

Timeline (of time)

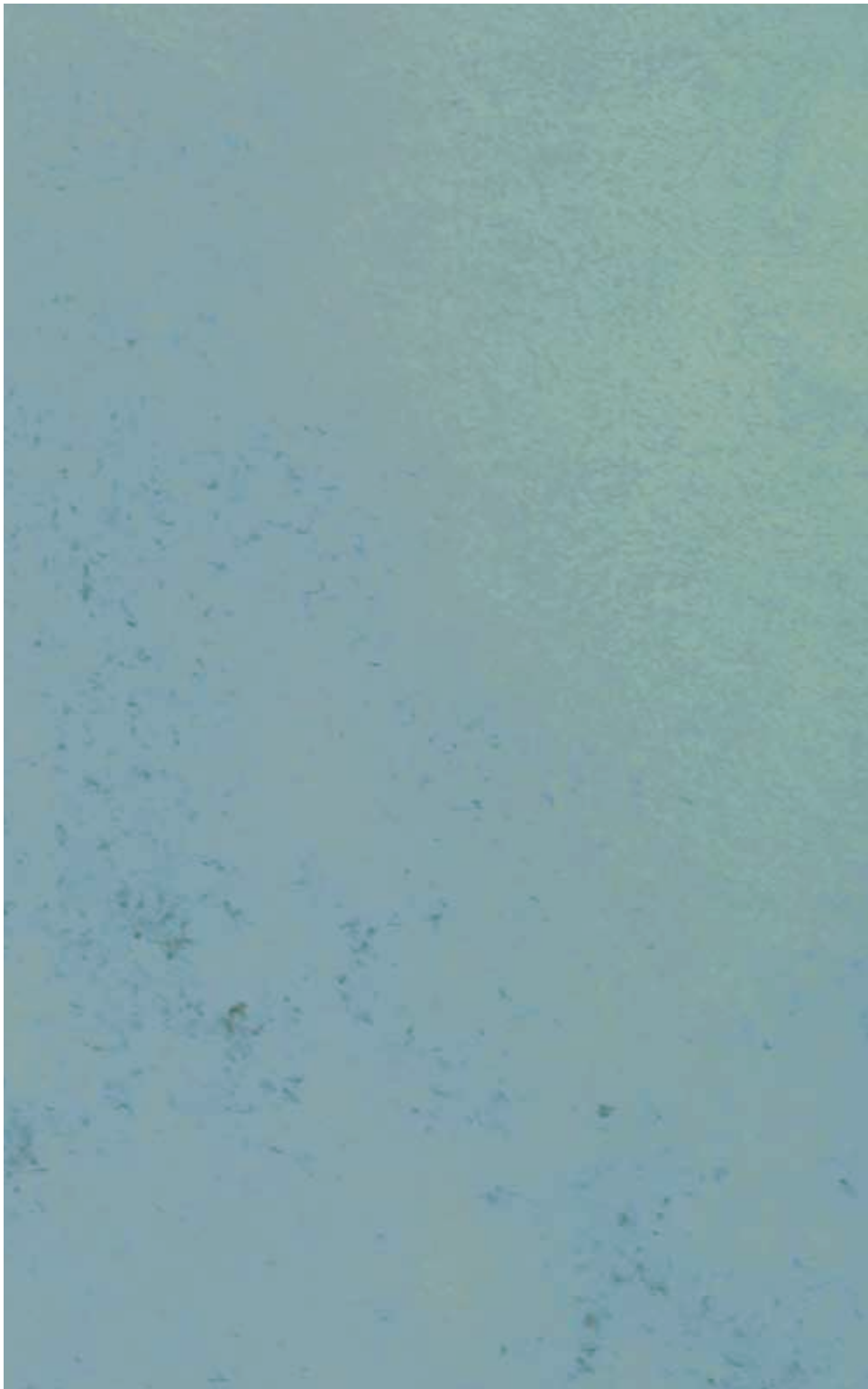
ÉCOLE DE *IN CONTINUOUS*
DIRIGÉE PAR *PRESENT*

CAHIER

de *GERTRUDE STEIN*

APPARTENANT

à *Alice B. Toklas*



1927

1874

Birth of Gertrude Stein,
Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

1877

Birth of Alice B. Toklas,
San Francisco, California.

1880

Stein family moves to Oakland,
California.

1893-1897

Gertrude attends Radcliffe
College and studies philosophy,
psychology and English
composition.

