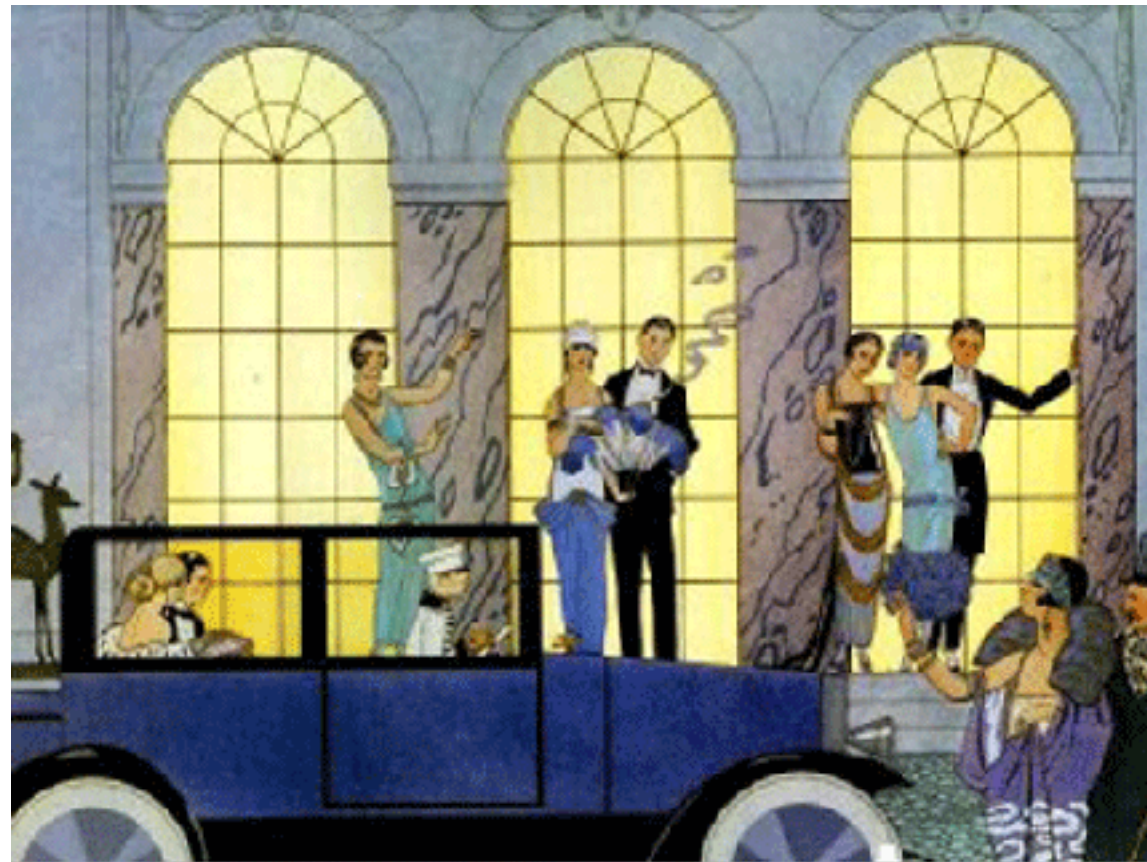


# American Fiction in the 20th Century



F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*,  
and America in the 1920s

# Lecture on Biographical Background:



## Fitzgerald and the Writing of The Great Gatsby

### How to Cite this Lecture:

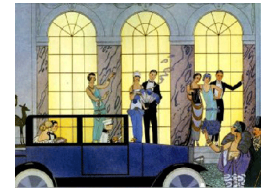
Armstrong, Christopher J. "Fitzgerald and the Writing of the *Great Gatsby*," *Chukyo University, American Literature A*, 3 June & 12 July 2019.



## Outline:

Part 1: Family and College Life, First  
Love and Zelda Sayre

Part 2: Great Neck, Long Island, France,  
Italy and The Writing of The Great  
Gatsby



## Family and College Life

- Born Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1896
- Grew up in a middle-class Roman Catholic family
- Mother: Mollie McQuinlan, daughter of Irish immigrant and successful business man
- Father, Edward, president of furniture manufacturing company
- Two daughters born, both died in 1896, the year of Scott's birth
- Edward's business failed in 1898, family moved to Buffalo, later Syracuse, back to Buffalo
- Mollie's money helped support the family
- Third daughter born, 1900, died
- Fourth daughter born, Annabel, 1901
- Return to St. Paul, 1908: Father "a failure the rest of his days" (FSF)



Edward Fitzgerald and  
his son Scott



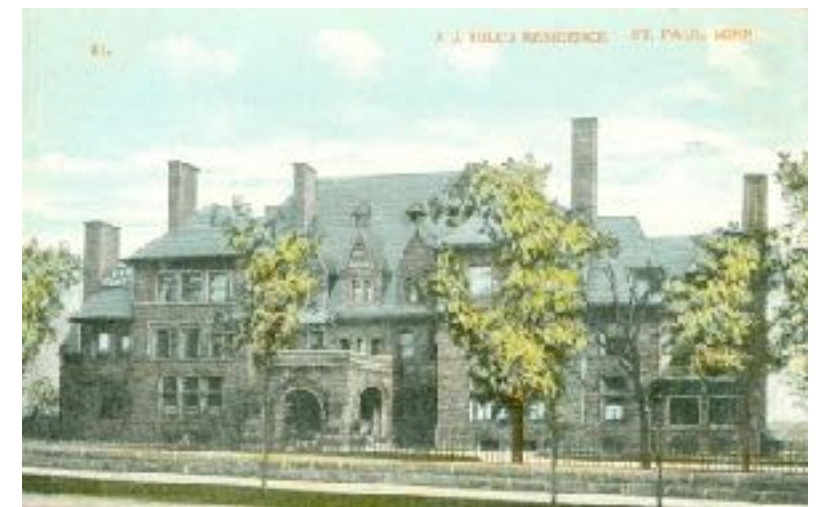


## Family and College Life



- Residence in the Summit Avenue district of St Paul, 1908-11
- Scott's playmates: wealthy, affluent
- Scott aware of social distinctions
- Publishes fiction, poetry in the school paper
- 1911-13: Scott attends the private Catholic Newman School in New Jersey

St. Paul. MN, 1900-1910



Residence of railway tycoon  
James J. Hill, #240 Summit Ave.



