Literature. – English authorities suppress *The Rainbow*.
- November 12: Margery Durrell is born in India to Lawrence Samuel and Louise Durrell.

1916

Margery Durrell dies in India, probably of diphtheria, exact date uncertain.

February 27: LD is four years old.

February 28: Having lived in England for decades and after becoming a British citizen to show his solidarity with England at war, the old American prose master Henry James dies in London at the age of 73.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Carl Gustaf von Heidenstam (Sweden) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

November 22: The American writer Jack London dies at the age of 40 of uremic poisoning and a deliberate overdose of morphine at his ranch in Glen Ellen, California.

1917

The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock by T. S. Eliot is published in London by The Egoist Press. Carl Jung's *The Unconscious* is published. Leonard and Virginia Woolf establish the Hogarth Press in London.

February 27: LD is five years old.

March 10: Leslie Durrell is born India.

Early October: The Swedish Academy jointly awards Karl Adolph Gjellerup (Denmark) and Henrik Pontoppidan (Denmark) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October: The Bolsheviks take power in St. Petersburg in a violent coup d'état.

1918

The first volume of Oswald Spengler's *Der Untergang des Abendlandes* (The Decline of the West) is published.

February 27: LD is six years old.

August 8: Yvette Cohen is born in Cairo, Egypt.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Erik Karfelt (Sweden) the Nobel Prize for Literature, which, as a true gentleman and a scholar, he refuses because his work is unknown outside Sweden.

November 9: The republic is proclaimed in Berlin, the Kaiser abdicates and goes into exile in the Netherlands.

November 11: An armistice is signed by the Allies and Germany, temporarily ending the slaughter.

1919

A peace treaty is “negotiated” in Versailles between the Allies and Germany.

February 27: LD is seven years old.

April 12: Maurice Kahane, son of the English publisher Jack Kahane, is born in Paris; during the German occupation of France 1940-44 he takes his mother’s maiden name, Girodias, to conceal his Jewish heritage.

July 30: Margaret “Margo” Durrell is born in India.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Carl Friedrich Spitteler (Switzerland) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 13: Karl Adolph Gjellerup, Nobel 1917, dies at 60.

1920

Yvette Cohen and her family move from Cairo to Alexandria.

February 27: On his eighth birthday LD receives the complete works of Charles Dickens as a present from his parents.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Knut Hamsun (Norway) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

1921

February 27: LD is nine years old.

February 28: LD begins at St. Joseph’s College at North Point, Darjeeling.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Anatole France (France) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

1922

Rainer Maria Rilke’s *Die Duineser Elegien* (*The Duino Elegies*), e.e. cummings’ *The Enormous Room*, and Virginia Woolf’s *Jacob’s Room* are published. The first issue of *The*

Criterion appears. Eliot's *The Waste Land* and E.M. Forster's *Alexandria: A History and a Guide* are published in London.

February 2: James Joyce's *Ulysses* is published in Paris by Sylvia Beach at her Shakespeare and Company bookshop on the rue de l'Odéon in the VIth arrondissement.

February 27: LD is ten years old.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Jacinto Benavente (Spain) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

November 18: Marcel Proust dies in Paris at the age of 51.

December: LD finishes at St. Joseph's College.

1923

Sigmund Freud publishes *Das Ich und das Es* (The Ego and the Id) and Georg Grodeck publishes *Das Buch vom Es* (mistitled in English as *The Book of the It*), the latter of which eventually exerts a strong influence on LD.

February 27: LD is 11 years old.

March 18: LD unwillingly departs India for school in England accompanied by Lawrence Samuel, Louisa, Leslie and Margo, sailing from Calcutta on the *City of London*.

April 27: The family disembarks at Tilbury, finds lodgings first briefly in a London hotel, then in a rented house in Dulwich, a south London suburb.

September: After enrolling LD in a school in Tunbridge Wells and Leslie at another school, the family returns to India, leaving the two boys with "very unsympathetic aunts."¹

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards W. B. Yeats (Ireland) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

1924

¹ There is some confusion about the comings and goings of Durrell family members during the years 1923-1924. GB, 20-21, has Lawrence Samuel remaining in India in 1923, his mother leaving India for England to join Louisa and the children, and Louisa and Margo departing for India "early in 1924" leaving Leslie and LD in charge of their grandmother being schooled partly at home (they were living with the widow of a former colleague of Lawrence Samuel) and "possibly a local day school." This Chronology follows IMN and information from Penelope Durrell Hope in this instance.

Thomas Mann's *Der Zauberberg* is published in Berlin.

Janina Martha Lepska, Henry Miller's third wife, is born in Poland. Eve McClure, Miller's fourth wife, is born in the USA. Carl Spittler, Nobel 1919, dies at 79.

At some point during the year Louisa returns to England on a visit and is shocked at the state of Leslie's health, whereafter she takes him back to India.

February 27: LD is 12 years old.

September: LD lives in Dulwich and is enrolled at St. Olave's and St. Xavier's Grammar School in Bermondsey across from the Tower of London on the south bank of the Thames.²

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Władysław Stanisław Reymont (Poland) is the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 12: Anatole France, Nobel 1921, dies at the age of 80.

Christmas: LD receives a typewriter and the complete Shakespeare, but not the elephant he had requested.

1925

Alban Berg's *Wozzek* is first performed. Eliot's *Poems 1909-1925* and Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* are published in London. John Dos Passos' *Manhattan Transfer*, Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and William Carlos Williams' *In the American Grain* are published in the USA.

As a result of a coup d'état in Athens, Theodore Panglos becomes premiere of Greece; Cyprus becomes a British Crown Colony.

January 7: Gerald Durrell is born in Jamshedpur, Bihar Province India.³

February 27: LD is 13 years old.

² GB, *ibid.*, has Leslie attending the Caldicott school in Hitchen where Malcolm Lowry had been the previous year, and the grandmother returning to India in October.

³ GB, 24, notes that LD did not see his new brother "for more than a year after he was born," a statement that does not square with the fact that the Durrells, including GD, were in England three months after GD's birth.

March 28: Louisa, Leslie, Margaret and GD with his nurse sail from Bombay for England.

Ca. April 20: The Durrells arrive in England.

April 22: Claude-Marie Vincendon is born in Alexandria, Egypt, to Claire de Menasce, of the well-known wealthy and cultivated Jewish aristocracy, and Jacques Vincendon, the Christian secretary-general of the Land Bank of Egypt.

Summer: Lawrence Samuel travels to England to holiday with his family.

September: Leslie is enrolled at a Dulwich school, but does not do well. The family returns to India.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards George Bernard Shaw (Ireland) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

December 5: Władysław Stanisław Reymont, Nobel 1924 dies at the age of 58.

1926

André Gide publishes *Les Faux-Monnayeurs* (*The Counterfeiters*) in Paris.

February 26: Faulkner's *Soldier's Pay* is published in New York City.

February 27: LD is 14 years old.

March 11: Louisa with GD, Margo and mother-in-law sail for England.

June: LD leaves St. Xavier's Grammar School.

Summer: Lawrence Samuel travels to England; thinking of settling permanently there he buys a large, eight-bedroom house in Dulwich.

September: LD is enrolled at St. Edmund's school in Canterbury. The family returns to India taking Leslie with them.⁴

Autumn: Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Sun Also Rises* (known as *Fiesta* in England) is published in New York City.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Grazia Deledda (Italy) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

⁴ GB, 31, has Leslie remaining in England.

October 22: In New York, Scribner's and Sons publishes Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*.

December 3: To his later chagrin, LD is confirmed in the Church of England at school.

1927

Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* is published in London.

February 27: LD is 15 years old.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Henri Bergson (France) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

December: LD leaves St. Edmund's School at the end of the autumn term.

1928

Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's *Die Dreigroschenoper* (The Threepenny Opera) is performed in Berlin. Seán O'Casey's *The Silver Tassie* and Yeats' *The Tower* are published in London. D. H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* is published privately in Italy.

January: LD's father sends him to a military crammer in West Wratting Park in Cambridgeshire to prepare for university entrance exams, which he fails every time.

February 27: LD is 16 years old.

April 16: Lawrence Samuel Durrell dies of a brain haemorrhage in Dalhousie at age 43 and is buried in the English cemetery there; shortly thereafter Louisa, Leslie, Margo and GD move to England into the Dulwich house, joining LD in permanent exile from their home in India.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Sigrid Undset (Norway) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

1929

Erich Maria Remarque's anti-war novel, *Im Westen nichts Neues* (*All Quiet on the Western Front*), is published in Berlin. The poet Vladimir Mayakovsky commits suicide in Moscow after being labeled a Trotskyite.

LD discovers the pleasures of the Continent, especially Paris and its sexual delights.

Jacquiline (Jacquie) Sonia Wolfenden is born in England.

January 31: In New York, Harcourt Brace & Company publishes William Faulkner's *Sartoris*.

February 27: LD is 17 years old.

Autumn: Scribner's and Sons publishes Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* and Thomas Wolfe's *Look Homeward, Angel*.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Thomas Mann (Germany) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 1: In London, Chatto and Windus publishes Richard Aldington's novel about the war, *Death of a Hero*, after the American publication a month earlier.

October 7: In New York, Cape and Smith publishes William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*.

End of year: Louisa sells the house in Dulwich at a loss and moves to rooms in the annex of the Queen's Hotel in Upper Norwood; she can no longer afford to keep LD at the crammer and he happily leaves to spend more time in London than at home (he has a limited income from his father's estate).

1930

Sigmund Freud's *Das Unbehagen in der Kultur* (*Civilisation and Its Discontents*), José Ortega y Gasset's *The Revolt of the Masses*, Hart Crane's long poem *The Bridge*, Hermann Hesse's *Narcissus and Goldmund*, John Dos Passos' *The 42nd Parallel*, and Evelyn Waugh's *Vile Bodies* are published. Noël Coward's *Private Lives* has its premiere. The British government appoints John Masefield Poet Laureate.

Spending much time in Bohemian London LD plays piano in nightclubs, writes songs for the British Tin Pan Alley, picks up a fairly mild case of anti-Semitism from association with the music business and his failure to conquer it.

January 23: The poet Derek Walcott is born on the island of Santa Lucia in the Caribbean basin.

February 14: In New York, Alfred A. Knopf publishes Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*.

February 27: LD is 18 years old.

March 2: D. H. Lawrence dies in Vence, France, at the age of 45.

July 7: Arthur Conan Doyle dies at the age of 71.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Sinclair Lewis (USA) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 6: In New York, Cape and Smith publishes Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*.

1931

Eugene O'Neill's *Mourning Becomes Electra*, Samuel Beckett's *Proust*, Anthony Powell's *Afternoon Men*, Dashiell Hammett's *The Glass Key*, Erich Maria Remarque's *The Road Back*, George S. Schuyler's *Black No More* and Virginia Woolf's *The Waves* are published. Robert Frost's *Collected Poems* wins the Pulitzer Prize. Erik Axel Karlfeldt dies at the age of 67.

The Durrell family moves to Parkstone near Bournemouth into a large detached house at 6 Spur Hill; Mrs. Durrell names it Dixie Lodge after her family. Shortly thereafter LD moves to London, where he publishes his first book of poems, *Quaint Fragment: Poems Written between the Ages of Sixteen and Nineteen* (Cecil Press) in a very limited edition.

February 9: In New York, Capoe and Smith publishes a heavily revised version of William Faulkner's lurid but fascinating *Sanctuary*.

February 27: LD is 19 years old.

March 27: Arnold Bennett dies at the age of 64.

April: In London Chatto and Windus publishes Richard Aldington's *The Colonel's Daughter: A Novel*.

Early October: The Swedish Academy posthumously awards Erik Axel Karlfeldt (Sweden) the Nobel Prize for Literature after he refused it in 1918 whilst alive.

1932

Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, Evelyn Waugh's *Black Mischief*, W.H. Auden's *The Orators*, John Dos Passos' *1919*, Isaac Bashevis Singer's *Satan in Goray*, Erskine Caldwell's *Tobacco Road* and Graham Greene's *Stamboul Train* are published. In London, the anthology *New Signatures* publishes W. H. Auden, Stephen Spender and Cecil Day Lewis. Noël Coward's *Design for Living*, Elias Canetti's *Die Hochzeit* and Marcel Pagnol's *Fanny* are given their premiere performances.

Early in the year LD meets Nancy Myers in one of the Soho public houses; shortly thereafter they meet John Gawsorth (Terence Ian Fytton Armstrong) in the Windmill Café and George Wilkinson.

January 21: Lytton Strachey dies at the age of 52.

February 27: LD is 20 years old.

April 26: At the age of 33, the distraught American poet Hart Crane drowns after jumping off a ship in the Caribbean Sea.

Summer: Nancy Myers leaves the Slade and moves in with LD at his Guilford Street bedsitter.

July 6: Kenneth Grahame, author of *Wind in the Willows*, dies at the age of 73.

Autumn: *Ten Poems* published in London by Caduceus Press in a limited edition with cover designed by Nancy. LD and Nancy visit the Dixie Lodge in Bournemouth for the first time.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards John Galsworthy (England) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 6: In New York, Smith and Haas publishes Faulkner's *Light in August*.

December: Henry Miller travels by boat from Dieppe to Newhaven, England, where the immigration authorities refuse him entry and send him back to France ostensibly because he has very little money, no bank account in Paris and no visible means of support.⁵

End December: LD obtains reader's ticket to British Museum North Library; he and Nancy send a Christmas card

⁵ For a rather fictionalized but funny account of this event, see Miller's story "Via Dieppe-Newhaven" in his *Nights of Love and Laughter* (New York: Signet Books, 1955).

designed by Nancy with satirical poem by LD (“Ballade of Slow Decay”) to friends.

1933

Gertrude Stein’s *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, Claude McKay’s *Banana Bottom*, André Malraux’s *Man’s Fate*, Guy Endore’s *Werewolf of Paris*, Erskine Caldwell’s *God’s Little Acre*, Dashiell Hammett’s *The Thin Man*, Nathanael West’s *Miss Lonelyhearts* and Zona Gale’s *Papa le Fleur* are published.

LD takes Nancy to Paris for visit where they stay at the Hotel Royal, room 13, on Boulevard Raspail around the corner from the Café du Dôme, where LD often stays in the same room from then on when in Paris. They also meet Alan Thomas working in a Bournemouth bookstore. Caduceus Press in London publishes the six-page pamphlet satirizing George Bernard Shaw’s *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Her Search for God* entitled *Bromo Bombastes: A Fragment from a Laconic Drama* by one Gaffer Peeslake (an LD pseudonym).

Early in the year LD’s friend and first publisher Cecil Jeffries opens a night club called the Blue Peter in Soho basement; he hires LD to play the piano and sing; a few weeks later it closes when Jeffries runs out of money and the police raid the place.

January 30: The senile old Field-Marshal Paul von Hindenburg, president of Germany, appoints Adolf Hitler as chancellor to form a new government.

January 31: John Galsworthy, Nobel 1932, dies at the age of 66.

February 9: The *Times Literary Supplement* (TLS) prints a short review of *Ten Poems*.

February 27: LD is 21 years old. He pressures his mother into giving him his share of the family estate in cash. – In Berlin fire destroys the Reichstag (the German parliament building) giving the new regime an excuse for arresting thousands of opponents and banning the Communist and Social Democratic Parties.

- March 2: Richard Aldington's *All Men Are Enemies: A Novel* appears in London and New York.
- April 29: C. P. Cavafy dies in the Greek hospital in Alexandria, Egypt, at the age of 70 and is buried in the cemetery there.
- Spring: Knowing nothing about the profession of photography, Nancy and LD set up a photography studio called Witch Photos in Millman Street between Southampton Row and Gray's Inn Road financed by a check for 300 pounds sterling from her father (actually her own money from an inheritance, knowledge of which her parents kept from her), not the last time by any means that Nancy will finance life with LD. Witch Photos does not last long as a business.
- May 10: In Berlin and elsewhere in Germany, Nazi students organized by the government burn books of Jews, anti-nazis and others the regime fears.
- End May: Now in possession of her inheritance and freed from the confines of the failed photography business, Nancy and LD move to the Sussex village of Loxwood in a cottage with their friend George Wilkinson so LD could write his novel in peace and quiet.
- July 2: Henry Miller meets Anaïs Nin at the Avignon train station during his bicycle tour of the South of France.
- Mid-summer: The cottage lease up, LD moves with the grand piano, their books and a few sticks of furniture to his family in Bournemouth; Nancy remains in Sussex with friends for a while until an illness forces her to Bournemouth.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Ivan Bunin (Soviet Union) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- December 6: United States District Judge the Honourable John M. Woolsey lifts the ban on Joyce's *Ulysses* in the United States.

1934

John O'Hara's *Appointment in Samara*, Henry Roth's *Call It Sleep*, Nathanael West's *A Cool Million*, B. Traven's *The Death Ship*, Evelyn Waugh's *A Handful of Dust*, Robert Grave's *I, Claudius*, Samuel Beckett's *More Pricks Than*

- Kicks*, James M. Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* are published. In London, the Caduceus Press publishes LD's *Transition: Poems*.
- February 27: LD is 22 years old.
- May 31: George Wilkinson and Pamela Black marry at Kensington Registry Office.
- June: Anaïs Nin arranges to finance the publication of Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* with Jack Kahane at the Obelisk Press in Paris.
- Ca. June 10: The Wilkinsons leave on an extended bicycle trip across Europe intending to end on Corfu where they would write books and live cheaply.
- Mid-year: LD finishes his first novel, *Pied Piper of Lovers*.
- Mid-August: From Corfu George and Pam begin writing enticing letters to LD and Nancy extolling the good life on the island.
- September: *Tropic of Cancer* is published in Paris.
- September 9: Roger Fry dies at 68 in London.
- October: Disgusted with England and strongly attracted by the Wilkinsons' portrayal of life on Corfu, LD convinces Nancy to move to the Greek island; his mother decides to move the entire family there.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Luigi Pirandello (Italy) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- Ca. December 1: John Dos Passos writes to Miller from Key West, Florida, asking for a copy of *Tropic of Cancer*.
- December 6: The *TLS* prints critical review of *Transition: Poems*.

1935

- W. H. Auden's *The Dog Beneath the Skin*, George Orwell's *Burmese Days*, John O'Hara's *Butterfield 8*, James T. Farrell's *Studs Lonigan Trilogy*, Thomas Wolfe's *Of Time and the River* and B. Traven's *Treasure of the Sierra Madre* are published. T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*, Clifford Odets, *Waiting for Lefty* and Emlyn Williams' *Night Must Fall* receive their premiere

performances. Penguin Books publishes its first paperback.

Preparing for the move to Corfu, Louisa Durrell sells the Parkstone house and moves the family into rented quarters in Bournemouth.

Early January: LD sends the poem “Mass for the Old Year,” designed by Nancy to friends as holiday greeting.

January 22: Nancy Myers and LD are married at Bournemouth Registry Office with Alan Thomas and a book store colleague as witnesses when two dwarves could not be found in time.⁶

February 27: LD is 23 years old.

March 2: LD and Nancy sail on the SS *Oronsay* from Tilbury for Naples en route to Corfu.⁷

March 6: From Gibraltar LD mails Alan Thomas two poems and a short-tempered letter.

Ca. March 11: In bad winter weather Nancy and LD are stranded in the Hotel Internazionale in Brindisi where LD writes first pages of what becomes *Panic Spring*. The ferry passage to Corfu held up by confusion caused by an attempted coup d'état led by Eleutherios Venizelos in Athens.

March 13: Venizelos flees to Rhodes.⁸

March 14: LD finally finds boat captain willing to take them the 130 miles to Corfu where they land in the old harbor without their baggage, and stay at the Pension Suisse then located in Moustoxidou Street, not Kapodistriou Street as is commonly believed,⁹ in Corfu Town for two weeks.

Ca. March 28: Louisa, Margo, the two brothers and GD's dog Roger arrive to stay at the Suisse, bringing news that Cassell accepted *Pied Piper* for publication.

Early April: LD and Nancy move to Perama into a small box-like house next to the Villa Agazini where George and Pamela Wilkinson have been living for a year. LD names the house

⁶ Nancy's daughter with her second husband, Edward Hodgkin, Joanna Hodgkin writes in her biography of her mother that LD wanted the dwarves so the Registrar would not think Thomas, a tall thin man, to be the groom, rather than LD himself, some five to six inches shorter than Nancy. (*Amateurs in Eden*, 148)

⁷ GB, 61, has Margo traveling with them, which is not the case.

⁸ Venizelos died in Paris March 18, 1936. The airport outside Athens built for the Summer Olympic Games in 2004 is named for him.

⁹ Personal communication from Richard Pine (6 January 2011).

that overlooks Pondikonisi (aka Mouse Island, a tiny speck of land holding naught but a small whitewashed monastery) Villa Bumtrinket, but it was hardly a villa, essentially consisting of two tiny rooms and a minuscule kitchen.¹⁰

Mid-April: With a six-month lease, Louisa and the family move into the Strawberry Pink Villa (so named by GD in *My Family and Other Animals*) one of two built in Perama in 1931 as rental properties by the owner of the Pension Suisse.¹¹

April: LD and Louisa decide GD needs schooling and, after rejecting LD's suggestion that the ten-year old read Rabelais, they hire George Wilkinson as a tutor.

Spring/summer: The Durrell family meets the radiologist and natural scientist, Theodore Stephanides, and the taxicab driver, Spyros Chalikiopoulos (known as Spiro Americanos due to his sojourn in the USA) with his open Dodge touring car and a heavy, Brooklyn-accented English.

Mid-May: LD and Nancy move to a more isolated house on the island.¹²

May 19: T. E. Lawrence is killed in a motorcycle accident at the age of 47.

Early summer: LD, Nancy and the Wilkinsons hike across the island for 15 miles to Paleocastrizza above the sea on the west coast.

June 13: In London, Faber and Faber publishes T. S. Eliot's play, *Murder in the Cathedral*.

July 20: The *Panic Spring* manuscript has reached 40,000 words.

August: LD reads the embalming episode of *Panic Spring* to Nancy and Stephanides at the shore at night.

¹⁰ IMN, 110-111, implies that LD and Nancy moved here before the arrival of the other Durrells, but this does not seem to be the case.

¹¹ IMN, 112 and 115-117, incorrectly has the family moving into the Villa Agazini, which was the Wilkinson residence. GB, 62, follows IMN on this point. They were possibly misled by Theodore Stephanides memoir published as "First Meeting with Lawrence Durrell; and, The House at Kalami" in *Twentieth Century Literature, Lawrence Durrell Issue*, Part I. Vol. 33, No. 3 (Fall, 1987), 267, where he confuses the Strawberry Pink Villa with the Villa Agazini. Hilary Whitton Paipeti, *In the Footsteps of Lawrence Durrell and Gerald Durrell (1935-39)*, 60, more accurately separates the two buildings.

¹² Whitton Paipeti, 61, who gives no location.

Mid-August: The American painter, Barclay Hudson, then living with his wife, Jane, in the northeast at Mangkephali just south of the coastal village of Kalami, lends LD *Tropic of Cancer* to read after which he writes fan letter to Miller in Paris who swiftly responds, thus beginning a friendship and correspondence that continues until Miller's death. Miller's influence is clear in *The Black Book* and helped to break LD out of the residue of his middle-class English mindset.

August 17: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, author of the much-written about short story, "The Yellow Wallpaper," and other works dies at the age of 75.

September: Louisa and the family move to the larger Villa Anemoyanni (Daffodil-Yellow Villa) in Sotiriotissa, four miles north of Corfu Town near Govina Bay, where they live for two years. LD and Nancy move in with them for the winter.¹³

End of September: LD and Nancy visit Barclay and Jane Hudson and decide to move to the area to escape the chaotic cacophony of the entire Durrell ménage; they negotiate with Anastasius ("Totsa") and Eleni Athenaios the owners of a smallish house on Kalami Bay to renovate the building into two apartments.¹⁴

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Carl von Ossietzky (Germany) the Nobel Peace Prize and gives no prize for literature.

October 17: In London Cassell & Company publish LD's first novel, *Pied Piper of Lovers*, LD's first novel, dedicated to the author's mother with a cover designed by Nancy; the reviews are not particularly good.

November 30: The Portugese writer Fernando Pessoa, a great utilizer of heteronyms, dies at the age of 47 in Lisbon.

December: LD finishes *Panic Spring* (earlier titles include "Music in Limbo" and "Phoenix and Nightingale" as well as Nancy's suggestion: "Panic Spring in Limbo") and sends the last section off to Alan Thomas, having earlier sent

¹³ IMN, 120, and GB, 64; Whitton Paipeti, 61, has them visiting "occasionally."

¹⁴ Hodgkin, 169-170, dates the trip north to Kouloura and Kalami as April 1936 with Stephanides and Spiro to visit an acquaintance of Stephanides, Madame Gennatas, after which LD and Nancy charge Spiro with finding them rooms for the summer; he then finds the Athenaios house in Kalami near the Hudson's house. IMN, 126, also has Spiro finding the house.

sections as they were typed in draft. Thomas edits the manuscript and has it re-typed, whereafter it is submitted to Faber and Faber, which accepts it for publication.

1936

The Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis is formed. The Germans revoke Thomas Mann and his family's citizenships. John Dos Passos' *The Big Money*, Arna Bontemps' *Black Thunder*, Margaret Mitchell's epic *Gone with the Wind*, Walter D. Edmonds' *Drums Along the Mohawk* and Elizabeth Bowen's *The House in Paris* are published.

January: LD begins writing *The Black Book*, after thinking about it late the previous year

January 18: Rudyard Kipling, Nobel 1907, dies at the age of 71.

February 4: In Davos, the young Yugoslavian Jewish student, David Frankfurter, assassinates Wilhelm Gustloff, the head of the National Socialist (Nazi) organization in Switzerland.

February 27: LD is 24 years old.

Ca. March: Nancy undergoes a curettage procedure in a Corfu Town nursing home arranged by Stephanides with a doctor friend.¹⁵

March 17: German troops occupy the Rhineland breaking a major provision of the Versailles Treaty; the victorious signatories do nothing.

April: LD and Nancy move to single storey house owned by Anastasius ("Totsa") and Eleni Athenaios, now known as the White House, on Kalami Bay on the far northeastern shore of the island where they rent two rooms and access to the kitchen and dining room. Shortly thereafter they find a nearby cove accessible only by the sea with the small shrine to Saint Arsenius where, in season, they swim with cherries daily in sea.¹⁶

¹⁵ Botting, 69, has this happening in the summer. Hodgkin, 176-178, provides details but no date; IMN, 131, mentions the procedure but gives no date other than quoting LD in a letter to Alan Thomas saying "I'm still 24 but I've aged ... I must be a very old gentleman in my soul."

¹⁶ In a mock dialogue reminiscent of Spiro's portrayal in *My Family*, Stephanides has the driver-factotum finding the house for them, but this may be apocryphal. See "First Meeting with Lawrence Durrell; and, The House at Kalami," 269. Hodgkin, 169-170, also has Spiro finding the Kalami house. Bowker, 69, and IMN, 126, have

- April 13: The Greek King George II appoints Ioannis Metaxas as prime minister, who turns the country's political structure into a dictatorship banning Pericles' funeral oration and dictating the length of women's skirts among other dictatorial measures.
- May: LD decides on "The Black Book" as the title after trying "Lover Anubis" and "Anabasis."
- May 8: Oswald Spengler, author of *The Decline of the West*, which exerted some influence on the young LD, dies at the age of 55 in Munich .
- Early summer: Nancy and LD buy a 20-foot sailboat that, with Miller's approval, they name *Van Norden* after a comic character in *Tropic of Cancer*.
- June 18: Maxim Gorki dies in Moscow at 68.
- End June-early July: Miller's *Black Spring* is published in Paris by the Obelisk Press.
- Summer: Nancy undergoes a curettage procedure arranged by Stephanides.¹⁷
- July 17: The Spanish Civil War begins with the rightwing attempted coup d'état by fascist military leaders, immediately supported by Germany and Italy; the western powers maintain a studied and cowardly "neutrality".
- August 2 - 29: Theodore Stephanides lives in the White House with the Durrells for the month, observing Peltier's Comet.
- August 15: Grazia Deledda, Nobel 1926, dies at the age of 65.
- August 19: After completing his drama, *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, the Spanish poet and playwright, Federico García Lorca travels to Grenada where rightwing Spanish terrorists murder him.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Eugene O'Neill (USA) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- October 26: In New York, Random House publishes Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom*.
- Early November: LD writes first draft of a Hamlet essay for Miller. LD and Nancy move into Corfu Town for the

the move being made "around October." A good restaurant now abuts the house, which has been turned into a bed and breakfast inn, and a plaque on its façade informs the world that LD, whose name is misspelled, once lived there. Participants in each of the Durrell School of Corfu's seminars enjoy a well-watered lunch at the restaurant, to which they travel by caïque.

¹⁷ Botting, 69.

winter, taking a heated hotel room across the square from the Ionian Bank, which they use as their postal address during their Corfu residence.

November-December: They meet Constantine Zarian the Armenian poet, Max Nimiec, a Polish poet of means, and others (including Stephanides) who form a loose-knit literary club which meets fortnightly for “Ionian Banquets” at The Sign of the Partridge (Perdika Restaurant) in the center of Corfu Town through the following year.¹⁸

November 27: LD experiencing difficulties pushing *The Black Book* forward.

December 10: Luigi Pirandello, Nobel 1934, dies in Italy at the age of 69.

December 19: LD finishes what is possibly the third draft of *The Black Book*.

End December: He continues to revise the manuscript.

1937

Virginia Woolf’s *The Years*, Zora Neale Hursten’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men*, Georges Bernanos’ *Diary of a Country Priest* and Isak Dinesen’s *Out of Africa* are published.

Ca. January 12: LD sends Miller the text of “Christmas Carol” (Miller suggests the title be changed and LD names it “Asylum in the Snow”).

January 14: *New English Weekly* publishes LD’s “The Prince and Hamlet: A Diagnosis,” based on an earlier letter he’d sent to Miller.

February: LD finishes another draft of *The Black Book* and Nancy corrects spelling errors; LD adds handwritten amendments in various colored inks before it is bound and dispatched to Miller in Paris.

February 27: LD is 25 years old.

March 8, 13, and 15: Miller responds to *The Black Book* manuscript with wildly enthusiastic letters.

March: LD and Nancy move from Corfu Town to three rented rooms in a peasant’s house south of Paleocastrizza on the

¹⁸ The building is now (2005) a women’s clothing boutique called “Babylon.”

northwest side of the island for the summer. Stephanides also rents three rooms in the same house for his wife and daughter while he works in town as a radiologist and visits on weekends. Maurice Koster, the American painter, also has a room in the house.

Late March: Nancy and LD travel to Athens to buy a tent for camping excursions stopping on the island of Ithaca, LD's "miracle ground."¹⁹ LD writes to Miller and T. S. Eliot briefly mentioning his plan for books relating to *agon* (*The Black Book*, then in manuscript), *pathos* (The Book of Miracles) and an *anagnorisis* (The Book of the Dead).²⁰

March-April: LD is reading Nietzsche, a potentially dangerous undertaking in one so young and volatile.

Early April: The Durrells sail northwest from Corfu to Mathraki Island. – After attempting themselves to retype clean copies of *The Black Book*, Anaïs Nin and Miller give it to a professional typist.

April: In London, Faber and Faber publishes *Panic Spring* (under the pseudonym Charles Norden).

Mid-May: Louisa and Margo visit England to fix the latter's glandular condition that has her gaining weight at a tremendous pace, leaving Leslie in charge of the house and GD.

May 27: Alan Thomas arrives on Corfu for a visit having stopped at the Villa Seurat in Paris to meet Miller who lives the building with an assortment of artists and writers.

Summer: The New York publisher Covici-Friede accepts *Panic Spring* for American publication.

June 28: Eliot writes to LD that Faber cannot publish *The Black Book* unexpurgated, but does not advise him to change the text.

Ca. July: The Durrells return to the White House in Kalami where LD saves a village girl from drowning off the

¹⁹ The "miracle ground" comes from LD's poem, "On Ithaca Standing," that begins "Tread softly, for here you stand/on miracle ground, boy." See LD's *Collected Poems 1931-1974* (London: Faber and Faber, 1985), 111. "On Miracle Ground" is also the generic title of the bi-annual conferences organized by the International Lawrence Durrell Society.

²⁰ The second and third "books" eventually become *The Alexandria Quartet* and *The Avignon Quintet*.

- beach at Mangkephali, enhancing his reputation on the island (and giving him a premature model for Clea?).
- July 1: LD writes to George Bernard Shaw about helping to get Miller's books into England.
- July 13: Shaw's secretary writes that Shaw does not think he can be helpful.
- Mid-July: Louisa and Margo return to Corfu from England.
- Mid-summer: LD and Nancy discuss with Totsa Anthenaios, the owner of the White House, the possibility of adding a second storey with large windows so they can stay there during the winter.
- July 29: From Paris, Miller writes to LD in Corfu about editing *The Booster: The Monthly Magazine of the American Country Club*.
- Ca. August 10: Nancy and LD board the Corfu-Brindisi ferry for the trip to Paris to meet Miller, Anaïs Nin, and other of Miller's friends, before going on to London.
- August 11: Edith Wharton dies at the age of 75.
- August 12: LD and Nancy arrive at the Gare de Montparnasse²¹ to be met on the platform by Miller and Anaïs Nin; they move into the American painter and sculptor Betty Ryan's flat (formerly occupied by Miller's friend, the writer Michael Fraenkel) on the ground floor of the Villa Seurat across the hall from the artist Chaim Soutine, and thus join the literary circus with Alfred Perlès (with whom a friendship develops that lasts with some interruptions until Perlès's death nine months before LD himself dies), Abraham Rattner and Hans Reichel (the American and German painters respectively), and Brassai (the soon to be famous Hungarian photographer whose real name was Gyula Halász). Nancy is increasingly sidelined and abused by LD, who begins to assist Miller and Perlès to edit *The Booster*. They meet André Breton (the Pope of Surrealism), Herbert Read (the influential British art historian), Raymond Queneau (the inventive French writer, author of *Zazie dans le métro* and founding member of OULIPO – Ouvroir de Littérature Potentielle), Eugene Jolas (the French-German-American editor of the journal *transition*, most noted for

²¹ GB, 93, has them arriving at the Gare du Nord, but trains from the south arrive at the Gare de Montparnasse or the Gare du Lyon.

publishing pieces of James Joyce's *Work in Progress* that becomes *Finnegans Wake* when published in 1939). The Villa Seurat circus core eats at the Café du Dome, Le Select, La Coupole, and the Brasserie Zeyer on the Avenue du Maine (how they could afford these places is a mystery given their alleged shortage of funds, except Anaïs Nin whose husband was a banker), and at the Villa Seurat where Nancy (of course) prepares the meals.

August 22: LD and Nancy move on to London where he meets T.S. Eliot (who provides a fine blurb for the flyleaf of *The Black Book*) and Alan Pringle, a senior editor at Faber, the pioneer sexologist Havelock Ellis,²² Meary James Thurairajah Tambimuttu (the Sinhalese poet and editor), the poet Audrey Beecham, Frank Morley (LD's editor at Faber) and his old friends Mulk Raj Anand the Indian novelist, the poet George Barker and Alan Thomas.

September 4: *Time and Tide* in London publishes "Ionian Profile" by "Charles Norden" about the Corfiot priest Father Nicholas (years later integrated into LD's *Prospero's Cell*).

September 9: George Bernard Shaw writes to LD warning him to watch his step and the company he keeps.

September: Louisa and the family move out of the Daffodil Yellow Villa to the Villa Cressida (the Snow White Villa) near Perama, built in 1824 for the British governor of Corfu.

September: *Panic Spring* appears in the USA.

Mid-September: LD and Nancy return to Paris and stay for two weeks with Perlès at 7 Villa Seurat across the street from 18 where Miller lives (Betty Ryan returned to her apartment there).

Late September: The Durrells move into an apartment at 21, rue Gazan, on the Parc Montsouris, ten minutes walk from the Villa Seurat. They meet David Gascoyne (then a young, starving Surrealist poet), Cecily Mackworth (an English poet and scholar of poetry), Buffie Johnson (a painter studying with Francis Picabia), and Conrad Moricand (the

²² Gerald Durrell wrote a funny story about owning Ellis's collected works, which he supplied to various employees of a hotel in which he was staying to advise them about their sexual problems. See "The Havoc of Havelock," in *The Picnic and Suchlike Pandemonium* (London: William Collins & Sons, 1979).

astrologer-moocher).²³ LD drafts “The Death of General Uncebunke: A Biography in Little,” a long poem about the nature of British colonials including LD’s father and other relatives.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Roger Martin du Gard (France) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October: *The Booster* issue appears (with a prose poem by GD and LD’s “Coda to Nancy” from the end of *The Black Book*) and is severely criticized by George Orwell in *New English Weekly* for ignoring the horrors of the European situation (Hitler, Stalin, Spain). The Paris American Country Club dissolves its association with the magazine over the Eskimo story “Nukarpiartekak.”²⁴

November: The “Trilingual Womb Number” of *The Booster* edited by LD appears with the poem “Death” by GD.

December: Miller, LD and Anaïs Nin make plans to create the Villa Seurat Series (financed by Nancy to the tune of £150) to be published by Obelisk Press, the first three volumes to be *The Black Book*, Miller’s *Max and the White Phagocytes* and Anaïs Nin’s *Winter of Artifice*.

Mid-December: LD travels to London with the painter Buffie Johnson (whom he tells that he and Nancy are washed up, hoping to get Buffie in the buff in the bed) and David Edgar, a mystic, to gather poems for the next issue of *The Booster*, “The Poetry Number.” LD meets Dylan Thomas in London and they carouse a bit. He also meets the ballerinas Dorothy Stevenson and Veronica Tester and the latter’s boy-actor-brother Desmond, Hugh Gordon Porteus (poet and Sinologist), and Anna Wickham (who made the introduction to Dylan Thomas). He takes Buffie to see Alexander Calder’s circus performance with wire figures and does his best to seduce her, but she may have resisted until the end.

²³ Miller has a vivid portrait of this dubious character in *A Devil In Paradise* (New York: Signet Books, 1956), reprinted as “Paradise Lost” in *Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch* (New York: New Directions, 1957).