Alice's formal education as a
classical pianist comes to an end
with her mother's failing health.

*After mother's death Alice becomes
the housekeeper for a household of men.*

1897

Gertrude fails her Latin exam
and cannot graduate. She pursues
her interest in psychology by
entering Johns Hopkins School of
Medicine. Sets up house with her
brother Leo; together they host
salons for relatives and friends of
the Jewish intelligentsia.

1900

Gertrude's love affair with
May Bookstaver, an unhappy
love triangle involving another
female student.

(GERTRUDE IS 23)

1901

Gertrude fails four courses and
cannot graduate.

1902

Leo Stein leaves for Paris.

1903

Love affair with May Bookstaver
ends. Gertrude joins Leo in Paris,
moves in with him at 27 rue de
Fleury, in the artists' quartier
of Montparnasse. Begins writing
"Q.E.D.," a veiled description
of the affair.

*Gertrude does not
tell Alice about this manuscript
until much later in life - AND
ALICE REFUSES TO LET
HER PUBLISH IT UNTIL
AFTER SHE IS DEAD*

Gertrude begins writing
first version of *The Making of
Americans*. Completes "Q.E.D."
(unpublished until after her death)

1903-1913

Leo and Gertrude share living
quarters at 27 rue de Fleury.

1904

*(GERTRUDE'S LAST
VISIT TO AMERICA FOR
THIRTY YEARS)*

Gertrude and Leo receive an
\$8,000 dividend from the family
estate. In Paris they begin
purchasing paintings.

PORTRAITS OF GERTRUDE STEIN



- Francis
Picabia



- Pablo Picasso

*HE SAYS
"IT DOES NOT
LOOK LIKE HER...
BUT IT WILL"*



--taken by Man Ray
(1922)

1905

Gertrude begins *Three Lives*.
Introduction to Picasso.

*THE SATURDAY NIGHT
SALON BEGINS.*

1906

Gertrude sits for Picasso's portrait of her. She completes *Three Lives* and continues *The Making of Americans*. Sarah and Michael Stein, who have also begun to collect art, travel to San Francisco after the earthquake to look after the family estate. They take some of their paintings with them—the first Matisse paintings ever shown in America. Alice sees the paintings, meets Sarah and Michael, and plans to go to Paris.

- September 8, 1907
Alice and Gertrude MEET.

1908

Gertrude and Alice spend the summer in Italy.

They return to Paris; Alice learns to type and begins transcribing *The Making of Americans*.
secretly marry

1909

Publication of *Three Lives*.

*...published by the Grafton Press,
with May Bookstaver's help*

1910

Alice moves in with Gertrude & Leo.

1911

Gertrude finishes *The Making of Americans*.

1913

Leo moves out of 27 rue de Fleurus. **FINALLY*

The art collection is divided.

1914

Publication of *Tender Buttons*. Gertrude and Alice pay a summer visit to Alfred Whitehead in London. World War I breaks out and they cannot return to Paris until the fall.

1915–1916

Gertrude and Alice flee zeppelin raids on Paris. *As a result of her isolation and concentration on the relationship with Alice, Gertrude Stein develops her specific language mixture of inner monologues and dialogues, her poetic "plays," and her blatant, if often disguised, eroticism...*

Gertrude and Alice rent a villa in Majorca. *WE MADE A VOW NEVER TO SPEAK TO A GERMAN.*

1916

Encouraged by the outcome of the Battle of Verdun, Gertrude and Alice return to Paris.

1917

Gertrude acquires a Ford automobile (Aunt Pauline)* and learns to drive; she and Alice volunteer to drive supplies to French hospitals for the American Fund for French Wounded.

**NAMED FOR AUNT P. WHO ALWAYS BEHAVED ADMIRABLY IN EMERGENCIES*

1918

After the ceasefire, Gertrude and Alice distribute clothes and blankets to the civilian population. Their active duty is later rewarded by the French government with the Médaille de la Reconnaissance française.

1919

Return to Paris.

1920

Salons are suspended for economic reasons, though the couple attend other salons such as the one hosted by Natalie Clifford Barney. Gertrude buys a new Ford, a sports car. *---NAMED GODIVA BECAUSE OF ITS NAKED INTERIOR.*

+1921 Gertrude secretly undergoes surgery to remove a lump on her breast.

1922

Introduction to Man Ray; photo sessions at his Montparnasse studio. Introduction to Hemingway. Publication of *Geography and Plays*.