# Family and College Life

- Applies to Princeton University in 1913
- Entrance exam grades not good enough
- Convinces admissions to committee let him enter: “too cruel to reject him on his birthday”!
- Admitted (with conditions) to Princeton University, 1913
- Scott described Princeton as “the pleasantest country club in America”



Fitzgerald at  
Princeton, c. 1914

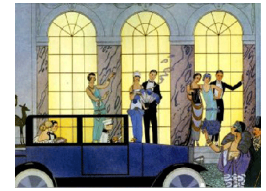


Freshman  
Fitzgerald (left)  
with friends, 1913



# Family and College Life

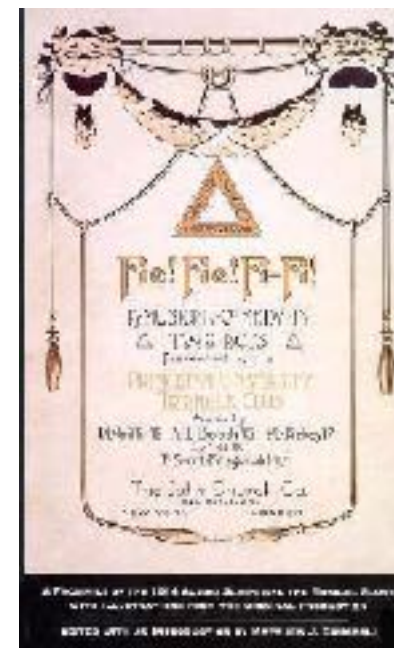
American Fiction  
in the 20th Century

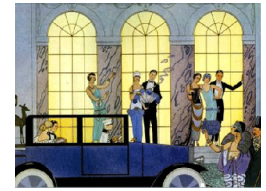


- Fitzgerald joins the football team but quits a week later due to an injury
- Grades for the first term of study: poor, barely passing
- Begins writing for university magazines
- Submits script and lyrics for a musical to The Triangle Musical Club, accepted
- Fitzgerald meets and becomes friends with John Peale Bishop and Edmund Wilson: both interested in writing literature
- Fie! Fie! Fi-Fi* musical goes on tour.
- “The lyrics of the songs were written by F.S. Fitzgerald, who could take his place right now with the brightest writers of witty lyrics in America” (Baltimore Sun Newspaper)



Classmates Wilson and Bishop. Below: Editorial board of the Princeton *Tiger* magazine.





## First Love: Ginevra King

- Scott returns home to St Paul for Christmas
- January 1915: Fitzgerald meets Ginevra King in St. Paul during Christmas vacation
- King, 16 years old, wealthy family from Lake Forest, Illinois
- Father a stockbroker, owner of polo ponies
- King: beautiful, popular, many “suitors”
- Distinctive high “melodic voice”
- January 4th, party and dinner, movie the next day
- Falls in love with her
- Returns to Princeton, writes long letters to her, almost daily--some as long as 30 pages
- Fitzgerald visits her at her school in Connecticut; King visits FSF at Princeton



Ginevra King





## First Love: Ginevra King

- One of King's best friends, Edith Cummings
- King and Cummings, two of the "Big Four" socialites in the Chicago area
- Cummings won the US Women's Amateur golf tournament in 1923 and became nationally famous
- 1924: Featured on the cover of *Time Magazine*



Edith Cummings, the "Fairway Flapper,"  
*Time Magazine* (1924)



## First Love: Ginevra King

- 1915-16 year at Princeton: Grades low, leaves school because of illness
- Visits Ginevra in Lake Forest, August, 1916
- Scott's future is uncertain: "Poor boys shouldn't think about marrying rich girls"
- Ginevra breaks off the relationship, January 1917
- FSF kept Ginevra's letters all his life (re-typed and bound)
- FSF told King to destroy his letters, which she did
- Didn't meet again until 1937

She was the first girl I ever loved and I have faithfully avoided seeing her up to this moment to keep that illusion perfect, because she ended up by throwing me over with the most supreme boredom and indifference.

Letter to daughter Scottie,  
Oct. 8th, 1937

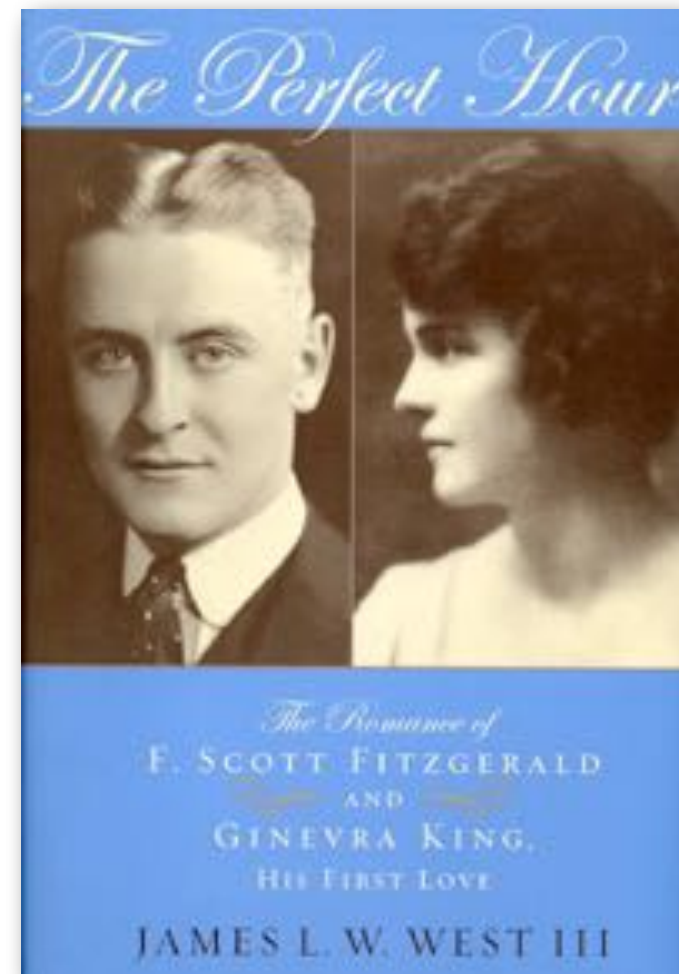




## First Love: Ginevra King

- Letters discovered by daughter Scottie in 1950
- Sent back to King
- King's granddaughter found the letters and a diary and gave them to Princeton University

The relationship with King  
“certainly encouraged  
[Fitzgerald’s] fixation on wealth  
and the privileges of the upper  
class.” -West

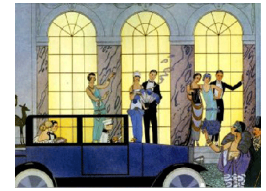


*The Perfect Hour* (2005) by  
James L.W. West III  
chronicles the relationship  
of Scott and Ginevra King



# Zelda Sayre

American Fiction  
in the 20th Century



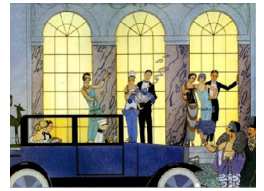
- 1917: Fitzgerald leaves Princeton and joins the Army, receives commission as First Lieutenant
- Stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for training
- A poor soldier and commander
- Worked on a novel called *The Romantic Egotist*,
- Sends the novel to Charles Scribner's publishers in NYC
- March 1918, transferred to Camp Alexander, Kentucky then to Camp Gordon Georgia
- Finally, June 1918: Camp Sheridan, Montgomery, Alabama