²⁴ The short piece consists of LD’s recasting of the Nordic story of an old man who is so taken by a beautiful young girl that in the course of making love to her he disappeared into her vagina. Later she leaves the igloo to have a pee and out falls the old man’s skeleton. The text is printed by Alfred Perlès in his *My Friend, Henry Miller* (New York: The John Day Company, 1956), 182.

- December 16: Nancy takes the train to the Austrian Alps to ski (and find relief from her husband).
- Ca. December 22: LD suddenly leaves London, taking the train to Innsbruck to see Nancy, traveling through Paris long enough to put Buffie in the hospital, the edgy young woman distraught at LD's erratic treatment of her sensibilities.
- December 25: Early in the morning LD finds Nancy in a chalet in the mountains. Ruining the fine time she was having, he insists they return to Innsbruck that day.
- December 26: Durrells go to Gris, Austria, to ski for a week and continue the combat.

1938

- Graham Greene's *Brighton Rock*, George Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*, Vladimir Nabokov's *Invitation to a Beheading*, Jean-Paul Sartre's *La Nausée*, John Dos Passos' trilogy *USA*, Marjorie Kinnan Rawling's *The Yearling* and Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop* are published. Emlyn Williams' *The Corn is Green* and Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* are given their premiere performances.
- Early January: Eliot writes to LD to turn down "Uncebuncke" for *The Criterion*.
- January 10: The Durrells leave Innsbruck and return to 21, rue Gazan.
- Mid-January: The December-January number of *The Booster* appears, the last under this name, called the "Air Conditioned Womb Number", half the usual length and with little advertising, but with LD's piece "Down the Styx in an Air-Conditioned Canoe."
- Late January-Early February: LD writes to Eliot that he has started a novel because Faber would not give him an advance on a book of poems; this is probably what LD referred to over the next several years as "The Book of the Dead," eventually morphing into *The Alexandria Quartet*.
- February 15: In New York, Random House publishes Faulkner's *The Unvanquished*.
- Late February: Anaïs Nin moves into a houseboat called La Belle Aurore on the Quai des Tuileries, the better to conduct

sexual dalliances without her husband learning too much about them.²⁵

February 27: LD is 26 years old.

March 1: Gabriele D'Annunzio dies at the age of 102.

Mid-March: Nancy takes an active role in producing the Villa Seurat Series (for which, after all, she is paying) and appreciates Miller and Reichel's praise for her painting.²⁶

End March: David Gascoyne, who Anaïs Nin is paying to type a volume of her diaries, takes the manuscript with him to London on a visit; when Anaïs Nin finds out their friendship ends. LD was to go with Gascoyne but turned back at the Gare St Lazare, taking a later boat-train to London.

April: The poetry number of *The Booster*, now called *Delta*, appears in Paris.

April 8: LD flies back to Paris from London.

April 10: Possibly because of the tumultuous political situation, the Durrells suddenly and abruptly depart Paris for Greece, leaving many possessions behind, some of which are rescued by Miller and Anaïs Nin after they see their friends off at the station.²⁷ The Austrians welcome German troops and annexation to the Greater German Reich, causing an intensely frightening situation.

Ca. April 15: Stephanides and Spiros Americanos drive the Durrells from Corfu Town to a spot above Kalami from where they walk down the donkey path to the White House, which now has two storeys but with *small* windows on the seaward side, thus enraging the volatile author who wanted *large* windows out of which he could look at the sea in inclement weather. Later in the winter he realizes the rightness of Athenaios' decision. The new quarters have a calming effect, but the tension between LD and Nancy continues, if temporarily in milder forms.

²⁵ Fans of the classic movie, *Casablanca*, will wonder if there is a relationship between the houseboat and the Paris restaurant of that name in the film where Rick, Ilsa and Sam drink their final champagne cocktails as the Germans are on the point of entering Paris in June 1940.

²⁶ It is difficult today to reach an appreciation of Nancy's paintings since none of them are available to be seen. No one seems to know exactly what happened to them, except they were destroyed or lost during the war.

²⁷ GB, 107, lists "a painting by Cézanne" as one of these possessions. One wonders what his source was for this bit of misinformation.

- May: LD writes to Miller he might return to England to study medicine as a return to reality from the turmoil of writing literature. The Durrells spend a week on Ithaca, “miracle ground.”
- May 4: Carl von Ossietzky, Nobel Peace Prize 1935, dies at the age of 49 as a result of being tortured in prison by his fellow Germans.
- May 5: Miller writes to LD and adds postscript to Nancy, “Don’t let Larry browbeat you.”
- Summer: Nancy’s painting reaches new levels of sophistication but LD’s selfish demands upon her continue. Veronica Tester and Dorothy Stevenson from London visit, the Durrells take them sailing and camping. In Athens Theodore Stephanides introduces the Durrells to George Katsimbalis.²⁸
- Mid-August: In Paris, Jack Kahane at the Obelisk Press publishes *The Black Book* with serious printers’ errors.
- September 15: Thomas Wolfe dies at the age of 38.
- September 25: Miller is in Bordeaux, having fled Paris in a panic at the thought of war over German demands on Czechoslovakia.
- Ca. September 27: The Obelisk Press publishes Miller’s *Max and the White Phagocytes* while the author is in Marseille feeling sorry for himself.
- September 29: Chamberlain and Daladier capitulate to Hitler and Mussolini over Czechoslovakia at Munich.
- Early October: Nancy and Veronica Tester travel to Athens for a holiday; LD remains on Corfu ignoring world events. For some arcane reason the Swedish Academy awards Pearl S. Buck (USA) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- October 11: Miller returns to Paris.
- Mid-October: Nancy informs LD she wants to have a child, but he resists until September of the following year.
- November: The new issue of *Seven* contains two LD poems, “Asylum in the Snow” and “Carol on Corfu.”

²⁸ IMN, 137, has them introduced “on early trips to the capital.” Elsewhere he notes that the first meeting probably occurred “in 1937 or 38.” (Personal communication.) GB, 111, has the meeting in the summer of 1938. Ergo, this seems to be a reasonable dating.

- November 19: The Durrells are briefly in Paris on way to London where they stay at Hugh Guiler's flat at 140 Campden Hill Road at Notting Hill Gate. Guiler's wife, Anaïs Nin, is with them and LD takes her to see Pringle at Faber.
- November 21: *Time* magazine contains an article on the young publisher at New Directions, James Laughlin, Miller and Durrell.
- November 29: The Durrells flee to Paris when rumors of an English general strike circulate. While there LD falls in love with and has a brief but passionate affair with the American journalist, Thérèse "Tessa" Epstein; they continue to see each other sporadically over the next several decades.
- Mid-December: When the strike does not materialize they return to London and Guiler's flat having convinced Perlès to go with them.
- December: Anaïs Nin pays the sinister but elegant Conrad Moricand to cast LD and Nancy's horoscope; his description of LD's mind and spirit is close to reality, noting that LD was in a continual state of rebellion and needed all his resources to maintain his mental equipoise. *Delta* publishes its "Special Peace and Dismemberment Number with Jitterbug-Shag Requiem" containing LD's piece about Miller, "Hamlet, Prince of China".
- Ca. December 22: Miller arrives in London on money provided by Nancy and LD, this time allowed into the country unlike his 1932 disaster.
- December 29: Eliot comes to dinner to meet Miller, and Dylan Thomas meets Miller at the Campden Hill Road flat. Nancy takes her paintings around to the galleries with Miller's encouragement, while her husband continues to disparage her work.
- December 31: Miller, Perlès, the Durrells, the actor Desmond Tester and the poet Audrey Beecham celebrate the coming of the New Year at Gawsorth's flat in St. James Street.

1939

Joyce Cary's *Mister Johnson*, John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, Thomas Wolfe's posthumous *The Web and the Rock*, T. S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, Nathanael West's *Day of the Locust*, Raymond Chandler's *The Big Sleep*, Dalton Trumbo's *Johnny Got His Gun* and Zora Neale Hurston's *Moses, Man of the Mountain* are published. Eliot's *The Family Reunion* and Lillian Hellman's *The Little Foxes* receive their premiere performances.

The literary magazine, *Seven*, prints LD's text, "Zero." New Directions brings out *The Cosmological Eye*, Miller's first book to be published in the USA.

January: *The Criterion* prints a positive review by Desmond Hawkins of *The Black Book*. LD meets Eliot's secretary Anne Ridler, a poet married to the artist Vivian Ridler, and they form a friendship that lasts for decades.

January 11: Miller is back in Paris.

January 19: In New York, Random House publishes Faulkner's *The Wild Palms*.

January 28: W. B. Yeats dies at the age of 74 at the Hôtel Idéal Séjour in Menton in the south of France and is buried in Roquebrune. (In 1948 his remains are exhumed and shipped to Ireland where he is buried at Drumcliff in Sligo with lines from one of his final poems on the grave stone:

Cast a cold Eye/On Life, on Death./Horseman, pass by!)

End January: Lack of funds forces Eliot to shut down *The Criterion*, a sad day for mainstream western culture; LD never appears in the magazine.

January-April: In London LD carouses and talks with Dylan Thomas. Miller is planning a trip to Greece. None of them seem concerned with political situation in Europe.²⁹

²⁹ In his 1988 preface to the *DML*, x, Perlès wrote, "There was a war in the offing – we laughed it off." It is only fair to note that IMN writes, "I don't think Perlès's [comment] can be taken at face value ... Absurdist laughter? Perlès was a WWI vet., was nearly shot for not giving an order to fire on French troops; was sent to an insane asylum instead only because of family connections. No, he knew war [was] not a laughing matter." (Personal communication.) Nonetheless, there is no context for the comment that might lead one to think it was anything less than meant as it stands.

February: LD meets the psychologist Graham Howe, author of *Time and the Child*. – In London and New York, Faber and Viking Press publish Joyce's epic joke, *Finnegans Wake*.

End February: Tambimuttu launches his magazine *Poetry London*, the issue includes LD's "Epitaph" and "Island Fugue."

February 27: LD is 27 years old.

March: *Geographical Magazine* prints LD's "Corfu: Isle of Legends" with Nancy's photographs.³⁰

March 15: The Germans invade Czechoslovakia, putting paid to LD's idea of barging down the Rhine with the last of Nancy's inheritance. – The Durrell family maid, Maria Kondos, arrives in England.³¹

March 21: The Durrells attend opening of Eliot's play, *The Family Reunion*, and LD writes a review of it for *Poetry London*.

March 25: Eliot lunches with LD and recommends he write a novel before publishing a book of poetry.

April: The Durrells travel to Stratford-upon-Avon to review *Othello* and *A Comedy of Errors* for the *International Post*, which folds after the first number, thus not printing LD's reviews, though it did print his article "Theatre: Sense and Sensibility" in its one and only issue. – Mary Stephanides and her daughter Alexia have left Corfu for England where they stay with Mary's relatives until they join the Durrells in Bournemouth.

May: The Durrells take Hugh Guiler and Anaïs Nin through Kipling's Sussex.

May 10: In Paris, the Obelisk Press publishes Miller's *Tropic of Capricorn*.

³⁰ Reprinted in LD, *From the Elephant's Back: Collected Essays and Travel Writings*. Ed. by James Gifford (Alberta, Canada: University of Alberta Press, 2015), 287-293.

³¹ This is the date on her alien registration and naturalization documents. I am grateful to Anthony Hirst, who interviewed Maria's son by Leslie Durrell, Tony Kondos (born September 19, 1945) in the summer of 2012, for this information. It is not entirely clear how she traveled or with whom to England; she spoke scant English. She lived with and continued to work for the Durrells after they arrived in England in June. Botting, 71, is mistaken when he writes that Maria traveled to England with the Durrells in June. Nor, according to Alexia, did she travel there with Mary and Alexia Stephanides when they left Corfu for England by April 1939. (Personal communication from Anthony Hirst.)

- May 22: The Durrells leave London to return to Greece, stopping briefly in Paris, where Miller gives them an inscribed copy of *Tropic of Capricorn* dated May 26. – Ernst Toller, German playwright, poet and anti-Fascist, hangs himself in despair at the age of 46 in his room at the Mayflower Hotel in New York City.
- May 27: Joseph Roth, Austrian Jew, novelist and journalist, dies in a Paris pauper's hospital from exile and alcoholism at the age of 45.
- Summer: LD and Nancy travel to Athens so he can better assess the political situation, now an inescapable presence in their lives; they meet their friend from Corfu, Max Nimiec, and a new friend, Robin Fedden, (poet, cultural attaché at the British Legation and author of *The Land of Egypt* [1939], a country he had lived in since 1934). In Athens at some point they meet the then unemployed Paul and Billie Gotch on a bicycle tour through Italy, Yugoslavia and Albania; Gotch eventually goes to work for the British Council and they become LD's lifelong friends. The quarrels with Nancy increase in level of intensity. Eliot's critique of his poems depresses LD.
- June: To escape the coming war and the possibility of being marooned in Greece without access to funds in England, Louisa, Leslie, GD, and Margo leave Corfu returning to Bournemouth. Miller is in Nice fearing Hitler will interfere with his vacation.
- June 26: The prolific English writer and publisher Ford Madox Ford dies in Deauville at the age of 66 and is buried there.
- July 8: Havelock Ellis dies at the age of 80.
- July 10: Miller sails from Marseille for Greece on the *Théophile Gautier*.
- July 19: Miller lands at Piraeus.
- July 22: Miller lands on Corfu and is met by LD and Nancy; Spiros Amerikanos drives them to Kalami. The American is disappointed that the Durrells are still fighting with such vehemence, but becomes completely absorbed in Corfiot life, food and drink. He offends LD's sense of the holy by committing sexual intercourse with an English girl at the St Arsenius shrine.

Early August: The delayed, slender Easter poetry number of *Delta* appears, the final one, with three of Anne Ridler's poems and LD's "A Soliloquy of Hamlet" dedicated to Ridler.

August 20: Jack Kahane dies in Paris and is thus spared the fate of a Jew in German-occupied Europe.

September 1-3: Germany invades Poland and war is declared in Europe. With Miller the Durrells leave Corfu for Athens, stopping at the Hotel Cecil in Patras, where Nancy and LD quarrel with vehemence.

September 2: Katsimbalis and his wife Aspasia invite Stephanides, Miller and the Durrells to tea at their house in Maroussi; George Seferis (pseudonym of Seferiades and Cultural Attaché Robin Fedden's opposite number in the Greek government) arrives later in the evening, meeting them for the first time. Miller is bowled over, especially by Katsimbalis who becomes the "Colossus of Maroussi."

September 3: Olivia Manning and her husband Reggie Smith arrive in Bucharest where he has a contract to teach English at the British Council. Their lives in part follow the developments portrayed in Manning's later novels, *The Balkan Trilogy* and *The Levant Trilogy*, in some ways briefly paralleling the Durrells' lives.³²

Early September: Margo returns to Perama on Corfu thinking to sit out the war with her friends, but she is convinced to leave at the end of the year.

Mid-September: Through Robin Fedden's recommendation LD, Nancy and Stephanides work as temporary staff in the British Embassy's Information Services section until new head dissolves the unit thus removing from it those who speak Greek. Nancy becomes pregnant. Katsimbalis also introduces LD to Emmanuel Royidis' novel, *Pope Joan*. Miller returns alone to Corfu, disgusted with what, in a wild generalization, he considered to be LD's circle of pompous homosexual English literati (except Xan Fielding whom he

³²The BBC made a fine television series based on the two trilogies called *Fortunes of War*, which introduced the actors Emma Thompson and Kenneth Branagh, both of whom made splendid careers in the movies, although their marriage did not last.

- liked possibly because he was heterosexual) but enthralled by the Greeks he met.³³ Margo prepares meals for him.
- September 23: Suffering excruciating pain from incurable cancer, Sigmund Freud dies in London at the age of 83 by a physician-administered overdose of morphium.
- September 28: The *New English Weekly* prints Stephanides and LD's version of Cavafy's poem "The Barbarians."³⁴
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards F. E. Sillanpää (Finland) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- Mid-October: The Foreign Office sends non-Greek speaking staff from London to take over Information Services in Athens. The FO of course dismisses the temporary staff, all of whom who read and speak Greek.
- Early November: Nancy travels to Corfu to retrieve some household goods and Miller returns to Athens with her. Miller, Katsimbalis and Seferis travel to Hydra to visit the painter Niko Ghika, after which Katsimbalis takes Miller to Nauplion, Epidaurus, Mycenae, Knossos, Phaestos, and Spetsai, creating the core of *The Colossus of Maroussi*.
- November: In Athens LD teaches English for the British Council's Institute of English Studies, where he meets the poet Bernard Spencer,³⁵ the novelist Robert Liddell (later author of the first, unfortunately unsatisfactory, Cavafy biography), David Abercrombie, Robin Fedden who worked in the information services at the British Embassy and the young diplomat Bernard Burrows. LD introduces all of them to Seferis.
- December 24: The Durrells drive with Miller from Athens on a brief tour of the Peloponnese in Max Nimiec's tiny car, first to Corinth where they spend an unhappy Christmas Eve, then through the rain to Mycenae, Sparta and Tripolis.
- December 26: In Tripolis they part from Miller, who takes the train to Athens, then they drive through the Argos Plain,

³³ There is a certain sense of exaggeration in this sentence, which is something of a riff on the statement made about Miller's relations with Englishmen in Greece by IMN, 219, but that author also notes that the "flaming" homosexuals LD knew probably numbered no more than two or three. (Personal communication.)

³⁴ GB, 127, has the title "Waiting for Them."

³⁵ GB, 132, has LD meeting Spencer and his wife Nora in February 1940 when they arrived to work for the British Council in Saloniki.

Nauplion, Epidaurus,³⁶ Mycenae, Tiryns and the Valley of Nemea before returning to Athens.³⁷

Ca. December 27: A British flight engineer at Imperial Airways, Jack Breeze, convinces Margo to leave and packs her aboard one of the last British aircraft to fly out of Corfu.

December 28: Miller sails on the *Exchorda* for New York City, after having given his notebook of the Greece sojourn to Seferis in a fit of pure generosity, which does not seem to hinder his ability to write *The Colossus of Maroussi*.

1940

Richard Wright's controversial *Native Son*, Thomas Wolfe's *You Can't Go Home Again*, Arthur Koestler's *Darkness at Noon*, Mikhail Sholokov's *The Don Flows Home to the Sea*, Raymond Chandler's *Farewell, My Lovely*, Carson McCuller's *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, and Walter van Tilberg Clark's *The Oxbow Incident* are published.

January 27: Secret police agents murder the Russian writer Isaac Babel in the Lubyanka prison in Moscow.

Early February: Nancy flies to London to await the birth of the baby.

February 27: LD is 28 years old.

March: *New Directions in Prose and Poetry 1939* published by James Laughlin's New Directions appears in New York containing extracts from *The Black Book* but not LD's poetry. The taxi driver and Louise Durrell's factotum, Spiro Americanos, dies on Corfu.

April: Germany invades Norway and Denmark.

April 1: In New York City, Random House publishes Faulkner's *The Hamlet*.

³⁶ LD wrote in *The Listener* (September 1947) a text entitled "Can Dreams Live on When Dreamers Die" in which he claims to have visited Epidaurus "one hot August day in 1939", but this is unlikely because he and Nancy had Henry Miller with them on Corfu at this time. Reprinted in *From the Elephant's Back*, 311-315.

³⁷ IMN, 222-224. GB, 130-131, has the Durrells dropping Miller off in Tripolis on December 24, then driving on to visit Mistra, Delphi, and Argos. GB also notes that this trip "heralded one of the finest bursts of lyrical landscape poetry by any English poet in this century" and that here LD "found his finest poetic voice." (Ibid.)

- May: Germany invades the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. The British Council School closes and Miller cables the Durrells escape money from New York.
- Mid-May: Nancy flies back to Athens at LD's request.³⁸
- May 20: Carl Gustaf von Heidenstam, Nobel 1916, dies at the age of 81.
- May 27 – June 4: The British evacuate 338,226 soldiers, 148,000 of them French, from the beaches at Dunkirk, Belgium.
- June 4: Nancy gives birth to a daughter, Penelope Berengaria Durrell, in Athens.³⁹
- Ca. June 9: Wallace and Anna Southam (Shell Oil executive in Athens) take the Durrells in for several weeks while Nancy recuperates; their daughter is christened according to Orthodox Greek ritual in Seferis' presence.
- June 12: Italy declares war on Britain.
- June 14: German troops enter Paris.
- Summer: In New York City, Miller completes his Greek memoir *The Colossus of Maroussi* and writes *The World of Sex*.
- End June-early July: Robin Fedden resigns from the British Embassy and moves back to Cairo.
- July: The Durrells are living with Hugh Gordon Porteus in a house just outside Athens.
- August: LD, Bernard Spencer (who was about to join Fedden in Cairo and whose wife Nora was not allowed to return to Greece from London where she had gone for a visit) and Nanos Valaoritis spend a brief holiday on Mykonos in the Cyclades; LD is inspired to write the lengthy "Fangbrand: A Biography."⁴⁰
- August 10: LD writes the letter to Miller that the latter publishes verbatim at the end of *The Colossus of Maroussi*.
- August 20: A killer hired by the Stalinist Soviet government murders Leon Trotsky in Mexico City.

³⁸ IMN, 225, has her arriving on the Orient Express, but that railroad company suspended operations after the war started in September 1939. GB, 133, has Nancy flying back to Athens in early June, which is not correct either.

³⁹GB, 133, has Penelope born on June 18.

⁴⁰ IMN, 226. GB, 134, has LD and Spencer making the trip with Nancy in July.

- End August: LD is posted to Kalamata in the southern Peloponnese to teach English for the British Council and direct the Institute for English Studies.
- September 13: Italian troops invade Egypt from Libya and move forward 60 miles before the British contain the advance.
- September 27: Walter Benjamin, German writer and Jew, attempting to escape the Nazis commits suicide in Port Bou on the French-Spanish border at the age of 48 believing the Gestapo is about to arrest him.
- October: The Swedish Academy awards no Nobel Prize for Literature this year.
- October 21: In New York City, Scribner's Sons publish Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.
- October 28: The Greek prime minister and dictator, General Ioánnis Metaxas, refuses the Italian demand to occupy the country without resistance and Italian troops invade Greece from Albania. Stephanides is drafted into the medical corps of British Army.
- October 30: The Admiralty announces Greek waters have been mined.
- Early November: The Royal Air Force bombs Brindisi and Bari. The Greeks mount a strong counter-attack, aiming to push the Italians back across the border into Albania.
- November 22: The outnumbered and outgunned Greeks cross the border into Albania and occupy the town of Koritsa, thus pushing the Italians out of the country and stabilizing the front.
- December 21: F. Scott Fitzgerald dies in Hollywood at the age of 44 and is buried in Rockville, Maryland.
- December 22: The American writer Nathanael West and his bride Eileen die in a motorcar accident in California; he is 36 years old.
- End of the year: Max Nimiec dies in Athens in the Argentine Cabaret. Margo is finally persuaded by Jack Breeze, a young flight engineer whom she would later marry, to leave Corfu, and shortly before Christmas she takes one of the last British aircraft flying off the island on to England.

1941

James Agee (text) and Walker Evan's (photographs) *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*,⁴¹ Franz Werfel's *The Song of Bernadette*, Rebecca West's *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon*, Vladimir Nabokov's *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight*, Joyce Cary's *Herself Surprised*, Eudora Welty's *A Curtain of Green* are published.

New Directions in Prose and Poetry 1940 appears in New York with four LD poems.

January 4: Henri Bergson, Nobel 1927, dies at the age of 82.

January 13: In Zurich, James Joyce dies at the age of 59 and is buried in the Fluntern Cemetery in the hills above the city where he remains to this day.

January 29: Metaxas dies and is succeeded by Aléxandros Koryzis as prime minister.

February: The British Council closes its schools putting LD out of a job.⁴²

February 12: Erwin Rommel arrives in North Africa to take command of the Afrikakorps.

February 13: LD writes to Miller that on the previous afternoon "the cloud lifted and I saw the WHOLE BOOK OF THE DEAD lying below me like a forbidden superb city."⁴³

February 27: LD is 29 years old.

March 1: Bulgaria joins Axis Powers.

Mid-March: The Durrells are still in Kalamata.

March 28: At 56, Virginia Woolf commits suicide by drowning herself in the River Ouse near her home in Rodmel, England.

April 6: Germany invades Greece from Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

April 9: Thessaloniki falls.

⁴¹ The book went unrecognized at the time as one of the great Shakespearean works of the 20th century.

⁴² IMN, 227. Michael Haag, who is currently writing a biography of LD for Yale University Press, has written "I do not think the schools were closed, and certainly Durrell was not out of a job; in fact BC employees were specifically asked to remain at their posts." (Personal communication.)

⁴³ Ian MacNiven (ed.), *The Durrell-Miller Letters 1935-80* (hereafter *DML*) (London: Faber & Michael Haag, 1988), 146.

- Ca. April 10: Nancy cables London for the last £50 of her capital.
- April 17: Yugoslavia falls.
- April 18: Greek Prime Minister Koryzis commits suicide.
- April 19: Lárissa falls.
- April 20: Ioánnina falls.
- April 22: Katsimbalis tells Stephanides the Lamia Line is cracking. During the night the Durrells and Alexis Ladas leave the village port of Pylos for Crete on an overloaded, battered caïque.
- April 23: At dawn LD's caïque puts in to a small inlet near Cape Matapan to prepare for the voyage to Crete and hide from German aircraft; in the afternoon the villagers from Gerolimín prepare two lambs for a final feast for the refugees; at night they leave the cove. The Greek king and government (including Seferis) depart Athens for Crete. Stephanides leaves the Piraeus harbor on the ancient Greek collier, *Julia*.
- April 24: During the day the caïque hides in a small bay on Cythera.
- April 25: The caïque arrives at Chania, Crete.⁴⁴
- April 27: German forces enter Athens.
- April 30: At dusk an Australian transport ship takes the Durrells and others to Egypt.
- May 1: At 4.00 a.m. the Australian ship arrives in the Western Harbour of Alexandria. The Field Security sergeant and poet, John Cromer Braun recognizes LD; Durrells are separated; Nancy and Penelope are sent to the women's transit center, LD is placed in the men's (Agame) where Braun visits him that evening to talk about literature and Paris.⁴⁵
- May 2: Early in the morning the Durrells proceed to Cairo by truck on a dusty ride south.⁴⁶ In Cairo they are put up in

⁴⁴ GB, 137, has them remaining for six weeks, yet arriving in Alexandria "around April 25" which would have been something of a time-bending miracle had it happened. In an editorial note to *DML*, MacNiven, 151, has the Durrells leaving Greece on the 25th, but corrects this to April 30 in his LD biography.

⁴⁵ Michael Haag, *Alexandria. City of Memory* (New London CT: Yale University Press, 2004), 191-194. Haag interviewed Braun at length about the Durrells' arrival in Alexandria.

the Luna Park Hotel, which LD immediately renames the Lunatic Park Hotel.

June 1: Stephanides finally arrives in Alexandria from Crete at 2.00 a.m.

Ca. June 2: Stephanides visits the Durrells at the Lunar Hotel as they are about to move into the Gezira Guest House in the Zamalek neighbourhood on the island of Gezira.

June 6: LD begins to write editorials and comic short pieces for the *Egyptian Gazette* called “Yorick’s Column” to make some money.⁴⁷

June 22: Germany invades the Soviet Union, opening a two-front war and making the same mistake Napoleon made in 1812.

Summer: The Durrells meet friends from Greece: Robin Fedden (under suspicion as a convinced pacifist now teaching at Fuad I University in Cairo), Alexis Ladas, David Abercrombie (now with the British Council), Bernard Burrows (now 2nd secretary at the British Embassy), Xan Fielding (in hush-hush “intelligence” work), Bernard Spencer (working for the British Council), and Hugh Gordon Porteus; in Cairo LD meets Freya Stark (the great travel writer), Terence Tiller (poet and Fuad I University lecturer in literature and history since September 1939), the poet Gwyn Williams (poet and head of the English Department at Fuad I University), Betsy and John Uldall, John and Ruth Speirs, the Greek marxist poet Elie Papadimitriou, Robert Liddell (British Council employee now teaching at Fuad I University in Cairo), and the poet G. S. Fraser,⁴⁸ all of whom play a lesser or greater role in LD’s future life.

July 27: The last “Yorick” column appears.

⁴⁶ GB, 140, has LD remaining in the camp for several days while Nancy and Penelope are taken to the Lunar Park Hotel in Cairo with the rest of the women and children.

⁴⁷ GB, 141, calls the publication the *Egyptian Times*. LD’s pieces were published as “Yorick’s Column”: Lawrence Durrell’s Unsigned Humor Sketches in the *Egyptian Gazette*, 1941,” in *Deus Loci*, NS5 (1997).

⁴⁸ Fraser published the first book-length study of LD: *Lawrence Durrell. A Critical Study. With a Bibliography* by Alan G. Thomas (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co, Inc., 1968). His memoirs contain a pungent and evocative portrait of Cairo during the war: *A Stranger and Afraid. The Autobiography of an Intellectual* (Manchester UK: Carcanet Press, 1983), 120-170.

Early August: Sir Walter Smart, oriental counselor at the British Embassy and a living link to Cavafy, hires LD as junior press officer;⁴⁹ LD briefly meets George Seferis, working at the Greek exile government's Embassy in Cairo before being transferred to South Africa.

August 7: Rabindranath Tagore, Nobel 1913, dies at the age of 80 in Calcutta.

Late August: With a steady income the Durrells move into a three bedroom flat at 14 Saleh Ayoub in Zamalek.

Late summer: In the garden of the Anglo-Egyptian Union LD, Robin Fedden and Bernard Spencer form the idea of publishing a poetry journal to be called *Personal Landscape*, for which they receive support from Smart and Terence Tiller; LD persuades the Greek President in exile, Panagiotis Cannelopolous, to finance it, and Fedden arranges with the French Institute of Oriental Archeology to print it.⁵⁰

September: George A. Reisner, a Harvard University Egyptologist, invites Stephanides and LD to tour the recently excavated Queens tomb in Giza.

October: The Swedish Academy awards no Nobel Prize for Literature.

December: The Colt Press in San Francisco publishes the *Colossus of Maroussi*; later it is published by New Directions with a wide distribution and remains in print.

December 7: The Japanese launch a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii.

December 11: Germany and Italy declare war on the USA.

End of the year: Alfred Perlès is in Scotland having joined the Pioneer Corps.

1942

⁴⁹ Michael Haag writes, "I very much doubt that Smart was involved in the hiring or had even met Durrell yet." (Personal communication.)

⁵⁰ For an appreciation and analysis of the journal and other English poetry publications in Egypt during the war, see Roger Bowen's excellent "*Many Histories Deep*": *The Personal Landscape Poets in Egypt, 1940-1945* (1995).

Albert Camus' *L'Étranger*, T. S. Eliot's *Little Gidding*, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' *Cross Creek*, C. S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, Raymond Queneau's *Pierrot mon ami* and Robert Musil's *The Man Without Qualities* are published.

The Durrells meet the lovely Elizabeth Gwynne (soon to be the lovely Elizabeth David), Olivia and Reggie Manning, Patrick Leigh Fermor (the latter in the Smart's garden to which the Mannings would only rarely be invited).⁵¹

Poetry in Wartime edited by Tambimuttu published by Faber in London contains LD poems, as does an issue of *Poetry London* also edited by the "crazy Tamil."

January: first issue of *Personal Landscape* appears with poems LD had written in Greece ("Je est un autre," "To Ping-Kû, Asleep," "Argos"), a short essay, "Ideas about Poetry" and Seferis' "Letter from a Greek Poet." The British Institute in Cairo begins publication of the literary journal *Citadel*, edited first by Reggie Manning, then David Hicks, an Oxford economist and pupil of G.D.H. Cole.

February: The Durrells' marriage is increasingly shaky; Stephanides' account of his visit to LD this month makes no mention of Nancy. LD is making notes about Egyptian life.

February 4: British Ambassador Sir Miles Lampson forces King Farouk to appoint a pro-British prime minister, watering the roots of the already flourishing nationalist fanaticism that will affect Middle East history for the rest of the century and beyond.

February 22: The Austrian Jewish writer, Stefan Zweig, and his wife Charlotte Altmann commit suicide in Petrópolis, Brazil.

February 27: LD is 30 years old.

March: The second *Personal Landscape* number appears; it includes "Anatolia" by Elie Papadimitriou and the second part of LD's "Ideas about Poetry." The first issue of G. S.

⁵¹ Olivia Manning wrote at the time, "We are not part of their inner sanctum. They do not think us grand enough." Neville and June Braybrooke, *Olivia Manning: A Life* (London: Chatto & Windus, 2004), 123. The Braybrookes (deliberately?) misspell Lawrence (as in Durrell) as "Laurence" in two of the book's four references to LD. On the other hand, the Mannings were very good to Nancy and Penelope in Jerusalem after they left LD. See Hodgkin, 286f.

Fraser's *Orientalisms*, in Cairo, publishes "A Landmark Gone" by "Charles Norden" about life in the White House at Kalami on Corfu.

May: The Durrells have dinner with George Seferis and his wife Marika (Maro). Stephanides is sent to the front. Anaïs Nin publishes a limited edition (500 copies) of *Winter of Artifice* on a handpress at her publishing company Gemor Press in Greenwich Village, New York City.

May 25: The British make a stand on the Egyptian border at Sidi Barani as Rommel's troops threaten Alexandria.

June: George A. Reisner is carried from a Cairo hospital to Giza to die. The third number of *Personal Landscape* appears, including LD's "Conon in Exile" and Robert Liddell's "Note on Cavafy," his first attempt at what later becomes a full-blown biography.⁵²

June 24: A run on the banks in Cairo begins.

June 29; Alexandria is heavily bombed; Rommel's troops take Mersa Matruh.

July 1: Rommel reaches El Alamein, 80 miles from Alexandria, causing "The Flap" during which Embassy officials in a panic burned their files, filling the air with debris so the day became known as Ash Wednesday. LD is sent to Alexandria to inspect Information Services offices and burn sensitive documents; he returns to Cairo later that evening and Dudley Honor, in charge of Cairo air defense, takes him to HQs Operations room where calm reigns and it is clear that Rommel has been stopped, but the panic amongst the British and Allied civilian public continues.

Ca. July 3: Nancy and Penelope, and many other "non-essential personnel," are evacuated from Cairo on a refugee train with her friend Mary Bentley to Jerusalem.⁵³ Paul Gotch (a friend of the Durrells from Athens working for the British

⁵² Robert Liddell, *Cavafy: A Biography* (New York, Schocken Books, 1976).

⁵³ GB, 147, has Nancy and Penelope leaving "sometime in July" with "a free French unit," and cites Cooper, *Cairo in the War*, 201, as the source. Cooper in fact writes, "In the general evacuation of wives and children in July, Adam Watson arranged for Nancy Durrell and her daughter to travel to Jerusalem in a Free French vehicle." But is Cooper to be relied upon? On the same page she has LD moving out of the flat before Nancy was evacuated and moving to Alexandria on the day of The Flap. Neither is true.

- Council), his wife Billie and their infant daughter Linnet are also on the train and they stay at the same pension in Jerusalem as Nancy and Penelope.
- July 4: After more than a year of silence LD writes to Miller, noting his wife and daughter have gone to Palestine. Rommel admits his troops cannot move forward.
- July 9: The military situation is stabilized and The Flap is over.
- Ca. July 10: Mary Bentley returns to Cairo; Nancy and Penelope do not. Not finding work in Jerusalem, Nancy takes Penelope to Beirut where they stay for several months with the Wallace Southams.
- Early August: Churchill arrives in Cairo to oversee a change of command: Sir Harold Alexander becomes Commander-in-Chief in the mid-East and Bernard Montgomery takes over command of 8th Army.
- August 14: Stephanides arrives in Cairo on a weekend leave to find LD cheerful.
- August 25: Nancy and Penelope are still temporarily in Beirut.
- 3rd August week: Churchill is back in Cairo after meeting Stalin in Moscow.
- August 30: Rommel again takes the offensive in Alam Halfa battle.
- September 3: The British 8th Army halts German offensive, resulting in a stalemate.
- Early September: LD receives a letter from Nancy, again in Jerusalem, telling him she will not return and the marriage is over; several days later Dudley Honor organizes a light bomber and flies LD to Jerusalem for a brief meeting with Nancy who remains firm in her intentions.
- September 15: LD meets Nancy in Beirut and they travel on the overnight train to Jerusalem; Nancy remains firm about the separation.
- Autumn: In Alexandria, Farouk University is inaugurated; Gwyn Williams, Harold Edwards and Robert Liddell are seconded by the British Council in Cairo to teach there; Williams is appointed head of the English Department.
- October: The Swedish Academy awards no Nobel Prize for Literature.

- October: LD moves in with Bernard Spencer at 27 Sharia Malika Farida, across the street from the *Personal Landscape* editorial office in the Mohammed Ali Club in a flat locally known as “the Orgy Flat” due to the social proclivities of LD and Spencer. Robin Fedden marries Renée Catzefflis.
- October 23: The 2nd battle of El Alamein commences with the British on the offensive.
- November 2: The Germans begin the long retreat west into the desert.
- November 7: The Allies land at Casablanca, Oran and Algiers.
- November 11: A grand party is held at the Orgy Flat to celebrate the new issue of *Personal Landscape* (includes LD’s “The Heraldic Universe” and “For a Nursery Mirror”), Fedden’s marriage and LD’s appointment as press attaché in Alexandria, the summer seat of the government and embassies.
- Mid-November: LD moves to Alexandria, staying briefly at the Cecil Hotel, then briefly moving into a flat with Gwyn Williams, socializes with Harold Edwards⁵⁴ and Robert Liddell.
- Late November: LD moves from Williams’ villa to the seafront at Anfushi along the Cornich toward Fort Kait Bey at the end of the Eastern Harbour.⁵⁵

1943

- Naguib Mahfouz’s *Radopis of Nubia*, Jean-Paul Sartre’s *L’Être et le néant*, T. S. Eliot’s *Four Quartets*, Ayn Rand’s *The Fountainhead*, Antoine de Saint-Exuprey’s *Le petit prince*, Robert Graves’ *Claudius the God* and Raymond Chandler’s *The Lady in the Lake* are published.
- Nancy Durrell visits a Greek refugee camp at Nuseirat, near Gaza in Palestine where she meets Raymond Mills, the physician who later serves with LD on Rhodes.

⁵⁴ GB, 150, calls him Evans.

⁵⁵ Haag, 347n121. IMN, 264, has LD moving into a flat at 11bis, rue des Pharaons, several blocks from Cavafy’s apartment at 10, rue Lepsius. Haag, *ibid.*, shows that this was not the case. LD may have moved directly from Williams’ to 40 rue Fuad. It is also possible that LD gave out the Rue des Pharons as a contact address even before he moved to Alexandria. (Haag personal communication.)

David Gascoyne publishes *Poems 1937-1942* in London.

LD spends some weekends in Cairo with friends throughout the year.

January: Nancy and Penelope return to Jerusalem where Nancy works briefly in the censorship office before Olivia Manning helps her find a sub-editor job with the *Palestine Post* and introduces her to Aidan Philip, the director of the (British) Near East Arab Broadcasting Station in Haifa, who offers her a job at the radio station, and to Edward Hodgkin, who succeeds Philip in that position in 1945 after the office moves to Jerusalem.⁵⁶

February: At the funeral of the great Greek poet, Kostis Palamas (b. 1859) in Athens, Katsimbalis shouts abuse at the German Embassy representative laying a wreath, then begins to loudly sing the banned (on the threat of death) Greek national anthem. By the end of the second verse a few friends tentatively join him, but at the third the entire crowd roars out the song to its finale; Katsimbalis goes into hiding. LD hears the story from Seferis, whose sister stood next to the “Colossus” during the event.⁵⁷

February 27: LD is 31 years old.

March: Anaïs Nin’s Gemor Press in NYC publishes Paul Eluard’s *Misfortunes of the Immortals* with illustrations by Max Ernst.

Late March-Early April: LD moves into a room in a large apartment rented by acquaintances at 40, rue Fuad, a ten-minute walk from Pastroudis, Baudrot’s restaurant-bar-patisserie, the Atelier and the Mohammed Ali Club.⁵⁸

April: The darkly lovely Yvette Cohen meets LD at a party at Baudrot. Eliot writes to LD, saying since they could not contact him, Anne Ridler and he had put together a selection of LD’s poems for publication.

⁵⁶ IMN, 260. The Braybrookes, 113, omit mention of Philip, simply noting the introduction to Hodgkin. Cooper, 201, notes that Olivia Manning “lent her [Nancy] a room, and Nancy found work in the Censorship Department.”

⁵⁷ Haag, 253. Curiously, in his splendid biography of Seferis (*George Seferis: Waiting for the Angel*, New Haven CT: Yale UP, 2004), Roderick Beaton does not mention this highly emotional and dangerous episode, nor does GB, but IMN, 322, notes it in passing.

⁵⁸ Haag notes that LD may have moved in much earlier. (Personal communication.)

- April 19: Working in the Sandoz laboratory in Switzerland, Albert Hoffmann experiments on himself with the compound drug lysergic acid diethylamide and opens the doors of perception, taking the first LSD trip.⁵⁹
- May: Eve (LD's name for her) becomes mildly unbalanced because of troubles with two boy friends and her parents and seeks LD's help; he takes her to Gwyn Williams' villa for several days, then sends her to the Gotches in Tanta for ten days to rest, after which she moves into the Rue Fuad apartment with LD, while ostensibly living at the Greek Cozzika Hospital where she is a trainee nurse.⁶⁰
- May 13: The Axis forces in North Africa surrender to the Allies.
- May 15: Under British pressure, the French fleet sails out of Alexandria for Algiers to join the Free French.
- June: LD writes to Stephanides that he has had no word from Nancy since she left Egypt, forgetting he had seen her the previous September when they met in Beirut and took the train to Jerusalem. The *Personal Landscape* issue has two LD poems ("Mythology" and "On First Looking into Loeb's Horace," along with a poem by Keith Douglas, the poet-soldier). After the other tenants move out, LD and Eve invite the Gotches, being transferred to Alexandria, to share the large rue Fuad apartment.
- June 4: Penelope celebrates her third birthday.
- June 28: The three Gotches, a nanny, the dog Sappho, and Billie's friend Jean Hill move in (recreating perhaps the Durrell family situation on Corfu).
- Ca. early July: LD proposes to Eliot and Dimitri Lambros, at the Greek exile government's Department of Information, that he write a short book on the Greek war of independence against the Turks to be published by Lambros' office in Cairo and Faber in England.
- July 10: Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily by American and British troops, begins.

⁵⁹ Hoffmann called the later indiscriminate distribution of the drug by those like Timothy Leary "a crime" and said the drug should never be taken except under controlled conditions.

⁶⁰IMN, 283, incorrectly has LD moving Eve from the Williams' villa to the rue des Pharons address.

- August 21: Henrik Pontoppidan, co-winner Nobel 1917, dies at the age of 86.
- August 22: LD interviews Noël Coward.
- September: G. S. Fraser in *Orientalisms* begins polemic with LD and other *Personal Landscape* poets by calling their magazine “isolationist.”
- September 3: The Italians surrender to the Allies.
- September 10: The Germans occupy Corfu after strafing and bombing the island, killing Stephanides’ parents, GD’s tutor Krajewsky and his mad mother.
- September 21: Eliot writes to LD, rejecting the notion of publishing an expurgated version of *The Black Book*, noting that LD should establish his reputation as a writer first, then publish it in toto.
- Autumn: LD meets Patrick, Lord Kinross, the RAF press officer in Cairo.
- October: LD writes to Seferis in Cairo that he has started working on “a novel about Alexandria,” but soon puts it aside to concentrate on recreating the paradise of Corfu in *Prospero’s Cell*.⁶¹ No Nobel Prize for Literature is awarded.
- October 1: LD and Eve and the Gotches’ menagerie move into a house with a tall tower offering a grand view of the city and Lake Mareotis at 17 (now 19), rue Maamoun in Moharrem Bey, owned by the Ambron family, friends of Sir Walter and Amy Smart; soon Harold and Epy Edwards and Alexis Ladas join the group house.⁶² Through the Italian-Jewish Ambrons, whom the fascists had forced to leave Italy, LD advances into the center of high Jewish society in the city. About this time LD also meets the painter Clea Badaro.
- October 2: Eliot responds to LD’s proposal to write a book about Greece, saying he wants something by Durrell - not Byron - but does not reject the proposal.

⁶¹ There is some debate about the dating of the letter to Seferis, who himself dates the undated letter as “around October 1943.” Haag, 293, notes that internal evidence shows it to have been written later.

⁶² Haag, 261, based on Paul Gotch’s captioned photograph album wherein he noted the exact date of the move. IMN, 283, writes that the move was made “by December 1943” based on a comment by LD to Miller in a letter dated by the editor as ca. 25 December 1943 (*DML*, 159).

- Mid-October: Stephanides invalided to Alexandria with dysentery and helps LD with research into Greek history book.
- October 21: Anne Ridler writes to LD supporting Eliot's stand on the Greek book.
- November: Nancy Durrell begins teaching English to Polish officers at the Anglo-Polish Institute in Jerusalem. Later she runs a Teachers Course here for the British Council.
- Ca. November 1: LD lectures to the troops on Eliot's poetry.
- Ca. November: LD takes the night train from Cairo to Aswan for brief holiday and stays at the old Cataract Hotel.
- November 13: LD takes the duty train to Beirut for ten days' holiday where he meets Barclay Hudson who first gave him a copy of *Tropic of Cancer* on Corfu in 1935.⁶³
- November 22: Cecil Day Lewis reads LD's poems "In Arcadia" and "At Corinth" on the BBC Home Service.
- November 23 – December 6: Churchill hosts the American president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, at a meeting of the Combined Chiefs of Staff in the Mena House near the Pyramids just outside Cairo.
- December: LD's *A Private Country* (poems), dedicated to "Nancy and Ping-Kû for her second birthday out of Greece," published to generally good, if few, reviews.
- Late December: LD is working on what becomes *Prospero's Cell*, rather than the "history" book.
- December 31: LD sends Eliot a copy of the poem "Cities, Plains and People."

1944

New Directions publishes Henry Miller's collection, *Sunday After the War*.

Jean Anouilh's *Antigone* and Jean-Paul Sartre's *No Exit* are produced in occupied Paris. Romain Gary's *L'Education*

⁶³ There is some confusion in the sources about this trip. In reference to it, IMN, 280, notes that LD apparently made no attempt to see Nancy and Penelope; Haag, 280, notes that "it seems [Nancy] refused to meet with him face to face." At the time Nancy and Penelope were living in Jerusalem, not Beirut. Apparently misled by LD's February 8 letter to Miller where he refers to the Beirut visit as "Lately I had a short holiday in Beirut," GB, 157, dates the trip to "Shortly after the new year," i.e., January 1944. Caution is advised whenever LD dates anything.

européene, John Hersey's *A Bell for Adano*, Jorge Luis Borges' *The Book of Imaginary Beings and Ficciones*, Saul Bellow's *Dangling Man*, Joyce Cary's *The Horse's Mouth*, Gunnar Myrdal's *An American Dilemma*, Paul Éluard's *Au rendez-vous allemand* and W. Somerset Maugham's *The Razor's Edge* are published.

January-February: A mock combat in verse tales place between the poets in Alexandria (LD, Harold Edwards, Robert Liddell and Gwyn Williams) and those in Cairo (Bernard Spencer, Robin Fedden, Terence Tiller, and Bryn Davies).⁶⁴

January 31: Jean Giraudoux dies at 62.

February: Gemor Press publishes Anaïs Nin's *Under a Glass Bell* in an edition of 300 copies.

February 6: In Cairo, Robin Fedden meets the dancer Diana Gould and gives her a letter of introduction to LD whom she meets when her traveling troupe performs *The Merry Widow* in Alexandria.

February 8: *Prospero's Cell* has reached 20,000 words; LD has given up on the "history" book because the Greeks are not cooperating: the political problems caused by the Communist-led resistance in Greece and the exile government's efforts to diminish the Communist influence, combined with the British blindly supporting the Greek king, did not make the time propitious for a book symbolically talking about heroic anti-nazi resistance: silence was the discrete resolution.

February 25: *The Merry Widow*, with Diana Gould as Frou Frou, opens for a week at the Alhambra Theater in Alexandria. LD squires her around the city and environs. Enraptured by her beauty and tallness, he asks her to marry him during a jaunt to Mareotis Lake, but for the nonce she is Fedden's lover, and in any case departs after a week or ten days with the troupe for Italy. Nonetheless, she (and her future husband, Yehudi Menuhin) and LD remain good friends for the remainder of his life.

February 27: LD is 32 years old.

⁶⁴ See Gwyn Williams, *Flyting in Egypt: The Story of a Verse War* (Port Talbot, Wales, 1991), Haag, 278-279 and IMN, 282-285.

- March: *Personal Landscape* issue number six contains a mock review of *A Private Country* by LD.
- March 29: The formation of the Greek Political Committee of National Liberation by the communist-dominated EAM (the National Liberation Front) in the liberated mountain regions of Greece intensifies the left-right political conflict as the exile government refuses its demand to create a government of national unity with representatives from all parties and resistance groups.
- Spring-Summer: LD regularly makes short visits to Cairo for official business at the Embassy and to discuss the anthology of *Personal Landscape* poems Fedden is editing for publication in London.⁶⁵
- April 1: Eliot accepts another book of poems for 1945 publication but wishes LD would write a prose book. He likes the idea of a book on Corfu, which in fact LD was already writing, though he has not yet titled it *Prospero's Cell*.
- April 6: Greek military units support EAM mutiny at a camp near Bourg el Arab to the west of Alexandria; the British surround the camp to starve the units into surrender.
- April 17: LD and the Gotches attend a dinner in the Ambron's garden for 30 of the city's exemplars, including Enrico Terni who knew E. M. Forster during the first war when the writer lived in Alexandria.⁶⁶
- April 23: The British sponsor Greek soldiers loyal to the exile royal government in boarding three rebellious Greek ships in the Western Harbor at 2:00 a.m. By 8:00 o'clock the struggle is over and the exile government controls the ships. Royalist officer Alexis Ladas, sharing the house with LD, Eve and the Gotches, returns to the residence in the rue Maamoun after the battle and explodes at LD's jocular reference to the event.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ Robin Fedden, Lawrence Durrell, Bernard Spencer, Terence Tiller, et al. (eds.), *Personal Landscape: An Anthology of Exile* (London: Editions Poetry London, 1945).

⁶⁶ See Haag, 11-118 and passim, for a smoothly written account of Forster's years in Alexandria, as well as the relevant pages of P. N. Furbank's *E. M. Forster: A Life* (London, 1979) and Nicola Beauman's *Morgan: A Biography of E. M. Forster* (London, 1993).

- May: Eve and LD with the Gotches tour the battlefields of the western desert and Bourg El Arab to Aboukir where they swim nude in the silky satiny blue waters of the Mediterranean and LD feels he has returned to Greece.⁶⁸
- June 6: The Allies begin the invasion of the Continent (Operation Overlord) on the French coast, opening the second front.
- June 9: Keith Douglas, soldier-poet published in *Personal Landscape*, is killed at the age of 24 during the invasion of France.
- July 11-25: Stephanides stays with LD to discuss Corfiot folkways for the Corfu book.
- July 31: Antoine de Saint-Exuprey disappears on a flying mission over the Mediterranean Sea and is presumed dead at the age of 44.
- August: LD secures tentative post to a Greek island after the war; writes Miller that he has an idea for a novel about English people caught in a Cretan labyrinth; this eventually becomes *The Dark Labyrinth* (later retitled *Cefalû*). Nancy Durrell moves to Tel Aviv to work with Major McClelland, a colleague from the British Council in Jerusalem, teaching in the Greek Camp at Nuseirat.
- August 22: After sending *Prospero's Cell* off to Faber in London, LD writes to Miller that he has a wonderful idea for a novel about Alexandria.
- August 24: French and American troops begin the liberation of Paris.
- Late summer: Eve is working as a nurse in the UNRRA refugee camp at Aboukir east of Alexandria, but she returns to the Ambron villa on weekends.
- September: LD writes to Miller apologizing for the errors in his essay on the American ("The Happy Rock") and noting he is reading deeply in Groddeck's *The Book of the It*. Stephanides again visits the Ambron villa.
- September 10: Diana Gould writes to LD gently refusing his renewed proposal of marriage.⁶⁹

⁶⁷ Haag, 292, but he cites IMN, 288 (Haag, 350n110), who gives the date as April 24.

⁶⁸ *DML*, 172-73.

Autumn: LD begins writing *Cefalû*. The seventh issue of *Personal Landscape* appears with “Byron” by LD and “Three Clerigrams” by Diana Gould and an essay on “Ideas about Poetry” by “Mathaios Pascal” (George Seferis) and “The King of Asine” by Seferis translated by LD, Nanos Valaoritis and Spencer. On their way to British Council event Eve, LD and friends meet her father, Moise Cohen (a pathologically possessive type),⁷⁰ on the street and invite him to go along; shortly thereafter LD and the Gotches invite Eve’s parents to dinner so the Gotches can explain what a wonderful fellow LD is. Apparently Eve was not informed of the dinner.⁷¹

October: This month’s issue of *Horizon*, edited by Cyril Connolly in London, prints Olivia Manning’s dyspeptic article, “Poets in Exile,” about the English poets in Egypt.

Early October: LD meets the Egyptian writer Albert Cossery. The Swedish Academy awards Johannes Vilhelm Jensen (Denmark) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 7: Pan Arab conference members sign the Alexandria Protocol establishing the fundamentals of the Arab League with its seat in Cairo.

October 13: Anne Ridler writes that she thinks the new poems brilliant and is arranging them for publication as *Cities, Plains and People*.

October 14: British troops land in Greece.

November 6: As part of the terrorist campaign to drive the British out of Palestine, having twice failed to assassinate the British High Commissioner in Palestine, members of the Stern Gang murder Lord Moyne, Britain’s senior representative in Egypt, damaging the Zionist cause in England.

December 1: LD writes to Eliot that the “pot-boiler” (*The Dark Labyrinth*) would be ready soon.

⁶⁹ GB, 161, citing her letter in the Durrell Collection at the Morris Library, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale IL.

⁷⁰ This is Eve’s characterization and may in fact be one of those occasions when caution is advised in crediting her opinion.

⁷¹ Haag, 304, who has the story from the Gotches. IMN and GB do not mention the event.

December 18: Henry Miller marries Janina Martha Lepska in Boulder, Colorado.

December 16: German forces begin a counter-attack known as the Ardennes Offensive and, more popularly, the Battle of the Bulge, the last major German military action on the western front.

December 30: Romaine Rolland, Nobel 1915, dies at the age of 78 in Vézelay.

1945

George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, Richard Wright's *Black Boy*, Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, John Steinbeck's *Cannery Row*, Ivo Andrić's *The Bosnian Trilogy* Arthur Koestler's *The Yogi and the Commissar and Other Essays* and Henry Green's *Loving* are published.

February: LD receives orders to post as director of public relations for the Overseas Information Service on the island of Rhodes in the Dodecanese as soon as the islands are liberated; takes off for a month with Eve to finish writing *The Dark Labyrinth*.

February 4-11: Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin meet at Yalta to discuss borders in liberated Eastern Europe; the two western leaders then travel to Egypt for a brief visit.

February 27: LD is 33 years old.

End February: An extreme nationalist lawyer, member of the Egyptian Wafd movement, assassinates Egyptian Prime Minister, Achmed Maher, for "selling out" to the British.

March: LD begins making notes for a play called "Black Honey" about Baudelaire's mulatto mistress.

March 23: An Egyptian court having sentenced Lord Moyne's assassins to be executed, they are hanged on this date.

April 5 (airgram received in Alexandria on the 12th): Eliot tells LD Faber would not publish *The Dark Labyrinth* (LD sends it to Tambimuttu in London after major rewriting while on Rhodes) and several of the new poems had already been published so could not appear in new book, postponing publication until LD can replace them. Eliot asks LD if he

- wants to be primarily a poet or a prose writer; LD does not respond.
- April 12: Franklin D. Roosevelt dies in Warm Springs, Georgia, and Vice President Harry S Truman assumes the office of the president.
- April 29: American troops liberate Dachau concentration camp as the war in Europe draws to a close.
- April 30: Hitler commits suicide in his Berlin bunker.
- May 1: An Anglo-Greek military force liberates Rhodes.
- May: The last issue of *Personal Landscape* appears in Cairo, includes LD's "Conon in Alexandria" and "The Poetry of Cavafy" by Amy Nimr (Smart). Paul Gotch is transferred to the British Council office in Thesaloniki leaving the Ambron villa much quieter and a little lonely.
- May 5: LD writes to Eliot outlining his plans for a series of books following the elements of Greek drama pattern about which he wrote to Miller in March 1937: *agon* – the dislocation (*The Black Book*), *pathos* – the uniting (*The Book of the Dead* [which became *The Alexandria Quartet*]), and *anagnorisis* – the acceptance of death (*The Book of Time*) [which became *The Avignon Quintet*].⁷²
- May 7 VE Day: In Rheims, France, the German military signs a surrender document. In Paris with the British forces, Alfred Perlès celebrates at the Café du Dôme.
- May 9: The German military signs a second surrender document in Berlin.
- May 30: LD departs Alexandria by military boat for Rhodes for ten days to reconnoitre the war torn island.
- June: The *Personal Landscape* anthology edited by Robin Fedden and others is published by Tambimuttu's Editions Poetry London. The British Council closes the Greek Camp at Nuseirat and Nancy Durrell returns to Jerusalem in July to work as a sub-editor at the Palestine Radio Station with Reggie Smith, who had given her parts in radio dramatizations in 1943-44.

⁷² Richard Pine, *Lawrence Durrell: The Mindscape*. 2nd ed. (Corfu: Durrell School of Corfu, 2005), 53, points out that this scheme leaves out "the fourth element in Greek drama, the *sparagmos* or tearing to pieces of the hero," but when he (Pine) pointed this out to LD, the latter agreed that *The Revolt of Aphrodite* "did represent this stage." See the entry for late March 1937, above, for an earlier formulation of this plan in a letter to Miller (in *DML*, 65).

- June 9/10: LD returns to Alexandria to wrap up his business affairs and disentangle the bureaucratic morass of Eve's stateless status so she can go with him as his administrative *cum* secretarial assistant. This turned into a complicated process involving Egyptian authorities, the chief rabbi in Cairo, a letter from her father, Moise Cohen, and the intervention of Bernard Burrows, LD's friend and First Secretary at the British Embassy in Cairo.⁷³ LD is angered and embittered against the Egyptians, whom he blames for almost losing Eve.
- Mid-July: LD and Eve depart Alexandria and storms keep them away from Rhodes for several days, which they spend on Carpathos.
- July 19: Once on Rhodes they take two rooms at the Albergo della Rosa, a formerly grand hotel on the sea shore adjacent to the Turkish cemetery. LD takes up his job as chief information officer, editing the daily newspaper (*Techni* [Art]) and information bulletins distributed throughout the Dodecanese islands.
- July 20: Paul Valéry dies in Paris at the age of 74 and is buried in the Sète cemetery on the Mediterranean coast.
- August: LD writes to Eliot about a book on Rhodes in a style similar to *Prospero's Cell*. (The new book becomes *Reflections on a Marine Venus*.); he gives up trying to revise *Labyrinth* for Faber and sells it to Tambimuttu, for whom he nonetheless extensively revises it over the next several months.
- August 6: The American's drop the atom bomb on the civilian city of Hiroshima.
- August 9: The American's drop another atom bomb on Nagasaki.
- Autumn: LD meets Raymond Mills the Scot physician (who had met Nancy two years earlier at Nuseirat in Gaza and knew LD's poetry) and his Alexandria-born Greek wife, Georgina, both of whom became life-long friends, and the

⁷³ Haag, 313, who has the story from Eve Durrell. None of the other biographers mentions this particular matter, though IMN, 308, briefly discusses LD's "feints and dodges" on Eve's behalf.

consular official John S. Hoyland (Hoyle in *Reflections on a Marine Venus*).⁷⁴

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Gabriela Mistral, nom de plume of Lucila Godoy Alcayaga, (Chile) the Nobel Prize for Literature, the first woman poet and the first Latin American to be so honored.⁷⁵

October 24: The United Nations Organisation (UNO) charter enters into force.

November: In London, Faber publishes *Prospero's Cell: A Guide to the Landscape and Manners of the Island of Corcyra*, dedicated to Theodore Stephanides, Zarian, Count D and Max Nimiec, to good reviews.⁷⁶ LD provides a new ending and a new title for "The Dark Labyrinth," now to be called *Cefalû*.⁷⁷

November 19: In California, Lepska gives birth to her daughter with Miller, Valentine.

December: *Poetry London* contains LD's "Airgraph on Refugee Poets in Africa," mainly about Seferis and Elie Papadimitriou. He is hastily revising *Cefalû*, the "divorce novel," the royalties from which he intends to pay for the divorce from Nancy, and signs contracts with Tambimuttu and an American publisher Reynal & Hitchcock (in the end the latter does not print the book).

Christmas: LD and Eve spend the holidays on Patmos Island at the fortified monastery of St. John belonging to the Church of the Apocalypse, which they visited thereafter whenever possible.

1946

Eudore Welty's *Delta Wedding*, Ivo Andrić's *Bridge on the Drina*, Jean Genet's *Miracle de la rose*, Thomas Heggen's

⁷⁴ IMN, 315. GB, 176, has the name as Edward Hoyland.

⁷⁵ One cannot but be aware of the coincidence of names here. Frédéric Mistral shared the 1904 Nobel Literature Prize with that world-famous Spanish writer known all over the entire world for his deeply meaningful and broadly evocative works, José Echegaray y Eizaguirre. Richard Aldington wrote a fine biography of Mistral that LD reviewed in 1957. See below.

⁷⁶ IMN, 318. GB, 170, has it published in October.

⁷⁷ When the book is republished after the success of *The Alexandria Quartet*, it regains its original title, *The Dark Labyrinth*.

Mister Roberts, Ann Petry's *The Street*, Miguel Angel Asturias' *Mr. President* and Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men* are published. Eugene O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh*, Terrence Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy* and Eduardo De Filippo's *Filumena Marturano* receive their premiere performances.

January: LD arranges the limited printing on the government press of his *Zero and Asylum in the Snow* and *Six Poems from the Greek of Sikelianos and Seferis*.

January 26: In Alexandria, Claude-Marie Vincendon, age 20, plays the role of Praxinoë in Theocritus' *Fifteenth Idyll* at the Royal Archaeological Society's dinner at Baudrot's restaurant, where LD and his friends often met during the war.

Early February: LD travels to Athens for the first time since 1941 where it snows and he meets Seferis, Katsimbalis, Patrick Reilly (British Ambassador), Stephen Runciman, Maurice Cardiff, Rex Warner, Wallace Southam, Patrick Leigh Fermor, John Waller, Osbert Lancaster; unsuccessfully tries to find a position in Greece after the British would turn over sovereignty of the Dodecanese Islands to Greece.

February 27: LD is 34 years old.

February 28-March 2: LD writes his opinion of Egyptians to Miller: "I feel like a crusader when I think of Egypt. I'd gladly put an army corps into the country and slaughter the lot of those bigoted, filthy, leprous bastards!"⁷⁸

Early April: Mary Mollo, photographer for the British Forces magazine *Parade*, visits Rhodes and begins life-long friendship with LD; he and Eve take her and another journalist on a tour of the Dodecanese islands in a small smelly caïque.

April: *Cities, Plains and People* (poems) is published to generally fine reviews. LD writes to Eliot that "the only big subject left in England is sex really" and that he wants to do a novel about sex in the near-Levant.

Mid-April: LD returns to Athens for a short visit, where he finds two trunks of manuscripts (including the "Book of

⁷⁸ DML, 196. Michael Haag, *Alexandria*, 315n96, has this on p. 194, which is where the letter begins on February 28 and ends on March 2.

the Dead”) and other materials he’d left with friends in 1941.

- April 29: *The Portable Faulkner* is published in New York City, resuscitating that author’s sagging reputation.
- Spring: LD is informed he will not get the British Council job in Athens and must wait for another opening somewhere else. King Farouk visits Rhodes and causes havoc by demanding luxury on an island devastated by the war.
- May: Claude-Marie Vincendon, working in Alexandria as a secretary to Tim Forde, a married Irishman employed by the Quartermaster Corps of the Royal Navy at the Western Harbor, finds herself pregnant by her boss.
- June: LD is writing furiously at “Black Honey”⁷⁹ and planning a play about Sappho; mid-month sends proofs of *Cefalû* to London; also begins translating Emmanuel Royidis’ *Papissa Joanna*.⁸⁰ Mary Mollo and her husband, Henry Hadkinson, move to Athens for two years and host the Durrells several times.
- June 6: Gerhard Hauptmann, Nobel 1912, dies at the age of 84.
- Summer: Claude’s mother, Claire, sends her to London to work as a press attaché for the French Embassy while Claire, wishing to give her grandchild a legal father, goes about arranging for Forde’s divorce.
- July 22: In Jerusalem, members of the radical Jewish terrorist group Irgun blow up part of the Hotel David killing 90 people in the campaign to force the British out of Palestine.
- July 31: LD moves into Villa Cleobolus, a tiny house on the edge of the Turkish cemetery on one of the main town thoroughfares, at a time when there is very little traffic; Eve maintains her room at the Albergo della Rosa for the sake of propriety, but is very often seen in LD’s company at the miniscule “villa.”⁸¹
- August: Mary Mollo Hadkinson returns to Rhodes to finish up her photo-journalism gig.

⁷⁹ Copies of the typescript in various versions are in the Durrell School of Corfu library, the Durrell collection at Southern Illinois University (Carbondale) and the Iowa State University library. While there have been readings of the play, it has to my knowledge never been produced.

⁸⁰ IMN, 327. GB, 180, has this happening in the autumn.

⁸¹ IMN, 328. GB, 176, has it early September.

Summer's end: Patrick Leigh Fermor, his future wife Joan Eyres-Monsell and Xan Fielding visit for a week of talk and touring. (The photograph of this visit includes a box of Kellogg's Corn Flakes on the table, reminiscent of the image taken of Robert Desnos and friends at the Café du Dôme in the mid-1920s with a box of Quaker Oats on the table, a conjuncture LD would have appreciated.)⁸²

September: Stephanides' book about his wartime experiences, *Climax in Crete*, is published with preface by LD, who is briefly in Cairo mid-month.

End September: With misguided British support, the hidebound conservative King George returns to Athens.

October: LD is halfway through the manuscript of *Reflections on a Marine Venus* but is overwhelmed by the material.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Hermann Hesse (Switzerland) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 20: LD tells Eliot he has new collection of poems for Faber.

End October: LD and Eve fly to Athens to look for a position and to meet his friends Katsimbalis, Seferis, Henry Hadkinson, Ambassador Patrick Reilly, Patrick Leigh Fermor, Steven Runciman, Rex Warner, and the aged poet Angelos Sikelianos.

November:⁸³ Claude Vincendon gives birth to a daughter, Diana, fathered by Tim Forde, whose divorce becomes final soon after and they marry and trundle off to Cork, Ireland, to operate a pub.

November 15: LD is granted a provisional divorce from Nancy.

Autumn: The Greek civil war begins in Macedonia.

Near year's end: A ship carrying illegal Jewish refugee Holocaust survivors to Palestine goes aground and the approximately

⁸² The Villa Cleobolus photograph is in IMN and the Desnos image is in Billy Klüver and Julie Martin, *Kiki's Paris. Artists and Lovers 1900-1930* (New York: Harry N. Abrams Publishers, 1989), 169.

⁸³ GB, 179, inaccurately has LD taking Eve to Corfu in November for brief visit to discover that the wife of the owner of the house in Kalami, Eleni, had died of starvation in 1940 and that Athenaios had shortly thereafter married a girl named Kerkyra with whom he now has a five-year old daughter. IMN, 539-540, correctly has LD's first visit since the war take place in May 1964. Michael Haag notes that Eve never went to Corfu with LD. (Personal communication.)

800 passengers find safety on the uninhabited island of Sirina; Mills and the Durrells sail there on a Greek destroyer to attend the sick and injured who are transported to Rhodes for hospital treatment while their fellow passengers are shipped to detention camps in Cyprus.

Year's end: LD finishes the lyric drama *Sappho*.⁸⁴

1947

Thomas Mann's *Dr. Faustus*, Mickey Spillane's *I, the Jury*, Willard Motley's *Knock on Any Door*,⁸⁵ James A. Michener's *Tales of the South Pacific*, Malcolm Lowry's *Under the Volcano*, Albert Camus' *The Plague (La Peste)*, Yasunari Kawabata's *Snow Country* and Italo Calvino's *The Path to the Nest of Spiders* are published. In America, Robert Lowell's *Lord Weary's Castle* wins the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

January 13: LD is granted an absolute divorce from Nancy.

February 26: Yvette Cohen and LD are married at military headquarters on Rhodes to ensure Eve receives British papers relieving her of her stateless condition.⁸⁶

February 27: LD is 35 years old.

March: The British turn over the Dodecanese Islands to Greek sovereignty ending LD's employment.

March 15: The newlyweds travel to Athens for last meeting with friends (Seferis, Katsimbalis, Ghika, Rex Warner, et alia).⁸⁷

⁸⁴ GB, 180.

⁸⁵ Which contains the memorable phrase describing the life-goal of the young men in the Denver underworld: "Live fast, die young and have a good looking corpse."

⁸⁶ IMN, 334. GB, 173, has LD deciding to marry Eve after his 34th birthday and notes, 182, that "his divorce papers indicate he married on the 17th" of February. Presumably he means the papers for the divorce from Eve. Cooper, 257-258, has LD and Eve returning to Alexandria to marry, conflating the story of her departure for Rhodes with the marriage. Cooper gives no source for this but elsewhere indicated she interviewed both Eve and LD in 1987. One must wonder who told Cooper what stories.

⁸⁷ GB, 183, citing Cooper, 258, who apparently got it from Eve, tells the incoherent story about the Durrells flying from Athens to Cairo to attempt to placate Eve's parents with an Orthodox Jewish wedding. While LD remains in Cairo, she visits the parents in Alexandria where they have Chief Rabbi try to commit her into an asylum; at which point LD tells her to go into hiding at Gwyn Williams' flat. Then with the Chief Rabbi's help the parents are somehow mollified and the Orthodox

- Early April: Durrells travel via Alexandria to London; Eve does not tell her parents they are coming through the city and does not see them.⁸⁸
- Mid-April: They provisionally stay with Louisa Durrell at 52 St. Alban's Avenue, Bournemouth. (Margo, her husband and two-year old son, Gerald and Leslie are also living there.)
- Spring-Summer: LD continues work on the book about Rhodes and meets the rightwing poet Roy Campbell while recording a program for the BBC.
- June: LD interviews for and is offered a two-year job as lecturer at the British Council Institute in Córdoba, Argentina, which he accepts. His lengthy article on Groddeck is published in *Horizon*.⁸⁹
- June 27: LD and Eve travel to Scotland by train for a week to visit Perlès.
- July 9: The Durrells are back in Bournemouth, 52 St Alban's Avenue.
- Mid-July: The Durrells travel to Paris for three weeks, staying in a cheap hotel on the rue Notre Dame des Champs.
- Summer-Autumn: LD lectures on BBC. He finishes the *Pope Joan* translation and sends it to the publisher, Rodney Philips and Green, and sends Eliot the manuscript of *Sappho*.

wedding takes place. This conflation of fabrication and confused chronology should have warned GB about the story's authenticity. Cooper actually says they married in Cairo after these events with no mention of an Orthodox Jewish wedding. Fabulation upon fabulation, and a distinct indifference to historical truth. But then LD was a novelist whose job was fiction so why should those who write about him not join in the genre? Michael Haag insists, quite correctly I believe, that Eve was a "straightforward, sensible, and chronologically well-founded" and "entirely reliable witness," adding that only with regard to intimately psychological subjects in her relations with loved ones is caution advised. (Personal communication.) Cooper clearly did a sloppy research job, or simply made up these stories; we shall perhaps never know which.

⁸⁸ IMN, 334-335, who also states here that LD never met his Cohen in-laws, contrary to the Gotches' story noted above. IMN's information comes from a letter to him from Eve Durrell, 14 September 1991.

⁸⁹ "Studies in Genius VI: Groddeck," *Horizon* (June, 1947). Curiously, on March 19, 1947, W. H. Auden discovered someone had stolen his copy of Groddeck and was trying to sell it. Alan Ansen, *The Table Talk of W. H. Auden* (Princeton NJ, 1990), 41.

- August 27: Nancy Myers Durrell marries Edward Hodgkin in Jerusalem as their jobs in broadcasting end; they and Penelope return to England to live a quiet, retiring life.
- September: The Durrells move into Ines and Bernard Burrows' London flat until they depart for South America. Eve makes lunch for Eliot and Gwyn Williams. Penelope is enrolled in a school west of Bournemouth.
- September 9: LD talks on the BBC Home Service on the subject of "Greek Peasant Superstitions."
- September 17: LD talks on BBC Home Service about his dreams in Greece, the text of which is later published in *The Listener*.⁹⁰
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards André Gide (France) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- October 28: The Durrells sail on *Brazil Star* for Argentina via Lisbon, where they meet Bernard Spencer who works for the British Council there,⁹¹ then move on to Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires via Montevideo.
- Early December: The Durrells briefly visit Cordoba, where they meet the Argentine writer, Enrique 'Quique' Revol, who introduces them to the aristocrat Jorge 'Monono' Ferreyra and his wife 'Bebita,' with whom they become friends.
- Winter: Tambimuttu's Editions Poetry London publishes *Cefalû*.

1948

Aldous Huxley's *Ape and Essence*, Henry Green's *Concluding*, Graham Greene's *The Heart of the Matter*, Thomas Mann's *Joseph and His Brothers* (English translation), William Gardner Smith's *Last of the Conquerors*, Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead*, Ross Lockridge Jr.'s *Raintree County*, Zora Neale Hurston's *Seraph On the Sewanee* and Irwin Shaw's *The Young Lions* are published. In America W. H. Auden's *The Age of Anxiety*, James A. Michener's *Tales of the South Pacific* and Tennessee Williams' *A*

⁹⁰ "Can Dreams Live on When Dreamers Die?" *The Listener* (September 25, 1947).

⁹¹ GB, 187-188; IMN does not mention this stop.

Streetcar Named Desire win the Pulitzer Prizes for poetry, fiction and drama.

January: LD types final version of *On Seeming to Presume* and sends it to Eliot.⁹²

January 10: Gandhi is assassinated.

February: In a coup, the Communist Party takes power in Czechoslovakia.

February 27: LD is 36 years old.

End February: From Buenos Aires the Durrells leave to visit the Ferreyra summer home in Cruz Chica, in the hills near Córdoba.

Early March: At the end of the summer school holiday the Durrells leave the Ferreyras to take up his post in Córdoba.

March 6: The one-book writer, author of the great American novel *Raintree County*, Ross Lockridge Jr., commits suicide at the age of 34, apparently unable to handle the immediate success of his book.

March 10: Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald dies by fire in Asheville, North Carolina at the age of 48.

End March: LD taking the herbal drug Valerian to calm his nerves under stress of hating (with certain exceptions, of course) Argentina, its people and its culture.

April: The current director of the British Council Institute, between whom and LD no love is lost, resigns. LD lectures on the road in Cruz Chica, La Plata and other towns. Faber publishes *On Seeming to Presume*.⁹³

May: LD admits taking the Argentine job was a serious error.

May 14: In Tel-Aviv, David Ben Gurion proclaims the existence of the State of Israel; the surrounding Arab nations immediately attack the new state in an attempt to drive the Jews into the sea.

Summer: LD intensely dislikes Córdoba despite making several good friends there; he works on selecting texts for an anthology of Miller's writings he has contracted to for New Directions, Miller's main American publisher.

⁹² IMN, 345; GB, 185, has the poems sent to Eliot in the summer-autumn of the previous year.

⁹³ IMN, 354; GB, 193, has both the poems and *Pope Joan* published in October, but as IMN, 354, notes the translation though scheduled for publication in October by Rodney Phillips and Green in London, did not appear because the firm went bankrupt before printing began.

- June 18: Soviet troops stop most land traffic from the Federal Republic of (West) Germany into Berlin.
- June 24: Soviet troops stop barge traffic from West Germany into Berlin in effect enforcing a somewhat porous but troublesome blockade of the western sectors of the city.
- July 5: Georges Bernanos dies in the Paris suburb of Neuilly-sur-Seine at the age of 68.
- Mid-July: At Faber, Eliot accepts *Sappho* for publication after revisions.
- August: LD is fed up with Córdoba, resigns his position giving a medical condition as the ostensible reason.
- August 28: Lepska gives birth to Tony, Miller's first and only son.
- September-October: The Durrells flee Córdoba for Buenos Aires where they stay in the Ferreyras' apartment until they leave South America. LD meets Jorge Luis Borges at a party.⁹⁴
- September 27: In New York, Random House publishes Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust*.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards T. S. Eliot (UK) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- December 4: The Durrells depart Argentina on the *SS Andes* for London.
- Mid-December: On arrival in London, the British Council informs LD that his services are no longer required. He and Eve move into his mother Louisa's Bournemouth house, ever a safe-haven.⁹⁵

1949

Jorge Luis Borges' *The Aleph*, John Hawkes' *The Cannibal*, George Orwell's *1984*, Paul Bowles' *The Sheltering Sky*, Nelson Algren's *The Man with the Golden Arm*, Elizabeth Bowen's *The Heat of the Day*, Nancy Mitford's *Love in a*

⁹⁴ IMN, 358; GB, 187-188, has LD meeting Borges in November of the previous year.

⁹⁵ The Argentine sojourn was not a total waste, of course, because LD's lectures formed the basis for his book *A Key to Modern Poetry* (*A Key to Modern British Poetry* is the more accurate American title by the University of Oklahoma Press) published in 1952.

Cold Climate, Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* and John O'Hara's *A Rage to Live* are published. Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, T. S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*, Christopher Fry's *The Lady's Not for Burning* and Jean Genet's *Haute surveillance* receive their premiere performances.

Winter-spring: LD sees nine-year-old Penelope for first time since 1942; writes an essay on Miller for *Horizon*.

January: In London, Allan Wingate publishes *The Complete Poems of Richard Aldington*.

February: Perlès visits Bournemouth for a weekend.

February 27: LD is 37 years old.

April: The Foreign Office appoints LD as press attaché at British Embassy in Belgrade on a three-year contract with rank of first secretary on the FO list and a commensurate salary; he has his horoscope cast again, this time by Arthur Gauntlet, who forecast with some accuracy the rest of LD's life, not as optimistic as Moricand's earlier prognostication.

May: The Durrells travel by train to Belgrade via Paris, Switzerland and Trieste.

May 11-12: Traffic resumes between West Berlin and the Federal Republic of (West) Germany as the Soviets lift the blockade.

May 13: The *Times Literary Supplement* prints LD's "Hellene and Philhelene".

May 20: The Durrells cross into Yugoslavia at Trieste. Life in the communist nation turns LD sharply to the political right (as he becomes a self described, to some extent humourously, "monarcho-fascist").

June: In London, Secker and Warburg publish George Orwell's *1984*; LD writes a letter of praise to the author.

June 10: Sigrid Undset, Nobel 1928, dies at the age of 67.

June 28: The Moscow-dominated Communist Information Bureau (Cominform), successor to the Moscow-dominated Communist International (Comintern) expels Yugoslavia; the Soviets move armored divisions to the border.

July: LD writes to Stephanides for vitamins, sedatives (Valerian) and drugs for illnesses.

- July 20: *Horizon* publishes LD's essay "Studies in Genius - Henry Miller".
- August: The Durrells move into their own house at 3 Puskinova Street, in Belgrade.
- August 16: Margaret Mitchell, author of *Gone with the Wind*, is killed by a taxicab in Atlanta, Georgia, at the age of 48.
- Early September: The Yugoslav-Soviet naval and air pacts are dissolved.
- Early September: Maurice Girodias in Paris, whose Olympia Press succeeded his father's Obelisk Press after the liberation of France, sends LD a copy of Miller's book, *Sexus*, which LD has promised to review.
- September 5: Halfway through the volume, LD writes a letter to Miller expressing his bitter disappointment in the book.
- September 10: After finishing the book, LD sends cable to Miller asking that *Sexus* be withdrawn before the latter's reputation is fatally damaged; he also writes to Girodias about his embarrassment having promised to review the book for several journals, thinking it would be the old Miller; Miller and Perlès receive copies of the letter.
- September 28: Miller responds with a calm letter, which LD doesn't receive until weeks later.
- September 29: LD cables Miller with apologies for his intemperate response (although he was of course correct in his analysis of the book, if not the damage it would do to Miller's reputation).
- End September: LD goes by train to Zagreb with other members of the diplomatic corps on a Yugoslav government sponsored public relations trip, at which point his blatant caricature, Antrobus, begins his service.⁹⁶ LD meets Malcolm Muggeridge in Belgrade.
- October 3: In a letter Miller responds graciously to LD's cable.
- Early October: Having corresponded with Perlès, who chastised him, LD writes to Miller reaffirming his admiration and

⁹⁶ LD's collected Antrobus stories detailing the colorful and satirical foibles of diplomatic life behind the Iron Curtain, Africa and elsewhere, published piecemeal in magazines and short volumes over the years, appear in *The Complete Antrobus* (1985).

friendship; he writes Girodias along the same lines. He takes Eve on a trip to Sarajevo. The Swedish Academy awards William Faulkner (USA) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 12: LD writes again to Miller about *Sexus*.

End October: The Durrells visit Salonika and the Macedonian hills on a duty trip, the nature of which is not completely clear, but probably to gather various kinds of information for MI6, the British intelligence agency.

December: LD is thinking about reinvigorating an old project: a study of Elizabethan writers; he appears as a dwarf in the Embassy's holiday production of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

1950

Ernest Hemingway's *Across the River and Into the Trees*, Jack Kerouac's *The Town and the City*, John Hersey's *The Wall*, A. E. van Vogt's *The Voyage of the Space Beagle* and Ford Madox Ford's *Parade's End* are published. Eugène Ionesco's *La Cantatrice chauve* receives its premiere performance in Paris.

First week in January: LD and Eve travel to Trieste for a week to get away from the gray cold dullness of Belgrade.

January 21: George Orwell dies of tuberculosis complications at University Hospital in London at the age of 46 and as Eric Blair is buried in the Anglican churchyard at the village of Sutton Courtenay in the Thames Valley.

February: Constantine Zarian, his old friend from Corfu, writes LD about the pleasures of Ischia, the island off Naples, where the sun shines all day, the wine flows liberally and people laugh freely with gusto.

February 27: LD is 38 years old.

March: In New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearce publish Richard Aldington's biography of his one-time close friend, *D. H. Lawrence: Portrait of a Genius, But....*

April: Faber publishes LD's *Sappho: A Play in Verse*. Atlee and the Labor Government are re-elected, angering LD who

- hoped for the election of the strongly anti-communist Churchill and the Conservative Party.
- Mid-June: The Durrells take a month-long holiday on Ischia, reuniting with Zarian and his painter wife, and Xan Fielding; they meet Auden and have dinner, and Norman Douglas. LD writes and privately prints the long poem “Deus Loci.”
- June 25: North Korean army invades the south, beginning the Korean War.
- June 27: The UN passes resolution for member nations to militarily aid South Korea, and United Nations military units commanded by the United States begin landing in Korea to throw back the North’s army, confirming LD in his belief that only the USA understands what communism is and how it must be fought.
- Mid-July: Back in Yugoslavia the Durrells make another duty trip driving to Sarajevo, Dubrovnik, Split and Zagreb, absorbing geography and other information to be later used in his thriller *White Eagles over Serbia*, and, not coincidentally, passing the information on to the MI6 representative at the Embassy.⁹⁷
- August 23: The actress Margaret Rawling writes from London requesting a year’s option on *Sappho*.
- End of August: The Durrells go to dinner at home of Toder Obradović, a Serbian journalist for Agence France Presse, whose wife Miller knew during the Villa Seurat days in 1937; Miller had asked LD to locate her.
- September: Kingsley Amis publishes LD’s poems “Epitaph” and “Water Colour of Venice” are in the *New Statesman*.⁹⁸
- Early October: Bertrand Russell (UK) is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- November: LD pays John Gawsworth to edit and index the “A Key to Modern Poetry” manuscript for publication.
- November 2: George Bernard Shaw, Nobel 1925, dies at the age of 94.

⁹⁷ This is speculative, but in keeping with the duties of an Embassy official stationed in a hostile country. MI6 is the British equivalent of the American Central Intelligence Agency.

⁹⁸ Interestingly, Amis published at least one nativist criticism of British writers like LD who lived outside the UK, noting that, “no one wants any more poems about ... foreign cities.” Cited in Roger Bowen, *“Many Histories Deep,”* 187.

November 25: J. V. Jenson, Nobel 1944, dies at the age of 77.

End November: Eve discovers she is pregnant.

December: "Education of a Cloud" is published in the *New Statesman*. LD begins short affair with Yugoslav ballerina, Smilja (prototype of Mountolive's ballerina mistress in *The Alexandria Quartet*).

1951

Norman Mailer's *Barbary Shore*, Herman Wouk's *The Caine Mutiny*, J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, Nicholas Monsarrat's *The Cruel Sea*, William Styron's *Lie Down in Darkness*, Josephine Tey's *The Daughter of Time*, Marguerite Yourcenar's *Mémoires d'Hadrien* and James Jones' *From Here to Eternity* are published. Jean-Paul Sartre's *Le diable et le bon dieu* and Tennessee Williams' *The Rose Tattoo* receive their premiere performances.

Henry Miller and Lepaska separate; she takes the children to Los Angeles.

Winter: LD is bogged down in revisions of *Reflections on a Marine Venus* and also works on play that becomes *Acte*.

January: The *Times Literary Supplement* (hereafter *TLS*) publishes an LD poem ("Sarajevo") for the first time; he gives three lectures on literature at Belgrade University.

January 10: Sinclair Lewis, Nobel 1930, dies in Rome of alcoholism and disappointment at the age of 66.

Early February: Visiting Trieste, LD discovers an armor-plated Horch once owned by Hermann Göring which he buys cheaply and drives back to Belgrade, its ostentatious grandeur annoying his colleagues in the diplomatic corps.⁹⁹

February 19: André Gide, Nobel 1947, dies in Paris at the age of 82 and is buried in the Cimetière de Cuverville, Basse-Normandie, France.

February 26: Gerald Durrell marries Jacqueline (Jacquie) Wolfenden in Bournemouth.

February 27: LD is 39 years old.

⁹⁹ How the vehicle made its way to Trieste is as yet an unanswered question.

March 15: BBC Third Programme broadcasts a selection of LD's poems produced by an old Cairo friend, Terence Tiller.

Early spring: Eve travels to England to look for a suitable house in which to live while she goes through birth; Louisa Durrell and Mary Mollo Hadkinson help find house at 84 Old Road in Headington near Churchill Hospital in Oxford.

May 22: LD arrives in Oxford from Belgrade.

May 30: Eve gives birth to Sappho Jane with Louisa on hand, as are Alfred Perlès and his new wife Anne, Anne Ridler and her husband Vivian, and Mary Mollo Hadkinson, herself in mid-pregnancy with her first child.

Early June: LD meets Francis John Mott, an American eccentric with theories to explain everything.¹⁰⁰ Before departing for Belgrade LD records his "Iron Curtain Blues" on a 78-rpm disk and gives it to Alan Thomas.¹⁰¹

June 11: LD returns to work in Yugoslavia while Eve and Sappho remain in England until September 1.

June: The TLS publishes "The Sirens", indicating LD's increasingly strong desire to return to live in Greece.

July 31: The BBC Third Programme series New Soundings No. 6 broadcasts a reading of "Deus Loci" on a show produced by John Lehmann.

August 9: LD returns to Oxford and the family where he stays with the Motts.

Mid-August: LD meets Seferis, now counselor at the Greek Embassy in London, Alfred and Anne Perlès, and lunches with Eliot at the Garrick.

September 1: LD and family return by train to Belgrade where he continues to work on *Reflections* in his spare time.

September 27: In New York, Random House publishes William Faulkner's *Requiem for a Nun*.

¹⁰⁰ Mott authored *Universal Design of the Oedipus Complex* (1950) and *Universal Design of Birth*, both read and marked up by LD.

¹⁰¹ Sections of it are printed in IMN, 374-375. The disk is in the Alan Thomas collection at the British Library in London. In 2012, the BBC and British Library released a CD containing extracts from a radio interview with Malcolm Muggeridge from 1965, LD reading several of his poems (1963), an interview with D. G. Bridson (1963) and rare recordings of his piano playing and singing two songs from 1935; "Iron Curtail Blues" is not on this CD.

October: Churchill and the conservatives come to power in England.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Pär Lagerkvist (Sweden) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

December: LD writes a “Little Red Riding Hood” sketch for holiday Embassy performance.¹⁰² The Foreign Office drastically reduces wages and perks for contract staff: LD’s income plummets from £5000 to £1500 per annum.

1952

Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*, John Steinbeck’s *East of Eden*, Italo Calvino’s *La Formica Argentina*, Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea*, and Robert Heinlein’s *The Rolling Stones* are published. Jean-Paul Sartre’s *Les jeux sont faits* receives its premiere performance.

Robert Liddell’s claustrophobic novel about homosexuals in Alexandria (called Caesarea in the book) during the war, *Unreal City*, is published in London.¹⁰³ Henry Miller and Lepska are divorced.

LD publishes an appreciation of his friend Constant Zarian on *The Poetry Review*.¹⁰⁴

January: LD finishes *Reflections on a Marine Venus*.

January 21: A reading of a shortened version of *Sappho* arranged in London by Margaret Rawlings.

February 19: Knut Hamsun, supporter of the Nazis and admired by Miller, Nobel 1920, dies at the age of 93, not quite comprehending why his reputation has suffered since 1945.

February 27: LD is 40 years old.

March: Leslie Durrell marries Doris Hall.

April: In London, Peter Neville publishes LD’s *A Key to Modern Poetry* based on the Argentine lectures, and in the USA the University of Oklahoma Press publishes the book as *A Key*

¹⁰² The timing of this event is unclear; it could have taken place the previous year.

¹⁰³ Peter Owen Publishers, London, reissued the book, along with several other Liddell novels, in 1993. Curiously, there is no mention of Liddell’s Cavafy biography anywhere on the jacket or the listing of books “by the same author.”

¹⁰⁴ “Constant Zarian: Triple Exile” *The Poetry Review*, 1 (1952). Reprinted in LD, *From the Elephant’s Back*, 225-231.

to *Modern British Poetry*, a title more reflective of the contents.

April 1: Eve McClure moves to Big Sur to care for Miller's two young children, who are living with him.

May: LD takes family on a six-week camping trip through Macedonia into Greece.

Ca. June 8: The Durrells are camping on the peninsula of Chalcidice opposite the island of Thasos.

July 8: The Durrells return to Belgrade.

End July: They make another duty camping trip to the lakeside at Bled, where the Yugoslavian government moves for the summer.

August 17: LD writes to Anne Ridler he's thinking of moving the family to Cyprus when his contract in Yugoslavia is up; he believes, with reason, that there is no chance he could be posted to Athens because he is fluent in Greek.

September 18: Anthony Eden arrives in Belgrade for a five-day visit in support of Tito against Stalin.

September 23: Eden departs, having publicly praised LD's information team; LD drives to Trieste on "errands".

September 24: The Foreign Office releases LD from service by not renewing his contract.¹⁰⁵

October: Repeating his request to Wilkinson in 1935 to find him a house on Corfu, LD now asks him to find one on Cyprus where he thinks his family could live for a year on savings and turn to the notes he has made for the Egyptian novel.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards François Mauriac (France) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 15: LD writes to Alan Thomas that he is quitting the Foreign Office in December, noting that, "Looks as if I am getting the push for a year or two from the F.O."¹⁰⁶

Late autumn: Eve shows signs of manic depression syndrome, believing LD does not care about her any more.

November 1: The Americans explode the first hydrogen bomb over an atoll in the South Pacific.

¹⁰⁵ GB, 208.

¹⁰⁶ IMN, 380, interprets this to mean "[h]is departure may not have been entirely voluntary."

- Late November: Eve falls into deep depressions and suffers schizophrenic hallucinations similar to those from the period in Alexandria prior to meeting LD.
- December 4: Accompanied by LD, Eve is admitted to the Psychiatric Division in the British military hospital in Hanover, Germany (the closest British psychiatric facility) for treatment, delaying their departure from Belgrade for Cyprus.
- Mid-December: LD returns to Belgrade and decides to write a series of thrillers to make additional cash.
- December 31: Miller arrives in Europe with Eve McClure (soon to be his fourth wife), her sister and the latter's husband, the painter Bezalel Schatz.

1953

- James Baldwin's *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Saul Bellow's *The Adventures of Augie March*, Françoise Sagan's *Bonjour Tristesse*, Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, Raymond Chandler's *The Long Goodbye*, Davis Grubb's *The Night of the Hunter*, Leon Uris' *Battle Cry*, Ivy Compton-Burnett's *The Present and the Past* and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' *The Sojourner* are published. Samuel Beckett's *En attendant Godot* receives its premiere performance in Paris.
- January 5: In the Hanover hospital, Eve is diagnosed as schizophrenic, but released and enters an observation ward in Trieste.
- January 14: LD and Sappho visit Eve in Trieste; she asks for a year alone in England to continue therapy.
- January 19: LD and Sappho depart Belgrade for Venice, where they take a boat to Limassol, on the southern coast of Cyprus.
- January 26: Disembarking at Limassol, they travel to Kyrenia, a fair-sized harbor town on the north coast, and stay briefly with George and Iris Wilkinson at their Villa Christina until they move into two rooms in a house on the town's main street.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁷ Haag, 318. Kyrenia did not have a sea connection to Italy. George Wilkinson divorced Pamela in 1947 and a year later married Iris Flavia Antoinette Mantura,

- End January: Eve voluntarily returns to Hanover for further treatment.
- February 27: LD is 41 years old.
- March 3: With the help of a clever Turkish real estate agent, Sabri Tahir, LD buys a dilapidated Turkish house in the hamlet of Bellapaix a few miles east of Kyrenia and four miles from the sea, and begins the process of restoring it.¹⁰⁸
- April: John Lehmann visits LD for several days.¹⁰⁹
- April 9: Eve is discharged from the military hospital and flies from Hanover to England by military air transport.
- Mid-May: Miller and Eve McClure meet Perlès and his wife Anne in Barcelona for two days of wine and laughter, reminding Miller of the days in Paris before the war.¹¹⁰
- End May: Louisa Durrell arrives to help care for Sappho; the novelist Rose Macaulay celebrates Sappho's second birthday with the Durrells.
- Early June: The Durrells move into the Bellapaix house, still crowded with workers and their equipment and plaster dust and noise.¹¹¹
- June: LD meets the architect Austen Harrison in Lapithos, where a circle of friends forms, including Pearce Hubbard, another architect, and by the end of the year Marie Millington-Drake, an extraordinarily intelligent and very lovely blonde.
- Mid-summer: Constantine Zarian visits with his wife, Frances Brooks.
- July: Miller and Eve McClure decide to return to the USA without visiting Cyprus.
- July 26: In Egypt, Nasser and other military martinet overthrow Farouk and seize power.

who had been Nancy Durrell's boss at the Near East Arab Broadcasting Station in Jerusalem and Jaffa. As IMN (383) notes, "...Larry had known Iris before she met George, when Larry had visited Jerusalem during and just after the war."

¹⁰⁸ See *Bitter Lemons*, 47ff., for LD's version of the purchase negotiations. He got the house for £300; according to GB, 213, it sold for £160,000 in 1995.

¹⁰⁹ IMN, 393; GB, 216, has the visit in November.

¹¹⁰ The meeting is commemorated in Miller's idiosyncratic "Reunion in Barcelona," written a year later and available in *The Intimate Henry Miller*. Introduction by Lawrence Clark Powell (New York: New American Library/Signet Books, 1959).

¹¹¹ IMN, 396. GB, 216, has the move in October, possibly misled by LD's end of that month letter to Miller (postmarked October 24th) saying, "We should be all set in another ten days." (*DML*, 272.)

- July 31: In London, Faber publishes GD's *The Overloaded Ark*, which is an immediate bestseller.
- Early August: Faber publishes *Reflections on a Marine Venus*, dedicated to Walter and Amy Smart, to excellent notices.
- End August: A new version of "Book of the Dead" has reached 100 pages.
- September: Eve takes a permanent position at Bedales boarding school in Petersfield, Hampshire.
- Autumn: LD begins teaching at Pancyprrian Gymnasium in Nicosia, 30 miles distant; he rises at 4:30 to write for an hour before leaving for work.
- End September: The "Book of the Dead," now called "Justine in Alexandria," has reached 25,000 words.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Winston Churchill the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- November 6: Seferis arrives in Nicosia airport; he spends more time with Maurice Cardiff than with LD, whose loyalty to the Greek cause (*Enosis*) he correctly suspects is not unconditional.
- Ca. November 8: Seferis visits LD at Bellapaix, they discuss the Cypriot variations on the effect of Aphrodite, the goddess of sexual love, and the many incidences of hermaphrodites on Cyprus.
- November 8: Ivan Bunin, Nobel 1933, in French exile since 1918, dies in Paris at the age of 83.
- November 9: The mellifluous poet Dylan Thomas dies in New York City at the age of 39 and is buried in the over-spill graveyard of St. Martin's Church, Laugharne, Dyfed, Wales.
- Mid-November: Patrick Leigh Fermor visits the Durrells for a week.¹¹²
- November 27: Eugene O'Neill, Nobel 1936, dies in a Boston hotel room at the age of 65 and is buried at Forest Hills Cemetery and Crematory, Jamaica Plain, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.
- November 30: Seferis reads his poems to LD's class at the Pancyprrian Gymnasium, increasing LD's prestige among the students.
- December: Miller and Eve McClure marry in Carmel Highlands, California.

¹¹² IMN, 402; GB, 216, has the visit the end of October.

December 6: LD, Seferis, Maurice Cardiff, the painter Adamantios Diamantis, his wife Antoinette Diamanti and Cardiff's young son visit the Acheiropoietos monastery.

December 25: Austen Harrison, Diane Newall (flying in from Beirut for the holidays), Sappho, Louisa, the cook Mrs Cooke, and LD enjoy a holiday feast.

1954

Mordecai Richler's *The Acrobats*, Pierre Boulle's *Le pont de la rivière Kwai*, William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, Pauline Réage's *L'Histoire d'O*, Simone de Beauvoir's *Les mandarins*, Kingsley Amis' *Lucky Jim*, Kamala Markandaya's *Nectar in a Sieve*, John Steinbeck's *Sweet Thursday* and Iris Murdoch's *Under the Net* are published. Brendan Behan's *The Quare Fellow*, Terence Rattigan's *Separate Tables* and Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood* receive their premiere performances.

Pope Joan by Emmanuel Royidis in LD's translation, dedicated to George Katsimbalis, is published by Derek Verschoyle in London.¹¹³

February: Eve, who is staying with the Burrows, decides she is ready to return to LD and Sappho, but asks Alan and Ella Thomas to find her and Sappho a place to stay if she returns to England.

February 18: The "Book of the Dead" remains in neutral at 25,000 words.

February-March: LD writes the thriller *White Eagles over Serbia*.

February 27: LD is 42 years old.

Mid-March: Freya Stark and Sir Harry Luke visit Bellapaix.

Spring: Rupert Hart-Davis publishes GD's *Three Singles to Adventure* in London.

April: Daphne and Xan Fielding (whose war memoir *Hide and Seek* has just been published), and Katsimbalis visit.

¹¹³ The revised 1960 American edition published by Overlook Press in Woodstock, New York, lists LD as the author of the book with the notation "translated and adapted from the Greek of Emmanuel Royidis."

- April 1: Eve flies to Nicosia to rejoin her family, but shortly thereafter becomes convinced that nothing had changed.¹¹⁴
- May 17: The U.S. Supreme Court declares racial segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional.
- June: Ines Burrows and her children come for a week, during which time she talks to LD honestly about the marriage and his behavior, which annoys him.
- June 10: LD receives offer to become a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, which he accepts.
- Summer: Tension increases among LD, Eve and Louisa.
- July: Louisa leaves to return to Bournemouth. LD accepts an appointment as the Director of Information Services for the Cyprus (British) government. Maurice Cardiff presciently tells him if he takes the job he'd lose all his Greek friends. The job includes responsibility for the monthly magazine *Cyprus Review*, the Cyprus Tourist Office and the Cyprus Broadcasting Station.
- July 14: Jacinto Benavente, Nobel 1922, dies at the age of 88.
- July 30: Eve knows the marriage is not going to work any longer but continues to remain.
- August: LD moves into a small villa in Nicosia to be near his job, but keeps the Bellapaix house where Eve and Sappho continue to live. The *TLS* prints his poem "On Mirrors."
- August 2: In New York, Random House publishes Faulkner's *A Fable*.
- August 8: LD gives Eve a copy of William James' *Varieties of Religious Experience* for her birthday.
- August 22: Adamantios Diamantis writes to Seferis that LD is in a "dangerous" position doing "delicate" work.
- September: The first issue of the *Cyprus Review* under LD's editorship appears; LD tries to raise the intellectual level of the magazine but it remains a venue for British policy support, in which almost no Cypriot Greek authors are published during LD's tenure; George Wilkinson is the magazine's deputy editor. *London Magazine* prints LD's poem "Letters in Darkness."
- October: *London Magazine* prints translations of four Cypriot poets by LD and Maurice Cardiff.

¹¹⁴ Haag, 320-321. IMN, 408, agrees that Eve returned in April, but GB, 218, has it in March after LD sends her a cable asking her to return.

- October 8: Cardiff and a drunken LD with Eve in tow show up at a reception for Seferis, the only time Seferis sees LD on the island during his visits in 1954-55.¹¹⁵
- October 15: Rupert Hart-Davis publishes GD's *The Bafut Beagles* in London.
- October 26: In Alexandria, a near-sighted Muslim Brotherhood assassin attempts to shoot Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser; the six shots miss their target but shatter several light bulbs and bring down the wrath of security forces on the Brotherhood membership.
- October 28: The Swedish Academy awards Ernest Hemingway (USA) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- November: Alfred Perlès arrives in California to write *My Friend Henry Miller*.¹¹⁶
- November 3: Henri Matisse dies in Nice at the age of 84 and is buried at the Musée Franciscain-Eglise et Monastere de Cimiez above Nice.
- December: British troops open fire on a Limassol student demonstration wounding three of them.
- December 18: The United Nations resolves to shelve Greek demand for Cypriot self-determination.
- Mid-December: The *Justine* manuscript has reached 200 typescript pages.
- Late in the year: Eve travels to Egypt to see her mother, who is dying.¹¹⁷

1955

Norman Mailer's *The Deer Park*, James Baldwin's *Notes of a Native Son*, J. P. Donleavy's *The Ginger Man*, Flannery

¹¹⁵ Seferis wrote in his diary for October 8, 1954, "Larry was there (drunk) with his wife." (Beaton, 316-317 and 475n63.) IMN, 413, writes that, "Whatever the reason, he [Seferis] stayed clear of Larry during his trips to Cyprus in 1954 and 1955."

¹¹⁶ Published in 1956 by John Day in New York City.

¹¹⁷ IMN, 417, who notes that she went to visit her parents. Neither GB nor Haag mention this trip in their books, though the latter has kindly confirmed that she made the trip to see her mother, her father having previously died; he also noted that the trip may have been made early the following year. (Personal communication.)

O'Connor's *A Good Man is Hard to Find*, Herbert Marcuse's *Eros and Civilization*, Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*, Graham Greene's *The Quiet American* and Patricia Highsmith's *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and D.J. Enright's *Academic Year* are published. Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* receives its premiere performance.

LD's *Private Drafts* (poems) is privately printed in a limited edition.

In London, Collins publishes GD's *The New Noah*.

Early in the year: Curtis Brown (LD's literary agent) rejects *White Eagles* manuscript, refusing to submit it to Faber.

January: This month's edition of the *Cyprus Review* lists the contributors for the year: Gerald Durrell, Freya Stark, Lord Kinross, Osbert Lancaster, Sir Harry Luke, Patrick Leigh Fermor, John LeMillerann, John Pudney and Vernon Bartlett (not a Greek among them).

January: LD writes to Miller that he's never worked so hard and is tired all the time.

February 20: In London, Collins publishes Richard Aldington's controversial *Lawrence of Arabia: A Biographical Enquiry*; Aldington's book had been published in French the previous October, thus thwarting English attempts to prevent its appearance.

February 23: The French diplomat, poet and playwright Paul Claudel, younger brother of the great sculptress, Camille Claudel, dies.

February 27: LD is 43 years old.

March: On Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios signals Grivas to begin insurrection against the British.

March 31: GD and Jacquie arrive in Nicosia to make a nature film, that night explosions destroy the radio station and other buildings; shortly thereafter the younger Durrells move into the Bellapaix house.

April 1: The EOKA (National Organization of Cypriot Fighters) campaign of violence inaugurated with bomb explosions in the main Cypriot towns.

May: In London, Faber publishes LD's *The Tree of Idleness and Other Poems*.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁸ GB, 220. Oddly, IMN does not mention this book in his index or in the chapter on Cyprus in the main text.

- May 24: Empire Day, school children rout a police detachment with stones; a bomb explodes in the Nicosia cinema.
- End May: Patrick Leigh Fermor visits to lecture at British Institute and meets GD and Jacque before they depart at the end of the month.
- Mid-year: LD becomes interested in Zen Buddhism.
- July 3: LD flies to London for secret conference with Colonial Office via Athens where he meets Katsimbalis and they celebrate without reference to Cyprus; shortly thereafter LD accompanies high official delegation to Nicosia for conference with Cypriot and British authorities.
- July 12: LD flies to London to continue meetings and he meets Juliet O’Hea, his new agent at Curtis Brown. As a result of the meetings LD’s job is changed to director of public relations concentrating on “the care and feeding” of foreign correspondents.
- Ca. July 20: Upon his return to Cyprus, Eve tells LD she is taking Sappho to England and will not come back.¹¹⁹
- August 12: Thomas Mann, Nobel 1929, dies in Zurich at the age of 80 and is buried in the Kilchberg village cemetery above Zurich.
- Mid-August: LD accompanies Eve and Sappho to Athens whence they fly to London and go on to Bournemouth to stay with Alan and Ella Thomas. LD stays for a week in Athens after their departure.
- August 29: Tripartite Conference (Britain, Greece & Turkey) opens in London but produces no agreement on self-government for Cyprus.
- September 15: The British outlaw EOKA.
- September 17-18: During the night, school boys burn to the ground the British Institute Library containing the best English literature collection in the Middle East.
- Autumn: LD gives a room in the Nicosia house to Richard Lumley for six months. The blonde Alexandrian Claude-

¹¹⁹ In his memoir of LD on Cyprus, Maurice Cardiff writes that LD’s and Eve’s relationship occasionally degenerated into physical violence and expressed no surprise at Eve’s departure. *Friends Abroad. Memories of Lawrence Durrell, Freya Stark, Patrick Leigh Fermor, Peggy Guggenheim and Others* (London, 1997), 30.

Marie Vincendon Forde, having lived in Australia and Israel with her family (daughter Diana, son Barry and spouse), is now in Cyprus. She refuses to go with her peripatetic husband to Bombay and applies for a job at the public relations department. LD hires her to run the French section of Cyprus Broadcasting Station.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Halldor Laxness (Iceland) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 3: A Field-Marshal replaces the civilian as British governor of Cyprus, combining the position with that of Commander-in-Chief.

October 7: The American poet, Allen Ginsberg, performs his controversial poem, "Howl," at the Six Gallery in San Francisco at a well-watered reading at which Gary Snyder, Michael McClure, Phil Lamantia, and Phil Whalen also perform their poems, hosted by the distracted Kenneth Rexroth. When *Howl and Other Poems* is published a year later, the publisher is arrested for selling an obscene book.

October 18: José Ortega y Gasset dies at the age of 72.

November: The Bellapaix house is locked up except for some weekend visits.

December 9 and 16: In the *Spectator*, Patrick Leigh Fermor publishes a passionate political polemic arguing that supporting *Enosis* would strongly benefit British policy in the eastern Mediterranean.

Mid-December: LD is infected by a flu-like germ and remains in bed for several days.

December 24: LD is on duty at the Information Office.

1956

Allen Ginsberg's *Howl and Other Poems*, Romain Gary's *Les Racines du ciel*, James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*, Naguib Mahfouz's *Cairo Trilogy*, Albert Camus' *La chute*, Mary Renault's *The Last of the Wine*, Saul Bellow's *Seize the Day* and Norman Mailer's *The White Negro: Superficial Reflections on the Hipster* are published. John Osborne's

Look Back in Anger and Jean Genet's *Le Balcon* receive their premiere performances.

Rupert Hart-Davis in London publishes GD's *The Drunken Forest*.

Winter: LD begins a story with the title "The Village of the Turtle-Doves," which eventually becomes *The Revolt of Aphrodite*, but leaves it after 17 typescript pages.¹²⁰ LD and Claude begin living together. LD is writing short comic pieces about diplomatic life in Belgrade.

January: Diana Gould, now Yehudi Menuhin's wife, and her husband come to visit for the first time in a decade; the violinist inspires LD to take up yoga.

February 27: LD is 44 years old.

February 28: The Colonial Secretary and his entourage arrive in Nicosia for a meeting with Makarios.

March 9: The British take Makarios to the Seychelles under house arrest for 18 months leaving the more violent Grivas in charge of political as well as military matters on the island.

March 10: The *New Statesman* prints LD's poem "Bitter Lemons."

April: The EOKA (Εθνική Οργάνωσις Κυπρίων Αγωνιστών, *Ethniki Organosis Kypriou Agoniston* – National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters) begins the targeted killing of British civilians.

Ca. April 2: Freya Stark and Sir Harry Luke visit LD and the island, but many of LD's British friends are leaving.

Spring: Maurice Cardiff introduces LD to the poet Penelope Tremayne, who works for the International Committee of the Red Cross (hereafter ICRC) on Cyprus.

May 10: Michael Karaolidis is hanged for murdering a police constable, riots result; LD visits Bellapaix house for the last time to retrieve books and papers.

Early June: Incendiary bomb is put in LD's garage in Nicosia and on a second occasion three youths bomb the house across the street, possibly mistaking it for LD's.¹²¹

¹²⁰ Copies are deposited in the Durrell School of Corfu library and the Durrell collection at Southern Illinois University.

¹²¹ The bombing is described in Penelope Tremayne's *Below the Tide* (London: Hutchison, 1958), 13ff., but the notion that the terrorists might have mistaken the

- Summer: Makarios' secretary pointedly suggests to LD that it is time for him to leave Cyprus. LD writes to Sir Patrick Reilly, then British minister in Paris, about an official British cultural position in France.
- June: LD gives Joan Pepper the MS of *White Eagles* to "improve" for publication under both their names or a pseudonym, which she does on the ship out of Cyprus as she and her husband, Dennis Wetherell-Pepper, leave for England; Faber reads this and LD's first version and asks him to revise the latter manuscript for younger people.
- June 29: Arthur Miller, playwright, marries Marilyn Monroe, actress.
- July 19: LD proposes to share the *White Eagle* advance with Joan Pepper.
- July 24: Alan Pringle, an editor at Faber, receives a letter from LD noting that further volumes will follow *Justine*, the first time LD mentions a possible multi-volume series.¹²²
- July 25: Laurence Olivier rejects *Sappho* for production at the National Theatre.
- July 26: Nasser gives a lengthy speech in Alexandria announcing the military occupation of the Canal Zone and the nationalization of the Suez Canal Company.
- End July: Penelope Tremayne takes over the Bellapaix house for the ICRC. Claude takes her children to London where she places them in a boarding school.
- August 26: LD departs Cyprus for London, leaving his library behind.¹²³
- Early September: After several days in London they move in with Louisa in Bornemouth.
- September 6: LD has a reunion with Sappho, who remains for several months with her father and Claude because Eve cannot have her at her job in London. LD and Claude's plans for a place near Paris fall through.

house is GB's (41.).

¹²² Haag, 326.

¹²³ IMN, 442, has LD and Claude leaving together and does not mention her children. GB does not give a departure date. Haag, 326, has their departures as presented here.

- September 12: Freya Stark writes from Asolo, Italy, offering the Durrells to live in her house, a good place to write; in January LD turns down the offer.
- October: Faber in London and Grove Press in USA publish LD's Selected Poems. Heinemann publishes Richard Aldington's *Introduction to Mistral* in London.
- Early October: Claude, LD and Sappho move to Diana Hambros Ladas' isolated cottage at Donhead St. Andrews near Shaftsbury in Dorset while he finishes *Bitter Lemons*. Claude submits her book, *Mrs. O'* to Faber. Eve files a petition for a divorce. The Swedish Academy awards Juan Ramon Jiménez (Spain) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- October 4: LD reviews Nikos Kazantzakis's *Freedom and Death* on BBC Third Programme.
- October 11: Rupert Hart-Davis in London publishes GD's *My Family and Other Animals*, an immediate bestseller.
- October 16: LD meets Miller's friends James and Tania Stern through Diana Ladas; the Sterns know the south of France well and offer advice on living there.
- October 29: Israeli forces begin to march through the Sinai, followed by the landing of French and British paratroopers in Port Said (November 5), all intending to overthrow Nasser and re-internationalize the canal.
- October 30: LD and Claude invite the Sterns to tea to further discuss the possibility of living in Provence.
- November 4: Soviet military forces intervene in Hungary repressing a nationalist revolt.
- November 6: *Bitter Lemons* has reached 40,000 words. The Soviet Union threatens to intervene in the war in Egypt.
- November 7: Bending to pressure from the United Nations, the USA and other sources, the British and the French accept a ceasefire in Egypt, after which the Egyptians begin forcing the country's non-Arab population, including a third of the country's Jews, to get out, effectively ending Alexandria's long history as a cosmopolitan, culturally European urban center.
- November 21: The British hand over control of the Suez Canal to the United Nations.

Winter: At the completion of *Bitter Lemons*, LD, Claude and Sappho move to Bournemouth to stay at Alan and Ella Thomas's house.

End December: LD finishes revising *White Eagles*, which Faber will publish for the "younger" reader; he writes first "Antrobus" story, "Moulder of Minds," and begins "Justine II."

1957

The Viking Press, eventually to become LD's American publisher, brings out Jack Kerouac's novel *On the Road*, introducing the so-called "Beat Generation" to a wide public.

Bernard Malamud's *The Assistant*, Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*, Boris Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago*, Nevil Schute's *On the Beach*, James Jones' *Some Came Running*, Naguib Mahfouz's *Sugar Street* and John Cheever's *The Wapshot Chronicle* are published. Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*, Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* and John Osborne's *The Entertainer* receive their premiere performances.

Claude writes *The Rum Go*, based on her work in Alexandria for the British navy and begins a third novel based on her experience living in Israel.

January: The *New Statesman* publishes "Moulder of Minds." LD and Claude are in Paris staying with her father at his Boulevard des Invalides apartment and Sappho is back with her mother. Missing Aldington by minutes in Paris, LD writes to his address in Provence asking advice about affordable housing.

January 10: Gabriela Mistral, Chilean Nobel 1945, dies of pancreatic cancer in Hempstead, New York, at the age of 68 and her remains are buried in Chile.¹²⁴

February 1: LD and Claude return to London for publication of *Justine*, dedicated to Eve, which receives ambiguous

¹²⁴ The author of this chronology lived in Hempstead from 1947 to 1959 and had no idea Mistral also resided there.

- reviews. Aldington responds to LD letter about moving to Provence, offering advice and to be of help.
- February: Faber accepts *Mrs. O'* for publication later in the year.
- February 7: Claude and LD travel to Paris, where they briefly stay with her father, on their way to the Mediterranean coast. Girodias cannot pay royalties on *The Black Book* because of court actions prohibiting his list in France.
- Ca. February 12: LD and Claude meet Aldington and his daughter Catherine (Catha) in Montpellier. Shortly thereafter they locate the primitive Villa Louis outside Sommières, 100 meters from the railroad station on the Vidourle River in the Gard, and rent it for six months.
- February 27: LD is 45 years old.
- Late February: The publisher E. P. Dutton in New York City promises a substantial advance for *Justine*.
- March 8: Wyndham Lewis dies at the age of 75.
- March 16: *Time and Tide* publishes LD's "Enigma Variations".
- March 25: Terence Tiller's BBC Third Programme radio production of *Sappho* evokes less than rave reviews.
- March 26: LD is seriously working on "Justine II," hoping to finish by June.
- March 29: Joyce Cary dies in Oxford at 69.
- April: Jean Fanchette buys a copy of *Justine* in Blackwell's shop in Oxford.
- April 19: Penelope Tremayne writes she'll ship LD's paintings from his Bellapaix home, which she's rented to Peter Storrs for the summer.¹²⁵
- April 23: Christopher Middleton broadcasts on the BBC Third Programme a perceptive program called "The Heraldic Universe" on *Justine*. Roy Campbell is killed in car crash in Portugal.
- End April: *Justine II (Balthazar)* is almost finished. Rowohlt-Verlag in Hamburg, Miller's German publisher, offers a generous contract for *Justine* and the subsequent volumes at Miller's urging.
- Spring: *Sappho* is enrolled in Bedales School where Eve is a matron. LD and Claude plant a potager (vegetable garden) at the Villa Louis.

¹²⁵ The extant records do not indicate what happened to the paintings, nor whether they were done by LD or others.

- May 1-6: LD is within a few pages of finishing “Justine II.”
- May 1: In New York, Random House publishes Faulkner’s *The Town*.
- May 4: LD’s review of Aldington’s book *Introduction to Mistral* appears in the *New Statesman and Nation*.
- May 18: In the USA, the poet and essayist Kenneth Rexroth positively reviews British edition of *Justine* and *Selected Poems* in *The Nation*.
- May 24: *White Eagles over Serbia* is published.
- May 25: Claude is typing a clean copy of “Justine II.”
- End May: Amy and Sir Walter Smart visit Sommières.
- June: Dutton pays large advance for *Bitter Lemons*.
- June 20: Gerald Sykes, Buffie Johnson’s husband, writes to LD that he will review the American edition of *Justine* for *The New York Times Book Review*.
- June 27: Malcolm Lowry dies at the age of 48 in Ripe, Sussex.
- Early July: Claude travels to London for ten days to discuss her second novel, *The Rum Go*, with Faber (who agree to publish it) and buy two chemical toilets for the Villa Louis. LD writes the obscurantist nonsense that constitutes the introductory Note to *Balthazar* intended to buffalo the critics and intrigue the reader, dating it “Ascona 1957.”¹²⁶
- July: The British edition of *Bitter Lemons*, dedicated to the architect Austen Harrison, is published to generally positive reviews, but not in Greece where it greatly angers Seferis and Diamantis. At a farewell party for Aldington, Claude and LD meet the poet and broadcasting executive Frédéric-Jacques Temple at Aldington’s pension in Montpellier. Temple becomes a good friend and ally. Faber offers LD a £500 advance for each of the final two volumes of the *Quartet*.
- Mid-July: Aldington moves to the hamlet of Maison Sallé, Sury-en-Vaux, two hours south of Paris.
- Early August: Claude’s children (Diana, 11, and Barry, 8), Sappho, 6, and Margo and her son Nicholas, 12, visit the Villa Louis. Dutton publishes *Justine* in the USA.
- August 25: Sykes’s rave review of *Justine* appears in *The New York Times Book Review*.

¹²⁶ GB, 246, calls this “a fictional place, to imply spacelessness and to put people off the scent of where he was really living.”

- August 26: *Time* magazine prints a positive review of *Justine*.
- September: *The Atlantic* also prints a positive review of the book.
David Gascoyne, now living in Aix-en-Provence, visits the Villa Louis.
- Autumn: Claude's first novel, *Mrs. O'* published by Faber in London.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Albert Camus (France) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- October 10: "Justine III" stands at approximately 100 typescript pages.
- October: LD begins a correspondence with Arthur Guirdham, a psychiatrist.
- November: LD invited to become an honorary member of the annual Class of 1936 reunion by the regulars at a local café.¹²⁷ Eve is granted a divorce decree absolute.
- November 22: The *Evening Standard* publishes LD's "Letter in the Sofa".
- December: Buchet-Chastel at Corrêa publishes a French translation of *Justine* by Roger Giroux.
- Early December: LD and Claude travel by stuffy sleeping car to London so LD can accept the Duff Cooper Memorial Award (£200 and a copy of *Old Men Forget* by Sir Alfred Duff Cooper, then Lord Norwich) from the Queen Mother for *Bitter Lemons*.
- December 9: LD takes Penelope, now 17, to the ceremony, which passes splendidly despite LD's misgivings. Faber publishes *Esprit de Corps: Sketches from Diplomatic Life*.
- Mid-December: Claude and LD spend several emotionally high days in Paris on the trip back to Sommières.

1958

Truman Capote's *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, Thomas Berger's *Crazy in Berlin*, Maxwell Kenton's *Candy*, Guiseppe di Lampedusa's *The Leopard*, Graham Greene's *Our Man in Havana*, Jack Kerouac's *The Dharma Bums*, Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and Kinglsey Amis' *I Like It*

¹²⁷ IMN, 450; GB, 252, has it the class of 1930-32 and describes the group as made up of "soldiers and resistance fighters."

Here are published. Samuel Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape*, Max Frisch's *Biedermann und die Brandstifter* and Tennessee Williams' *Suddenly, Last Summer* receive their premiere performances.

Justine is short-listed for French Best Foreign Book of the Year award, but does not win.

Rupert Hart-Davis in London publishes GD's *Encounter with Animals*.

LD begins correspondence with Perlès about Miller's work and status, eventually published as *Art and Outrage*.

January: Curtis Brown sells Antrobus stories to *Harper's* and *The Atlantic* in America, the (London) *Sunday Times* contracts for six stories annually; LD works quickly on *Mountolive*, ca. 5,000 words a day. Claude sells *Mrs. O'* to Rinehart in New York. Miller has horoscopes cast for LD and Claude, predicting they would move in October and that they fit well together.

January 10: LD finishes first draft of *Mountolive*.

February-March: French reviews of *Justine* are generally good.

February 27: LD is 46 years old.

End February: In the USA, Dutton publishes *Bitter Lemons* to mixed critical reaction.

Before March 4: The medical student, Jean Fanchette, sends LD his piece on *Justine* published in the literary section (*Lettres Suiventes*) of a medical students' monthly magazine in Paris.

March 4: LD responds to Fanchette, beginning a long-term exchange of letters and friendship.

March 6: Miller writes to LD that he should stop wasting his time on the Antrobus "stuff" and concentrate on the real thing.

Spring: The landlord of the Villa Louis notifies LD he needs the place for his family, Frédéric-Jacques Temple finds a local lawyer who arranges for LD and Claude to remain until end of summer school holidays, so the children can spend the time there.

April 1-2: Miller writes an eight-page letter to LD and Perlès about their letters on his literary career, later published in *Art and Outrage*.

- April 11: Faber publishes *Balthazar*, dedicated to the author's mother, to positive reviews.¹²⁸
- April 18: Judge Bolitha Laws dismisses the indictment of Ezra Pound for treason on grounds of insanity thus allowing the release of the incorrigibly foolish poet from St. Elizabeths mental hospital in Washington DC where he has been incarcerated since 1945.
- May: Faber accepts Claude's third novel, *A Chair for the Prophet*. The American publisher, New Directions, agrees to publish LD's anthology of Miller's writings he has been working on since Argentina.
- May 7: St. Elizabeths authorities formally release Ezra Pound in the custody of his wife Dorothy Shakespear and several weeks later they sail to Italy where the addled poet spends the rest of his life.
- May 11: LD picks up Anaïs Nin at Nîmes railroad station.¹²⁹
- May 19: Ignoring the festering Algerian crisis, LD and Claude drive to Paris in an old Peugeot 203 to attend a party organized by his publisher Corr ea. They meet Fanchette (who tells them of plans to publish an Anglo-French literary magazine *Two Cities*), Anaïs Nin (who agrees to finance the magazine) and Guiler, as well as the Israeli painter Zvi Milshtein (from whom LD buys a painting).
- May 23: LD and Claude visit Amy and Sir Walter Smart in Pacy-sur-Eure.
- May 28: Back in Paris, Claude picks up Sappho, Penelope and Penelope's ballet school friend, Jill Dawkins, at the railway station and takes them directly to the Corr ea reception where they meet Diana and Yehudi Menuhin; following the party they go to the Caf  du D me to meet Fanchette and his wife Martine.
- May 29: Juan Ramon Jim nez, Nobel 1956, dies in Puerto Rican exile at the age of 77.
- May 30: The Fanchettes have the Durrell crew and the Smarts for drinks at their efficiency apartment in the rue Scipion, after which they all go to a Chinese restaurant in the rue Claude-Bernard.

¹²⁸ IMN, 472; GB, 256, has the publication date as April 15.

¹²⁹ IMN, 475; GB, 257, has Nin and her husband Hugh Guiler visiting Sommi res in late April.

- May 31: The Durrell menage leaves Paris for the south, stopping for the night in Lyon.
- June 1: They continue on stopping at Orange and Avignon, and cross over the Pont-du-gard to Sommières. Charles de Gaulle forms a new government with the aim of resolving the Algerian crisis.
- June 2: French parliament gives de Gaulle permission to draft a new constitution, which he does, shifting power from the prime minister's government to the president's office.
- June 4: The group properly celebrates Penelope's 18th birthday.
- June 6: Sappho and Claude are felled by chicken pox.
- June 11: Miller writes to insist on LD receiving half the royalties for the anthology of the former's writings that the latter is editing for New Directions.¹³⁰
- Summer: LD and Claude take the children on excursions to Aigues Mortes, Avignon, Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-mer, Arles, Les Baux, Saint-Rémy, Le Grau du Roi; they swim in the sea, in the river at the Pont du Gard and in the Vidourle River in Sommières. Life is primitive and adventurous at the tiny Villa Louis with so many people; Alfred and Anne Perlès with Frédéric-Jacques Temple visit there for a day.
- June 21: Penelope and Jill return to Paris and on to London.
- July: Claude's children spend time at the Villa Louis, along with Heinz Ledig Rowohlt, LD's German publisher.
- Mid-summer: Claude and LD visit an isolated ruined farmhouse (the Mazet Michel) with 22 acres of garrigue and olive groves with a small out-building for guests, off the chemin d'Engances near Uzès on the Avignon-Nîmes road, about 15 miles from Sommières, which they rent for five years with an option to buy.
- July 21: Gerald Sykes sends LD a copy of his review of *Balthazar* written for *The New York Times Book Review*, which appears on August 24.
- Late July: Anaïs Nin and Rupert Pole (her California "husband") visit, staying at a Nîmes hotel.¹³¹
- Early August: In the USA, Dutton publishes *Balthazar*.

¹³⁰ In the works since 1948, the book is published in New York the following year as *The Henry Miller Reader* and in England as *The Best of Henry Miller*.

¹³¹ Nin lived in what appears to be two-marriage life: her New York, and legal, husband was Hugh Guiler.

- August 22: In Sérigny, Orne, Roger Martin du Gard, Nobel 1937, dies at the age of 77 and is buried in the Cimiez Monastery Cemetery in Cimiez, a suburb of Nice where Matisse is also buried.
- August 27: The Fanchettes visit for several days and they discuss Fanchette's idea of the magazine, *Two Cities: La Revue Bilingue de Paris*, in the first issue of which will be an homage to LD.
- September 6: The last of the LD-Claude children depart the Villa Louis for home.
- Ca. September 9: LD finishes editing the Miller anthology.
- Ca. September 12: With Claude, LD travels to Grenoble to research a well-paid article for *Holiday* magazine, pleased to be in Stendhal's home town. They will use the money to install a toilet and waterpump at the Mazet Michel.
- September 15: Claude and LD move into the mazet.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Boris Pasternak (USSR) the Nobel Prize for Literature, but the Soviet government forces him to refuse it.
- October 10: Faber publishes *Mountolive*, dedicated to Claude, (somewhat later Dutton publishes an American edition) to positive early reviews. The Hollywood movie studio 20th Century Fox cables an offer for LD to write screenplay for a movie about Cleopatra.
- October 17: GD signs the lease for Les Augrès Manor on Jersey, which he intends to make a home and a zoo.
- Ca. October 25: LD sends Miller his preface to the anthology, to the older man's delight.
- November 3: LD flies to London alone for publication of *Stiff Upper Lip* and publisher meetings with a six hour layover in Paris where he eats a late dinner at the Café du Dôme, probably with Fanchette. *Mountolive* has sold 10,000 copies.
- November 10: Juliet O'Hea at Curtis Brown telegraphs LD that the Book of the Month Club in the USA has taken *Mountolive* for minimally \$20,000, a large amount of money in France in those days.
- Mid-November: Anaïs Nin asks for an immediate preface to the British publication of *Children of the Albatross*; LD

acquiesces, but she finds the result inadequate and edits it to her own satisfaction.

December 15: LD is discomforted by the lack of attention he's paid to completing *Clea*.

December 21: The French elect Charles De Gaulle president of France.

December 25: LD settles into an early morning routine to write *Clea* at a rate of 2000 words each day, breaking occasionally to work on the stone walls outside the house.

1959

Norman Mailer's *Advertisements for Myself*, Naguib Mahfouz's *The Children of Gebelawi*, Philip Roth's *Goodbye, Columbus*, Mordecai Richler's *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, Saul Bellow's *Henderson the Rain King*, Terry Southern's *The Magic Christian*, Richard Condon's *The Manchurian Candidate*, Günter Grass's *Die Blechtrommel* and Kurt Vonnegut's *The Sirens of Titan* are published. Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* receives its premiere performance.

Faber in London publishes Claude's novel set in Israel, *A Chair for the Prophet*.

January: Aldington and Temple visit the Mazet Michel. Anaïs Nin sends Fanchette \$400 for the first issue of *Two Cities*, the "hommage to LD" issue.

End January: The typescript of *Clea* has reached 40 pages.

February: LD resurrects Scobie after Aldington complains about his disappearance. Roger Giroux is almost finished translating *Bathazar* into French.

February 1: Dominique Arban interviews LD for the French radio programme "Étranger mon ami."

February 27: LD is 47 years old.

Mid-March: The *Clea* manuscript has reached 130 pages.

March 26: GD and Jacquie's zoo on Jersey opens to the public. – Raymond Chandler dies in Los Angeles at the age of 71 and is buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery at San Diego, California.

- April: LD wins Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger for *Balthazar*.
The Cyprus crisis prevents the broadcast of a radio dramatization of *Bitter Lemons* prepared by Xan Fielding for the BBC.
- Ca. April 7: The first draft of *Clea* is finished.
- April 8: The Smarts visit the mazet for lunch.
- Mid-April: Buffie Johnson and Gerald Sykes visit.
- April 14: Miller, Eve and the children leave for Europe and rent a Paris apartment for two months in the rue Campagne-Première.
- April 23: Julian Mitchell and Gene Andrewski interview LD in Sommières for the *The Paris Review*.¹³²
- May 5: Amidst violence against Algerians in Paris, Franchette arranges a launch party for the French edition of *Balthazar*; Henry and Eve Miller, with his children in attendance, spend several days with LD and Claude; the Sykes are also there along with several others.
- May 7: LD has drinks with Mary Mollo Hadkinson, at Les Deux Magots.
- May 18: Temple and Catha Aldington visit the mazet.
- End May: The Swedish film actress and director, Mai Zetterling, and her English writer husband David Hughes, visit.¹³³
- Ca. June 19: The four Millers and Perlès (who stays only a week) arrive in Sommières where the Millers rent an apartment for two months and tour parts of Provence with LD; Girodias visits.
- Ca. June 25: LD sends the revised *Clea* MS off to Faber in London.
- End June: Claude and LD's children arrive for the summer holidays; Eve brings Sappho, then departs.
- Mid-summer: LD and Claude jointly buy the Mazet Michel on the strength of *Justine* being taken up by the Club Française

¹³² *The Paris Review* No. 22, Autumn-Winter 1959-1960; also published in George Plimpton (ed.), *Writers at Work: The Paris Review Interviews*, 2nd Series (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1977).

¹³³ For an account of this and other visits, including one with Miller, see David Hughes, *Himself and Other Animals. A Portrait of Gerald Durrell* (London: Hutchinson, 1997). Zetterling wrote briefly about the visits in her memoir, *All Those Tomorrows* (New York: Grove Press, 1985). Hughes died in May 2005 at the age of 74; Zetterling on March 17, 1994 in London.

- du Livre.¹³⁴ They hire a sharecropper/caretaker, Alphonse Tritignac, to live in the small cottage at the edge of the property and grow a vegetable garden (*potager*).
- Late July: Aldington comes south, where he meets Miller, Temple, Claude and LD in Sommières for dinner and drinks, during which much mutual appreciating takes place.
- Ca. August 23: The Millers depart Europe for Big Sur, their marriage in trouble.
- September 2: Claude and LD drive to London to return Sappho and do a publicity round for *Clea* at Faber's request, where they stay in Leigh Fermor's apartment, though *Clea* would not appear until the next February. LD appears on the television and discovers he's a natural for the medium. Surgeons operate on Claude to remove a cyst, she recuperates in Bournemouth at the Thomases' where LD packs his books and papers in Alan Thomas's attic to take back to France. LD spends several days alone in Paris doing publicity events.
- September 15: LD appears on the BBC-TV programme "Tonight."
- October: *Sappho* is planned to open in Hamburg, but is postponed for a month. LD and Claude return from England to the Mazet Michel to find it flooded and the waterpump damaged by a mason hired to extend the house by three rooms, he also drank all their wine.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Salvatore Quasimodo (Italy) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- November 7: Aldington refuses to support LD's campaign to improve his (Aldington's) image and fortunes in England.
- November 13: In New York, Random House publishes Faulkner's *The Mansion*, completing the Snopes trilogy (with *The Hamlet* and *The Town*).
- Ca. November 15: Claude and LD decide to add several rooms to the rear of the mazet to better house the children and certain guests. LD begins another verse play, *Acte*, about a Scythian princess who rebels against Rome.
- November 22: *Sappho*, with Elizabeth Flickenschild as the girl and young Maximillian Schell in a supporting role, directed

¹³⁴ GB, 277, has this as "helped by a huge advance for *Clea* from Buchet."

by Gustaf Gründgens, opens at the Deutsche Schauspielhaus in Hamburg with Claude and LD in attendance; Margaret Rawlings also attends: she praises the play but not this production.¹³⁵

November 25: In Reinbek bei Hamburg, Rowohlt publishes German edition of *Mountolive*.

End November: Faber and Dutton publish *Art and Outrage* (LD's correspondence with Alfred Perlès about Miller's work and a letter from their old friend).

December: Heinemann in London and New Directions in New York City publish *The Best of Henry Miller* edited by LD (titled *The Henry Miller Reader* in the USA).

Mid-December: Suffering the results of media fame and infested with uninvited visitors, LD posts a sign at the road entrance to the mazet's property reading "This is a workshop. If uninvited and unexpected, don't knock!" The sign is in English and LD himself thought it "churlish."¹³⁶ Ten years later it might have read, "If you haven't been invited, fuck off!" but this is speculation.

December 17: LD flies to London to pick up Sappho, who spends holidays with Claude's children at the mazet. Eve is in a hospital in England with an undisclosed malady.

1960

Flannery O'Connor's *The Violent Bear It Away*, Kingsley Amis' *Take a Girl Like You*, Jabra Ibrahim Jabra's *Hunters in a Narrow Street*, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, Anthony Powell's *Casanova's Chinese Restaurant*, Nancy Mitford's *Don't Tell Alfred* and Ian Fleming's *For Your Eyes Only* are published. Wole Soyinka's *A Dance of the Forests*, Jean Anouilh's *Becket* and Robert Bolt's *Man for All Seasons* receive their premiere performances.

Faber publishes *The Black Book* and reissues *Prospero's Cell*, *Reflections on a Marine Venus* and *Pope Joan*. Rowohlt publishes German edition of *Art and Outrage*. A new edition of E.M. Forster's *Alexandria: A History and a*

¹³⁵ GB, 278, has Claude and LD flying to Hamburg "for the opening of *Sappho* on November 2," which is surely a typo.

¹³⁶ GB, 277, has this as "This is a workshop –please write."

Guide with an introduction by LD is published in London. The first volume of Olivia Manning's Balkan trilogy, *The Great Fortune*, is published in London.

Heinemann in London publishes the novel *The Age of Bronze* by Rodis Roufos, who served in the Greek consulate on Cyprus during the time LD was director of the British public information office; the book is meant as a rebuttal of LD's *Bitter Lemons*.

January 2: Aldington backs out of an arrangement for him to be interviewed with LD by the BBC-TV, a project LD has worked on for some time as part of the campaign to rehabilitate Aldington in England.

January 4: Albert Camus dies in automobile crash driving from Lourmarin in the south to Paris, the first draft manuscript of his last novel in a briefcase; the man worth ten Sartres is gone in a flash of loud metal and burning rubber. The headline of *Combat* the following day reads: "ABSURD!"

January 8: The BBC-TV *Monitor* team arrives to spend three days filming an interview in the Nîmes arena and at the mazet. The snotty interviewer, who shall remain nameless here, showed himself indifferent to LD's work and asked clichéd questions to which LD answered whatever he wished having learned the art in his career as press and information manager for the British government. Aldington would have torn the ponce from crotch to eyeballs and ripped his tripe out.¹³⁷

January 9: Jean-Paul Weber's long article viciously caricaturing LD appears in *Figaro Littéraire*, disturbing LD and Claude even more because they had lavished time and food and drink on the malicious hack.

January 12: Nevil Shute dies in Melbourne, Australia, at the age of 61.

January 28: The novelist and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston dies penniless in Fort Pierce, Florida, at the age of 69 and is buried in an unmarked grave.

February 5: *Clea*, dedicated to the author's father, is published. *Books and Bookmen* publishes an interview with LD

¹³⁷ Legal counsel advises that the name can be mentioned without fear of a law suit because the person in question is dead: Huw Wheldon.

- entitled, “Lawrence Durrell: Is He the Greatest Novelist of the Fifties?”
- February 14: The BBC-TV programme *Monitor* broadcasts the interview filmed the previous month.
- February 27: LD is 48 years old, at the peak of all his powers.
- March: LD sends two acts of *Acte* to Juliet O’Hea at Curtis Brown.
- End March: Aldington visits with his Australian friends the Geoffrey Duttons, to whom LD sings some of Scobie’s (unpublished) naughty songs.
- Spring: LD travels to Geneva to write a travel piece for *Holiday*, where he meets the Russian-born Alexandr Blokh, a translator at the United Nations, who published poems under the name Jean Blot, and his wife Nadja, a painter, who become good friends.
- Ca. April 2: In the USA Dutton publishes *Clea* to generally positive reviews.
- Mid-April: Miller, at age 69, arrives in Europe without his wife Eve but with a waitress from Big Sur who caught his eye; Eve remains in Big Sur enjoying the peace and quiet.
- May: Claude and LD are in Paris for ten days for publication of *Mountolive* in French (to fine reviews); Faber publishes his *Collected Poems*. While there he works on script for movie *Cleopatra*, which 20th Century Fox has hired Rouben Mamoulian to direct.¹³⁸
- May 2: Miller and his new, and soon to be former, girl friend are in Cannes where he serves as a judge at the Film Festival.
- May 20: Miller and the girl friend arrive in Sommières for a stay in a rented flat. David Hughes and Mai Zetterling also visit at the same time.
- May 27: *The Times Literary Supplement* prints LD’s “No Clue to Living”.
- May 30: Boris Pasternak, Nobel 1960, dies at the age of 70 and is buried in the Peredelkino Cemetery, Moscow.

¹³⁸ Mamoulian had previously directed the musicals *High, Wide and Handsome* (1939), *Summer Holiday* (1952) and *Silk Stockings* (1957), in addition to several earlier inventive film dramas. See David Thomson, *A Biographical Dictionary of Film*, 3rd edition (New York: Knopf, 1995), 473-474, for a balanced overview of his career.

- June 2: LD appears on the BBC-TV “Tonight” programme discussing “Diplomats Abroad.”
- Mid-June: LD and Claude spend two weeks in London on the *Cleopatra* script. LD appears on radio and TV. When they return to the maret the mason had caused the well to run dry and they both come down with the flu. The *Yale Review* publishes two appreciations of LD’s work: positive (George Steiner) and negative (Martin Green).¹³⁹
- End of June: Fake Durrell papers and paintings are on sale in a London book shop: he has “arrived.”
- July: The children arrive from England for the summer holiday; LD and Claude rent a cottage and pitch a big tent on the beach at the Saintes Maries-de-la-Mer for them all, the Blokhs and other friends join them throughout the summer; Nigel Dennis interviews LD for *Life*; some days later two obnoxious photographers schlepp an unnecessarily large amount of equipment into the maret; Brassai arrives with one camera and a recalcitrant tripod to photograph LD and makes curiously evocative images.
- End July: Arthur Guirdham and his wife Mary visit briefly.
- Ca. August 7: LD completes the 10th revision of the *Cleopatra* script despite the turmoil of the long, hot summer.
- August 7: BBC *Monitor* TV programme broadcasts another interview with LD, filmed earlier.
- September: Eve Durrell is working in Paris doing publicity for an art gallery. LD resumes work on “The Placebo,” reworking the fragment called “The Village of the Turtle-Doves,” that eventually becomes *Tunc* and *Nunquam* (together known as *The Revolt of Aphrodite*).
- October: Faber publishes *The Dark Labyrinth (Cefalû)*, dedicated to Margaret, Gerald and Leslie. Unable to find a sympathetic writer to do a study of LD’s work, Harry T. Moore begins collecting pieces on LD for an anthology he will edit. Rupert Hart-Davis in London publishes GD’s *A Zoo in My Luggage*.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Saint-John Perse (France) Nobel Prize for Literature. Dutton publishes *The*

¹³⁹ Both essays are reprinted in Harry T. Moore (ed.), *The World of Lawrence Durrell* (Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 1962).

Black Book, Prospero's Cell and Reflections on a Marine Venus in the USA.

November 2: Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* is cleared of obscenity charge in London without LD having to testify on its behalf, which he had offered to do.¹⁴⁰

November 28: Richard Wright dies in Paris at the age of 52 and is buried in the Pere Lachaise Cemetery there.

December 10: Aldington comes south to visit his daughter Catha, they lunch with LD and Claude at the Oustaloun in Maussane.

End December: A Durrell Family Reunion takes place at GD's zoo on Jersey. The published photographs do not include Claude or Sappho, but do include Lulu the chimp. Louisa Durrell is now living with GD and Jacquie. Margo is there, but not Leslie who is in Africa. Another *Life* photographer shows up to immortalize the clan. LD and Claude move on to London to discuss *Cleopatra* and *Acte*, which Gründgens wants to put on the following autumn in Hamburg.

1961

Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*, John le Carré's *Call for the Dead*, J. D. Salinger's *Franny and Zooey*, Richard Hughes' *The Fox in the Attic*, V. S. Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas*, Gabriele García Márquez's *No One Writes to the Colonel*, Walker Percy's *The Moviegoer*, Muriel Spark's *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, Robert Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land*, Marshall McLuhan's *The Gutenberg Galaxy* are published. Samuel Beckett's *Rough for Radio I and II*, Max Frisch's *Andorra*, John Osborne's *Luther*, Tennessee Williams' *Night of the Iguana* and Heiner Müller's *Die Umsiedlerin* receive their premiere performances.

George Wickes is appointed to edit the Miller-Durrell letters for Dutton. Hamish Hamilton in London publishes GD's *Look at Zoos* and Rupert Hart-Davis brings out his *The*

¹⁴⁰ LD did write a brief "Preface" to the edition of the book published in New York by Bantam Books in 1968.

Whispering Land. Scorpion Press in Middlesex publishes Perlès' book *My Friend Lawrence Durrell*.

January 10: Dashiell Hammett dies in New York City at the age of 67 and is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

January 15: *The New York Times* prints LD's "A Traveler in Egypt".

January 21: Blaise Cendrars dies in Paris at the age of 74 and is buried in the Batignolles Cemetery. In 1994 his remains were reinterred in the village of Tremblay-sur-Mauldre, Yvelines, where he had a country retreat for many years..

Mid-February: LD has written half of *An Irish Faustus* to meet Gründgens' request that he write a Faust with humor in it.

February 17: LD and Claude go to London to spend six weeks working with an experienced co-scriptor (Sidney Buchman) for a large amount of money on a new screenplay for the new director of *Cleopatra* (the Hollywood veteran, Joseph Mankiewicz, who had apparently already written a script of the *Quartet* for the producer Walter Wanger,¹⁴¹ who, until the studio fired him, was also producing *Cleopatra*, a project he had been working on for forty years).¹⁴²

February 27: LD is 49 years old.

March 21: BBC-3 Radio broadcasts an interview with LD by Peter Duval Smith about the cinematic potential of Alexandria.

March 27: LD and Claude-Marie Vincendon Forde marry in the Chelsea Registry Office.¹⁴³

¹⁴¹ GB, 295.

¹⁴² Typical of the Hollywood studio system, everything except the title changed before filming seriously got under way. Mamoulian had been fired and Mankiewicz rewrote the entire script making it very talky. LD's name does not appear in the credits of the film as released. It failed at the box office and with the critics, but our hero earned lots of dough while he worked on the script. For a scathing commentary on Mankiewicz's and a sympathetic portrayal of Wanger's careers, especially their disastrous association with *Cleopatra*, see Thomson, 475-476, and 791-792.

¹⁴³ GB, 295. According to IMN, 523, they married at the Kensington Registry Office where Joyce married Nora, D. H. Lawrence married Frieda and the Wilkersons were married. The Chelsea location fits the fact that LD and Claude gave their address as the Basil Street Hotel.

- Early April: The Durrells return to the maset via Paris where Fanchette throws a party for them; he'd sold the manuscript of *Mountolive* with LD's permission and bought his wife a washing machine; in Sommières they celebrate with Miller at the Auberge du Pont Roman, a rustic eatery being converted from a factory to a hotel/auberge.¹⁴⁴
- April 21: The Durrells meet Miller in Avignon for an elaborate lunch.
- Summer: LD meets Denis de Rougemont; the Durrells are briefly in Paris at a party given by Curtis Cate, writer for the *Atlantic Monthly*.
- June 11: The BBC-TV programme "Book Stand" broadcasts an interview with LD on *The Quartet*.
- June 24: *Tropic of Cancer* is published in the USA by Grove Press.
- July: The children come south for summer holiday.
- July 2: Hemingway, Nobel 1954, commits suicide in Ketchum, Idaho, 19 days before his 62nd birthday.
- August 13: The East Germans, with Soviet support, begin building the Berlin Wall, increasing the Cold War tensions, but stopping the haemorrhaging of their educated and skilled population.
- August 21: *Sappho* produced at Edinburgh Festival with Margaret Rawlings and Nigel Davenport, opening night attended by LD, Claude, Mary Mollo Hadkinson, the physician Raymond Mills and his wife (friends from Rhodes 1945-47), Alan and Ella Thomas; the reviews are not very complimentary, but the house sells out each night and the costs are recovered.
- August 22: BBC-TV's "Tonight" broadcasts interview with LD about the *Sappho* production.
- August 31: Having run out of his two months' tax free sojourn in England, the Durrells leave in a hurry for France.
- September: Stephanides writes from Corfu that he'd like to sell the letters LD wrote to him; Robin Fedden asks the same about the *Personal Landscape* letters.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Ivo Andrić (Yugoslavia) the Nobel Prize for Literature.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴⁴ It is today a fine restaurant with a good wine list.

- November 12: Claude and LD are in Copenhagen to meet the reclusive Isak Dinesen for a day, after which they travel on to Hamburg for the premiere of *Acte/Actis*.¹⁴⁶
- November 24: *Actis* opens at the Deutsche Schauspielhaus to generally positive critical response. While in Hamburg, LD meets Groddeck's widow on the occasion of the republication of *Das Buch vom Es* with an LD preface and the publication of LD's *Horizon* essay as a pamphlet.
- December: The *Atlantic Monthly* has LD on front cover accompanied by a lengthy essay by Curtis Cate. The Leigh Fermors visit the mazet briefly and a version of *Acte* published in *Show* magazine.
- December 25: Aldington visits for the holiday.
- End December: The Durrells are settled in at the mazet with colds in freezing temperatures and the mistral howling around the roof edges.

1962

James Baldwin's *Another Country*, Anthony Burgess' *A Clockwork Orange*, Barbara Tuchman's *The Guns of August*, Kurt Vonnegut's *Mother Night*, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Vladimir Nabokov's *Pale Fire*, James Jones' *The Thin Red Line*, Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood*, W. H. Auden's *The Dyer's Hand*, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, V. S. Naipaul's *The Middle Passage* and Helen Gurley Brown's *Sex and the Single Girl* are published. Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and Friedrich Dürrenmatt's *Die Physiker* receive their premiere performances.

Faber publishes *The Alexandria Quartet* as a single volume.

Collins in London publishes GD's *Island Zoo* and

¹⁴⁵ According to Bowker, 299, Rowohlt informed LD that he had been only short two votes at the Swedish Academy from winning the prize; LD was not convinced and believed his anti-communism precluded him from the prize.

¹⁴⁶ IMN, 526-527; GB, 299, has the Durrells traveling to Hamburg by way of Geneva to visit the Blokhs. Gründgens wanted a title change for the German performance because "Akte" in German is the word for "file" or "folder" and is close to the German word for coitus and nude, "Akt." After a struggle, they decided on *Actis*, which however only applies to the German version.

Lutterworth brings out his *My Favourite Animal Stories*. Olivia Manning's second Balkan trilogy novel, *The Spoilt City*, is published in London.

January: The University of Southern Illinois Press publishes *The World of Lawrence Durrell*, edited by Harry T. Moore. Moore has a publisher's contract to write a monograph on LD, but never does. Claude is translating Marc Peyre's *The Captive of Zour*.

Mid-January: LD visits Aldington in Aix-en-Provence for a night, then tramps about the countryside for several days.¹⁴⁷

Mid-February: LD is having trouble finishing *An Irish Faustus*.

February 27: LD is 50 years old.

Early spring: Visits from Aldington, Temple, the writer Claude Seignolle, et al., interrupt work on *An Irish Faustus*. LD travels to Montpellier to record some of his lyric poems for Jupiter Records, run by his old friend Wallace Southam in London, whom he's known since the British Council days in Athens 1940-41. Seferis writes a note for the album cover.

April: Jupiter releases the album.

Late April: The Blokhs visit for a weekend from Paris, where they've moved to work at UNESCO.

May 2: Sir Walter Smart dies.¹⁴⁸

First week in May: Claude's father dies in Paris.

Early May: A BBC team arrives in Nîmes to make two programs on LD's works and records him reading several poems.

May 5: LD is interviewed on a Montpellier-Lanquedoc radio station.

End May-early June: LD is offered an OBE, which he turns down; Aldington is infuriated at the low level of the award, but LD doesn't seem to care very much.

June 4: In New York, Random House publishes Faulkner's *The Reivers*.

¹⁴⁷ GB, 301. Charles Doyle, *Richard Aldington: A Biography* (Carbondale IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 1989), 313, tells some of the visit's amusing details, but naught about any "tramping." IMN doesn't mention it either.

¹⁴⁸ Neville and June Braybrooke, *Olivia Manning: A Life* (London: Chatto and Windus, 2004), 123, incorrectly write that Smart died in 1965.

- June 22: Aldington and his daughter Catha fly from Paris to Moscow on a “goodwill” tour sponsored by the Soviet government, ostensibly to celebrate his 70th birthday.
- July 6: William Faulkner, Nobel 1949, dies in a hospital in Byhalia, Mississippi, at the age of 65 and is buried in the family plot in St. Peters Cemetery at Oxford, Mississippi.
- July 10: Aldingtons return to France from Moscow.
- Mid-July: The Durrells’ collected children arrive for the summer holidays. LD is spending much of his time painting watercolors and making desultory notes for a novel called “The Placebo.”
- July 27: Richard Aldington dies of a heart attack in Sury-en-Vaux at the age of 70 and is buried in the village’s small cemetery.¹⁴⁹
- August 9: Hermann Hesse, Nobel 1946, dies in Montagnola, Switzerland, at the age of 85.
- August 20: LD and Miller are in Edinburgh for the week-long International Writers’ Conference (Norman Mailer, Mary McCarthy, William Burroughs, Rebecca West, Stephen Spender, Alexander Trocchi, Hugh McDiarmid, et al., are also attending) where he is introduced to a language computer at the university that would end up in *Tunc and Nunquam*.
- August 21: LD and Miller speak as part of a panel at the conference.
- August 24: LD reads two poems (“Ballad of the Oedipus Complex” and “La Rochefoucauld”) on the BBC Home Service programme, “Readings on Record.”
- Autumn: At the mazet, LD begins to paint in oils.
- September: The Durrells depart Marseille for Israel to research a film scenario, *Judith*, for a movie to feature Sophia Loren.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁹ GB, 303, has this happening on July 26. LD wrote a warm tribute to his friend, “Richard Aldington” in Alistair Kershaw & Frederic-Jacques Temple (eds.), *Richard Aldington: An Intimate Portrait* (Carbondale: Siuthern Illinois University Press, 1965; reprinted in *From the Elephant’s Back*, 271-274.