("ROSE IS A ROSE IS A ROSE IS A ROSE")

1923

Gertrude and Alice become godmothers to Hemingway's son Jack.

1924

Gertrude writes *A Birthday Book* for Picasso's son Paulo. Hemingway arranges the serialized publication of a part of *The Making of Americans* in the *Transatlantic Review*. Introduction to Edith Sitwell.

1925

Publication of *The Making of Americans*. Introduction to Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

1926

First estrangement from Hemingway. Publication of *A Book Concluding With As a Wife Has a Cow: A Love Story*.

Edith Sitwell invites Gertrude to the Oxford and Cambridge literary societies; Stein uses the occasion to explain her writing for the first time, through the lecture "Composition as Explanation."

1927

Paintings by Picasso have become unaffordable to Gertrude; she is now interested in young painters. Gertrude writes *Four Saints in Three Acts*, an opera libretto for Virgil Thomson. In the fall, Thomson presents the first act of the opera to Gertrude and her friends.

1928

Purchase of new *(LINNAMED)* Ford sports car *AND A POODLE NAMED BASKET*. Gertrude writes *How to Write*, reflections on language, grammar, sentences and paragraphs.

• 1929

Gertrude and Alice rent "the house of their dreams" in Bilignin as their summer residence.

1930

First and only meeting with James Joyce arranged by Sylvia Beach. Gertrude Stein promises Georges Hugnet the English translation of his long poem "Enfances" *(BUT, INSTEAD, WRITES HER OWN VERSION OF HIS TEXT.)*

When this causes a breach in their friendship, she titles her version "Before the Flowers of Friendship Faded Friendship Faded."

Gertrude sells Picasso's *Woman with a Fan* in order to finance a publishing company, Plain Edition, that Alice directs in order to further Stein's work.



DOGS: Basket ii (top)
Basket & P     (bottom)

(NOTE: WE ALWAYS
HAD A DOG)

1931

The critic Edmund Wilson places Stein on the same level with Joyce, Proust, Yeats and T.S. Eliot. (G.S. is 54)

1932

Gertrude shows her agent the manuscript of her first novel, "Q.E.D." — Alice had not known of its existence. It is about her affair with May Bookstaver.

THE MANUSCRIPT IS PUT BACK IN THE CLIPBOARD.

it will not be published until I am dead.

Gertrude writes *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*. (COMPLETED IN SIX WEEKS)

1933

The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas is published and is a bestseller, Gertrude's first commercial success. She is temporarily estranged from Picasso because of Olga Picasso's dislike of the book, and her friendship with Hemingway ends. She buys a new Ford.

Gertrude experiences writer's block for the first time.
SEVERE IDENTITY CRISIS

Plain Edition publishes *Matisse Picasso and Gertrude Stein with Two Shorter Stories*.

1934

Gertrude writes her first and only detective novel, *Blood on the Dining-Room Floor*.

World premiere of *Four Saints in Three Acts* in Hartford, Connecticut, followed by Broadway premiere.

1934-1935

Eight-month celebrity tour of America. Gertrude gives 74 lectures in 37 cities in 23 states.

Lectures in America include:

- "What Is English Literature"
- "Pictures"
- "Plays"
- "The Gradual Making of *The Making of Americans*"
- "Portraits and Repetition"
- "Poetry and Grammar"

Flew to Chicago to see *Four Saints in Three Acts*.

FIRST TIME FLYING IN AN AEROPLANE

1935

Gertrude and Alice return to Paris. Temporary estrangement from Picasso. First indications of WWII. — Gertie refuses to believe there could be another war.

(For safety reasons A ships copies of all G's work to Yale University)

NB*: I HAVE ALWAYS APPRECIATED THE VALUE OF ANY PUBLICITY. AND ANYWAY, ALL THOSE PAINTERS SHOULD HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED BECAUSE I REVIVIFIED THEM AT A MOMENT WHEN EVERYBODY WAS NOT THINKING ABOUT PAINTING...

EXCERPTS FROM
THE TESTIMONY AGAINST GERTRUDE STEIN

"Several of those mentioned in Gertrude Stein's memoir AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ALICE B. TOKLAS find that the book often lacks accuracy... and that Gertrude Stein had no understanding of what really was happening around her."

(THEY DO THIS SORT OF GETTING WORKED UP OVER LITERATURE SO WELL IN PARIS. OF COURSE THEY HAVE MISSED THE POINT ENTIRELY.)

