

Week 9 Day 1: *Mrs Dalloway*

ENGL201: Introduction to Modernism

Pop Quiz

- Where has Peter Walsh returned from?
- Who is Sally Seton?
- Which war did Septimus Smith fight in?
- Name Septimus Smith's wife.
- Who is Elizabeth?

Where has Peter Walsh returned from?

India

Who is Sally Seton?

Clarissa Dalloway's childhood friend.
A friend who came to visit Burton.

Which war did Septimus Smith fight in?

First World War

The Great War

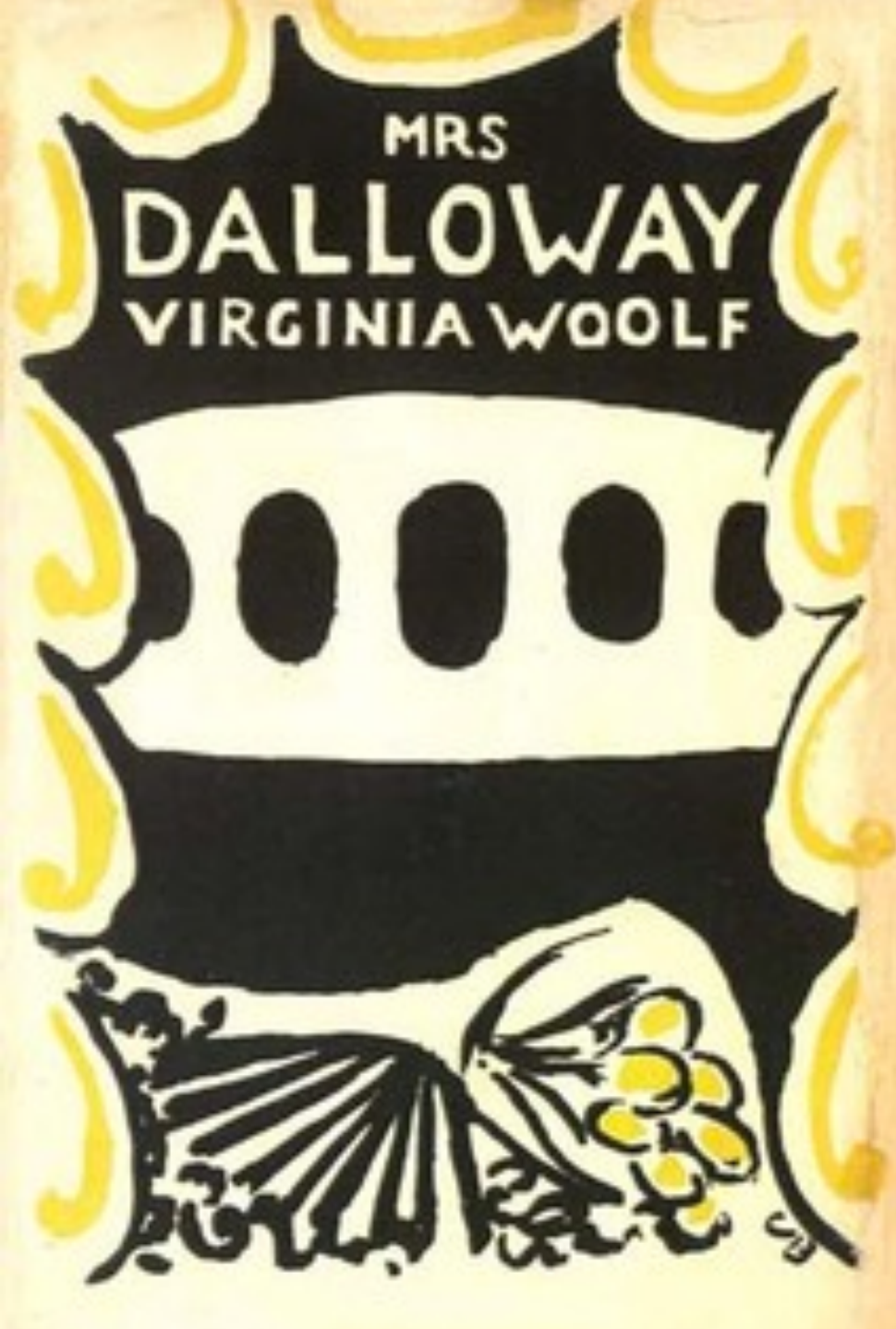
Name Septimus Smith's wife.