¹⁵⁰ The movie was released in 1966, LD is credited with the story, screenplay by John Michael Hayes, directed by Daniel Mann, produced by Kurt Ungar, cinematography by John Wilcox and Nicolas Roeg (the latter of whom later became a director of a number of fine films such as *Don’t Look Back*, *Walkabout*, and *The Man Who Fell to Earth*); Jack Hawkins and Peter Finch also acted in the movie. In the USA the video title is “Conflict.” LD’s “treatment” was published in *Woman’s Own* (February-April 1966) and in French in *Elle* the same year, but

- September 3: The American poet E. E. Cummings dies in North Conway, New Hampshire at the age of 69.
- Early October: Despite talk about LD receiving the prize, the Swedish Academy awards John Steinbeck (USA) the Nobel Prize for Literature. LD thinks this because a Swedish communist on the committee blackballed him.
- October 8: BBC Third Programme broadcasts a discussion of their writings by LD and Miller, moderated by D. G. Bridson, recorded in Edinburgh in August.
- Mid-October: The Durrells travel from Israel to Athens where they meet Katsimbalis and Seferis, then travel to Mykonos to discuss *Sappho* as a possible opera with the composer Peggy Glanville-Hicks.¹⁵¹
- December: LD agrees to edit the 1963 PEN Poetry Anthology.
- December 8: LD makes haste to complete a draft of the *Judith* scenario.
- December holidays: The Durrells are on Jersey with other Durrells for family holiday.

1963

- John Fowles' *The Collector*, Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*, Susan Sontag's *The Benefactor*, Kurt Vonnegut's *Cat's Cradle*, Pierre Boulle's *Planet of the Apes* (in Xan Fielding's translation), John Hawkes' *Second Skin*, Thomas Pynchon's *V* and John le Carré's *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* are published.
- January: The Durrells have a telephone is installed at the Mazet Michel but only for outgoing calls; those incoming are taken by appointment at a local café.
- January 21: The BBC Third Programme broadcasts part one of "Conversations with Lawrence Durrell," recorded with D. G. Bridson in France.

not in book form. There are, in fact, three versions: the serialization, a 38 page scenario and a 169 page novella; the latter two are in the Durrell collection at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. In June 2012, the Durrell School of Corfu published the novella, *Judith*, in a limited non-commercial edition edited and introduced by Richard Pine.

¹⁵¹ GB, 305, writes that this is LD's first visit to Greece in ten years, though LD had been there in July 1955; IMN doesn't mention this Athens sojourn.

- January 28: BBC Third Programme broadcasts part two.
- January 29: BBC Third Programme broadcasts LD reading a selection of his own poetry. The American poet Robert Frost dies at the age of 89.
- February: In the USA, Dutton publishes *A Private Correspondence: The Henry Miller-Lawrence Durrell Correspondence* edited by George Wickes to generally positive reviews.
- February 5: BBC Third Programme broadcasts LD reading and discussing poems he likes.
- February 11: The American poet Sylvia Plath commits suicide in England at the age of 31.
- February 20: BBC Third Programme broadcasts an extended version of the Edinburgh Writers' Conference programme originally heard on October 8, 1962.
- February 27: LD is 51 years old.
- March: The Durrells are in Geneva for ten days where Claude is diagnosed with a fibroid condition.
- March 4: The American poet William Carlos Williams dies in New Jersey at the age of 80.
- Early-April: The MS of *An Irish Faustus* is sent to Curtis Brown in London.
- April 24: In Geneva, Claude undergoes a hysterectomy.
- April 26: LD flies from Geneva to Madrid to discuss *Judith* script with Sophia Loren, who tells him she cannot play an "intellectual"; LD agrees to rewrite the story to fit Loren's "peasant" character.¹⁵²
- April 29: LD returns to Geneva, where he and Claude remain at the Hotel Touring-Balances for her post-operative care.
- May: In London, Faber publishes *A Private Correspondence* to generally dismissive and some scathing reviews.
- May 14: The Durrells return to the mazel.
- May 21: They sail from Marseille on the *San Marcos* for Piraeus, then spend time in Spetsai with Katsimbali and the photographer Dimitri Papadimos, a week on Mykonos, where they run across an American couple but do not speak to them until several weeks later on Rhodes: Horst (an immigrant from Germany) and Frances von Maltitz; they

¹⁵² GB, 307, has this happening in March.

- spend a week in Athens and a weekend with the von Maltitzes at Delphi.
- July 6: GD establishes the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust after ten years planning.¹⁵³
- Mid-July: The Durrells are back at the maset. GD and Jacquie visit for about ten days.
- September: The Durrells are in Greece visiting Peggy Granville-Hicks who has been commissioned by the San Francisco Opera to write an opera based on LD's verse play *Sappho*. The opera will not be performed in toto until 2012.
- September 5: Louis MacNiece dies in London at the age of 56.
- September 11: Bernard Spencer is found dead on a railroad track in a suburb of Vienna, a possible suicide.¹⁵⁴
- Early October: George Seferis wins the Nobel Prize for Literature, the first Greek to do so.
- October 7: Gustaf Gründgens dies in a hotel room in Manila, the circumstances are not suspicious.
- Mid-October: Ursula Schuh, wife of the new Schauspielhaus intendant in Hamburg, finishes translating *An Irish Faustus* for the production planned by Gründgens.
- November: LD's 1963 PEN Anthology is published.
- November 11: In London, Faber publishes *An Irish Faustus*.
- November 22: U.S. President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas under still unexplained circumstances. Aldous Huxley dies in Los Angeles at the age of 69 under the influence of a heavy dose of LSD to help him on the way and to escape the pain ravaging him from throat cancer. The Irish author of the children's series *The Chronicles of Narnia*, C. S. Lewis, dies at the age of 65 in Oxford, England.
- First week December: Katsimbalis and the Fieldings visit the maset.
- Ca. December 7: On the way to Hamburg the Durrells fly to Paris to visit the Blokhs where they come up with the name Oscar Epfs for the painter of LD's oils and watercolors for an exhibition Nadia Blokh wants to organize.¹⁵⁵ They also meet David Gascoyne, who is again down on his luck.

¹⁵³ IMN, 542, misdates this as 1964.

¹⁵⁴ In 1964, LD published a eulogy of Spencer in *The London Magazine* entitled "Bernard Spencer".

- Ca. December 10: The Durrells are in Hamburg for revisions and rehearsals; LD refuses to change the name of the protagonist to Morienus to forestall comparisons to Goethe's *Faust*.¹⁵⁶
- December 18: The Durrells are in Hamburg for the opening of *An Irish Faustus* at the Deutsche Schauspielhaus with Will Quadflieg as Faust. *Time* magazine reports that LD is booed off the stage (January 3, 1964),¹⁵⁷ *The (London) Times* prints an enthusiastic review; *The New York Times* reports that despite a few catcalls the cast, director and author are cheered for 20 minutes.¹⁵⁸
- December 25: With Alan and Ella Thomas the Durrells spend an "improvised" Christmas in Hamburg before flying to Paris.¹⁵⁹
- December 31: The Durrells are in Paris with Eleonore Hirt (actress) and Antonio Vargas (stage designer), both of the Jean-Louis Barrault company, to celebrate at Fauchon.¹⁶⁰

1964

- Saul Bellow's *Herzog*, Gore Vidal's *Julian*, Ralph Ellison's *Shadow and Act* and, Len Deighton's *Funeral in Berlin* are published. Brian Friel's play *Philadelphia Here I Come!* is first performed in Dublin.
- Faber publishes *Acte: A Play*; later in the year Imo Moszkowicz directs a filmed version for West German television with LD credited as the writer and featuring Arno Assmann and Elizabeth Orth. Rupert Hart-Davis publishes GD's *Menagerie Manor* in London. Faber publishes LD's *Selected Poems 1935-1963*. The Cypriot poet Costas Montis publishes *Κλειστές πόρτες* (Closed Doors) with the subtitle "An Answer to Lawrence Durrell's *Bitter Lemons*." The

¹⁵⁵ This may be the visit that GB, 299, confuses with the previous year's trip to Hamburg.

¹⁵⁶ IMN, 536. GB, 309, has LD agreeing to the change.

¹⁵⁷ Perhaps the *Time* editors confused LD with Henry James.

¹⁵⁸ Curiously, Quadflieg makes no mention of his role in his memoirs, *Wir spielen immer. Erinnerungen* (Frankfurt am Main, 1976).

¹⁵⁹ GB, 310-311, has the Durrells on Jersey for the annual family holiday.

¹⁶⁰ GB, 311, has Vargas as an actor.

- Belgian French language radio broadcasts “Œil Ecoute” on LD by Daniel Gillès and Jean Antoin.
- January: *London Magazine* prints LD’s homage to his recently dead friend from Cairo and Alexandria, Bernard Spencer. LD continues work on “The Placebo.”
- January-February: LD paints several oils for the Paris exhibition.
- Ca. January 4: From Paris the Durrells return to the mazet and a mistral whipped snowstorm.
- January 24: Louise Durrell dies in Bournemouth nursing home. Claude, LD, Jacque and GD fly to England for the funeral, which Ella and Alan Thomas also attend.
- January 31: Radio-Télévision Française, Canal I, broadcasts “Chez Lawrence Durrell” with a script by F.- J. Temple.
- February 27: LD is 52 years old.
- March 6: The Oscar Epfs exhibition of paintings opens at the Galerie Connaître at 36, rue des Saints-Pères (Paris). At the vernissage, Mary Mollo Hadkinson plays the role of the painter’s sister, LD is there as himself to represent his friend the artist, who was stuck deep in the darkest of Africas, or a shepherd in the hills of Greece, or any of several stories LD told. The show makes £60 and closes on March 21.
- Ca. March 20: *Elle* magazine prints the news that Epfs is really LD, who suspects that Miriam Cendrars, daughter of Blaise, who works for the magazine, leaked the fact.
- Late March: LD hears a rumor from Crete that he helped import arms to Cyprus for the Turks and that if he ever showed up on Crete he’d be taken care of by some of “the boys.” He quickly writes a letter to *The (London) Times* in support of *Enosis*.
- April 7: Alfred Perlès and his wife write from Crete, where they are living, that there is nothing to the rumor story.
- End April:¹⁶¹ The Durrells drive the blue Opel van to the Brindisi ferry, where they meet Joan and Peter Bird on leave from his job as military attaché at the British Embassy in Oslo, they arrive on Corfu as the first stop on a tour of

¹⁶¹ GB, 312. IMN, 539, has the departure as May 7, which seems impossible. Botting, 319, notes that GD and Jacque joined LD and Claude on Corfu but had returned to Jersey by May 2 when GD wrote a letter to Alan Thomas from there.

Greece. At a seaside rental house in Paleocastrizza, escaping a drunken argument with her husband, Claude falls and fractures two ribs, whereupon they cancel the tour and remain on Corfu where they meet the Anastasius (“Totsa”) Athenaios family at the White House in Kalami. LD, Totsa Athenaios and Niko the schoolteacher visit the Saint Arsenius shrine. LD spends a night in his old bedroom at the White House.

May 22: LD’s letter supporting *Enosis* appears in *The (London) Times*.

June: Jacquie and GD come to Corfu from Jersey for a week.

June 3: F. E. Sillanpää, Nobel 1939, dies at the age of 76.

July: *Judith* is being filmed in Israel. LD refuses an invitation to be there, disgusted by the changes in the screenplay, but see August 16 below.

Ca. July 11: The Durrells go to Athens to pick up Sappho, and Claude’s children, Barry and Diana (for their first holiday in Greece) and visit friends.

Ca. July 16: LD sees Seferis for what turns out to be the last time.

July 18: The Durrells return to Corfu with the children.¹⁶²

August 16: LD flies to Israel to make a short TV program for CBS with Sophia Loren to hype the movie *Judith* despite his earlier misgivings.

End of summer: Daphne and Xan Fielding move into a rented house north of Uzès, some 15 miles up the Engances road from the mazet.

Autumn: The current edition of *Two Cities* prints LD’s letters to Jean Fanchette, upsetting some of LD’s friends, who claim the young man is taking advantage of the writer’s fame.¹⁶³

September 18: The Irish playwright and autobiographer Sean O’Casey dies at the age of 80.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Jean-Paul Sartre (France) Nobel Prize for Literature; he refuses to accept it.

¹⁶² IMN, 540, who does not mention Seferis meeting LD. On July 19, Seferis wrote to LD, “It was good to see you the other day.” (Beaton, 483). GB, 312-313, puts this meeting on Corfu, but the event took place in Athens.

¹⁶³ The letters were eventually published by Fanchette as Lawrence Durrell, *Letters to Jean Fanchette 1958-1963* (Paris: Éditions Two Cities ETC, 1988).

- Ca. November 1: The Durrells are in Paris to read the proofs of the French version of *Selected Poems* published by Gallimard.
- November 13: In Paris, LD lectures for twenty minutes at UNESCO on Shakespeare, an event arranged by Alex Blokh, for which LD is paid \$750.
- December: The Christmas holidays are spent at the mazet with Catha Aldington, Temple and the Fieldings.
- December 31: Claude is rushed to a local hospital with a burst appendix.

1965

- Jerzy Kosinski's *The Painted Bird* is published. John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me* and Samuel Beckett's *Come and Go* are given their first performances. Olivia Manning's third volume of the Balkan trilogy, *Friends and Heroes*, is published in London.
- January 4: T. S. Eliot, Nobel 1948, dies of emphysema in London at the age of 77 and is buried in the village cemetery at St. Michael's Church in East Coker, the village from which his ancestors had emigrated to America. At the memorial service in Westminster Abbey the frail and ill Ezra Pound unexpectedly appears from Italy.
- January 24: Winston Churchill, Nobel 1953, dies at the age of 91.
- February 6: LD writes to Miller that he has begun a new novel reworking "The Placebo" and "A Village of Turtle-Doves," slowly evolving them into *Tunc*.
- February 27: LD is 53 years old.
- Spring: Faber commissions G. S. Fraser (one of the Cairo rivals to Alexandria in the mock poetry duel) to write a critical study of LD and suggests Alan Thomas might edit a volume of LD's travel letters.¹⁶⁴
- April: In Paris, *Preuves* prints LD's personal essay on T.S. Eliot.

¹⁶⁴ *Lawrence Durrell. A Critical Study*. With a bibliography by Alan G. Thomas (London: Faber/New York: Dutton, 1968). Alan Thomas published his compilation of LD texts as *Spirit of Place. Letters and Essays on Travel* (London: Faber/New York: Dutton, 1969).

May: *The Atlantic Monthly* prints the same warm tribute to Eliot in English.¹⁶⁵

May 1: LD estimates he's completed one third of *Tunc*.

Summer: The Durrells and the children live in a rented villa on the shore in Paleocastrizza, Corfu, as do Mary Mollo Hadkinson, her husband and children. LD meets Ghislaine de Boysson who is staying with Catha Aldington at a nearby hotel. The two women spend time with Claude, but not LD who is either sleeping or drunk.¹⁶⁶ LD travels to Athens to see Austen Harrison, his architect friend from Cyprus. Joan and Peter Bird visit Corfu. LD works with Ernle Bradford on the TV documentary "Search for Ulysses."

August: Henry Miller's former wife Eve McClure dies after a struggle with alcohol.

September: Alan and Ella Thomas are now living in London (Chelsea) and gathering LD materials for the travel book.

Autumn: John A. Weigel's critical book *Lawrence Durrell* is published by Twayne in the USA. Dutton publishes a paperback edition in 1966.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards M. A. Sholokhov (USSR) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 15: The American poet Randall Jarrell dies under suspicious circumstances at the age of 51.

October 19: The BBC-TV programme "Intimations," produced by Margaret McCall, broadcasts Malcolm Muggeridge's interview with LD. McCall and LD become good friends and she later produces a documentary film with him.

Ca. October 20: LD meets the trapeze artist and friend of poets (Paul Eluard's companion in the late 1940s) and painters, Diane Deriaz, on the flight to Paris and invites her to a meal at the Closerie des Lilas. In her memoirs, she notes that, having resisted an invitation to spend the night at the Hotel Royale, they remain "platonic" friends for the rest of his life.¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁵ Reprinted in *From the Elephant's Back*, 257-267.

¹⁶⁶ GB, 315.

¹⁶⁷ *La Tête à l'envers: souvenirs d'un trapéziste chez les poètes*. Preface by Lawrence Durrell (Paris: Albin Michel, 1988). See also Elizabeth Cowling (ed.), *Visiting Picasso. The Notebooks and Letters of Roland Penrose* (London: Thames & Hudson, 2006), 73-76, 101, 347.

- October 27: The BBC program “Midday Dialogue” broadcasts an interview with LD on his poetry, recorded earlier in the mazet by Margaret McCall.
- November: Katsimbalis and his wife visit the mazet.
- November 15: Faber offers to publish Claude’s translation of Marc Peyre’s *The Captive of Zour*.
- December: LD finally sees the direction for the new novel and begins writing it for the third time. Yehudi and Diana Menuhin visit the mazet.
- December 16: W. Somerset Maugham dies at the age of 91 in Nice on the Côte d’azur.
- December 19: Charles de Gaulle defeats François Mitterrand in the French presidential elections.

1966

- Thomas Pynchon’s *The Crying Lot 49*, Friedrich Dürrenmatt’s *Der Meteor*, Margaret Atwood’s *The Circle Game*, Bernard Malamud’s *The Fixer*, Truman Capote’s *In Cold Blood*, Marcel Pagnol’s *Jean de Florette* and *Manon des Sources*, Mihail Bulgakov’s *The Master and Margarita* and Jean Rhys’ *Wide Sargasso Sea* are published.
- Faber publishes LD’s *The Ikons and Other Poems* and *Sauve Qui Peut* are published. In London, Collins brings out GD’s *Two in the Bush* and Alan Ross publishes Claude’s translation of Marc Peyre’s *The Captive of Zour*.
- John Fowles publishes the first version of his novel *The Magus*, said by some critics to be influenced by LD’s writings, especially *The Alexandria Quartet*.
- February 11: LD contributes to a programme on “Roy Campbell et la Provence” on a Marseille-Provence radio station.
- February 27: LD is 54 years old.
- March 10: The Irish writer, Frank O’Connor, dies at the age of 61.
- Spring: At an auction in Paris, Claude buys Mme. Tartes’s house in Sommières for £6000, it is located a short walk from the

Vidourle River and across the water from the walled town.¹⁶⁸

April 1: Appropriate to the day, the Irish writer Flann O'Brien dies at the age of 55.

April 10: Evelyn Waugh dies at the age of 61.

May: LD abandons the third attempt at the novel, *Tunc*, and begins anew.

Summer: The Durrels have central heating installed and organize significant renovations on the Sommières house under Claude's direction. Sappho visits for the summer. GD and Jacquie on Corfu are appalled by the effects of mass tourism; they sign a two-year lease with LD for the Mazet Michel. LD and Claude drive the new VW microbus, named L'Escargot, to Brindisi and ferry across to Corfu for several weeks, where they are visited by Frances and Horst von Maltitz, who they had met on Rhodes in 1963, and Joan and Peter Bird. LD becomes seriously attracted to Joan.¹⁶⁹

July 15: The Durrells officially change their address to Mme Tarte's house at 15, route de Saussine, Sommières.

August: LD is now seriously working on *Tunc*.

September: The Durrells move into their Sommières house.

September 28: The Pope of Surrealism André Breton departs this mortal coil at the age of 70.

Early October: The Swedish Academy jointly awards Nelly Sachs (a German Jew in Swedish exile) and S. Y. Agnon (Israel) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Mid-November: LD writes to Miller that he has reached the half way mark with *Tunc* but is clearly having trouble with the text.

Late November: LD and Claude make grand plans for "a real English Christmas" in Sommières with the Thomases, Catha Aldington, Mary Mollo Hadkinson and her family, GD and Jacquie, and Theodore Stephanides.

November 26: The Thomases and Stephanides plan to drive together from London to Sommières.

December 5: Anaïs Nin writes at length to LD about her relationship with him, Miller and Perlès, and threatens to

¹⁶⁸ Bowker, 314, implies this took place in the spring of 1965.

¹⁶⁹ GB, 324, has the purchase of the camper being made in May 1967.

- tell all when her diary is published. It is not clear why she thinks it is necessary to make what appears to be this threat.
- Early December: Penelope marries the actor, Peter Ellis Jones, but tells GD and her father about it too late for them to travel to England to attend the ceremony; in any case LD is too preoccupied to pay much attention to the event.
- December 9: LD cancels the holiday celebration and takes Claude, who has been in ill health for months, to Geneva to see specialists. She has cancer and does not leave the city alive.
- December 22: LD writes to Alan Thomas that Claude is improving.

1967

- Cecil Day-Lewis is appointed Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom. William Styron's *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, Naguib Mahfouz's *Miramar* (giving a non-Durrellian view of Alexandria), Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and Chaim Potok's *The Chosen* are published. Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* is given its premiere performance.
- A 30-minute British TV show called *Stiff Upper Lip* directed by Michael Mills, with Giles Cooper listed as writer and LD credited with the "story," is broadcast in the UK.
- George Weidenfeld and Nicholson in London and Putnam in New York City publish Alan Thomas's book, *Fine Books*, dedicated to Ella.
- January 1: Claude-Marie Vincendon Durrell dies in the Geneva hospital at the age of 42, LD is devastated; he buries her ashes in an unmarked grave the church yard at Saint Julien de Salinelles, several kilometers from Sommières, in December 1975.¹⁷⁰ LD refuses to allow his daughters to come to Geneva or Sommières for the funeral. He stops the hands of the wall clock in the house at 7:10, the time of Claude's death, and does not reset them.

¹⁷⁰ See Durrell's brief elegy on Claude's death written some fifteen years later in *A Smile in the Mind's Eye* (New York: Universe Books, 1982), 32-33.

- February 23: LD closes the Sommières house and goes to London to stay with Alan Thomas whose wife had gone missing earlier in the month (she is never found and, after a period of time, is presumed dead). They console each other and work.
- February 27: The widower LD is 55 years old.
- Early March: LD travels from London to Paris to stay with the Blokhs.
- April: Sappho and Barry arrive in Sommières for longer visits and Diana visits on weekends from Geneva, where she is working. The Fieldings come over from Uzès often. In Athens a group of colonels inflicts a coup d'état on the Greek people and installs a repressive military dictatorship.
- May: LD drives L'Escargot to Corfu with Margaret McCall after sending the completed manuscript of *Tunc* with Peter and Joan Bird to Juliet O'Hea in London. In Athens, McCall discusses making a film with Katsimbali and LD, including Henry Miller should he be in Greece.
- May 12: The British poet laureate John Masefield dies at the age of 89.
- Summer: On Corfu, LD stays at the Zefiros Beach Hotel and tours the island, learns that Athenaios has committed suicide and his widow has left Kalami. GD and Jacquie also register at the hotel, while making the film *The Garden of the Gods* with Stephanides and Margo. LD paints pictures of Corfu scenes. McCall and LD return to Athens to talk to Katsimbali about the film.
- September: Plans are made for another Oscar Epfs exhibition in Paris.
- September 10: The 78-year-old Miller marries his fifth wife, the 28-year old Hiroko (Hoki) Tokuda, a piano player and bar singer with an extensive family, in California. They make an agreement that specifies that they do not sleep together.
- September 20: An exhibition of Miller's watercolors opens in Paris attended by the artist and his new platonic wife, LD, the Blokhs and McCall. Joan and Peter Bird are also in Paris where her refusal to allow LD to father a child with her results in a break in the friendship for several years. LD, Brassai and Perlès participate in filming a documentary

called *A Henry Miller Odyssey* along the streets and in the cafés of Paris.

October: Miller, Hoki, Jean Renoir, Miriam Cendrars and the Perlèses meet in Sommières for a grand reunion, filmed by the team making the *Odyssey*. The proofs of *Tunc* arrive with word that Juliet O’Hea at Curtis Brown has sold the book in seven countries. During the filming in Nîmes, they meet Simone Perier, a pretty admirer of Miller’s who becomes LD’s good friend. Hoki rather blatantly pursues LD, who returns to Paris with the Millers, where he sees Miriam Cendrars and stays with the Blokhs in their Parc Montsouris apartment, reminding him of the days in that quarter with Nancy in 1937-38.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Miguel Angel Asturias (Guatemala) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 9: William Styron’s *The Confessions of Nat Turner* is published in New York City to great acclaim and intense controversy.

November: Visits by the Fieldings, the Temples, and Miriam Cendrars give LD a social life in Sommières as he works on *Nunquam*.

December: LD tells Miller he is writing the text for a musical called *Smoke* and plans to send it to Hoki to score.¹⁷¹ Sappho, Penelope, Barry and Diana are in Sommières for the holidays.

1968

Norman Mailer’s *Armies of the Night*, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s *The Cancer Ward* and *The First Circle*, and Philip K. Dick’s *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* are published.

Another 30-minute British TV show called *Stiff Upper Lip*, written by Barry Took, possibly based on “The Iron Hand,” is shown on British TV.¹⁷² A revised edition of LD’s *Collected Poems* is published. Collins in London brings out

¹⁷¹ *DML*, 423. The relation, if any, between this project and the musical *Ulysses Come Back* is unclear.

¹⁷² Took was a veteran TV writer who organized the team that produced *Monty Python’s Flying Circus* (1969).

- GD's *The Donkey Rustlers* and *Rosie is My Relative*. Collins also brings out Jacque Durrell's memoir, *Beasts in My Bed*.
- January 1: LD reads the proofs of Fraser's book on his oeuvre and is happy with the text.
- February 27: LD is 56 years old.
- End February-early March: LD is in London for PR work anticipating the publication of *Tunc*; he stays with Alan Thomas with whom he drives from London to Leicester to attend an Arts Festival organized by G. S. Fraser where he appears on a panel "Poets in Person" with Richard Hughes.
- March 10: LD flies to Montreal for interviews and other public relations work.¹⁷³
- March 14: LD lands in Los Angeles on his first visit to the USA and is driven to Pacific Palisades to visit Miller for two weeks during which time he sees the Forest Lawn cemetery and cuckholds Miller with Hoki¹⁷⁴.
- March 20: LD visits Disneyland with Hoki and several others.
- March 28: LD flies to New York City to promote *Tunc* where he meets Tambimuttu, now living in Manhattan. He stays at the Algonquin Hotel, meets Marianne Moore at the Gotham Bookstore and has a reunion with Thérèse Epstein Marberry whom he hasn't seen since Paris before the war when they had a brief but intense love affair.
- April: Faber publishes *Tunc: A Novel*, dedicated to Claude, to mixed reviews.
- April 1: LD gives a reading at the 92nd Street Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA).
- April 4: An assassin murders Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee.
- April 9: Riots in American cities take place following King's assassination.
- April 12: LD is back in London.
- May 7: Student riots begin in Paris and spread beyond the city limits; the "days of rage" begin that will threaten the de

¹⁷³ GB, 330, has him leaving London for the USA on March 12 and makes no mention of the Montreal stop.

¹⁷⁴ According to GB, 331.

- Gaulle government. LD begins work on a musical play called *Ulysses Come Back*¹⁷⁵
- Mid-May: Hoki visits Sommières for additional cuckolding, but refuses to write the music to LD's play.¹⁷⁶
- Summer: After work on *Nunquam* in the mornings, LD continues work on the musical in the afternoons.
- June: Diane Deriaz visits Sommières and they remain friends despite her rejection of his offer of a job as secretary and bed-partner.
- June 6: A deranged assassin murders Democratic Party Presidential candidate, New York U. S. Senator, Robert F. Kennedy, in Los Angeles.
- June 14: Salvatore Quasimoto, Nobel 1959, dies at the age of 67.
- July 7: Diana Menuhin writes a highly critical letter to LD about *Tunc*.
- Last week in July: GD and Jacquie set off by car for Corfu, where they spend the next two months, entertaining friends and writing a draft screenplay for *My Family and Other Animals* with Peter Bull (an LD actor friend from before the war in London) for Albert Finney that is never produced.
- Summer: LD remains in Sommières to work on *Nunquam*.¹⁷⁷ Margaret McCall visits to plan a BBC film entitled *Lawrence Durrell's Paris*, and takes care of household business formerly dealt with by Claude. LD meets Claudine Brelet, an anthropologist-photographer, whose charm and enthusiasm lift his spirits.
- Autumn: LD travels to London to see Arthur Guirdham. When he returns to Sommières he finds the house has been burgled and books and paintings (but not his own, as he ruefully admits) have been stolen. He obtains a pistol to protect his property.¹⁷⁸ On Corfu GD experiences a mental and emotional breakdown brought on by the pressures of the zoo, his heavy drinking and depression about what

¹⁷⁵ GB, 335, calls it "Ulysses Comes Home."

¹⁷⁶ GB, 334. IMN makes no mention of this visit.

¹⁷⁷ Botting, 345, has LD visiting his brother on Corfu during the late summer, along with Alan and Ella Thomas, David Hughes and Mai Zetterling, Xan and Daphne Fielding, and the Durrell sister, Margo.

¹⁷⁸ IMN, 567; GB, 350, has this happening in 1972.

development has done to Corfu, for which he feels partly to blame.¹⁷⁹

September: Patrick and Joan Leigh Fermor visit Sommières.

September 23: LD and McCall are in Paris to work on the BBC film.

Early October: LD is again in Paris for work on the film. The Swedish Academy awards Yasunari Kawabata (Japan) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

December 20: John Steinbeck, Nobel 1962, dies in New York City at the age of 66.

Late December: LD spends Christmas in London helping McCall edit the television film, staying with Alan Thomas and his new companion, the American Shirley Calentano.

1969

Vladimir Nabolov's *Ada or Ardor: A Family Chronicle*, John Fowles' *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* and Philip Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint* are published.

Collins in London brings out GD's *Birds, Beasts and Relatives*. Early in the year GD is quietly admitted to a private clinic in Roehampton, London, to treat his depression.

February: Claudine Brelet visits LD in Sommières and they see similarities between her and Claude.

February 16: LD writes to Miller that he has moved *Nunquam* to within 50 pages of completion.

February 27: LD is 57 years old.

March 27: The German writer known as B. Traven dies somewhere in Mexico and at unknown age.

April 4: LD pronounces *Nunquam* finished.

Easter Sunday: LD and Sappho, with Claude's children Barry and Diana Forde, ride horses in the Camargue.

Mid April: LD travels to Geneva to have a cyst removed from his ear.

¹⁷⁹ There is every reason to believe, and little to doubt, that the word "developer" should more accurately be spelled "devil-oper."

- April 28: De Gaulle resigns as president of France as a result of the social turmoil in the country stemming from the May 1968 riots.
- End April: Alan Thomas and Shirley Calentano travel to Sommières for a visit; they return to London with LD's archives and the manuscript of *Nunquam* for Juliet O'Hea.
- May: The French version of *Tunc* appears in a translation by Roger Giroux. In London, Faber publishes LD's *Spirit of Place: Letters and Essays on Travel* (edited by Alan Thomas with his commentary).
- May 11: Margaret McCall's *Lawrence Durrell's Paris* airs on the BBC in the *Omnibus* series that runs from 1967 until 2003.
- May 25: With Margaret McCall, LD leaves Sommières for Greece to see if a film about the country would be feasible; in the end they decide against it, possibly due to the colonels' repressive dictatorship.
- June: In New York, Dutton publishes *Spirit of Place*.
- August: The unfortunate Hollywoodised movie *Justine* opens to appropriate blasts from the critics.
- Mid-August: Thérèse Epstein Mayberry visits Sommières for a week; she warns LD not to see the film, and he doesn't, fortunate fellow.
- August 14: Leonard Woolf dies in London at the age of 89.
- September 1: McCall, LD and Diane Deriaz make a BBC-Bavarian Television film called *The Lonely Roads* about a search for the existential tramp (freedom) called Blanco; the filming goes on throughout the month.
- September 3: Henry Miller writes from California that the movie *Justine* is incomprehensible.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Samuel Beckett (Ireland) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- October 21: The influential novelist and poet Jack Kerouac dies at the age of 47 of alcohol and ennui; he is buried in Lowell, Massachusetts.
- Mid-December: LD and Alan Thomas produce a limited signed edition of *An Irish Faustus*.
- December 31: LD is in Paris to spend the old year's ending with Eleanor Hirt, where they drink a toast to Miller at the Café du Dôme.

1970

Albert Camus' *La mort heureuse*, Anna Kavan's *Julia and the Bazooka*, and Graham Greene's *Travels with My Aunt* are published.

Early in the year: Shirley Calentano's husband sues Alan Thomas for alienating the affections of his wife; the court clears Thomas of all charges and grants Shirley the divorce, shortly after which Alan and Shirley marry. LD sells the bulk of his papers to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale; with the funds from the sale he has a swimming pool installed at the foot of the garden behind the Sommières house.

January-February: Wallace Southam visits Sommières for a week to write the music to LD's lyrics for the *Ulysses* musical.

January 10: The American poet and teacher Charles Olson dies of liver cancer and alcohol at the age of 59 in New York and is buried in the Beechbrook Cemetery at Gloucester, in Massachusetts.

February 2: Bertrand Russell, Nobel 1950, dies in Penrhyndeudrath, Wales, at the age of 98.

February 17: S. Y. Agnon, 1966 Nobel co-winner, dies in Jerusalem at the age of 82.

February 27: LD is 58 years old. Miller writes he and Hoki have separated.

End February: LD flies from Marseille to London for a few weeks' public relations work on the publication of *Nunquam*. He stays with Alan and Shirley Thomas and sees much of the now aging Stephanides.

Early March: In London, Faber publishes *Nunquam: A Novel*, dedicated to Claude, to mixed reviews. LD appears on several radio programmes hawking the book.

March 17: LD flies to New York City to do more public relations events, stays at the Algonquin Hotel, gives interviews and hangs out at the Grand Central Station Oyster Bar. He meets Miller's actress-singer friend, Fiddle Viracola, who falls in love with him; she squires him around Manhattan as well as Brooklyn and Staten Island. Together they fly to Chicago

for interviews and book signings and listen to the city's special brand of the blues in clubs, after which they return to Manhattan.¹⁸⁰

March 21: BBC-TV broadcasts *The Lonely Roads*.

March 23: Dutton publishes the American edition of *Nunquam*, the last of LD's works from this publisher; Viking Press will publish most of his future books in the USA.

March 25: LD appears on the BBC-TV program "The Arts This Week," filmed while he was in London.

Late March-early April: LD returns to Sommières from the USA.

Late April: Fiddle visits Sommières for a week, an event LD tells Miller was "a perfect experience."¹⁸¹

May: LD flies to England to take Sappho to visit York University's Derwent College, where she wishes to enroll. He is interviewed by the student newspaper, *Nouse*.¹⁸²

May 12: The exiled German Jewish poet, Nelly Sachs, Nobel co-winner 1966, dies in Stockholm.

Summer: LD returns to London to record excerpts from *Ulysses Come Back* for an LP of 99 copies produced by Bernard Stone as a demo to send to agents and producers, including Fiddle in New York; nothing comes of this.¹⁸³ From London he moves on to Paris to make a film with Michèle Arnaud, a singer turned producer, *Spéciale sur Durrell*, broadcast by ORTF in February the following year. Arnaud convinces LD to write texts for pop songs in French. GD arrives in Sommières for a visit.

June 7: Edward Morgan Forster dies at the age of 91 in Cambridge, England.¹⁸⁴

Summer-Autumn: The Fieldings, Mai Zetterling and James Stern arrive together for a visit. Miriam Cendrars films an interview with LD. McCall stops by on her way to Italy, as

¹⁸⁰ IMN, 574-575. GB, 342, has the meeting with Fiddle taking place in Chicago.

¹⁸¹ Letter dated May 12, 1970, *DML*, 440.

¹⁸² "Osric Allen Talks to Lawrence Durrell," *Nouse* (May 28, 1970). Sappho matriculated here the following autumn.

¹⁸³ GB, 342, has this happening on LD's way home from the USA at the end of March or early April.

¹⁸⁴ For those interested in Forster, Cavafy and Alexandria, see Peter Jeffreys (ed.), *The Foster-Cavafy Letters. Friends at a Slight Angle* (Cairo & New York, 2009) and the relevant chapters in Michael Haag's *Alexandria. City of Memory* (New Haven CT, 2004).

- do Simone Perier and Claude's son Barry, now a naval officer. LD writes songs for Annie Verneuil, a local singer.
- Early September: Fiddle arrives in Sommières to help pack Epfs paintings and after a week they drive to Paris for an exhibition at Marthe Nochy's bookshop at 93, rue de Seine.
- September 1: François Mauriac, Nobel 1952, dies in Paris at the age of 85.
- Mid-September: After he squires Fiddle around his old haunts and tells her he wanted to marry her but was too old, she flies back to New York City.¹⁸⁵ With Michèle Arnaud LD discusses making a film called *Les amis de Henry Miller*.
- September 23: John Gawsworth dies at the age of 58.
- September 28: John Dos Passos dies at the age of 74.
- September 29: Gilbert Seldes, the influential American editor, cultural critic and historian, dies in New York City at the age of 77.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Aleksandr Isavich Solzhenitsyn (Soviet Union) the Nobel Prize for Literature. The Oscar Epfs exhibition opens.
- November 25: In Japan, Yukio Mishima commits hara-kiri.
- December 25: Sappho and Penelope visit their father in Sommières for Christmas.

1971

- Wallace Stegner's *Angel of Repose*, Jerzy Kosinski's *Being There*, E.L. Doctorow's *The Book of Daniel* and V. S. Naipaul's *In a Free State* are published.
- Collins in London publishes GD's short stories, *Fillets of Plaice*, the title a sly reference to LD's *Spirit of Place*.
- January: LD slides into a depression, trying to organize his thoughts for a new novel.
- January 28: LD writes to Miller that he has recently begun "a queer sort of novel about the Gnostic heresies, the Templars etc etc," which he tentatively has titled "Le Monsieur."

