A Nineteenth-Century British Timeline

1719  Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
1773-1858 The East India Company (Inc.1600) governs Hindustan
1789  Storming of the Bastille begins French Revolution
1798  Wordsworth and Coleridge, *Lyrical Ballads*
       Dorothy Wordsworth, *The Alfoxden Journal*
1800  Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent*
       Second Edition of *Lyrical Ballads*; Wordsworth’s Preface included
1800  Iron hand-press, impact on printing technology
1800-1803 Dorothy Wordsworth, *The Grasmere Journal*
1807  Abolition of the slave trade
       Mechanization of paper making
1811  Regency begins (Prince of Wales acts for George III)
1814  First use of steam in printing
1815  Battle of Waterloo
       End of Napoleonic War
       Corn Law Passed
1817  Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria* (response to Wordsworth’s Preface)
1818  Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
1819  Birth of Victoria
1819  Peterloo Massacre
1822  Rudolph Ackermann publishes the *Forget Me Not*, the first English Annual
1825  Macaulay, *Essay on Milton*
1826  Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge
1828  Test and Corporation Acts Repealed
       First publication of the *Keepsake*, another annual
1828  Catholic Emancipation Act
1830-1803 Lyell, *Principles of Geology*
1830  First Steam-powered railway
1832  The Reform Bill
1833  Abolition of Slavery in the British Empire
       Factory Act passed
1837  Accession of Queen Victoria (to 1901)
1838  People’s Charter published
       Anti-Corn League founded
       First regular Atlantic steamship
1839  Photography established by Louis Daguerre and William Henry Fox Talbot
1840  Dickens, *Old Curiosity Shop* (serialized)
       Percy Shelley, *A Defence of Poetry*
1842  Mudie’s Circulating Library founded
       Copyright extended to 42 years or 7 yrs after dead
1843  Wordsworth Poet Laureate
1844  Factory Act (women and children)
1845  Repeal of the Corn Laws
       Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*
1845-1850 Famine in Ireland
1846  Repeal of Corn Laws.
       Commercial telegraph service begins (patented 1837)
1847  Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*
1847  First operation using chloroform
       Ten Hours Act (limits working day)
1848  Irish uprisings
       The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood
       Revolutions through western Europe
       Public Health Act
       Christian Socialist Movement begins
Gov't temporarily takes over telegraph system
WH Smith sets up bookstalls in railway stations
1848  Queen's College founded (to instruct women)
       *Communist Manifesto* published (Marx)
1849  Bedford College for women established
1850  Tennyson, *In Memoriam*
       Tennyson Poet Laureate
1851  Crystal Palace Exhibition
1854  The Crimean War (1854-56)
1854  London Working Men's College founded
1855  Abolition of Newspaper Tax
       *Daily Telegraph*, first mass circulation daily newspaper
1856  **Barrett Browning, Aurora Leigh**
1857  Matrimonial Causes Act
1857  The Indian Mutiny
1858  Victoria proclaims permanent British rule of India
1859  Darwin, *Origin of Species*
1860  **Collins, Woman in White**
1861  American Civil War (through 1865)
1865  Transatlantic cable opened
       antiseptic surgery
       *Carroll, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
1867  Karl Marx, *Das Kapital*
       The Second Reform Bill
1869  Girton College, Cambridge, admits women
1870  Franco-Prussian War (emergence of German as industrial world power)
       Education Act
       London linked to Bombay
1871  Darwin, *Descent of Man*
       *Carroll, Through the Looking Glass*
1872  Secret Ballot adopted for elections
1876  Victoria proclaimed Empress of India
       *Carroll, Hunting of the Snark*
1879  Incandescent lamp created (Edison & Swann)
       British Museum lights up
1880  Huxley, *Science and Culture*
1882  Arnold, *Literature and Science*
1884  The Third Reform Bill
1885  Radio invented
1886  *Haggard, King Solomon's Mines & She*
       Golden Jubilee
       “Bloody Sunday” (Socialist demonstration at Trafalgar Square)
1888  Kipling, *Plain Tales from the Hills*
1892  Internal combustion engine patented (Rudolf Diesel)
1895  X-ray created
1895  Wilde, “The Importance of Being Earnest,” performed
       Wilde arrested, begins Trials of Oscar Wilde and enforcement of sodomy laws
1897  Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee
       *Stoker, Dracula*
1899-1902 Boer War
1901  Kipling, *Kim*
       Death of Victoria
1902  Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
1903  First powered flight by the Wright brothers