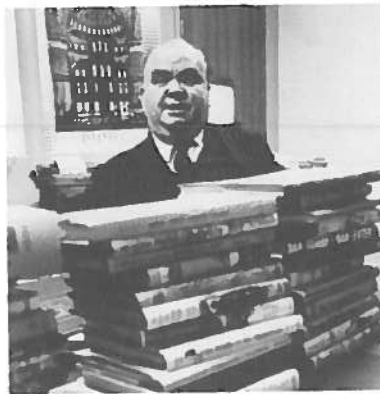


Background information pertaining to a commemorative plaque at 2 Lansdowne Terrace to George Orwell, Sir Stephen Spender and Cyril Connolly's *Horizon* magazine.

***Horizon: A Review of Literature and Art* was an influential literary magazine published in London, UK, between 1940 and 1949.**

The poet **Stephen Spender** (1909-1995) joined **Cyril Connolly** (1903-1974) and the wealthy patron Peter Watson in 1939 to set up *Horizon* at 6 Selwyn House, 2 Lansdowne Terrace, WC1, using the two ground floor rooms of his rented apartment as editorial offices for the magazine. *Horizon* was edited by Cyril Connolly, who made it into a platform for a wide range of distinguished and emerging writers, some of whom are listed below. It had a print run of 102 issues or 20 volumes. Spender served as associate editor from 1939 to 1941, although he continued making contributions after that.



Cyril Connolly

The first edition of *Horizon* provided a new publishing outlet for political writer, essayist, journalist and critic **George Orwell** (1903-1950 – real name Eric Arthur Blair) as well as new literary contacts. It went on to carry some of his most important writing. At the end of August 1941 Orwell had dinner with H.G. Wells which degenerated into a row because Wells had taken offence at observations Orwell made about him in a *Horizon* article. Orwell's final contribution to *Horizon* was in March 1949. The literature refers to Orwell being a "frequent visitor" to the editorial offices of the magazine and to him sleeping through a Blitz air-raid, with the noise of the anti-aircraft barrage in nearby Brunswick Square failing to disturb his sleep. We have also come across a letter written by Orwell to Spender on *Horizon* headed paper with the address 2 Lansdowne Terrace, after Spender had ceased living there, both of which would suggest that Orwell had unrestricted access to the premises at this time.



George Orwell



Stephen Spender

Although *Horizon* had a relatively small circulation of around 9,500, it boasted an impressive list of contributors and it made a significant impact on the arts during and just after the Second World War. Connolly issued an all-Irish number in 1941, an all-Swiss number in 1946 and a U. S. number in October 1947.

In *Unconditional Surrender* Evelyn Waugh created a character, Everard Spruce, who, like Connolly, was the editor of a literary review, liked good food and parties, and was surrounded by helpful young ladies. In reality two of these ladies at *Horizon* were Clarissa Eden and Sonia Brownell. Brownell met George Orwell through the magazine and later married him.

Below: 2 Lansdowne Terrace, WC1, today. Note the lighter coloured brickwork on the upper floors, which had to be rebuilt following bomb damage in World War II. Stephen Spender rented the ground floor and basement.



Contributors to *Horizon* magazine include:

- W.H. Auden
- John Banting
- Cecil Beaton
- John Betjeman
- Paul Bowles
- Arthur Calder-Marshall
- Robert Colquhoun
- John Craxton
- Paul Brooks Davis
- T.S. Eliot
- William Empson
- Ian Fleming
- Lucian Freud
- David Gascoyne
- W.S. Graham
- Graham Greene
- Barbara Hepworth
- Terence Heywood
- Brian Howard
- Christopher Isherwood
- Randall Jarrell
- Augustus John
- Anna Kavan
- Paul Klee
- Arthur Koestler
- Osbert Lancaster
- Alun Lewis
- Julian MacLaren-Ross
- Louise MacNeice
- Olivia Manning
- André Masson
- Henry Miller
- Henry Moore
- Alan Moorhead
- Paul Nash
- Ben Nicholson
- George Orwell
- John Piper
- Edouard Roditi
- Bertrand Russell
- Vita Sackville-West
- William Sansom
- Stephen Spender
- Wallace Stevens
- Graham Sutherland

- Dylan Thomas
- John Waller
- Denton Welch
- Eudora Welty
- Patrick White
- Diana Witherby
- Virginia Woolf

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2. *Editions/Volumes of Horizon: A Review of Literature and Art* – Google Books
3. Michael Sheldo (1989): *Friends of Promise: Cyril Connolly and the World of "Horizon"*, Hamish Hamilton / Harper & Row
4. *Land of the Middlebrow*, Time, October 20, 1947.
5. *Clarissa Eden's road to Suez*, Telegraph, 20 December 2007.
6. *Horizon – 1940-1949*, Cyril Connolly, Bookride
7. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia