



## The Early Poems of T. S. Eliot

Thomas Stearns "T. S. Eliot (1888 - 1965)

Read by:	D. S. Harvey, (Prufrock) Elizabeth Klett (The Waste Land)	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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This volume collects readings of the poems of T. S. Eliot published by the early 1920's and includes well-known selections from his *Prufrock and Other Observations* (1915) and *The Waste Land* (1922) in entirety. Most of the poems in *Prufrock and Other Observations* had been published in literary magazines. Among these are such well-known favorites as "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock", "Portrait of a Lady" and "Rhapsody on a Windy Night", many of which are in a "stream of consciousness style" characteristic of modernism.

*The Waste Land*, first published in *The Criterion*, is Eliot's best known work and marked a significant turning point for poetry, both in substance and in style. Ezra Pound had an influential role in shaping and

editing the work from a longer manuscript. It is noted for its many obscure references and quotations, for its structural complexity, with frequent shifts in narrator, time and location, and a mixture of prophecy and satire.

These are the poems that established Eliot's position as a major and influential modern poet. In Eliot's own words, "My reputation in London is built upon one small volume of verse, and is kept up by printing two or three more poems in a year. The only thing that matters is that these should be perfect in their kind, so that each should be an event." Perfect, indeed.

**Thomas Stearns ("T. S.") Eliot** (September 26, 1888 - January 4, 1965) was a poet, playwright, essayist and literary critic. He was born in St. Louis to a family with deep roots in Boston. He was educated at Smith Academy, Milton Academy, and Harvard College, earning a degree in philosophy. He immigrated to England in 1914 and became a British subject in 1927 at about the time he converted to Catholicism. He first achieved recognition with "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" in 1915, hailed as a Modernist masterpiece, and established his voice as a major poet with *The Waste Land* in 1922. He worked outside the realm of poetry for most of his adult years, finding a position at Lloyd's bank in 1917 and moving to the publishing business in 1925 at Faber and Faber, eventually becoming a director and guiding the careers of W. H. Auden, Steven Spender, and Ted Hughes. He wrote seven plays, several collections of well-regarded essays, and a book of light verse entitled *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, which became the basis of the *Cats* musical adaptation by Andrew Lloyd Weber. He regarded *The Four Quartets* as his finest work, and it led to his being awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1948.