Absolute jealousy. -A.

FURTHER QUOTE FROM
THE TESTIMONY AGAINST GERTRUDE STEIN

"THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ALICE B. TOKLAS in its hollow, tinsel bohemianism and egocentric deformations, may very well become one day the symbol of the decadence that hovers over contemporary literature. The testimony that follows invalidates the claim of the Toklas-Stein memorial that Miss Stein was in any way concerned with the shaping of the epoch she attempts to describe. PARIS, 1934.

SIGNED: Henri Matisse, Eugene & Maria Jolas, André Salmon, Georges Braque, Tristan Tzara...

"TESTIMONY AGAINST GERTRUDE STEIN" (attacks by Henri Matisse, Georges Braque, Tristan Tzara, André Salmon and Maria and Eugene Jolas) is published in *Transitions* magazine.



Alighting from a plane during their triumphant tour of the United States | c. 1934

1936

Gertrude Stein lectures again in Oxford and Cambridge. Introduction to Cecil Beaton, who takes photographs of Gertrude and Alice at his studio. Gertrude begins *Everybody's Autobiography*.

First Indications of the Coming War 1937 +

Premiere of *The Wedding Bouquet*, ballet based on Stein's "They Must. Be Wedded. To Their Wife," by Sir Frederick Ashton at Sadler's Wells Theatre. The lease at 27 rue de Fleurus expires. Publication of *Everybody's Autobiography*.

1938

Move to 5 rue Christine, in St. Germain. Gertrude writes for Picasso the play *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights*, and a children's book. Death of Gertrude's brother Michael Stein.

DEATH OF BASKET + ACQUISITION OF NEW POODLE. "BASKET II".

1939

After France declares war, Gertrude and Alice close the apartment in Paris and decide to winter in the country. Gertrude receives a warning from the American consulate to leave France, but they stay. Stein writes her homage to Paris, *Paris France*.

1940

Publication of *Paris France*. Gertrude is advised to return to lecture in the United States or go to Hollywood to follow the prospect of a film version of *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*.

On June 14 France is occupied.

Gertrude and Alice decide to wait out the war in Bilignin...

Stein writes *The Winner Loses: A Picture of Occupied France*.

1941-42

Gertrude sympathizes with Marshal Philippe Pétain's politics of the armistice. She makes an attempt at translating Pétain's *Paroles aux français*. A friend intervenes with the Vichy regime to secure the protection of Gertrude and Alice.

STEIN AND TOKLAS MANAGE TO SURVIVE THE MEAGRE YEARS THANKS TO THEIR VEGETABLE GARDEN, TO FISHING WITH THE HELP OF AN UMBRELLA, TO ALICE'S SKILL AT COOKING AND TO GERTRUDE'S BLACK-MARKET DEALS.

(Beginning of G's third autobiography: *Wars I Have Seen*)

1943

Gertrude and Alice ignore another urgent official warning to leave France.

The lease for the home in Bilignin is cancelled; they move to a new house in nearby Culoz that does not have a vegetable garden. Gertrude undertakes frequent mile-long walks in order to find something to eat.

They acquire a goat.

THE CEZANNE PORTRAIT IS EATEN

1944

DEATH OF PEPE (THE CHIHUAHUA) At the end of August, first American soldiers arrive in Culoz. American press reports Gertrude's "liberation."

She writes *In Savoy: A Play of the Resistance in France*. Gertrude, Alice and Picasso return to Paris and inspect the unharmed

paintings at rue Christine. Short reconciliatory meeting with Hemingway.

1945

Publication of *Wars I Have Seen*, which becomes one of her most successful books.

A didn't type it up till after the war; knew the soldiers couldn't read G's writing anyway!

In June, Gertrude and Alice tour American military bases in occupied Germany.

They visit Hitler's country house in Berchtesgaden; the photograph is published in *Life*.

Gertrude writes a second opera libretto for Virgil Thomson, *The Mother of Us All*, about suffragette Susan B. Anthony.

Stein suffers attack of intestinal problems. —which she does not take seriously.

1946

Gertrude buys a new car, her last Ford. Another intestinal attack.

Stein is brought to the American Hospital of Paris in Neuilly-sur-Seine.

She makes her will on July 23 and leaves all her writings to Yale University and her Picasso portrait to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

All else is left to Alice B. Toklas and, after Toklas's death, to her nephew Allan Stein; they are both named as co-executors.

This was to cause problems Gertrude could not foresee.