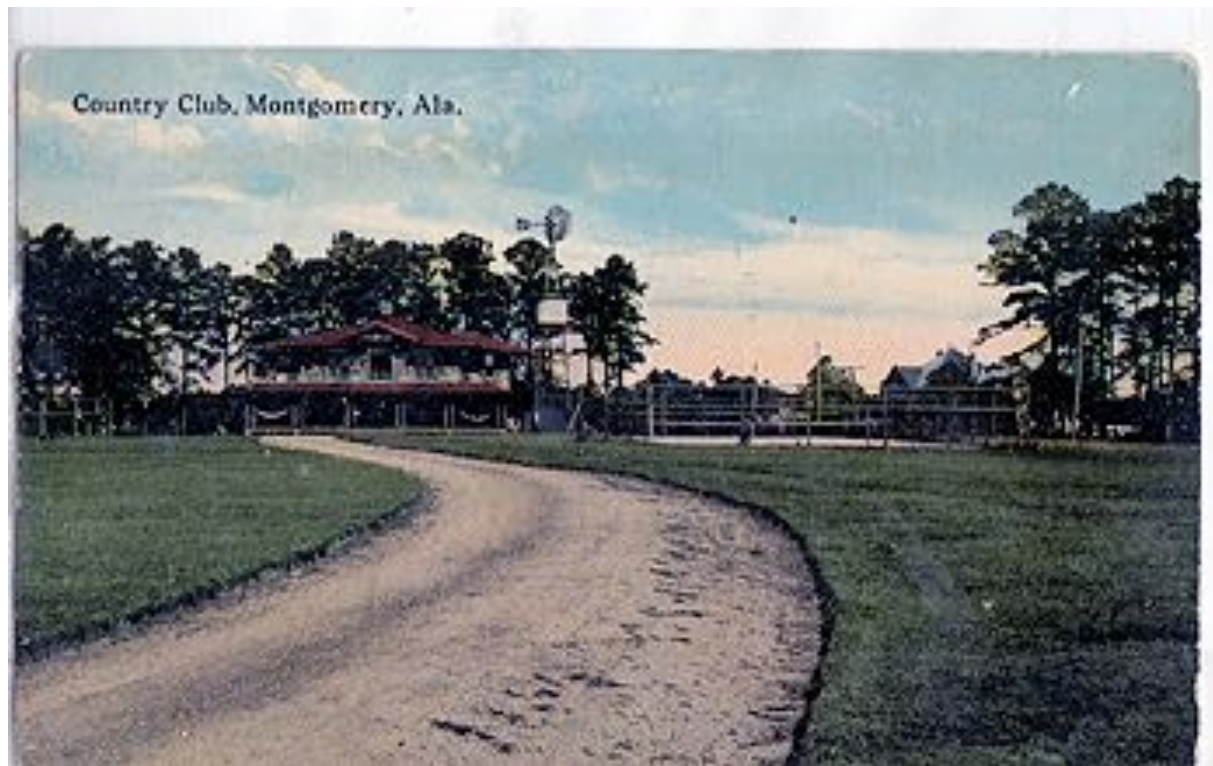
Fitzgerald in Uniform c. 1917

# Zelda Sayre

American Fiction  
in the 20th Century



- While stationed at Camp Sheridan, Fitzgerald meets Zelda Sayre
- July 18th, 1917, Montgomery Country Club



Montgomery Country Club,  
(postcard 1920s)



Zelda at age 17, in the summer  
she met Fitzgerald

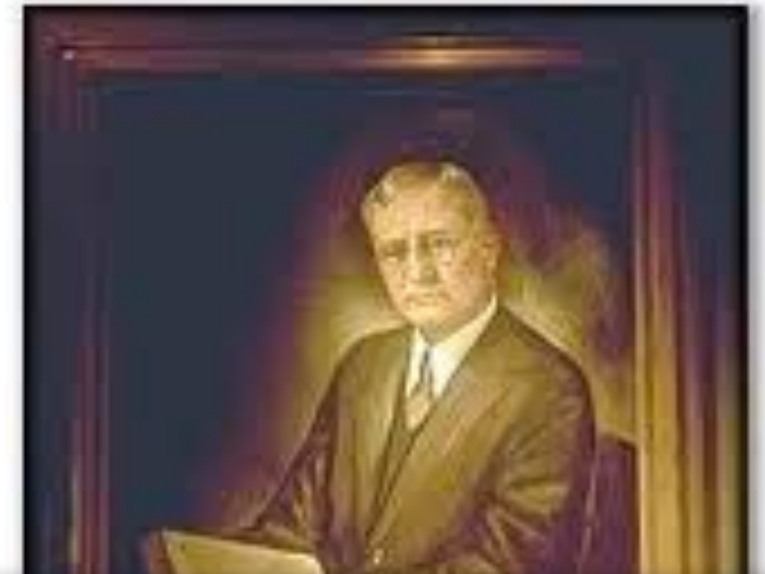


# Zelda Sayre

American Fiction  
in the 20th Century



- b. July 24th, 1900: Zelda, intelligent and beautiful, a “wild child” who enjoyed making trouble for her respectable father



- The “most popular girl at every dance” according to young male university students in Alabama

Summer 1918: Too many “soldiers in town ...I passed my time going to dances--always in love with somebody, dancing all night”  
-Zelda.

“I never let them down on the dramatic possibilities of a scene--I gave them a damn good show”  
-Zelda. Save Me the Waltz (1932)



# Zelda Sayre

American Fiction  
in the 20th Century



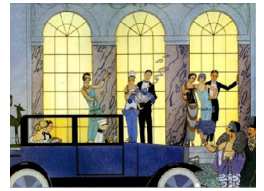
- Scott and Zelda fall in love during the summer of 1918
- November: Scott leaves for NYC where he will depart for the war in Europe
- November 11th, 1918: War ends
- February 1919: Scott is discharged from Army, takes a job in Manhattan with Barron Collier advertising agency



Above: Time Tower from 40th Street, 1922  
Left: Views of Times Square, 1923

# Zelda Sayre

American Fiction  
in the 20th Century



- FSF's future uncertain; no encouragement to marry Scott (and Scott is a Roman Catholic)
- Scott writes to Zelda often from NYC; Zelda growing tired of letter-writing
- Zelda continues to date other men; Scott considers them engaged, makes weekend visits to Zelda three times in 1919
- While working in advertising Scott writes stories: 19 stories and receives 122 rejections for publication during spring, 1919

“I know you love me, Darling, and I love you more than anything in the world, but if it's to be much longer, we just can't keep up this frantic writing”

- June 1919: Zelda breaks off the engagement
- Scott quits his NYC job and returns to St. Paul to work on his novel

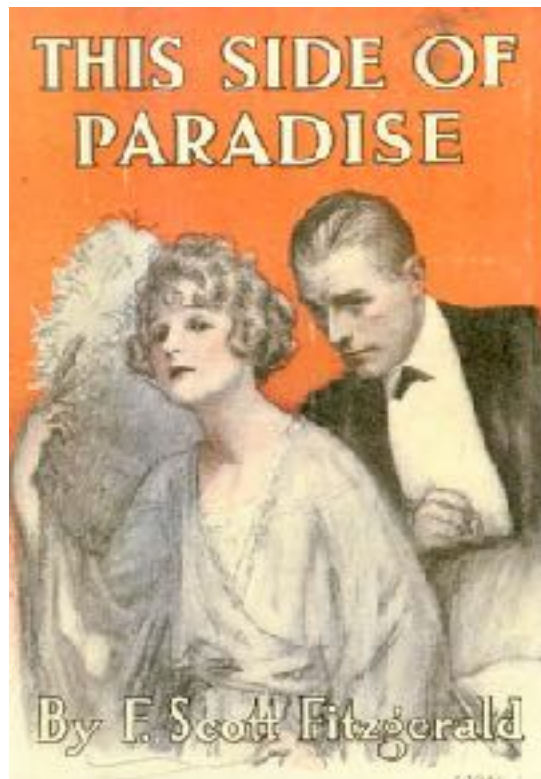


# Writing Career: *This Side of Paradise* in the 20th Century

American Fiction



- Scott works in the attic room of his parents' house
- Completes *This Side of Paradise*
- Sends it to Charles Scribner's Sons
- Book accepted
- Scott writes to Zelda