¹⁸⁵ GB, 343, has her flying to Japan for a singing tour.

End January: LD travels to Paris to see Michèle Arnaud, the Blokhs and Claudine Brelet with whom he discusses marriage, though she is already married and has a small daughter. His health continues to deteriorate (eczema, asthma) and depression does not lift.

February 27: LD is 59 years old.

Late February: LD travels to Geneva to have a bad eczema examined. While there he discusses Gnosticism and the Templars with Denis de Rougemont, for whom he arranges a meeting with Arnaud.

Spring-summer: Marc Alyn, a poet and essayist in Uzès, continues a series of interviews with LD he began the previous year, which will appear the following year in French and in 1973 in English as *The Big Supposer*. LD joins lunch club (in reality a sort of lonely hearts club) in Avignon to learn about the region and its history.¹⁸⁶ He visits Catha Aldington in the Saints Maries-de-la-mer and is reintroduced to Ghislaine de Boysson. Joan Bird reappears briefly to see him on her way from Israel (where her husband Peter is finishing his final tour as military attaché) to England; she worries about his drinking.

April: GD and Jacquie move into the Mazet Michel for the summer.

May: GD rents the mazet for a year and the brothers see each other regularly. LD would like to sell the mazet. Yoga helps LD give up smoking, but not the excessive drinking. The eczema disappears temporarily.

June: LD travels to London for the publication of *Red Limbo Lingo: A Poetry Notebook*, not particularly liked by the critics. He visits the Menuhins in Highgate.¹⁸⁷

June 11: GD tells his brother he cannot afford the asking price to purchase the Mazet Michel but would like to rent it for an additional four years.

June 22: LD travels to York where Sappho is now a student at the University and they create a strange limited edition book

¹⁸⁶ “Imagine lunching twice a fortnight outdoors under a tree with Raimu, Fernandel and company ... and playing boules afterwards in a beret.” LD to Miller, *DML*, 448.

¹⁸⁷ GB, 345; IMN doesn’t mention this.

- called, *The Suchness of the Old Boy*, poetic text by the father, drawings by the daughter.
- End June: LD is in Paris staying with Arnaud where he meets Jacques Lacarrière, a writer on the Gnostics, author of *La cendre et les étoiles*.
- July: LD is in Sommières for a month-long visit from Margaret McCall.
- August: Eleanor Hirt comes to stay for ten days.
- August 1: In Jerusalem, the American eccentric and openly gay writer, Alfred Chester, suffering from mental illness and drug/alcohol abuse, dies five weeks before his 43rd birthday, probably a suicide.
- Mid-August: LD travels to Geneva to write a magazine article and discuss the Templars with de Rougemont; meets the beautiful Claude Kiefer, French wife of a Swiss physician and begins a long-term affair.¹⁸⁸
- September 20: George Seferis dies in Athens at the age of 71.
- September 22: At Seferis' funeral, amidst great gusts of weeping and wailing, parts of the crowd spontaneously began to sing the forbidden music of Theodorakis' setting of Seferis's poem "Denial" (or "Renunciation") until the streets ring with hundreds of voices swelling upward in sadness, denial and resistance. The scene is eerily reminiscent of Katsimbalis singing the Greek national anthem at the poet Kostis Palamás' funeral during the German occupation in February 1943.
- September 23: Having rented an apartment on the shore of Lake Orta, a lovely spot in the northern Italian subalpine lake district west of Lago Maggiore associated with Robert Browning and Nietzsche, LD reads the obituary of Seferis and writes to Miller: "People have no right to do this to their friends," too many of whom were dying.
- September 24: Claude Kiefer arrives at Lake Orta for a tryst with LD, where Nietzsche first talked to Lou Salomé; LD begins to obsessively identify Claude with Lou and himself with the mad German and in part the poet Rainer Maria Rilke.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Pablo Neruda (Chile) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

¹⁸⁸ GB, 344, has this happen during the February visit and the later visit take place in September.

Late-December: LD and Margaret McCall fly to California for the celebration of Miller's 80th birthday at the UCLA Research Library.

1972

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *August 1914*, Hunter S. Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* are published. Alan Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular* receives its premiere performance.

Collins in London publishes GD's *Catch Me a Colobus*.

January: McCall and LD fly from California to Dublin to attend a session on LD organized by Richard Pine at Trinity College and visit the capital of the country to which LD always claimed a familial relationship.

January 23: They visit Joyce's Martello Tower. The relationship between McCall and LD falls apart when he tells her she's too old for him and that he needs an artist as a lover, while she refuses to divorce her husband and marry him.¹⁸⁹

End January: They visit the Thomases in Chelsea and continue arguing about themselves.

Mid-February: The Vidourle River floods, filling LD's cellar and damaging part of his library; the electricity is out for several days. Claude Kiefer comes to visit and takes the depressed writer off to the Hôtel Europe in Avignon and then further into the Vaucluse for rehabilitating sensual pleasures.

February 27: LD is 60 years old. To celebrate, he invites friends for champagne and food to help assuage his loneliness. Having given up smoking he finds moderating his alcohol intake difficult and his eczema continues to plague him.

Mid-March: LD is in Paris to visit Alain Bosquet who is translating the collected poems into French. He meets Eugène Ionesco, whom he finds funnier than his plays, and

¹⁸⁹ The fact that this conundrum makes no sense does not of course preclude its reality: she is too old for him and not an artist, but he wants her to divorce her husband and marry him. This is neither the first nor the last time LD places himself in such a situation.

Simone Lestoquard, a painter from the Languedoc, whom he invites to Sommières. She is knowledgeable about the Cathars and at some point they tour the region gathering information for the novel *Monsieur*, the first volume of *The Avignon Quintet*.

- End March: LD meets Ludo Chardenon, the expert in the healing properties of herbs, in the Arles market beginning a warm friendship. Chardenon's herb mixture cures LD's eczema, at least temporarily.
- Spring: Another of LD's French lovers, known to the public only as Buttons, who is 30 years old and apparently employed by the Department of Antiquities at the Sorbonne, visits. Despite his unforgivable behavior toward her in Dublin, LD continues to see Margaret McCall.
- April: Bernard Stone's Turret Books in London publishes *On the Suchness of the Old Boy* in an edition of 226 copies. Fiddle is touring the Camargue with a friend and stops in Sommières.
- April 16: Yasunari Kawabata, Nobel 1968, commits suicide at the age of 73.
- May 2: LD is again at Lake Orta awaiting the arrival of Claude Kiefer; they meet at Stresa on Lago Maggiore. LD rents an apartment above a boathouse on Lake Orta, from where they make a trip to the Sacro Monte, another Nietzsche location. When Claude returns to Geneva, LD stays on reading, swimming and making notes for *Monsieur*.
- May 22: Cecil Day-Lewis dies at the age of 68.
- July: LD's article "The Plant-Magic Man" appears in the Paris edition of the *New York Herald Tribune*, changing Chardenon's fortunes, but not his life style. Temple translates it for publication in the *Midi-Libre*, the daily newspaper of the Gard, the département in which Sommières is located.
- Summer: LD visits Catha Aldington at her home in Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-mer and again makes the acquaintance of Ghislaine de Boysson.
- August 22: *The Daily Standard* prints LD's "This Magnetic, Bedevilled Island that Tugs at My Heart".
- Ca. September 9: LD is in Paris to meet Alfred and Anne Perlès on their way back to Cyprus; he introduces them to Michèle

Arnaud, who he thought might be helpful in getting Perlès's work published in France. LD spends lavishly on the couple for several days, but Anne is contemptuous of Miller and has no use for LD; the feelings are royally returned. After the Perlèses leave Paris, LD spends a few days in the company of Miriam Cendrars.

September 13: LD writes to Miller that he hopes to finish the new novel by the end of the year.

October: James and Tania Stern visit LD in Sommières.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Heinrich Böll (Federal Republic of Germany) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

November: Fellow yoga exerciser Yehudi Menuhin visits Sommières and when LD proudly says he can stand on his head in the lotus position for five minutes each morning, the violinist stands on his head in that position *and* plays his fiddle.

First week in December: Claude Kiefer pays a week-long visit to Sommières.

December 11: LD writes to Miller that he has only been able to reach 125 pages of the book, but he has stopped drinking for two extended periods with the help of yoga.

Mid-December: LD works correcting the proofs of *The Black Book* that Faber finally decided to publish in the spring of the following year, 35 years after its first Paris edition.

December 13: The British novelist and essayist, L. P. Hartley dies at the age of 77.

Winter: LD has entertained Ghislaine de Boysson occasionally since 1971, but now with increasing frequency as she openly lusts after him, which must please him no end. He accepts a visiting lecturer contract for January-March 1974 at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, California.

1973

Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow*, Graham Greene's *The Honourary Consul*, Kurt Vonnegut's *Breakfast of*

Champions, Iris Murdoch's *The Black Prince* and Hunter S. Thompson's *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72* are published.

Collins in London publishes GD's *Beasts in My Belfry*. Amy Nimr Smart and Aspasia Katsimbali die. Temple's magazine *Entretiens* publishes an issue devoted to essays on LD.

January 21: *The New York Times Book Review* prints LD's "A Real Heart Transplant into English".

February 10: Michèle Arnaud and LD fly to California to film Miller and LD for French television. LD is drinking copious daily amounts of champagne; Miller warns him this regime is suicidal. Disregarding logic, LD claims the drink helps with his eczema, which returned despite Chardenon's best remedies.

February 21: On the return trip a French strike allows LD to re-route his flight from London to Geneva, where he spends the day with Claude Kiefer, and the next day takes the express train to Nîmes. A cold mistral blows through the garrigues but the house is warm and the kitchen stocked.

February 27: LD is 61 years old.

March: LD's selection of Wordsworth's poems and a typical LD introduction (emphasizing sibling incest) is published.

March 6: Pearl Buck, Nobel 1938, dies in Danby, Vermont, at the age of 81.

March 26; Noël Coward dies at the age of 74.

April: LD and Ghislaine travel to London for the British publication of *The Black Book* and *Vega and Other Poems* (dedicated to Claude Kiefer).¹⁹⁰ LD is a media event on the television and in the newspapers.

April 8: Pablo Picasso dies at the age of 92 in Mougins and is buried at his chateau in Vauvenargues near Aix-en-Provence.

April 28: LD and Ghislaine leave London for Cannes, where LD serves as a judge at the Film Festival with Ingrid Bergman and Sidney Pollack.¹⁹¹ Fiddle Viracola and Michèle Arnaud

¹⁹⁰ GB, 351, has this happening in May.

¹⁹¹ Bergman needs no introduction. Pollack was an actor and director on the television in the late 1950s and early 1960s before he turned to directing Hollywood movies, the most memorable of which include *This Property is*

are also in Cannes. During an argument he slaps Ghislaine and she says she's leaving for Paris; he is tearfully contrite the next day and asks her to marry him, so she stays in Cannes. When LD returns to Sommières, Ghislaine moves in with him.

Summer: Alan and Shirley Thomas come for a visit. Sappho has graduated from college and is living in London with a boyfriend while working for the publishers Weidenfeld and Nicholson.

September 11: In Chile a military coup d'état, supported by the American Central Intelligence Agency, murders the elected president, Salvador Allende, and establishes a vicious dictatorship.

September 23: Pablo Neruda, Nobel 1971, dies at the age of 69 in Santiago de Chile, after which his home is ransacked by the minions of the military dictatorship.

September 29: W. H. Auden dies in a Vienna hotel at the age of 66 and is buried in Kirchstetten a near-by village where he and Chester Kallman had a summer home.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Patrick White (Australia) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 2: LD writes to Miller that *Monsieur* is finished, but it isn't.

November: LD and Ghislaine de Boysson are married in Sommières with a local hooker and a local drunk as witnesses.¹⁹²

Mid-December: LD and Ghislaine fly to Los Angeles and visit Miller and take up the visiting professorship at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.¹⁹³

December 30: The Durrells drive to San Diego to see the world-class zoo.

1974

Condemned (1966) *Castle Keep* (1968) *The Way We Were* (1973, which he ruined in the editing stage because he could not bear to have Robert Redford's character remain the son-of-a-bitch he was) and *Bobby Deerfield* (1977). His recent film, *The Interpreter* (2005) almost redeems his flat work over the last 20 years.

¹⁹² GB, 353.

¹⁹³ GB, 355, has them leaving France on Christmas day.

John Fowles' *The Ebony Tower*, Erica Jong's *Fear of Flying*, Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward's *All the President's Men*, John Hawkes' *Death, Sleep and the Traveler*, Vladimir Nabokov's *Look at the Harlequins* and Joseph Heller's *Something Happened* are published.

Faber publishes The Revolt of Aphrodite combining *Tunc* and *Nunquam*. John Canning (ed.), *100 Great Books: Masterpieces of All Time* with an introduction by LD is published. Collins in London publishes GD's *The Talking Parcel*.

January 1: The Durrells watch the Rose Parade in Los Angeles.

January-March: LD begins lecturing at Caltech, where they stay at the Athenaeum Club until LD begins grilling steaks on the balcony of their suite and is asked to desist. The Durrells visit with Miller and Anaïs Nin, and walk through the Forest Lawn cemetery.¹⁹⁴ While visiting Miller at his house LD slaps Ghislaine in the course of an argument. Miller tells him if anything like that happens again he will no longer see LD.

Mid February: The Durrells move to Malibu into a house owned by film director William Wyler, an acquaintance of Ghislaine's. Burt Lancaster helps Ghislaine in the supermarket.

February 27: LD is 62 years old, an event he celebrates with Miller, Anaïs Nin and Ghislaine.

March: LD gives two public lectures, one at Caltech and one at Claremont College in Pomona. Anaïs Nin attends his final class meeting devoted to *Sons and Lovers*.

End March: The Durrells leave California to return to Sommières. LD never returns to the American west coast; his behavior has strained the old friendship with Miller, but not to the breaking point.

End April: LD travels to Paris for the publication of the French version of *Pope Joan*. Upon his return to Sommières he is sick with the flu and announces he'll reduce his wine intake to one bottle a day for the summer so he can work on *Monsieur*. This admirable resolution is not long fulfilled.

¹⁹⁴ GB, 330, has this occurring during the March 1968 visit.

- He also takes up painting again to prepare for another Epfs exhibition in the autumn.
- May: LD begins to have seizures he thinks are epileptic fits, but which were clearly related to his drinking. Ghislaine tries to get him to stop the excessive intake and he verbally abuses her in front of others. They frequently visit GD and Jacquie at the Mazet Michel.
- Early June: LD sends the typescript of *Monsieur* to Faber.¹⁹⁵
- June 9: Miguel Asturias, Guatemalan 1967 Nobel, dies in Madrid at the age of 75.
- Summer: Sappho comes for a lengthy stay.
- July 11: Pär Lagerkvist, Nobel 1951, dies at the age of 83.
- September: Advance copies of the *Monsieur* are available; Miller writes that he has difficulty following the narrative after the Macabru section. He is not alone. Viking Press sends a \$50,000 advance for the novel.
- Mid-September: LD and Ghislaine are fighting more than ever, including mutual physical abuse; she writes to Miller that the situation is “*dur.*”
- October: LD tells friends the marriage will break up at the end of the year.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Eyvind Johnson and Harry Martinson (both Sweden) jointly the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- Mid-October; LD and Ghislaine are in London for the publication of *Monsieur*, dedicated to Ghislaine, which receives generally negative reviews; on their way back to France they stop on Jersey to visit GD’s zoo.
- November: Another Oscar Epfs exhibition of mainly watercolors opens at Marthe Nochy’s bookstore on the rue de Seine in Paris, attended by both Durrells. LD meets Françoise Kestman at the store.
- December: In Sommières the Durrells’ relationship appears tranquil to outsiders, but it isn’t. Paul Scott in *The* (London) *Times* makes *Monsieur* one of the choice books of 1974.
- December 31: The Durrells celebrate the end of the year with the de Rougemonts in Geneva.

¹⁹⁵ GB, 357, has this happening “[b]y the time they returned to France”; that is, at the end of March or early April.

1975

Saul Bellow's *Humboldt's Gift*, E. L. Doctorow's *Ragtime*, Malcolm Bradbury's *The History Man*, Ruth Praver Jhabvala's *Heat and Dust* and Jacob Bronowski's *The Ascent of Man* are published.

Miller is so impressed with LD's California public lectures he arranges to have them published by the Capra Press in Santa Barbara as *Blue Thirst*. Marie Millington Drake, an old LD flame from the Cyprus period, dies at a young age in Naxos on Sicily.¹⁹⁶

January-February: LD withdraws into himself, ignoring Ghislaine's attempts to make the marriage work. He continues to add to the manuscript of *Livia*, the second of the Avignon series, sometimes confusing Livia with Ghislaine. He tells her he wants a divorce because she is a lesbian. She retreats to her Paris apartment, returning on some weekends.

January: In New York, Viking Press publishes *Monsieur* to generally lukewarm reviews.

February 4: Ian MacNiven is in Sommières to present a copy of his dissertation ("A Descriptive Catalogue of the Lawrence Durrell Collection at Southern Illinois University") to LD; they enjoy a well-watered five-hour lunch at the Pont Roman restaurant; it has been raining; as they leave the restaurant LD drops the dissertation in a parking lot puddle, twice. Fortunately the volume is in a plastic bag.

February 27: LD is 63 years old.

March: LD is awarded the James Tait Black Memorial Prize.

March 13: Ivo Andrić, Nobel 1961, dies at the age of 83.

End March: *Livia* has reached just over 100 pages.

April: In America, the Literary Guild chooses *Monsieur* is chosen as a monthly book choice. Diana Menuhin writes to question why his women characters are so humorless.

May: Ian MacNiven is awarded a Ph.D. for his dissertation.

Spring: Ghislaine continues to live most of the time in Paris, effectively ending the marriage that has become impossible.

This arrangement seems to bring about a cessation of

¹⁹⁶ Two manuscripts of her unpublished novels are in the LD collection at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

hostilities and at some point she returns to Sommières for several months. LD hires a cook (Mme Mignon) who also cleans when Marcelle, his former *femme de ménage*, leaves to marry.

- Summer: LD decides not to sell the Mazet Michel to his brother for tax reasons and asks him to move out.
- July: LD travels alone to Sicily to write an article for *Travel and Leisure* magazine. During the next 12 months he expands this into the travel book, *Sicilian Carousel*, neglecting the *Livia* manuscript.
- August: Having divorced Peter Jones the actor, Penelope Durrell marries Roger Walker, a potter, and moves to Cornwall.
- September: LD and Michèle Arnaud spend a couple of weeks on Corfu to make a film for French television.
- September 20: Saint-John Perse, 1960 Nobel, dies at the age of 88 in Presqu'île de Giens, Provence, and is buried nearby.
- October: LD is back on Corfu and other Greek locales to make a film, *Spirit of Place: Lawrence Durrell's Greece* with the director Peter Adam and the photographer Dimitri Papadimos for BBC-TV. He agrees to write the text for the coffee table book *The Greek Islands* and takes time from *Livia* to do so. Paul Gotch, on a holiday in Kassiope on Corfu, reconciles Joan and Peter Bird with LD. In Athens LD spends several nights with the widower Katsimbali, now an invalid, one of his few old Greek friends who has not cut himself off from LD due to the latter's work on Cyprus.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Eugenio Montale (Italy) the Nobel Prize for Literature. LD travels alone to London for the unveiling of a plaque at the house in Bayswater where Cavafy lived from 1873 to 1876; he meets Alan Ross to discuss a new edition of his selected poems, two days after telling a journalist that his publisher "is letting my poetry go out of print," by which he may have meant Faber rather than Ross.
- Late November: GD, Jacquie and some of their friends move the Durrells' things out of the Mazet Michel and transfer them to a house they've found in Le Tignet near Grasse.
- December: At Ghislaine's urging, LD takes Claude's ashes, up to this point located in a bedroom at the Sommières house, for

a proper burial in his own plot at the St. Julien de Salinelles church graveyard some kilometers down the road from Sommières.

December 4: The philosopher-historian Hannah Arendt dies in New York City at the age of 69.

1976

Alex Haley's *Roots*, Gore Vidal's *1876*, Manuel Puig's *El beso de la mujer araña*, Melvin Van Peebles' *Just an Old Sweet Song* and Muriel Spark's *The Takeover* are published.

Collins in London publishes GD's *The Stationary Ark* and in New York Schocken Books publishes Robert Liddell's *Cavafy: A Biography*. Simone Lestoquard visits Sommières to paint LD's portrait.

January-March: GD and Jacquie separate, the marriage over; she spends the time at the house near Grasse and he in Bournemouth, part of the time in a nursing home because of his drinking and a slide into deep depression, then on Jersey, until he departs for Mauritius for six-week field trip.

January: Jolan Chang, a "Taoist-gerontologist" and sexologist, visits for a long weekend from Stockholm.¹⁹⁷ LD has Chang visit Ghislaine in Paris on his way back to Stockholm. Peter Adam visits to add more interview footage for the Greek film and LD shows him around the town.

February: The BBC's *Radio Times* sends a journalist to interview LD.

February 27: LD is 64 years old.

March 13: The BBC airs the *Spirit of Place: Lawrence Durrell's Greece* film.

April: The BBC broadcasts a dramatisation of *The Dark Labyrinth*. Ghislaine attempts to organize a film version of Anaïs Nin's *House of Incest* with a script by LD, a project that has the full approval of Anaïs Nin, now terminally ill with cancer.

Summer: Ghislaine visits Sommières at some length, as do Sappho and her live-in companion, Simon Tompsett, the

¹⁹⁷ See LD's description of their meeting in *A Smile in the Mind's Eye*.

latter of whom LD studiously ignores. Sappho again tells Ghislaine to leave her father.

August 25: Eyvind Johnson, Nobel 1974 co-winner, dies at the age of 76.

September: In London, Weidenfeld and Nicolson publish Olivia Manning's first volume of the Levant trilogy, *The Danger Tree*, one episode of which is considered by some as libeling Amy and Sir Walter Smart.¹⁹⁸

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Saul Bellow (USA) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

December: LD sends off the typescript of *Sicilian Carousel* to Curtis Brown.

1977

John Fowles' *Daniel Martin*, John le Carré's *The Honourable Schoolboy*, Robert Coover's *The Public Burning*, Iris Murdoch's *The Sea, the Sea*, Richard Adams' *The Plague Dogs* and Mark Helprin's *Refiner's Fire* are published.

Faber publishes LD's *Sicilian Carousel*, dedicated to Diana and Yehudi Menuhin. Collins in London publishes GD's *Golden Bats and Pink Pigeons*. LD works on *The Greek Islands*. Alan Pringle and Lord Kinross die.

January 14: Anaïs Nin dies of cancer at the Cedars of Lebanon hospital in Los Angeles at 74; her ashes are scattered over Santa Monica Bay. LD writes a eulogy to be read at her funeral but it arrives too late.

February: LD visits the Tibetan Buddhist centre at Kagyu-Ling in the Château de Plaige, south of Autun, to celebrate the Tibetan New Year.¹⁹⁹

February 27: LD is 65 years old.

¹⁹⁸ On September 20, 1978, the Smart estate sued Manning and her publishers to remove the characters alleged to be based on the Smarts from the book and future volumes. The author and publishers ignored the threat successfully. (Braybrookes, 123). Some have indicated that Manning's poet, William Castlebar, is based on LD, but the more accurate identification is Bernard Spencer. (Ibid.) Manning did not like LD and he returned the sentiment.

¹⁹⁹ GB, 397, has LD's first visit to the Buddhist Centre apparently taking place in the winter of 1982-83. He also spells the place "Kangû-Ling."

- March: Robin Fedden dies of cancer after a final mountain hike with Patrick Leigh Fermor and Xan Fielding.
- April: LD reviews the manuscript of *Literary Lifelines*, his correspondence with Richard Aldington edited by Harry Moore and Ian MacNiven.
- April 11: Jacques Prévert dies in Paris at the age of 77 in Omonville-la-Petite (Normandy) and is buried in the cemetery there near the grave of the scene designer Alexander Trauner.
- Late April-early May: The 52-year-old GD is in the USA on a fundraising tour; he meets the 27-year-old zoology graduate student, Lee McGeorge, at Duke University.
- May 6: Having read the first chapter of *Livia* in the *Malahat Review*, Diana Menhuin writes a critical letter with suggestions (e.g., that he leave the myths of Provence and return to those of Greece which are healthier).
- May 16: Yale University confers an honorary degree on GD.
- End May: LD finally agrees to sell GD the Mazet Michel at a price the latter can afford and GD offers to rent the middle flat at the Sommières house.
- June: LD rents a small apartment in Le Grau-du-Roi near the Mediterranean, not far from Aigues-Mortes, to escape social and business calls and get on with the two-thirds finished *Livia* as well as escape Ghislaine who is in Sommières for the summer. She suspects he is taking a woman to the apartment.
- June 25: LD rents the middle floor of the Sommières house to a German family for a month.²⁰⁰
- June 26: LD finishes *The Greek Islands* in Grau-du-Roi.
- July: Faber publishes *Sicilian Carousel* to poor reviews.
- July 2: The novelist and lepidopterist Vladimir Nabokov dies in Montreux, Switzerland, at the age of 78 and is buried at Cimetière de Clarens.
- August 7: LD writes to Miller that he has approximately 40 pages left to reach the end of *Livia*.
- End August: Having agreed on the terms in June, Ghislaine and LD proceed with the divorce.²⁰¹

²⁰⁰ This would indicate that GD did not rent the middle flat.

- September 10: LD writes to Miller that Ghislaine is insisting on a “fortune” in alimony.
- October: Faber publishes LD’s Selected Poems edited by Alan Ross.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Vicente Aleixandre (Spain) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- October 7: LD travels to London to visit Alan and Shirley Thomas and make final arrangements with Peter Adam and the photographer, Dimitri Papadimos, for a new documentary film to be called *Spirit of Place: Lawrence Durrell’s Egypt*.
- October 16: LD watches the Greek film he made with Adam and notes, “My god, what a lot of drivel.”
- October 17 – November 11: A cranky LD reluctantly returns to Egypt with Adam and a crew to shoot the new film.
- November 27: Ghislaine departs Sommières for Paris.
- November 30: Terence Rattigan dies at the age of 66.
- End December: LD finishes *Livia* and sends it off to Faber.

1978

- John Updike’s *The Coup*, Richard Yates’ *A Good School*, Don DeLillo’s *Running Dogs*, Martin Amis’ *Success* and Ernest J. Gaines’ *In My Father’s House* are published.
- Collins in London brings out GD’s *Garden of the Gods*. Olivia Manning’s second volume of the Levant trilogy, *The Battle Lost and Won*, is published in London. LD’s friend in Argentina Bebita Ferreyra dies.
- February 11: Harry Martinson, 1974 Nobel co-winner, dies at the age of 74.
- February 27: LD is 66 years old.
- March: A French court fixes the amount of alimony LD is to pay Ghislaine, the level of which makes him weep.²⁰²

²⁰¹ GB, 374, states that LD, who visited Sommières on weekends to collect mail and pay his housekeeper, left a letter for Ghislaine telling her he wanted a divorce, implying that this happened at the end of the summer. Apparently this story and other details of the several months they spent together in silence (because LD refused to speak to her) GB got from Ghislaine.

²⁰² At least this is the story Ghislaine told GB, 380.

- April: GD and his assistant John Hartley travel to the Mazet Michel to work on a collection of short prose pieces called *The Picnic and Suchlike Pandemonium*.
- April 14: The academic critic F. R. Leavis dies at the age of 83.
- May: LD is in London for ten days reading the proofs of *Livia*.
- May 12: LD meets James Brigham at Alan Thomas's house to discuss the *Collected Poems* that Faber agreed to publish. The American poet Louis Zukofsky dies at the age of 74.
- June 4: LD writes to Miller that he will begin the next volume of the Quinx (as he called what became *The Avignon Quintet*) "soon."
- June 11: *The New York Times* prints LD's "With Durrell in Egypt".
- Mid-June: GD and Lee spend a month at the mazet. They will spend summers there for most of the rest of his life.
- August: LD still has not started writing the third volume, *Constance*.
- September: In London, Faber publishes *Livia or Buried Alive*, dedicated to Denis and Nanik de Rougemont.
- Mid-September: LD stays with the Thomases in Chelsea where he is visited by a young Alexandrian university student whom he ignores in favor of Margaret McCall. The student threatens to kill herself but is talked out of this rash act by Shirley Thomas's daughter.
- September 21: Faber publishes *The Greek Islands*. LD has a successful signing at Hatchard's in London.
- September 22: LD is in Paris for a signing at Galignani. While there, LD meets with Keith Brown, a professor of literature at the University of Oslo, to discuss the structure of *Tunc* and *Nunquam*. The meeting takes place in a small café and runs from eight in the morning to five in the evening. They go for a walk to meet a friend of LD's who turns out to be the Alexandrian student who followed him to Paris.
- October: LD meets Claude Kiefer in Orta and finishes *A Smile in the Mind's Eye*. He still cannot seem to get a handle on *Constance*. George Katsimbali dies in Athens at the age of 79.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Isaac Bashevis Singer (USA) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

November: In Paris, a reporter from the *International Herald Tribune* interviews LD at length at the Café du Dôme.²⁰³

November 20: LD writes to MacNiven in no uncertain terms that he wishes no biography to be written as was contemplated by another academic who had contacted MacNiven for information. But, understanding that a determined biographer could not really be stopped, LD asked MacNiven if he would be the “authorized” biographer and publish the book only after LD dies.

Christmas: LD spends the holiday with GD and Lee at the zoo’s compound on Jersey.

December 26: Henry Miller is 86-years old, and deeply involved in a platonic relationship with a young woman called Brenda Venus; he writes to LD with sympathy about the latter’s melancholy and obsession with death.

New Year’s Eve: LD is in Paris at the Coupole with Ghislaine drinking champagne and, after he sends her home, spends the rest of the night with Buttons, age 35, at the Hotel Royal, room 13.

1979

V. S. Naipaul’s *A Bend in the River*, Norman Mailer’s *The Executioner’s Song*, Philip Roth’s *The Ghost Writer*, Kurt Vonnegut’s *Jailbird*, John Fowles’ *The Tree*, Kingsley Amis’ *Collected Poems* are published.

Collins in London publishes GD’s *The Picnic and Such Pandemonium*. Thérèse Epstein Marberry dies. In England, Bran’s Head Labrys Edition publishes *Lawrence Durrell: A Symposium* with contributions by David Gascoyne, Gerald Durrell, et alia.

Early January: LD is in Geneva to have two cysts removed from his back. Then he travels to Paris to meet a young concert pianist named Françoise who also visits him in Sommières.

February 27: LD is 67 years old and seeing the pianist, Buttons and two other young women, but not writing *Constance*.

²⁰³ “Lawrence Durrell Takes Stock,” *International Herald Tribune* (Paris, November 7, 1978).

- Mid-March: LD finally gets down to work on the novel, writing regularly from 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. each day and drinking only several glasses of wine daily. He reads Jay Martin's biography of Miller, which he deplores, and Brassai's *Henry Miller: grandeur nature*, which he defends against Miller's complaints.
- Spring: A British divorce court grants GD and Jacquie a divorce on the grounds of "irreconcilable breakdown" after 25 years of marriage.
- April: The British Council invites LD to Vienna to do readings for ten days.
- April 5: Sappho begins therapy with a psychoanalyst in London to help her examine her relationship with her father, whose treatment of her is ever more erratic. For her part, she has attacked LD for years about such matters as his drinking, his conservative politics, and his treatment of women.
- May: The British elect the Conservative Party headed by Margaret Thatcher who becomes Prime Minister.
- May 9: Sappho records in her diary that she has just had a miscarriage.
- May 14: The under-rated novelist Jean Rhys dies at the age of 85.
- May 24: GD and Lee McGeorge are married in her hometown, Memphis, Tennessee.
- June 11: William Styron's novel *Sophie's Choice* is published in New York City causing controversy but not as much as *The Confessions of Nat Turner* evoked.
- September: Sappho apparently has a nervous breakdown.
- October: Sappho drafts her will, stating she wishes to be buried in the Steep churchyard, a small village near the Bedales School in Hampshire which she attended when Eve worked there, and begins intensive reading about incest. LD, Raymond Mills and Anthea Morton-Saner, his new agent at Curtis Brown, drive L'Escargot to Corfu.²⁰⁴
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Odysseus Elytis (Greece) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- December: LD continues to experience problems with getting the book, *Constance*, down on paper despite the fact that he says he's got it written in his head.

²⁰⁴ GB, 383, has the trip taking place in the spring.

- Ca. December 15: Sappho visits Sommières for a brief stay, but her father is preoccupied with the recalcitrant novel.
- December 25: LD in Paris with a 31-year old French woman psychiatrist named Nicole; he claims he is doing research for the character Constance, also a psychiatrist.

1980

- Samuel Beckett's *Company*, E. L. Doctorow's *Loon Lake*, Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*, Mordecai Richler's *Joshua Then and Now* and Madeleine L'Engel's *A Ring of Endless Light* are published.
- Olivia Manning's final volume of the Levant trilogy, *The Sum of Things*, is published in London.
- January 3: G. S. Fraser dies.
- February 27: LD is 68 years old.
- End February: LD is in Paris with the young psychiatrist.
- March: LD returns to Vienna.
- March 26: LD agrees to the establishment in the USA of what becomes the International Lawrence Durrell Society (ILDS), an academic fan club with serious intent. Roland Barthes, French obscurantist, structuralist, deconstructionist semiotician dies from injuries suffered in an automobile accident.²⁰⁵
- April 5: The first ILDS academic conference devoted to LD's work (each of which is called "On Miracle Ground" from LD's 1937 poem "On Ithaca Standing") is held at the State University of New York's Maritime College.
- April 13: Jean-Paul Sartre dies in Paris at the age of 75 and is buried with great to-do in the Père Lachaise cemetery in Montparnasse.
- June 7: At Pacific Palisades, Henry Miller dies at the age of 88, ending a 45-year-old friendship and opening a void in LD's life; after cremation his ashes are scattered off Big Sur.
- July 23: Olivia Manning dies on the Isle of Wight.

²⁰⁵ See the "Barthesian" obituary by the extraordinary Huge Kenner, "Decoding Roland Barthes" in *Mazes* (San Francisco CA: North Point Press, 1989), 270ff., originally published in *Harper's* (August 1980), with its sly reference to Roy Campbell, the rightwing poet friend of Aldington and LD.

August: LD is in Athens for more than a month.²⁰⁶

September 13: Sappho and Simon Tompsett are married at the Islington town hall; neither of her parents attends the ceremony.

September 16: The National Greek Tourist Organization awards *The Greek Islands* its best book of 1979 award.

September 18: From Athens, LD flies to London, where he stays with Celia and Rose Voelcker, neighbors of Anthea Morton-Saner, wisely refusing the offer of a room in the house owned by Sappho and Simon (for which he had given them £5000). He is there for the publication of his *Collected Poems 1931 - 1974* (edited by James A. Bringham) and *Smile in the Mind's Eye*, “dedicated to Chantal de Legume wherever and whoever she might be,” (brought out by Wildwood House in England and later by Universe Books in the USA). He visits with the Perlèses, still disliking Anne but putting up the good front for his old pal Alf. From London he flies to Edinburgh to undergo medical examination for his severe asthma supervised by his old Rhodes friend, Raymond Mills, with whom he stays.

Early October: From Edinburgh LD flies to Paris and sees Buttons. The Swedish Academy awards Czeslaw Milosz (Poland/USA) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

October 10: LD returns to Sommières to work on *Constance*.

December: LD remains in Sommières, where Joan and Patrick Leigh Fermor come for a visit.

December 2: In Paris, the French novelist and diplomat Romain Gary (né Roman Kacew, born in Vilnius, Lithuania) dies by shooting himself at the age of 66; after cremation in the Père Lachaise Cemetery, his ashes are scattered in the Mediterranean Sea near Roquebrune-Cap-Martin.²⁰⁷

1981

²⁰⁶ GB, 387, has LD returning to Sommières “by summer.”

²⁰⁷ Romain Gary has the distinction of being the only author to win the Prix Goncourt twice: the jury awarded him the prize, which can only be given once to an author, in 1956 for *Les racines du ciel* and in 1975 for *La vie devant soi*, which he published under the pseudonym of Émile Ajar. The truth did not become public until the posthumous publication of his book *La vie et mort d'Émile Ajar* in 1981.

Samuel Beckett's *Ill Seen Ill Said*, Naguib Mahfouz's *Arabian Nights and Days*, Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, John Irving's *Hotel New Hampshire* and Martin Cruz Smith's Russian thriller *Gorky Park* are published.

Collins in London brings out GD's *The Mockery Bird*.

Early January: LD falls victim to an illness diagnosed as aspirin poisoning, leaving him temporarily unable to use his hands and with a stiffening of his joints.

Early February: Sappho visits Sommières.

February 23: LD writes to MacNiven that Sappho will soon be in New York City and will talk to him about LD's life for the biography.

February 27: LD is 69 years old.

March 8: LD reports he is 50 or 60 pages from the end of *Constance*.

April 1: After an introduction by Jean Fanchette, LD delivers a slide lecture about his life and work at the Centre Pompidou in Paris and appears on the 1:00 p.m. news broadcast.²⁰⁸ Ghislaine attends and meets him as the crowd disperses; he is not pleased at her presence.

Ca. April 5: LD returns home to continue *Constance*.

April 23: First complete draft of the novel is finished, except the conclusion.

May: In New York, Viking Press publishes *Literary Lifelines: The Richard Aldington-Lawrence Durrell Correspondence* (edited by Ian S. MacNiven & Harry T. Moore) to generally positive reviews.

May 3: Sappho flies to New York for almost a month and, among other things, talks with MacNiven.

May 15-30: LD lollies in the Corfu Club Méditerranée for a rest, before wrestling with the novel's conclusion.

June: Faber publishes the English edition of *Literary Lifelines* to, unsurprisingly, less than enthusiastic reviews.

Late June-early July: Sappho visits Sommières.

²⁰⁸ Published in English as "From the Elephant's Back" in *Poetry London/Apple Magazine* 2 (1982) and is reprinted in *From the Elephant's Back. Collected Essays and Travel Writings* (Alberta, Canada: University of Alberta Press, 2015) edited by James Gifford.

