MARCEL PROUST

A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY

The main periods in Proust’s life are the following: 1882-90, studies at the Lycée Condorcet, military service at Orléans, and brief university study; 1890-1907, the years in society when he met the composer Reynaldo Hahn and came under the influence of the aristocratic poet Count Robert de Montesquiou; 1908-1922, the mature, creative years when, although plagued by poor health, he wrote his great novel. (For a more detailed chronology, see Proust-Ink.com.)

1871    July 10, Proust is born in the Paris suburb of Auteuil.
1896    Publication of Pleasures and Days, with a preface by Anatole France. Between 1896 and 1899, Proust writes a long, unfinished novel, Jean Santeuil.
1903    Death of Proust’s father, Adrien Proust
1904    Publication of Proust’s translation of Ruskin’s La Bible d’Amiens
1905    Death of Proust’s mother, Jeanne Weil Proust.
1907-14 Summer vacations at the Grand-Hôtel in Cabourg. In 1907, Proust visits churches in Brittany and Normandy with his driver, Alfred Agostinelli.
1913    Publication of Swann’s Way. Céleste Albaret becomes Proust’s housekeeper.
1914    On May 30, Agostinelli is killed in an airplane accident. The Great War (WWI) begins in August.
1918    World War I ends; Proust resumes publication of his novel.
1919    Publication of Within A Budding Grove, which wins the Prix Goncourt, France’s most prestigious literary award.
1920-22 Publication of The Guermantes Way (parts 1 and 2) and of Sodom and Gomorrah (parts 1 and 2)
1922    November 18, death of Marcel Proust
1923    Publication of The Captive
1925    Publication of The Fugitive
1927    Publication of Time Regained, the conclusion of In Search of Lost Time