“The most important year of my life.  
Every emotion and life work decided.  
Miserable and exstatic [sic] but a great  
success”

Fitzgerald, Summer 1919, age 21

*This Side of Paradise*  
(1920)



# Writing Career: *This Side of Paradise* in the 20th Century

American Fiction



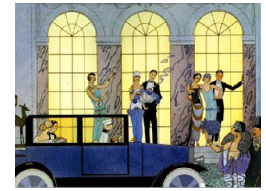
- Scott signs with Reynolds Literary Agency, NYC, special client of Harold Ober
- Begins publishing short stories
- Accepted by major magazines: *Collier's*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Redbook*
- *Saturday Evening Post* main publisher: almost 3 million readers during 1920s, paid top price for fiction
- FSF visits Zelda and they resume their relationship
- One of his stories bought by a movie company for \$2500 (about \$18,000 in today's dollars)



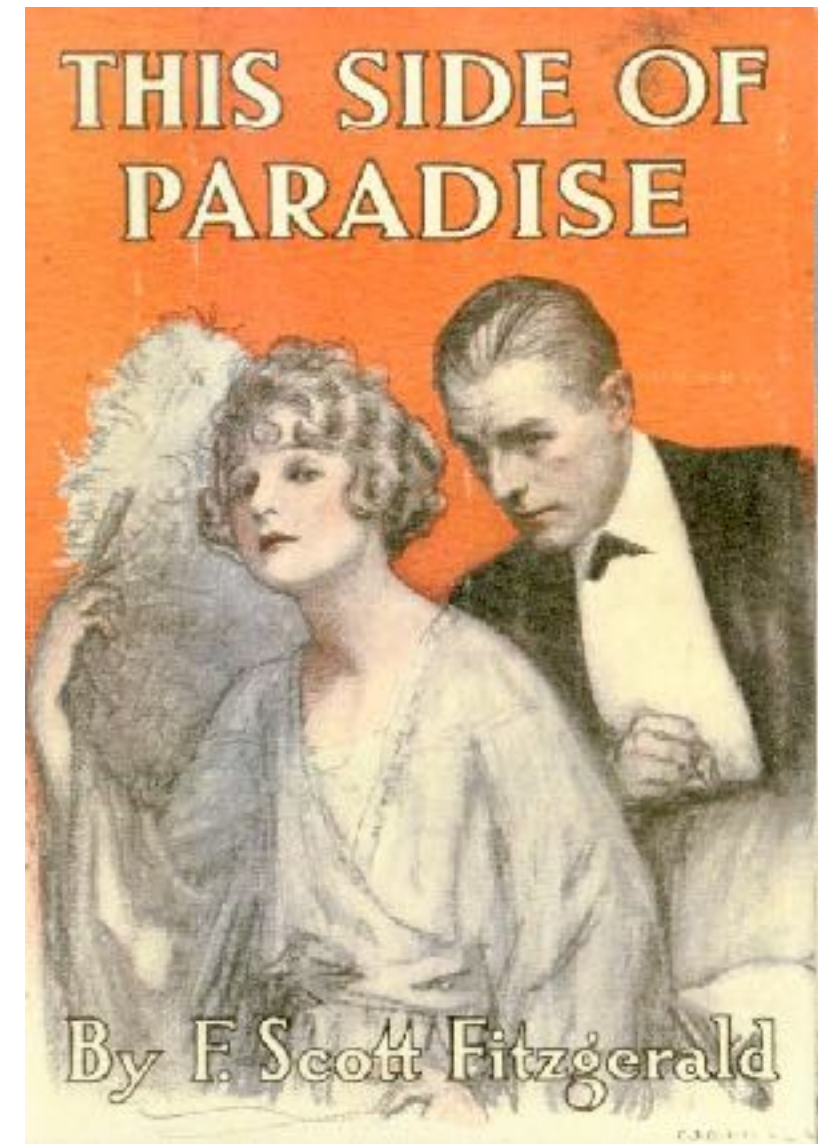
*Saturday Evening Post*, May 1st  
1920, featuring story by FSF

# Writing Career: *This Side of Paradise* in the 20th Century

American Fiction



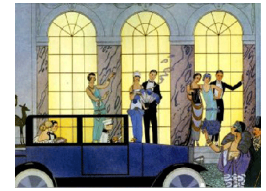
- *This Side of Paradise* published, March 1920: “A novel about flappers written for philosophers”
- First printing (3000 copies): Sells out in 3 days
- Good reviews
- Fitzgerald becomes famous as a spokesman for the young generation: esp. for his stories of young women rebelling against mothers (flappers)
- The book is shocking for some
- Autobiographical: A young man named Amory Blaine goes to Princeton, fails in a love affair, and sets out to succeed in life





# Scott and Zelda in NYC

American Fiction  
in the 20th Century



- Scott earns money on short stories, not novel: 1920--\$18,850 (equal to about \$100,000 in today's currency)
- Scott and Zelda spending more than they earn; FSF borrows money
- NY apartment life is wild: Scott does almost no work
- Zelda and Scott married in NYC, March 1920
- Fitzgerald is 23 years old, Zelda 19
- Spending money freely, doing wild things, drinking and attending parties



# Scott and Zelda in NYC

American Fiction  
in the 20th Century



Party Scene from  
*Gold Diggers of  
Broadway* (1929)

“The twenty-three-year-old author and his nineteen-year-old bride were celebrities-- young, handsome, rich (so it seemed), with no one to exercise authority over them. They were interviewed; they rode on the roofs of taxis; they jumped into fountains; there was always a party to go to.”

--Matthew J. Bruccoli, Fitzgerald's biographer

**The Skyline from  
the Hudson River**

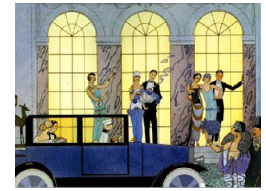
TFA-200H

TCR 20:21.24:27

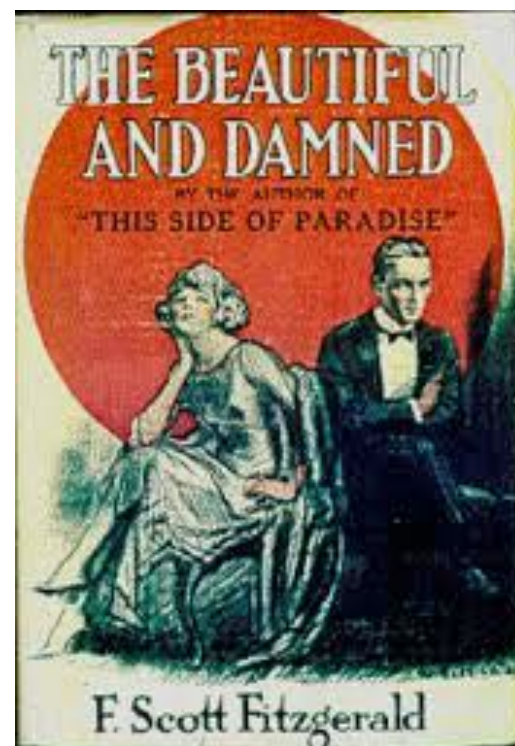
“An Aerial Trip Over New York City”:  
c. 1920s footage of the city

# Scott and Zelda

American Fiction  
in the 20th Century



- A daughter Frances Scott (“Scottie”), born Oct. 1921 in St. Paul
- Before the delivery Zelda remarks, “I hope it’s beautiful and a fool--a beautiful little fool”
- A collection of short stories, *Flappers and Philosophers*, is published
- Second novel, *The Beautiful and Damned* is published, March 1922
- Reviews are mixed



Zelda and Scottie:  
The couple were hoping for a  
boy. Zelda called the girl  
Patricia for several years.