- August: LD is in Paris for the French publication of *Livia*, where a reporter from *L'Express* interviews him at the Café du Dôme.²⁰⁹
- September 12: In Milano, the poet Eugenio Montale, 1975 Nobel, dies a month short of his 85th birthday.
- October: LD travels to Edinburgh for medical examinations due to his asthma and is diagnosed with emphysema. After treatment he flies to Corfu for a holiday.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Elias Canetti (Bulgaria/Great Britain) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- End December: LD returns from Corfu to Sommières. The North Hollywood California radio station, KPFA, plays seven days of materials on LD and *The Alexandria Quartet*.

1982

- Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, Isabel Allende's *La casa de los espíritus*, Graham Greene's *Monsignor Quixote*, Thomas Kenneally's *Schindler's Ark* and James Merrill and David Jackson's *The Changing Light at Sandover* are published.
- Hamish Hamilton brings out Gerald and Lee Durrell's *The Amateur Naturalist* and Collins publishes GD's *Ark on the Move*.
- February 27: LD is 70 years old.
- March 3: LD mails the typescript of *Constance* to Faber in London.
- April 24: The ILDS holds its conference On Miracle Ground II at the University of Baltimore.
- Summer: LD travels to Corfu to stay with the Birds, but his drinking causes Joan Bird to toss him out; he moves to the Club Méditerranée. Over the summer he writes several thousand words of *Sebastian*, the fourth volume of the *Quintet*.
- August 13: Leslie Durrell dies in a Notting Hill pub of a heart attack at the age of 65.²¹⁰

²⁰⁹ Eric Ollivier, "Lawrence Durrell: Un Européen Bien Tranquille," *L'Express* (August 27, 1981).

October: Faber in London publishes *Constance, or Solitary Practices*, dedicated to Anaïs, Henry and Joey. In Britain it is shortlisted for the Booker Prize but does not win it. LD sits for his portrait by Barbara Robinson at her studio in Quissac, ten miles distance from Sommières. His appreciation of her work appears two years later as the preface to a book about her painting.²¹¹

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Gabriel García Márquez (Columbia) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

First week in December: LD has brought *Sebastian* to approximately 60,000 words.

1983

William Kennedy's *Ironweed*, J. M. Coetzee's *Life and Times of Michael K*, John le Carré's *The Little Drummer Girl*, Salmoan Rushdie's *Shame*, Isaac Asimov's *The Robot of Dawn* and Samuel Beckett's *Worstward Ho* are published.

Early in the year: Sappho is briefly in a hospital with a nervous breakdown, Penelope stays with her at her London house. Southern Illinois University pays \$6,000 for seven LD letters.

February 7: LD sends the manuscript of *Sebastian* to Faber in London.

February 25: Tennessee Williams dies in a New York City hotel room at the age of 72 under suspicious circumstances.

February 27: LD is 71 years old.

March 25: LD leaves Sommières for a holiday in Greece.

April: A gallery in Lyon mounts a "Hommage à Lawrence Durrell," including Epfs' paintings, photographs and paintings inspired by his works by other artists.

April 13: Theodore Stephanides dies at the age of 87 in England.

²¹⁰ GB, 394-395, and Botting, 512; IMN, 654, seems to imply that this happened some time in the previous year.

²¹¹ "Barbara Robinson vue par Lawrence Durrell" in *Lumières de Barbara Robinson* (Toulouse: Tierra, 1985). IMN, 657, writes that the portrait has LD "looking rather like a sunburned Winston Churchill." In 2008 one of her portraits of LD hung on the reception foyer wall of the Auberge du Pont Roman restaurant in Sommières, a favourite LD eatery.

- Summer: LD accepts the presidency of a committee devoted to raising funds to build a Buddhist temple at Kagyu-Ling.
- June: Tambimuttu dies in London, falling off the fire escape he used to enter his third floor flat.²¹²
- June 8: In Milton Abbas (Dorset) Nancy Myers Durrell Hodgkin dies at the age of 71 of cancer; her ashes are somewhat later interred at the local cemetery attended by her husband and her daughters Penelope and Joanna Hodgkin. LD is visibly distraught at the news.
- Autumn: Faber publishes *Sebastian: or Ruling Passions*, dedicated to Simone Périer, it is well received by British critics.
- October: Sappho, severely affected by Nancy's death and her own demons, attempts suicide with sleeping pills, but calls Eve in time to have her stomach pumped.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards William Golding (Great Britain) the Nobel Prize for Literature, which must have galled LD as it did his admirers.
- Mid-December: LD is well into the fifth Quintet volume, *Quinx*.

1984

- Marguerite Duras' *L'Amant*, J. G. Ballard's *Empire of the Sun*, Anita Brookner's *Hotel du Lac*, Don DeLillo's *White Noise* and John Updike's *The Witches of Eastwick* are published.
- Françoise Kestman, owner and operator of a failed restaurant in Sommières (her partner absconded with the take) with five children and a friend of Sappho's, takes over as femme de ménage, but soon is organizing LD's life and protecting him from intrusions. He has a book about Provence in mind as his next project.
- February 21: Mikhail A. Sholokhov, 1965 Nobel, dies at the age of 79.
- February 27: LD is 72 years old.
- Spring: LD succumbs to a serious case of hepatitis.

²¹² LD wrote an appreciation of his old friend and publisher, "Poets Under the Bed" in Jane Williams (ed.), *Tambimuttu: Bridge Between Two Worlds* (London: Peter Owen, 1989), reprinted in *From the Elephant's Back*, 281-282.

- April: In Paris, LD falls down and passes out and is taken to the American Hospital in Neuilly, where he is urged to stop drinking. For some years he has been subject to these falling episodes but usually regains consciousness in a short time. GD is also suffering from similar episodes. The ILDS holds a conference on LD's works in Muskingum College, Ohio.
- May-June: LD is interviewed by Michel Braudeau for *L'Egoïst*, which maliciously prints the writer's half-drunken meanderings.²¹³
- June 1: LD seriously goes on the wagon having realized that alcohol is detrimental not only to his health but to his art as well.
- June 11: LD finishes *Quinx*, he dedicates the book to a young Romanian woman writer with whom LD corresponds passionately but never meets, Stela A. Ghetie.
- September: Sappho travels to Australia with funds provided by her father.
- October: In Paris, Gallimard publishes Paule Guivarch's translation *Constance ou les pratiques solitaires*.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Jaroslav Seifert (Czechoslovakia) the Nobel Prize for Literature. LD is contemplating selling the remainder of his papers and books.
- November 18: The *Telegraph Magazine* prints LD's "Lamas in a French Forest".
- December: Sappho returns to London to spend Christmas with her mother. The newspaper *Libération* brings LD and the Perlèses together for a reunion and tour of their former haunts. They have dinner one night with David Gascoyne and his wife at the Coupole. LD continues bravely to eschew alcohol.
- December 14: Vincente Aleixandre, Nobel 1977, dies at the age of 86.

1985

²¹³ "Après ça j'aurai tout dit," *L'Egoïst* (June 1984).

Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, Anne Tyler's *The Accidental Tourist*, John Irving's *The Ciderhouse Rules* and Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* are published.

Antrobus Complete is published. Collins in London brings out GD's *How to Shoot an Amateur Naturalist*.

January 24: Sappho writes a suicide note to Eve.

February 1: Friends find LD's daughter Sappho hanging by her neck in her London house, a suicide. LD flies there for the funeral.

February 8: Sappho's remains are buried in the Trent Park cemetery in Cockfosters.

February 9: A brief memorial service is held at Saint Luke's Church in Chelsea. Eve stands next to LD. Afterward, LD, Penelope, Shirley and Alan Thomas, Diana Forde Mitchell and some others walk to Edward Hodgkin's flat. LD never fully recovers from his daughter's suicide (in the same manner of his character Livia with whom she identified and believed was patterned after herself), but her death does not push him off the wagon.

February 27: LD is 73 years old.

May: The French edition of *Sebastian* is published.

May 20: LD travels to London for the publication of *Quinx: or The Ripper's Tale*. During the visit he returns to drinking after a year on the wagon. The novel receives divided reviews in England and quite positive ones in France and Germany. In London he meets Richard Lumley, Lord Scarborough, to whom he had let a room in Nicosia, and reunites with Alan Thomas and Bernard Stone at a booksigning at Turret Books. He submits to a raft of interviews in the press, radio and television. The reviews are generally positive.

June: The French fisc serves LD a writ for £250,000 in unpaid French taxes. He contemplates suicide and selling the Sommières house. Françoise is of great help as she takes over the administration of his life and home and fills the house with her energy and passion. With her three youngest children she moves into a small house across the Route de Saussine from LD's house to be closer to her job.

June 4: LD returns to France.

- June 14: LD appears on Bernard Pivot's Paris literary television programme *Apostrophe*.
- July 7: The *Sunday Telegraph* has *Quinx* at number three on the bestseller list.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Claude Simon (France) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- December 7: Robert Graves dies at the age of 90 at Deià, Majorca, and is buried the next morning in the small churchyard on a hill at Deià, on the site of a shrine which had once been sacred to The White Goddess of Pelion.

1986

- Reynolds Price's *Kate Vaiden*, Pat Conroy's *The Prince of Tides* and Anthony Powell's *The Fisher King* are published.
- Macdonald in London publishes GD's *Durrell in Russia*.
- January 4: Christopher Isherwood dies in Los Angeles at the Age of 82.
- January 10: Jaroslav Seifert, Nobel 1984, dies at the age of 85.
- February 27: LD is 74 years old.
- March 4: LD flies to London to stay with Anthea Morton-Saner in Shepherd's Bush.
- March 18: The American novelist Bernard Malamud dies at the age of 72.
- April 8: Morton-Saner requires her house to be repaired and LD joins a London club for a week, where they will not let him into the bar without a tie. This is LD's last visit to England.
- Ca. April 15:²¹⁴ LD reluctantly flies to New York City to attend the ILDS conference, On Miracle Ground IV, at Pennsylvania State University, College Station, Pennsylvania, where he lectures and engages in a podium discussion with the American novelist, John Hawkes, about life and literature. This is LD's last visit to USA. He is visited by Claudine Brelet and stays overnight in Connecticut with Horst and Frances von Maltitz where he suffers a seizure. Fiddle Viracola visits him in the Bronx,

²¹⁴ GB, 415, has Viking Press hosting a party for LD at the Gotham Book Mart on April 14.

where he is staying with the MacNivens; she unsuccessfully tries hard to make him feel better. While he is in the USA, a French court rejects his appeal of the tax levy.

April 15: Simone de Beauvoir dies in Paris at the age of 78 and is interred at the Père Lachaise cemetery in Montparnasse.

May: 20: Chili Hawes comes to Sommières for three days to interview LD for the film *Quiet Days in Sommières*; he is exhausted and the filming does not go very well. On this date, the mayor of Sommières, standing in for the Minister of Culture, awards LD the title of Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in a public ceremony.

June 14: Jorge Luis Borges dies in Geneva at the age of 87.

July: The radio station France Culture sends a team to interview LD. Having divorced her potter husband, Penelope marries the artist John Hope in Scotland.

July 16: Heinrich Böll, 1972 Nobel, dies in Eifelort-Langenbroich, Germany, at the age of 68.

October: The result of months of working on the mass of material on Provence for what becomes *Caesar's Vast Ghost* is only 50 typed pages. LD complains there is too much material and he is having serious trouble organizing it.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Wole Soyinka (Nigeria) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

1987

Martin Amis' *Einstein's Monsters*, Michael Ondaatje's *In the Skin of a Lion*, Garrison Keillor's *Leaving Home*, and Betty Mahmoody's *Not Without My Daughter* are published.

The German television station ZDF broadcasts the one and a half hour interview Chili Hawes conducted with LD entitled "Stille Tage in Sommières" (*Quiet Days in Sommières* – Henry Miller's book *Quiet Days in Clichy* is called *Stille Tage in Clichy* in German.) Conran Octopus in London publishes GD's childrens' adventure, *The Fantastic Flying Journey*.

- January 6: LD considers the Provence book finished, but Faber editors think otherwise and return the manuscript for additional work.
- February: Suffering the worst medical crisis of his life, influenza and respiratory complications, he forges ahead with work on the manuscript.
- February 27: LD is 75 years old.
- June 1: LD becomes an official resident of England to take advantage of the Thatcher government's tax laws favouring the rich; in France he is now a tourist in residence "as a member of the European Economic Community on a British passport."
- Summer: The writer Robin Rook and the painter Paul Hogarth visit Sommières to discuss a volume to contain brief excerpts from LD's books, a text by Rook and sketches and paintings by Hogarth, to be called *The Mediterranean Shore*. Penelope visits to look at the collection of books her father plans to give her as a belated wedding present. While there she sorts through his papers and manuscripts with a view toward selling them.
- August: LD believes he has only 20 pages left before finishing the Provence book. Artemis Cooper visits to interview LD for her study on Cairo during the war.
- August 22: LD and Françoise attend the consecration of the Buddhist temple at Kagyu-Ling as guests of honor.²¹⁵
- September 25: Emlyn Williams dies at the age of 82.
- October: The BBC begins broadcasting the series based on GD's *My Family and Other Animals*, filmed on Corfu.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Joseph Brodsky (USSR/USA) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- November 9: LD and Françoise drive to Lyon for the opening performance of *An Irish Faustus*, starring Eleanor Hirt, at the Théâtre des Célestins.²¹⁶

²¹⁵ GB, 418, has LD and Françoise participating in a Buddhist "marriage" ceremony after LD has been given a dispensation to consume alcohol on the premises. IMN does not mention this. GB probably got the story from Françoise herself. In no legal sense were they married. There is a lovely but undated photograph of Penelope Hope at a Kagyu-Ling event in Hodgkin, 325. The resemblance to her mother is striking.

²¹⁶ IMN, 679, states that Penelope Durrell Hope edited the play based on an acting version that resulted from the 1984 ILDS conference at Muskingum College in

December 1: James Baldwin dies at his home in St. Paul de Vence in the South of France at the age of 63.

December 24: Terence Tiller, LD's friend and fellow poet from the war days in Cairo and Alexandria, dies in London at the age of 71.

1988

Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*, Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*, Margaret Atwood's *Cat's Eye*, Umberto Eco's *Foucault's Pendulum* and Gabriel García Márquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera* are published.

The Durrell-Miller Letters: 1935-1980 (edited by Ian MacNiven) is published in London by Faber/Michael Haag (USA by New Directions). Fanchette publishes LD's letters to him. Diane Deriaz publishes her memoirs, *La Tête à l'envers: souvenirs d'un trapéziste chez les poètes*, with a preface by LD. Georges Hoffman and a French TV crew visit Sommières to film LD, having already filmed Perlès; the final production used existing footage of Miller and Anaïs Nin. Richard Pine's *The Dandy and the Herald: Manners, Mind and Morals from Brummell to Durrell* is published.

February 27: LD is 76 years old.

March: Rook returns to Sommières to show LD Hogarth's pictures and go over last minute revisions to the texts.

March 13: GD brings lunch to his brother, limping with a hip replacement; each is troubled by the other's appearance.

April: LD suffers a seizure. The ILDS holds a conference at Southern Illinois University, which LD cannot attend due to his deteriorating health. He notes that were it not for Françoise he would have "croaked" already.

Summer: Christophe, Françoise's eldest son, moves his photograph studio into LD's house on the top floor so when

Ohio and that this served as the text for the French production, not mentioning whether the play was performed in French or English. GB, 418, states that the text was the 1976 translation by Frédéric-Jacques Temple. Penelope Durrell Hope confirms that the Lyon performance was Temple's translation, and notes that her version has to her knowledge never been performed. (Communication to the author, January 20, 2006.)

Françoise is out there will be someone else in the place with the writer whose seizures continue. He resents the time she spends with her youngest children whom he doesn't want in the house. He asks her to marry him and she refuses; nonetheless he adds a codicil in her favour to his will.

July: Sotheby's opens LD's papers to the auction public causing a small scandal when his letters to Miller's wife Hoki indicate their sexual relations. The lot is withdrawn when the bidding does not reach the asking price.²¹⁷

Autumn: Richard Pine brings a copy of his recently published book, *The Dandy and the Herald*, to Sommières and spends time with LD and Françoise who guards LD's time and watches over the amount imbibed; LD seems exhausted.

October: *The Mediterranean Shore* is published.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Naguib Mahfouz (Egypt) the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Winter: Friends continue to visit the aging writer in Sommières, but his loneliness increases and he withdraws further into himself: the Birds, Tony Daniels, Barbara Robinson, Raymond Mills, Mary Mollo Hadkinson; Penelope and John Hope also visit with some regularity; Françoise's friends are also in and out of the house from time to time. LD refuses to go to the Mazet Michel to see GD and Lee.

1989

Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*, Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*, Martin Amis' *London Fields*, John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany* and Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* are published.

Conran Octopus in London publishes GD's children's adventure story, *The Fantastic Dinosaur Adventure*. Simone Lestoquard stops in Sommières to see LD and he rouses himself out of his usual torpor to entertain her, but this costs him considerable effort. LD asks Françoise's friend Mary Byrne, who lives nearby, to see what she can do with the

²¹⁷ Southern Illinois University later purchased the lot to add to its already large collection of Durrelliana.

mass of material for *Caesar's Vast Ghost* he cannot seem to put into a coherent order for Faber; she does this with a word processor. With this flexibility he moves the volume to completion. Françoise gives him a puppy dog for protection.

January: LD's old poet friend who he met in 1937, Audrey Beecham, dies.

February 27: LD is 77 years old.

August: *Le Figaro* publishes a piece on LD entitled "Le Vieux Sage."

September: Perlès is 92 years old.

October: The town of Antibes awards LD its first Grand Prix Littéraire. Françoise and Anthea Morton-Saner accept it for him.

Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Jose Camilo Cela (Spain) the Nobel Prize for Literature. Georges Hoffman comes to Sommières to make a short film about LD. David Gascoyne visits LD.

December 11: The third French television channel (FR3) broadcasts Einar Moos' film *Une amitié parisienne* dealing with Henry Miller's life in Paris during the 1930s containing an interview conducted with Miller in 1980 shortly before he died as well as interviews with LD, Betty Ryan and Perlès.

December 22: Samuel Beckett, 1969 Nobel, dies at the age of 83 in Paris and is buried in the Montparnasse Cemetery.

1990

Elmore Leonard's *Get Shorty*, Ray Bradbury's *A Graveyard for Lunatics* and Thomas Pynchon's *Vineland* are published. Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* receives its premiere performance.

Collins in London brings out GD's *The Ark's Anniversary* and Michael O'Mara publishes his *Keeper*. Erica Jong brings her blonde energy and laughter to Sommières to talk to LD about her book on Miller. Surgeons remove a cataract from one of LD's eyes.

- January 27: Alfred Perlès dies in Somerset at the age of 92 and his ashes are scattered in Bath.
- February 27: LD is 78 years old.
- Summer: Faber in London and Arcade in New York publish *Caesar's Vast Ghost*, dedicated to Françoise Kestman.
- June: Jean Fanchette tells MacNiven that LD is drinking himself to death.
- June 8: The city of Sommières converts part of a former Ursuline convent into a cultural centre called L'Espace Lawrence Durrell.
- June 15: The Australian composer, Peggy Glanville-Hicks, dies at the age of 78.
- July 3: Maurice Girodias dies at the age of 71.
- September 24: Peter and Joan Bird arrive for a visit to find Raymond Mills there, but despite outbreaks of wit and laughter, LD is fading toward death, his words slurred but not from drink. They drive to Aigues Mortes for lunch at one of LD's favourite restaurants.
- September 30: Patrick White, 1973 Nobel, dies at the age of 78.
- October: The Antibes literature award is given to LD's friend, Jacques Lacarrière, the ceremony attended by LD and Françoise.
- Early October: The Swedish Academy awards Octavio Paz (Mexico) the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- October 18: Following Françoise's urging, Penelope arrives for five days in Sommières and finds her father tranquil and apparently ready to accept death; they discuss Françoise's notion of creating a Durrell study centre in the house after he dies.
- November 6: LD telephones Morton-Saner sounding tipsy but happy, telling her that Françoise had finally agreed to marry him.
- November 7: LD dies of cerebral haemorrhage/pulmonary embolism at his house in Sommières.²¹⁸
- November 9: LD is cremated in Orange; later in the day some of his ashes are put in ground above Claude's unmarked

²¹⁸ IMN, 688, has Françoise's son Pierre hearing LD collapse in the toilet and, finding him unconscious, running across the street to his mother's house to fetch her. GB, 423, has Françoise discovering the body after returning from an errand. ¿Quien sabe?

burial plot in Sommières cemetery of Saint Julien de Salinelles. The remaining ashes apparently remain in the possession of Françoise Kestman.

November: *The Independent* prints David Gascoyne's memoir "Lawrence Durrell."

1991

HarperCollins in London publishes GD's *Marrying Off Mother* and Michael O'Mara brings out his *Toby the Tortoise*.

May 26: The front page of the *Sunday Telegraph* publishes Barbara Robson's story of LD's alleged incestuous relations with Sappho. This was the beginning of a press feeding frenzy about the story with Robson, a neighbour of Sappho's, claiming the daughter had told her about this.

July 7: A tribute is held in Stratford-upon-Avon honouring LD in the presence of Penelope, Eve and Françoise.

July 24: Isaac Bashevis Singer, Nobel 1978, dies at her age of 87 or 89.

August 19: LD's old friend, Xan Fielding dies at the age of 73.

Autumn: The magazine *Granta* publishes Sappho's journals and letters.

September 18: GD unveils a plaque on the wall by the entrance to the Sommières property announcing the existence of the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Lawrence Durrell.

November: Françoise Kestman opens the Centre to scholars and begins translating *Caesar's Vast Ghost* into French.²¹⁹

1992

HarperCollins/London publishes GD's *The Aye-Aye and I*.

June: The ILDS convenes its biennial conference at the Palace of the Popes in Avignon, at which Susan MacNiven, the young Emilie Pine and Brewster Chamberlin serve as bartenders, handing out jars of wine organized from local vintners by the energetic Denis Constancias. Françoise Kestman allows the conference participants to hold a party at the Sommières

²¹⁹ GB, 429, notes that Françoise "found herself in charge of the Pléiade edition of Durrell ..." This does not seem to be the case.

house. Ghislaine de Boysson Durrell attends the conference dinner at Le Bain Marie restaurant.

The Avignon Quintet is published as one volume.

1993

David Gascoyne publishes his memoir, *Lawrence Durrell*, as a slim volume in 75 numbered and signed copies (privately printed for Alan Clodd at The Tragara Press, Edinburgh).

June 19: William Golding, Nobel 1983, dies at the age of 82.

1994

March 17: Mai Zetterling dies in London at the age of 68.

May 11: Gallimard in Paris publishes Françoise Kestman's translation of *Caesar's Vast Ghost* as *L'ombre infinie de César. Regards sur la Provence*.

June: Macmillan in London and St. Martin's in New York publish Richard Pine's *Lawrence Durrell: The Mindscape*.

June 24-28: The ILDS holds the conference On Miracle Ground VIII in San Diego, California.

August 14: Elias Canetti, 1981 Nobel, dies at the age of 85 in Zurich and is buried adjacent to James Joyce in the Fluntern cemetery in the hills above the city.

1995

André Deutsch in London publishes Margaret Durrell's *Whatever Happened to Margo?*²²⁰

LD's house in Sommières is sold; the contents of the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Lawrence Durrell are sold to the University of Paris X at Nanterre.²²¹

²²⁰ GB, 429, notes that Margo wrote the book "in the early 1960s" and that it was published in 1994.

²²¹ GB, 429, has this happening in 1997.

January 30: Gerald Durrell dies in St Helier on the island of Jersey at the age of 70.

March 9: GD's ashes are laid to rest beneath a small marble plinth in the garden at his home and zoo, Les Augrès Manor on Jersey.

May 30: In London, Philip Sherrard, author of many Greek-related books including co-translations with Edmund Keeley of Cavafy's and Seferis's poems and *Edward Lear: The Corfu Years*, dies at the age of 72.

1996

HarperCollins publishes *The Best of Gerald Durrell* edited by Lee Durrell. In London, Sinclair Stevenson.Gordon Bowker's *Through the Dark Labyrinth. A Biography of Lawrence Durrell*.²²² The third French television channel broadcasts an episode on LD in its "Un siècle d'écrivain" series with Frédéric-Jacques Temple, Corinne Alexandre-Garner and Daniel Costelle.

January 28: Joseph Brodsky, Nobel 1987, dies at the age of 56.

March 18: Odysseus Elytis, Nobel 1979, dies at the age of 85.

June: The ILDS convenes its biennial conference, On Miracle Ground IX, in Alexandria, Egypt, with the organizational cooperation and efforts of Professor Soad Sobhy and her colleagues at the University of Alexandria. The Society sends a letter to the city authorities urging the restoration of the Ambron villa, where LD lived during the war.

1998

In London, Faber publishes Ian MacNiven's authorized *Lawrence Durrell. A Biography* and Pimlico publishes Gordon Bowker's revised edition of *Through the Dark Labyrinth*.

February 8: Halldór Laxness, 1955 Nobel, dies at the age of 96.

²²² GB was refused permission to quote from LD's works before IMN's authorized biography appears.

April 15: Stephen Kinzer's article, "Bitter Memories of a Love Affair with Cyprus" appears in the *New York Times*, noting the plaque on the wall of the Bellapaix house ("Bitter Lemons: Lawrence Durrell Lived Here 1953-56") and that one of Sabri Tahir's legs had been shot off by a business rival, though he was still willing to talk to reporters about LD.

April 19: Octavio Paz, Nobel 1990, dies at the age of 82.

May 15: John Hawkes dies at the age of 73.

May 20-24: The ILDS holds its biennial conference, On Miracle Ground X, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

August 18: The BBC 2 TV programme, *Bookmark*, broadcasts a documentary on LD's life and work entitled *Lawrence Durrell: A Smile in the Mind's Eye*, which features interviews with Richard Pine, Ian MacNiven and Margaret McCall.²²³

1999

In New York, Carroll and Graf Publishers Douglas Botting's *Gerald Durrell: The Authorized Biography*.

2000

May 8: The Turkish Cypriot "real estate agent," Sabri Tahir, is shot to death at 76 by a former bodyguard.²²⁴

July 2 - 7: The ILDS convenes its biennial conference, On Miracle Ground XI, on Corfu (with the participation of Margo Durrell and Penelope Durrell Hope). The proceedings include a performance of an abridged version of LD's *Bromo Bombastes; A Fragment from a Laconic Drama* by a troupe of thespian academics and a performance of H. R. Stoneback's work in progress "Meet Me at the Existential Café, Huck Honey" with various

²²³ The film is available commercially, oddly enough, for \$225!! Grove Koger reviewed it in *Deus Loci*, NS 8 (2001-2002), 210-211.

²²⁴ Stephen Kinzer, "Sabri Tahir, 76, Slain; Cypriot in Durrell Book," *The New York Times* (May 10, 2000).

Durrellians playing the roles.²²⁵ While enjoying a glass of wine on the Esplanade in the warmth of the early evening, Richard Pine conceives of a Socratic school on Corfu dedicated to the works of the Durrell brothers and the themes important to them.

2001

Richard Pine works to establish the Durrell School of Corfu to fulfill his vision and hires Alexina Ashcroft as Director of Administration.

October: The French cultural centre in Alexandria, Egypt, mounts an exhibition devoted to LD.

November 25: David Gascoyne dies at the age of 85 on the Isle of Wight.

2002

January 17: José Camilo Cela, Nobel 1989, dies at the age of 86.

May 26 – June 7: Durrell School of Corfu opens its library and teaching facilities in an old building in Corfu Town with its inaugural two-week session prefaced by a two-day symposium entitled “Understanding Misunderstanding,” moderated by Brewster Chamberlin, held in the Ionian Cultural Center at Falaraki.

July: The ILDS holds its biennial conference, On Miracle Ground XII, in Ottawa, Canada.

July 20: The Association Lawrence Durrell en Languedoc and the Promusica et Algo Concept present “Duo pour un Quatuor,” a musical-vocal performance by Christina Delume and Bernard Wystraëte using extracts from *Spirit of Place* and *Caesar’s Vast Ghost* at the Chapelle Saint Julien de Salinelles outside Sommières.

²²⁵ The title is a pun on a controversial essay by the American literary critic and teacher, Leslie Fiedler, called “Come Back to the Raft Ag’in, Huck Honey!” printed in *The Collected Essays of Leslie Fiedler*, vol I (New York: Stein and Day, 1971).

2003

June: Joan Leigh Fermor dies at the age of 91.

June 18-24: The Durrell School of Corfu holds second annual session devoted to such subjects as translation, the writer in exile and the ecology of Corfu.

October 14: Ghislaine de Boysson Durrell dies in Paris.

November 13: Susan MacNiven, the founding editor of The International Lawrence Durrell Society's newsletter *The Herald*, dies from cancer she has fought like a tiger for many years, depriving the world of a grand spirit and a lively intellect.

2004

Yale University Press publishes Michael Haag's *Alexandria: City of Memories* containing lengthy chapters on E.M. Forster, C.P. Cavafy and LD.

January 15: The French channel 5 television special on Alexandria, "Double JE" hosted by Bernard Pivot, discusses LD and *The Alexandria Quartet*.

April 20: Patrick Besson discusses the recently published French edition of the Durrell-Miller correspondence on the TF 1 program "Vol de nuit."

April 23: The French channel 3 (Sud) broadcasts a brief interview with F.-J. Temple about LD and Miller.

June 12-25: Durrell School of Corfu holds third annual two-week session with the participation of Lee Durrell, Gayatri C. Spivak, Harish Trivedi, Eve Patten, Terry Eagleton, Nuala ni Dhomhnail, among others, preceded by a two-day symposium entitled "Globalisation and Nationalism" moderated by Ricard Pine and Brewster Chamberlin.

June 28 - July 2: The ILDS convenes its biennial conference, On Miracle Ground XIII, on Rhodes (attended by Penelope Durrell Hope, John Hope and Eve Cohen Durrell).

August 14: Czeslaw Milosz, Nobel 1980, dies at the age of 93.

December 19: Eve Cohen Durrell dies in London at the age of 86 and is buried next to her daughter in the Trent Park Cemetery in Cockforsters.

2005

February: David Ashcroft begins renovations to the DSC premises in Corfu Town, which he miraculously completes in time for the May seminar.

February 27: In a sudden surge of excitement the author of this chronology reaches for the glass and a pencil simultaneously and spills red wine on the manuscript.

March 28: Brewster Chamberlin publishes *Mediterranean Sketches* in which LD, the Durrell School of Corfu and the ILDS conferences in Alexandria, Corfu and Rhodes are prominently featured.

April 11: David Hughes dies in London at the age of 74.

Spring-Summer: The BBC sends a production team to Corfu to film a second, shorter version of GD's *My Family and Other Animals*, scheduled for airing in Britain during the Christmas holidays.

April: Saul Bellow, 1976 Nobel, dies in Boston at the age of 90.

May 23-27: The Durrell School of Corfu holds one-week seminar on the subject of "Creativity and Madness", during which Richard Pine offers a paper asking if LD was mad. The School publishes the revised second edition of Pine's *Lawrence Durrell: The Mindscape*.

July 6: Claude Simon, 1985 Nobel, dies in Paris at the age of 91.

September 25-30: The Durrell School of Corfu holds one-week seminar on "Borders and Borderlands" in the DSC library in Corfu Town.

October: In London, the Carcanet Press publishes *The Tenth Muse*, an anthology of poems by various British writers edited by Anthony Astbury with nine poems by LD selected and with a foreword by Françoise Kestman Durrell.²²⁶

²²⁶ There is no evidence that LD and Françoise were ever legally married, but see footnote 209 above.

November 5: John Fowles, whose massive novel, *The Magus*, is said to have been greatly influenced by LD, dies in Lyme Regis at the age of 79.

2006

May 21-26: The Durrell School of Corfu holds the year's first summer seminar, "The Emergence of Modern Greece".

June 5-9: The Durrell School of Corfu holds its second summer seminar, "Empire and Aftermath: Core and Periphery".

June 25-29: The International Lawrence Durrell Society holds its 14th bi-annual On Miracle Ground conference in Victoria, Canada.

September 6: Edward Hodgkin dies of old age at the age of 93 and the following year his ashes are interred at the Milton Abbas cemetery with his wife Nancy.

September 24: The municipality of Corfu unveils plaques at the entrance to the public garden adjacent to the Old Fortress causway facing the Esplanade in Corfu Town honoring Lawrence and Gerald Durrell in the presence of Lee Durrell and Penelope Durrell-Hope. The garden is thereafter officially called Bosketto Durrell.

September 25-30: The Durrell School of Corfu holds its third seminar of the year, "Tradition and Change in Rural Society".

2007

Cambridge Scholars Publishing publishes *Creativity, Madness and Civilisation* edited by Richard Pine, the proceedings of the DSC seminar held in May 2005.

January 16: Margo Durrell dies in Bournemouth at the age of 87.

May 20-25: The DSC holds a seminar entitled "The Literature of War".

June 3-8: The DSC holds a seminar entitled "The Writer's Reputation: Gender, Time, Geography".

September 24-28: The DSC holds a seminar entitled "Cleaning Up the Mediterranean."

2008

The Durrell School of Corfu publishes *Nostos: Proceedings 1 2002-2005* edited by Richard Pine.

In London, Arrow Books publishes Deborah Lawrenson's novel loosely based on LD and Nancy's life on Corfu, *Songs of Blue and Gold*.

Cambridge Scholars Publishing publishes *Literatures of War* edited by Richard Pine and Eve Patten, the proceedings of the DSC seminar held in May 2007.

The American University in Cairo Press publishes Michael Haag's *Vintage Alexandria: Photographs of the City 1860-1960*.

May 18-22: The DSC holds a seminar entitled "An Investigation of Modern Love".

June 1-6: The DSC holds a seminar entitled "Travel Writing, Spirit of Place and the Discovery of the Self".

2009

May 24-29: The DSC holds a seminar entitled "The Garden of the Gods".

2010

The DSC holds a seminar entitled "The History and Culture of the Ionian Islands".

October 21: Penelope Durrell-Hope dies peacefully at the age of 70 at her home The Garden House, Whitney-on-Wye.

2011

The Durrell School of Corfu and the International Lawrence Durrell Society publish Theodore Stephanides' *Autumn Gleanings: Corfu Memoirs and Poems* edited by Richard Pine, Lindsay Parker, James Gifford and Anthony Hirst.

May 16-23: The DSC holds a seminar entitled "Gerald Durrell's Corfu".

2012

The Durrell School of Corfu publishes LD's novel *Judith* edited and with an introduction by Richard Pine. Virago Press publishes Joanna Hodgkin's *Amateurs in Eden. The Story of a Bohemian Marriage: Nancy and Lawrence Durrell*; Hodgkin is the daughter of Nancy and her second husband Edward Hodgkin.

May 11-18: Given the success of the previous year's seminar, the DSC holds another one entitled "The Garden of the Gods: Gerald Durrell's Corfu".

June: The International Lawrence Durrell Society holds a conference in London celebration the centenary of LD's birth.

June 20-27: The DSC holds a seminar entitled "Lawrence Durrell in Corfu: A Centenary Reappraisal".

September 17-21: The DSC in conjunction with the Ionian University on Corfu holds a seminar entitled "The Music, Dance and Drama of the Ionian Islands".

2013

After eleven years of splendid work in mounting dozens of seminars on subjects related to the Durrell brothers and their interests, the Durrell School of Corfu closes for pecuniary reasons.

2015

The University of Alberta Press publishes LD's *From the Elephant's Back. Collected Essays & Travel Writings*, edited by James Gifford.

Selected Published Sources

- Beaton, Roderick. *George Seferis. Waiting for the Angel. A Biography*. New Haven CT and London: Yale University Press, 2004.
- Botting, Douglas. *Gerald Durrell: The Authorized Biography*. New York: Carroll and Graf Publishers, 1999.
- Bowen, Roger. "Many Histories Deep." *The Personal Landscape Poets in Egypt, 1940-45*. Madison/Teaneck NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, and London: Associated University Presses, 1995.
- Bowker, Gordon. *Through the Dark Labyrinth. A Biography of Lawrence Durrell*. 2nd rev. ed. London: Pimlico, 1998.
- Chamberlin, Brewster. *Mediterranean Sketches. Fictions, Memories and Metafictions*. Port Jefferson, New York: The Vineyard Press, 2005.
- Cooper, Artemis. *Cairo in the War 1939-1945*. London: Hamish Hamilton, 1989.
- Dessaix, Robert. *Corfu: A Novel*. London: Scribner, 2001.
- Durrell, Lawrence. *Letters to Jean Fanchette 1958-1963*. Ed. by Jean Fanchette. Paris: Editions Two Cities ETC, 1988.
- Fraser, G. S., *Lawrence Durrell: A Study*. London: Faber, 1968.

- Haag, Michael. *Alexandria. City of Memory*. New Haven CT and London: Yale University Press, 2004.
- Hirst, Anthony and Michael Silk (eds.). *Alexandria. Real and Imagined*. Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2004.
- Hodgkin, Joanna. *Amateurs in Eden. The Story of a Bohemian Marriage: Nancy and Lawrence Durrell*. London: Virago Books, 2012.
- Hughes, David. *Himself and Other Animals. A Portrait of Gerald Durrell*. London: Hutchinson, 1997.
- MacNiven, Ian. *Lawrence Durrell. A Biography*. London: Faber, 1997.
- MacNiven, Ian (ed.). *The Durrell-Miller Letters 1935-80*. London: Faber and Michael Haag, 1988.
- MacNiven, Ian and Harry T. Moore (eds.). *Literary Lifelines. The Richard Aldington-Lawrence Durrell Correspondence*. New York: The Viking Press, 1981.
- Paipeti, Hilary Whitton. *In the Footsteps of Lawrence Durrell and Gerald Durrell in Corfu (1935-39). A Modern Guidebook*. Corfu: Hermes Press and Production, 1998.
- Pine, Richard. *Lawrence Durrell: The Mindscape*. (2nd revised edition) Corfu: The Durrell School of Corfu, 2005.
- . *Greece through Irish Eyes*. Dublin: The Liffey Press, 2015
- Strani-Potts, Maria *The Cat of Portovecchio. Corfu Tales*. Blackheath, Australia: Brandl & Schlesinger, 2007.
- Thomas, Alan G., "Bibliography," in G. S. Fraser, *Lawrence Durrell: A Critical Study*. London: Faber/NewYork: Dutton, 1968.