Surgery takes place July 27; diagnosis of colon cancer is confirmed.

Gertrude dies under anaesthesia.

Alice continues to live alone at rue Christine.

1947

Death of Leo Stein.

1954

Alice publishes
The Alice B. Toklas Cookbook.

NOTE on the "Hashish Fudge":

This recipe was given to me by a friend named Brion Gysin. I was running late on my deadline for the cookbook and added the recipe without trying it or knowing what "canibus" was. There has been much nonsense subsequently made of this fudge, trying to shed light on Gertrude's poetry and our relationship and it absolutely incenses me---Gertrude's genius was her genius and neither of us ever touched canibus or hashish or any of it.

Alice sells forty Picasso drawings without informing the co-executor of Gertrude's will. Allan Stein's widow, Roubina Stein, is very upset.

1957

Alice converts to Catholicism.

1960-61

To avoid the rigours of a Parisian winter, Alice stays for an extended period of time at a pension run by the Canadian Sisters of the Adoration of the Precious Blood in Rome. The landlord threatens eviction. Raid of Alice's apartment by the Stein heirs; they impound the remaining art collection. The Stein heirs agree to contribute to her income, but sums are often slow in coming. Old friends, including Virgil Thomson, contribute to her income.

1963

Alice publishes *What Is Remembered*.

+1964

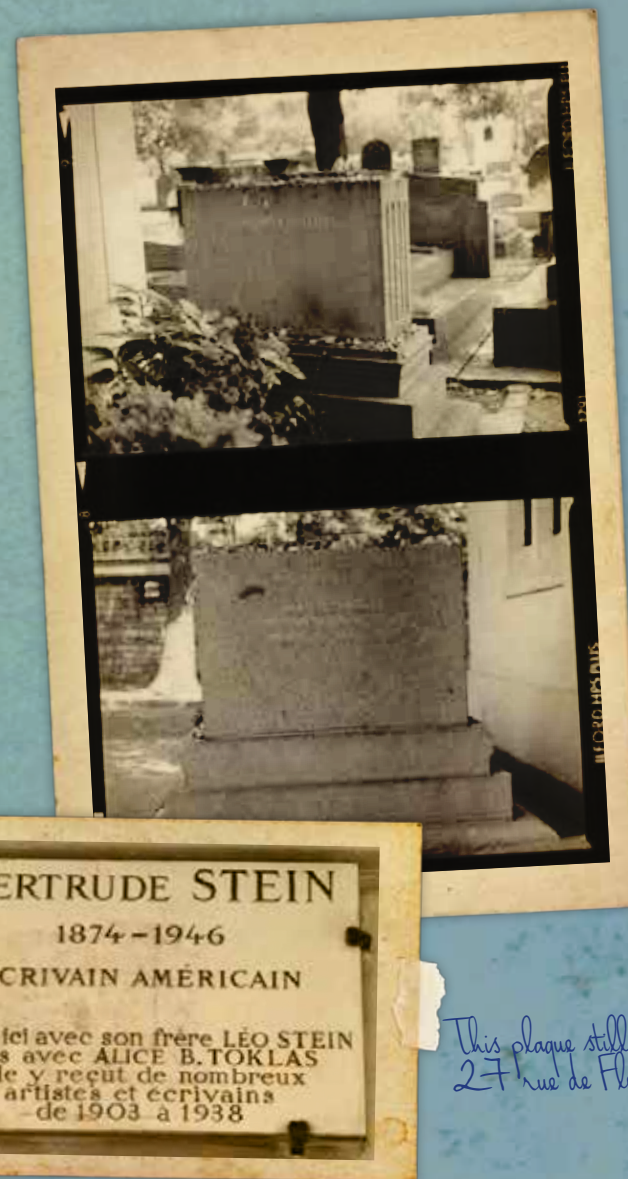
Alice is evicted from her apartment and goes to live in the rue de la Convention.

1965

Alice suffers a fall and a broken hip and moves to a nursing home.

1967

Death of Alice B. Toklas.



This plaque still marks 27 rue de Fleurus

IT ALWAYS DID BOTHER ME THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WERE MORE INTERESTED IN ME THAN IN MY WORK. AND AFTER ALL THERE IS NO SENSE IN IT BECAUSE IF IT WERE NOT FOR MY WORK THEY WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN ME SO WHY SHOULD THEY NOT BE MORE INTERESTED IN MY WORK THAN IN ME.