## Outline:

Part 1: Family Life, First Love and Zelda Sayre

Part 2: Great Neck, Long Island, France, Italy and The Writing of The Great Gatsby





# The Fitzgeralds at Great Neck, Long Island, 1922-1924



- Scott rents a house in the Great Neck area of Long Island (\$300), about 15 miles from NYC
- Many of the residents are show business people
- Scott hopes to sell stories to movie-makers and increase his earnings

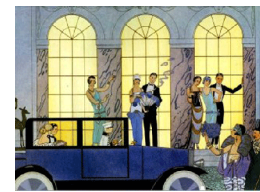
Great Neck area of Long Island, across from the more fashionable Manhasset Neck

House at 6 Gateway Drive, where Scott, Zelda and Scottie lived from 1922 to 1924





## American Fiction in the 20th Century



### New York in the 1920s: Long Island



North Shore, “Gold Coast” of Long Island

Wealthy suburb, est.'d 1900s

600 Estates | 16,000 acres

Many homes modeled on European designs of 17th, 18th and 19th century

Exclusive and private: guards kept visitors out



Beacon Towers



Phipps Mansion



Glen Cove Mansion



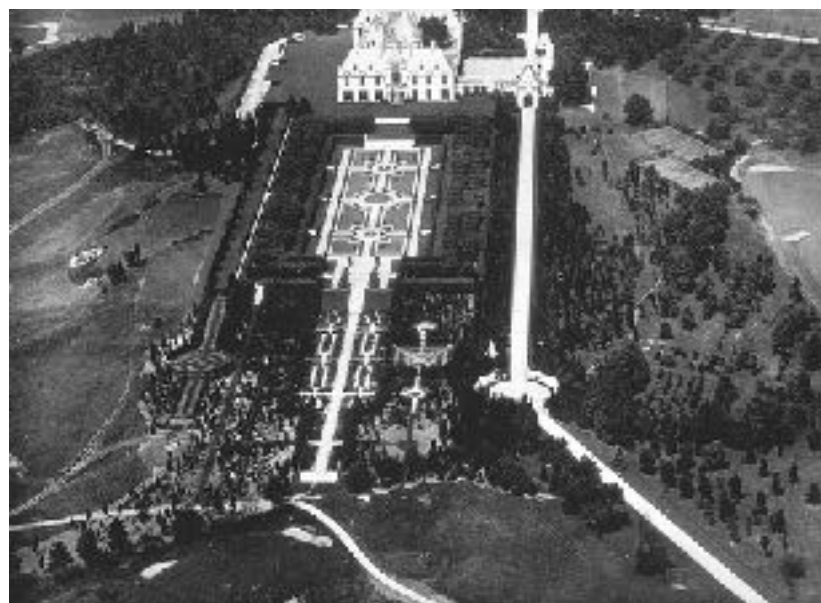


## New York in the 1920s: Long Island



West Egg

East Egg



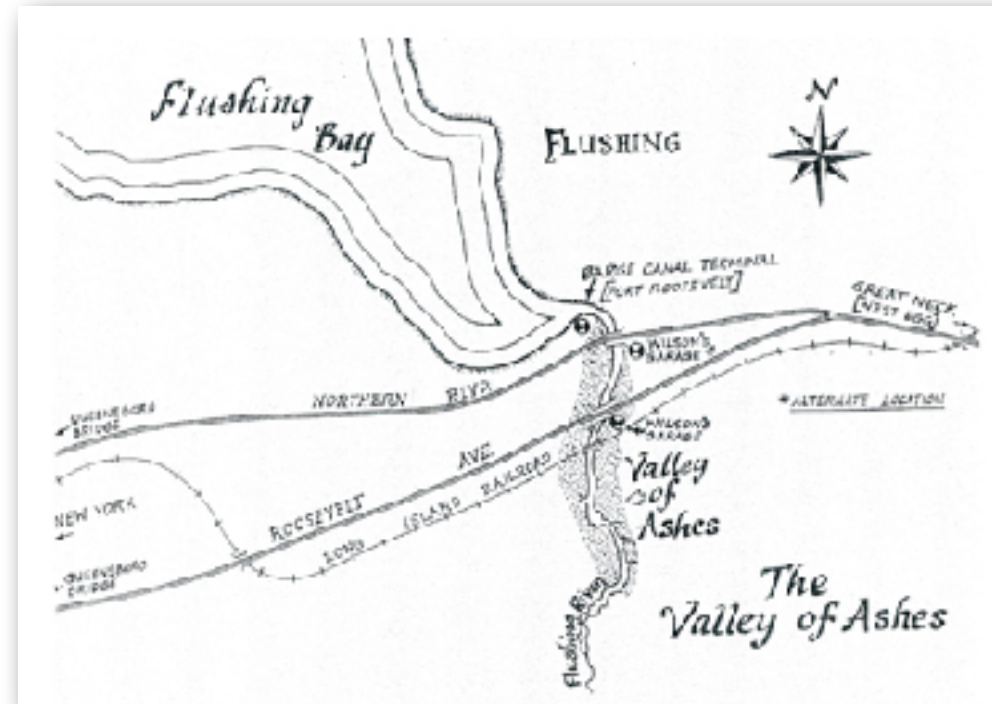
*The Great Gatsby* “draws heavily on the dynamics of setting to establish its larger meanings” (Robert Beuka *SuburbiaNation*, 30)

“I lived at West Egg, the -- well, less fashionable of the two” (Nick Carraway, *The Great Gatsby*, 8)

“Across the courtesy bay the white palaces of fashionable East Egg glittered along the water” (8)



## Flushing, Queens and the Corona Dump: “the valley of ashes”



Digitally enhanced photos of the 1920s were used in Luhrman's version of *The Great Gatsby* (Source: *New York Daily News*, 7 March 2013)



“The dump consisted of swamp land west of the Flushing River which was being filled in with garbage, horse manure and ashes from the city’s coal burning furnaces.” Source: Architakes

Fitzgerald's working title:  
"Among Ash Heaps and Millionaires"

## American Fiction in the 20th Century



### New York in the 1920s



Traffic Tower, NYC, 1920s: 3 color  
lights introduced in Detroit, 1920,  
automatic timers, 1922



New York City: Transportation  
1920s: 500, 000 new cars in NYC

No new roads: traffic congestion



Queensboro Bridge:

“The city seen from the Queensboro Bridge is always  
the city seen for the first time, in its first wild promise  
of all the mystery and beauty in the world” (*GG* ch. 4).