Lucrezia

Who is Elizabeth?

Clarissa Dalloway's daughter.

Class Schedule



Mrs Dalloway (1925)

- Takes place on a single day in June shortly after WWI
- First published with the Hogarth Press, the printing house established by Virginia and Leonard Woolf



Henri Bergson and the Durée

Eadweard Muybridge, *The Horse in Motion*, 1878

Driven by the need for action, perception must select from the ever-moving fluidity of the *durée* a series of condensed views: 'of becoming we perceive only states, of duration only instants'. Perception consists then of 'a work of condensation', of extracting from the eternal flux of becoming a series of 'discontinuous images' into which 'our perception manages to solidify...the fluid continuity of the real'. (Elena Gualtieri, "Photography and the Age of the Snapshot," 532)

“Look within and life, it seems, is very far from being ‘like this’. Examine for a moment an ordinary mind on an ordinary day. The mind receives a myriad impressions—trivial, fantastic, evanescent, or engraved with the sharpness of steel. From all sides they come, an incessant shower of innumerable atoms; and as they fall, as they shape themselves into the life of Monday or Tuesday, the accent falls differently from of old; the moment of importance came not here but there; so that, if a writer were a free man and not a slave, if he could write what he chose, not what he must, if he could base his work upon his own feeling and not upon convention, there would be no plot, no comedy, no tragedy, no love interest or catastrophe in the accepted style, and perhaps not a single button sewn on as the Bond Street tailors would have it.” (Woolf, “Modern Fiction”)