## American Fiction in the 20th Century



### New York in the 1920s



Traffic Tower, NYC, 1920s: 3 color  
lights introduced in Detroit, 1920,  
automatic timers, 1922

New York City: Transportation  
1920s: 500,000 new cars in NYC

No new roads: traffic congestion



Pennsylvania Station,  
Main Waiting Area: “... I  
was lying half asleep in  
the cold lower level of  
the Pennsylvania  
Station ... waiting for the  
four o’clock train”  
(*GG* ch. 2).



Queensboro Bridge:  
“The city seen from the Queensboro  
Bridge is always the city seen for the  
first time, in its first wild promise of all  
the mystery and beauty in the  
world” (*GG* ch. 4).





## The Fitzgeralds at Great Neck, Long Island, 1922-1924

- April 26th, 1923: Letter to friend: “I’m beginning my third novel tomorrow”
- A “riotous island”: Scott can get little work done; changes from being a party drinker to a steady drinker of alcohol



Ohoka Castle  
(443 acres):

Home of  
newspaper  
magnate Herbert  
Bayard Swope.  
Scene of “a  
stream of  
parties” in the  
1920s



## The Fitzgeralds at Great Neck, Long Island, 1922-1924

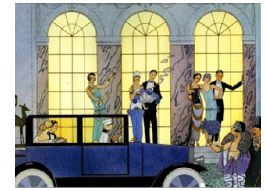
- April 26th, 1923: Letter to friend: “I’m beginning my third novel tomorrow”
- A “riotous island”: Scott can get little work done; changes from being a party drinker to a steady drinker of alcohol



“Tootsie arrived intermittent work on novel Constant drinking. Some golf. Baby begins to talk. Parties at Allen Dwans. Gloria Swanson and the movie crowd Our party for Tooties The Perkins arrive. I drive into the lake” -FSF Diary

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## The Fitzgeralds at Great Neck, Long Island, 1922-1924

“The repression breaks out A comfortable but dangerous and deteriorating year at Great Neck. No ground under our feet.” -FSF Diary

Letter to publisher: “I spent [the time 1923-24] uselessly, neither in study or contemplation but only in drinking and raising hell generally”

- December 1923- March 1924: Scott stops drinking and writes ten stories. Earns \$16,450
- 1923: Scott makes \$28,754-- not enough to pay the bills
- Works on novel during summer 1924.

Title: “Among Ash Heaps and Millionaires”





# The Fitzgeralds at Great Neck, Long Island, 1922-1924

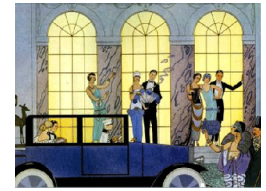


Ring Lardner  
(1885-1933)  
author, cartoonist,  
sports writer

- Scott's neighbor and drinking buddy
- Sports reporter, writer of fiction and cartoons, composer and lyricist
- Worked in Chicago, moved to New York, Long Island, 1919
- Lover of baseball, covered the 1919 Black Sox baseball scandal, knew the team well, disillusioned by the scandal



Lardner's comic strip  
"You Know Me, Al"  
(1914-1925) and  
baseball stories

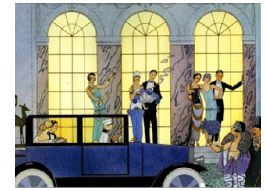


## The Fitzgeralds at Great Neck, Long Island, 1922-1924



Max Von Gerlach, 1930

- Another neighbor and friend, Max Von Gerlach (1884-1958)
- Throws lavish parties, suspected of being a bootlegger
- Described as “a wealthy yachtsman” (euphemism for bootlegger)
- May have been Fitzgerald’s supplier of alcohol
- Owned an auto dealership in Flushing on Northern Boulevard (near the Corona Dump in Queens)
- July 20th, 1923, note to Scott: “*How are you and the family old Sport?*”



## The Fitzgeralds at Great Neck, Long Island, 1922-1924



- Robert C. Kerr Jr., jeweler, pianist, singer
- A neighbor and friend of Scott's
- Tells his story about warning a wealthy millionaire that his yacht was in trouble
- Kerr, 14 years old, hired by owner, Edward Robinson Gilman, spent 3 1/2 years as Gilman's assistant; sailed around the world
- Source for the story of James Gatz and Dan Cody



Rum-running during Prohibition:  
Yacht in British Guiana





## The Fitzgeralds at Great Neck, Long Island, 1922-1924



Rothstein had an eye for talent. His henchmen during the 1920s included celebrity thugs such as “Legs” Diamond, “Lucky” Luciano, Dutch Schultz and Frank Costello.

Luciano worshipped Rothstein.

“He taught me how to dress ... how to use knives and forks and things like that at the dinner table, about holdin’ a door open for a girl,” Luciano reminisced. “If Arnold had lived a little longer, he could’ve made me pretty elegant.”

--Jewish Virtual Library



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world

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Murdered in 1928. His empire broken up



## The Fitzgeralds at Great Neck, Long Island, 1922-1924



Arnold Rothstein (1882-1928), “the Brain,” businessman, gambler, son of wealthy Jewish businessman

Leader (or kingpin) of the Jewish mob in NYC

1919, “Black Sox Scandal”: Rothstein associates allegedly paid Chicago White Sox to “throw” (lose) the World Series of baseball against the Cincinnati Reds



Rothstein, Not a thug: “the pioneer big businessman of organized crime in the United States”

Murdered in 1928: His empire broken up



Section 1

"All the News That's Fit to Print."

VOL. LXXII...No. 23,542.

# GREAT EARTHQUAKE MANY PERISH, ITALY SEIZES

## COAL STRIKE FORCES 100 PERCENT. TIE-UP; RECESS IN PARLEYS

All of 150,000 Miners, Except  
Maintenance Men, Drop  
Tools and Quit.

## DISPUTANTS CONFER AGAIN

Meet With Pinchot for Half an  
Hour and Then Adjourn  
Until Wednesday.

## GOVERNOR MORE HOPEFUL

Experts Meet to Help the Cause,  
and Meanwhile Aids Expression  
of Public Opinion.

Formed in The New York Times.  
WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 3.—There is a total suspension of work today in the anthracite and bituminous regions of Pennsylvania and western Virginia because of the coal strike. The strike has forced out of the anthracite and bituminous regions of Pennsylvania and western Virginia because of the coal strike. The strike has forced out of the anthracite and bituminous regions of Pennsylvania and western Virginia because of the coal strike.

## Physicians Deny Hylan Has Cancer

Dr. John I. McGrath, President  
of Bellevue Hospital, New York

HILO, Hawaii, Sept. 1 (Associated Press).—The seismograph at Kealahou at 7 o'clock last night registered a severe distant earthquake.

Sampans in the harbor were warned to beware of a tidal wave. Reports received here said a slight tidal wave was noticed at the Island of Puna, off the coast of Ecuador. No damage was reported.

BERKELEY, Cal., Sept. 1.—The seismograph of the University of California recorded a "very severe" earthquake starting at 10 minutes and 16 seconds after 7 o'clock last night and lasting for three hours and fifty minutes. The indicated distance was 5,400 miles and the point of origin in the region between Tokio and Osaka, Japan.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—An earthquake described as extremely severe and continuing nearly five hours last night and early today was recorded on the Georgetown University seismograph. Beginning at 10:12 P. M., the disturbance reached a maximum intensity between 10:30 and 11 o'clock, and lasted until 3 A. M. Director Tondorf of the observatory estimated the centre of the disturbance at about 6,300 miles from Washington.

WEST BROMWICH, England, Sept. 1 (Associated Press).—An exceptionally severe earthquake shock was recorded at the observatory here at about 4:11 this morning.

The seismograph indicated that the origin of the tremors was 5,500 miles distant from here. The movement was sufficiently strong to ring an alarm bell and disarrange the mechanism of the recording instrument.





# The Fitzgeralds at Great Neck, Long Island, 1922-1924

Section 1 "All the News That's Fit to Print." THE NEW YORK TIMES. THE WEATHER Partly cloudy today; Monday unsettled; probably showers. Temperature—max. 65.1, min. 51. For full weather report see Page 16. Section 1

VOL. LXXII...No. 23,542. NEW YORK, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1923. FIVE CENTS

## GREAT EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE RAVAGE TOKIO AND YOKOHAMA; MANY PERISH, BUILDINGS COLLAPSE; SURVIVORS FLEE IN PANIC; ITALY SEIZES TWO MORE ISLANDS; LEAGUE TAKES UP THE CASE

### COAL STRIKE FORCES 100 PERCENT. TIE-UP; RECESS IN PARLEYS

All of 158,000 Miners, Except Maintenance Men, Drop Tools and Quit.

### DISPUTANTS CONFER AGAIN

Meet With Pinchot for Half an Hour and Then Adjourn Until Wednesday.

### GOVERNOR MORE HOPEFUL

Expresses Hope to Help His Cause, and Meantime Asks Expression of Public Opinion.

### Physicians Deny Hylan Has Cancer

Dr. John J. McGrath, President of Bellevue Hospital, Visits

### ALIENS ON FOUR SHIPS TOO SOON TO ENTER

Most of 1,895 Who Arrived Before Instead of After Mid-

### MORE GREEK ISLANDS SEIZED

Italian Forces Occupy Paxos and Antipaxos, Strategic Points.

### GREEK STEAMER FIRED ON

Channel Is Under Blockade, Italian Submarine Commander Tells Merchantman.

### NO MORE SEIZURES LIKELY

But Rome Orders Other Naval Units to Lower Adriatic Ready for Action.

### AREA OF EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE IN JAPAN

### COOLIDGE CABLES SYMPATHY TO EMPEROR OF JAPAN; NAVY ORDERS VESSELS TO YOKOHAMA FOR RELIEF

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—President Coolidge tonight addressed to Emperor Yoshihito of Japan a message of sympathy on the part of himself and the American people for the sufferers from the earthquake in Japan.

### FIRES RAGE IN WHOLE TOKIO DISTRICT

All Yokohama Burning and Neighboring Towns Are Involved as Water Systems Are Wrecked—Business Suspended.

### TREMENDOUS LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY INDICATED

700 Are Killed in the Asakusa Tower—People Flee to Ships—Earthquake Centres in the Extinct Volcano of Fuji—Cables Interrupted.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 1 (Associated Press).—Tokio is afire, many buildings of the city have collapsed, the water system is destroyed, the loss of life is heavy, all traffic has been suspended and the flames are spreading to surrounding towns, following a terrific earthquake, according to a message received here tonight by the Radio Corporation of America from the superintendent of the company's station at Tomioka.

[Other messages report that the whole city of Yokohama is burning and that great loss of life and property has been caused.]

The Radio Corporation's superintendent said he obtained his information from a morning paper at Sendai, a large seaport town about 200 miles north of Tokio. Tomioka is about 164 miles north of Tokio.

Casualties Very Heavy.

The message read:



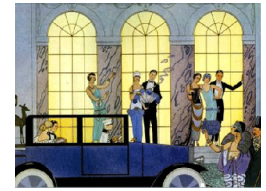


## France and Italy

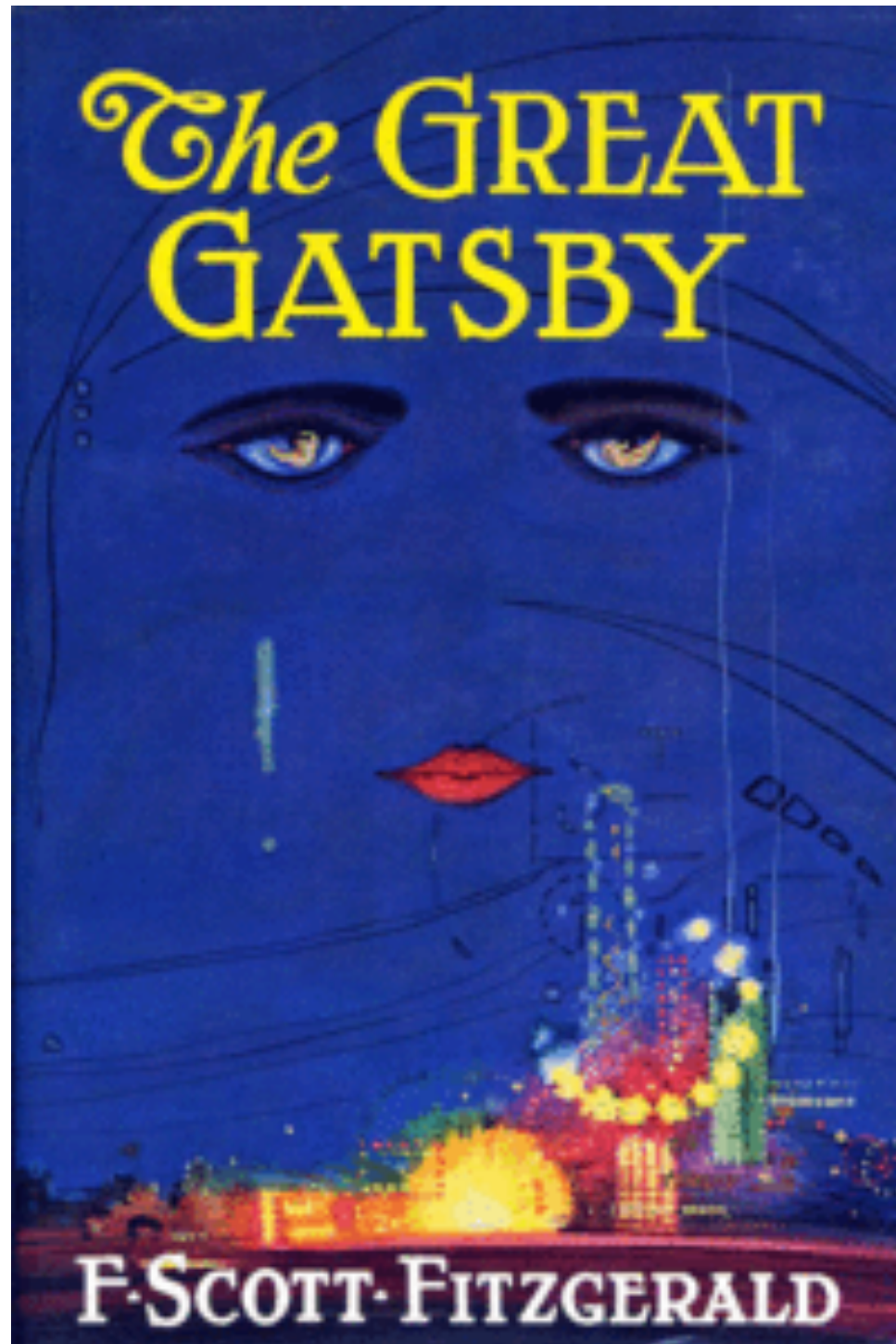


- Spring 1924: Scott decides to move the family to France
- Quiet and inexpensive
- Take a house near St Raphael for \$79 US
- Summer / Fall 1924: Zelda has an affair with French pilot Edouard Jozan
- She asks Scott for a divorce