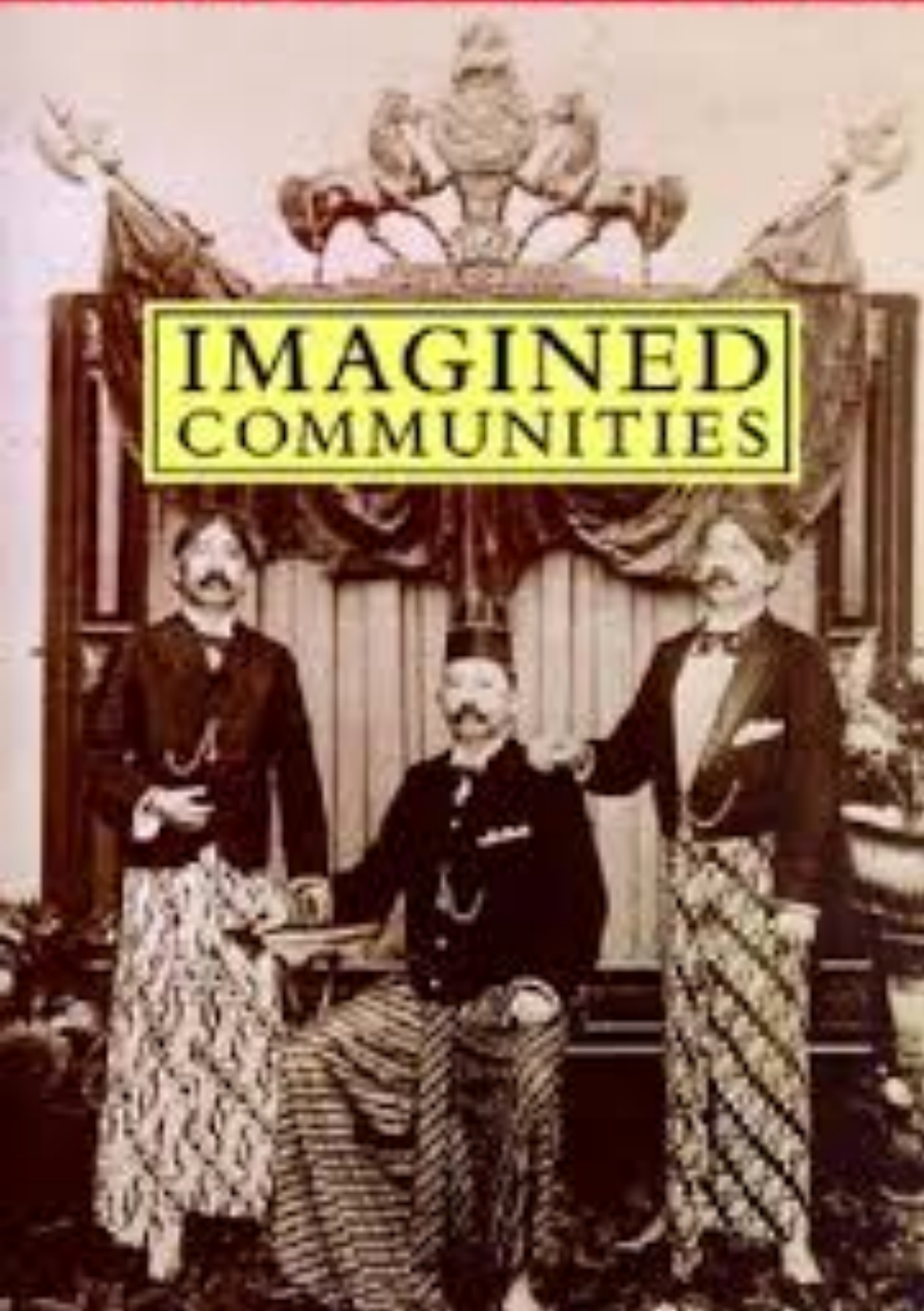
Time

- 1888: Establishment of the Kodak Camera company
- 1884: Prime Meridian Conference, Washington DC
- 1905-1916: Einstein published his theories of relativity

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT SHOWING BIG BEN




Away and away the aeroplane shot, till it was nothing but a bright spark; an aspiration; a concentration; a symbol (so it seemed to Mr. Bentley, vigorously rolling his strip of turn at Greenwich) of man's soul; of his determination, thought Mr. Bentley, sweeping round the cedar tree, to get outside his body, beyond his house, by means of thought, Einstein, speculation, mathematics, the Mendelian theory—away the aeroplane shot. (28)



Imagined Communities (Benedict Anderson)

- Nations are imagined communities of people
- Two written forms in particular support the imagining of nationhood: the newspaper and the novel
- Nations are a product of modernity

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- p. 5 (Mrs. Foxcroft)
 - p. 18 (First paragraph)
 - p. 31-32



“Angel in the House” - Coventry Patmore (Excerpt; published 1854-62)

Man must be pleased; but him to please
Is woman's pleasure; down the gulf
Of his condoled necessities
She casts her best, she flings herself.
How often flings for nought! and yokes
Her heart to an icicle or whim,
Whose each impatient word provokes
Another, not from her, but him;
While she, too gentle even to force
His penitence by kind replies,
Waits by, expecting his remorse,
With pardon in her pitying eyes;

“The Angel in the House.” Julia Margaret Cameron.
Model: Emily Peacock. Carbon print. 1873.

Mrs. Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself.

For Lucy had her work cut out for her. The doors would be taken off their hinges; Rumpelmayer's men were coming. (3)



"Julia Duckworth [Stephen]." Julia Margaret Cameron. Albumen silver print from wet collodion negative. 1867.

“It was a feeling, some unpleasant feeling, earlier in the day perhaps; something Peter had said, combined with some depression of her own, in her bedroom, taking off her hat; and what Richard had said had added to it, but what had he said? There were his roses. Her parties! That was it! Her parties! Both of them criticised her very unfairly, laughed at her very unjustly, for her parties. That was it! That was it!

Well, how was she going to defend herself? Now that she knew what it was, she felt perfectly happy. They thought, or Peter at any rate thought, that she enjoyed imposing herself; liked to have famous people about her; great names; was simply a snob in short. Well, Peter might think so. Richard merely thought it foolish of her to like excitement when she knew it was bad for her heart. It was childish, he thought. And both were quite wrong. What she liked was simply life.” (121)