“That Sept. 1924 I knew something had happened that could never be repaired” -FSF Diary



## France and Italy



- Oct. 1924: Scott sends his new novel to Charles Scribner's Sons Publishers

- Still unsure about title:

“Trimalchio” / “Trimalchio in West Egg”

“On the Road to West Egg”

“Gold Hatted Gatsby”

“The High Bouncing Lover”

“Under the Red, White and Blue”

Daisy: “the girl whose disembodied face floated along the dark cornices and blinding signs” *The Great Gatsby*, chapter 4

Original *Great Gatsby* cover design by Francis Cugat, 1925



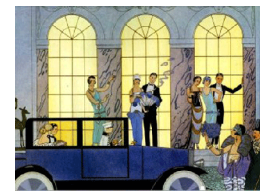


## France and Italy



- Fitzgeralds move to Rome
- Scott hates Italy and Italians
- Drinks constantly, is beaten by police
- January 1925: Scott revises the whole novel and re-writes chapters 6, 7, and 8





## France and Italy

### *Disclosures by Fuller and McGee Will Rock Wall Street to Its Base*

**Counsel for Self-Confessed Bucketeteers Urges  
Unwisdom of Making Truth Public Because  
of Startling Nature of Facts, But Declares  
This Will Probably Be Done  
Within Few Hours.**

(By The Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Aug. 8.—Disclosures of "so startling a nature that the financial section of New York will be shaken to its foundations" will be made when the confession of Edward M. Fuller and W. Frank McGee, bankrupt bucketeteers, is made public, Carl E. Whitney, newly named counsel for the pair, declared today.

Facts concerning a "bucket shop ring" with surprising political and business ramifications, were included in the confession made to United States Attorney Hayward, according to Mr. Whitney.

"My clients are now telling the truth about their affairs, a thing which they should have done a year ago," said Mr. Whitney today. "These disclosures are of a startling nature and are likely to rock the financial quarter to its foundations."

"In my opinion it would be unwise to make public the disclosures of Fuller and McGee at this time. This, however, will probably be done before the end of the week," he said.

The federal grand jury will resume its sittings tomorrow and will be ready to go ahead with any word placed before it

### Wall Street Stock Fraud:

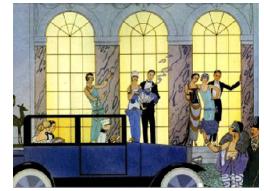
- Scott learns about the Fuller-McGee case in NYC from a man he meets in Rome
- Arnold Rothstein connected to stockbrokers Edward and William F. McGee
- Charged with stock fraud, August 1924

Arnold Rothstein

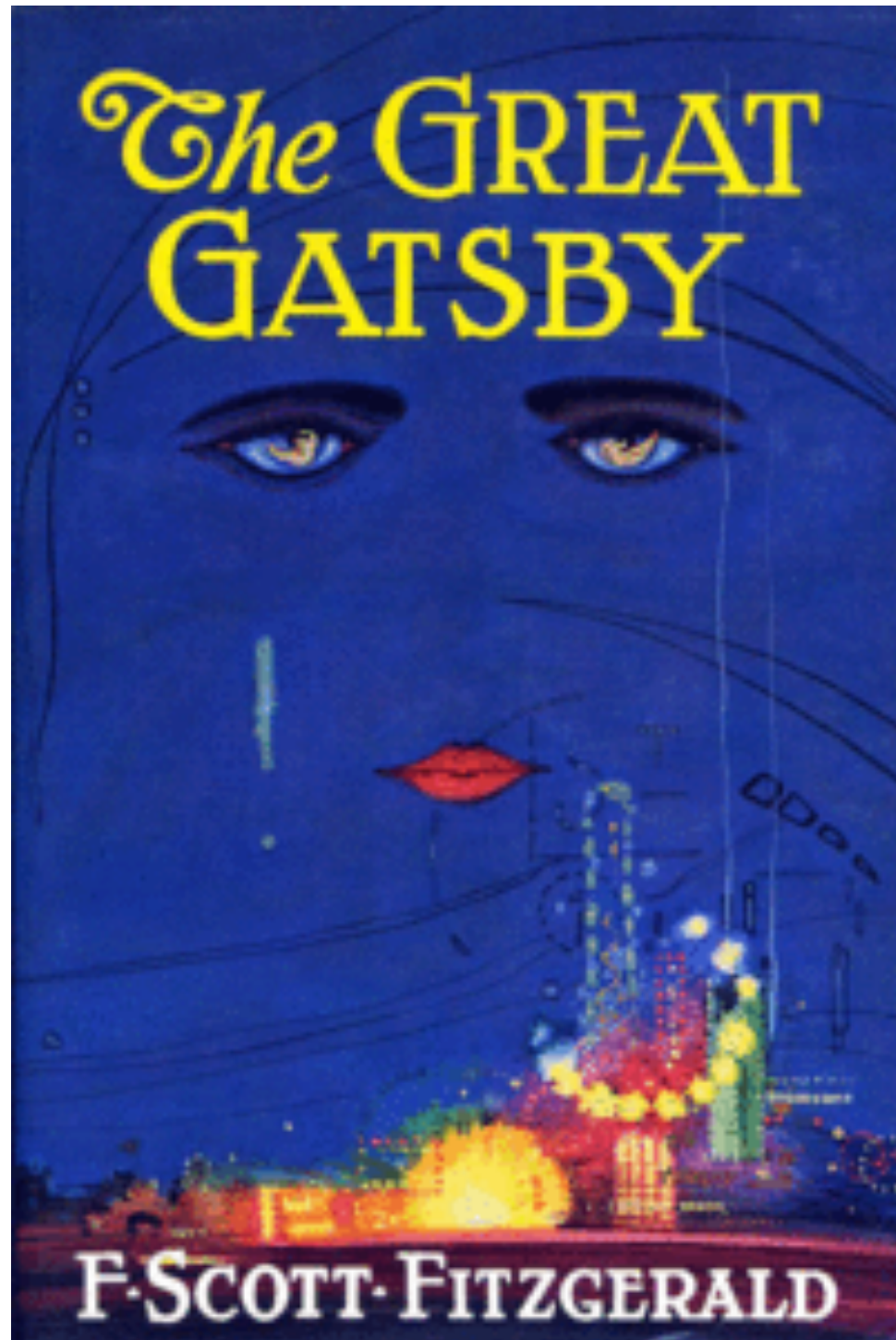


NY newspaper report,  
August 9th, 1924





## Publication and Reception



- Publication of *The Great Gatsby* rushed for April 1925
- Scott doesn't do a final check: errors in 1st edition
- Until March Scott still thinking about changing the title: "Under the Red, White and Blue"
- Reviews diverse, no consensus; sales poor

"[T]he book contains no important woman character and women control the fiction market at present" -FSF  
Letter to publisher