

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad offers a wide-ranging introduction to the fiction of one of the most influential novelists of the twentieth century. Through a series of essays by leading Conrad scholars aimed at both students and the general reader, the volume stimulates an informed appreciation of Conrad's work based on an understanding of his cultural and historical situations and fictional techniques. A chronology and overview of Conrad's life precede chapters that explore significant issues in his major writings and deal in depth with individual works. These are followed by discussions of the special nature of Conrad's narrative techniques, his complex relationships with late-Victorian imperialism and with literary Modernism, and his influence on other writers and artists. Each essay provides guidance to further reading, and a concluding chapter surveys the body of Conrad criticism.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
JOSEPH
CONRAD

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge Companions to Literature

The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature
edited by Malcolm Godden and Michael Lapidge

The Cambridge Companion to Dante
edited by Rachel Jacoff

The Cambridge Chaucer Companion
edited by Piero Boitani and Jill Mann

The Cambridge Companion to English Medieval Theatre
edited by Richard Beadle

The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare Studies
edited by Stanley Wells

The Cambridge Companion to English Renaissance Drama
edited by A. R. Braunmuller and Michael Hattaway

The Cambridge Companion to English Poetry, Donne to Marvell
edited by Thomas N. Corns

The Cambridge Companion to Milton
edited by Dennis Danielson

The Cambridge Companion to British Romanticism
edited by Stuart Curran

The Cambridge Companion to James Joyce
edited by Derek Attridge

The Cambridge Companion to Ibsen
edited by James McFarlane

The Cambridge Companion to Brecht
edited by Peter Thomson and Glendyr Sacks

The Cambridge Companion to Beckett
edited by John Pilling

The Cambridge Companion to T. S. Eliot
edited by A. David Moody

The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Humanism
edited by Jill Kraye

The Cambridge Companion to Faulkner
edited by Philip M. Weinstein

The Cambridge Companion to Thoreau
edited by Joel Myerson

The Cambridge Companion to Edith Wharton
edited by Millicent Bell

The Cambridge Companion to Realism and Naturalism
edited by Donald Pizer

The Cambridge Companion to Twain
edited by Forrest G. Robinson

The Cambridge Companion to Whitman
edited by Ezra Greenspan

The Cambridge Companion to Hemingway
edited by Scott Donaldson

The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad
edited by J. H. Stape

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



Portrait of Joseph Conrad by Ellen Heath (1898). By permission of Leeds City Art Galleries

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
JOSEPH
CONRAD

EDITED BY

J. H. STAPE

Japan Women's University, Tokyo



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad
Edited by J. H. Stape
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

<http://www.cambridge.org>

© Cambridge University Press 1996

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1996
Reprinted 1998, 2003

Printed in Great Britain at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress cataloging in publication data applied for

ISBN 0 521 44391 1 hardback
ISBN 0 521 48484 7 paperback

CONTENTS

	<i>Notes on contributors</i>	page xi
	<i>Preface</i>	xiii
	<i>Chronology of Conrad's life</i>	xv
	<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xix
1	Conrad's life OWEN KNOWLES	1
2	The short fiction GAIL FRASER	25
3	'Heart of Darkness' CEDRIC WATTS	45
4	<i>Lord Jim</i> J. H. STAPE	63
5	<i>Nostromo</i> ELOISE KNAPP HAY	81
6	<i>The Secret Agent</i> JACQUES BERTHOUD	100
7	<i>Under Western Eyes</i> KEITH CARABINE	122
8	The late novels ROBERT HAMPSON	140
9	Conradian narrative JAKOB LOTHE	160

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad
Edited by J. H. Stape
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

10	Conrad and imperialism ANDREA WHITE	179
11	Conrad and Modernism KENNETH GRAHAM	203
12	Conrad's influence GENE M. MOORE	223
	<i>Further reading</i>	242
	<i>Index</i>	254

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

JACQUES BERTHOUD is Professor of English at York University. The author of *Joseph Conrad: The Major Phase* (Cambridge University Press, 1978), he has edited *The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'*, *Almayer's Folly*, and *Chance* for Oxford's World's Classics and *The Shadow-Line* for Penguin Books.

KEITH CARABINE is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Kent at Canterbury. Editor of *Nostromo* for Oxford's World's Classics, he is co-editing *Under Western Eyes* in the Cambridge Edition of Conrad. The author of numerous articles on Conrad, he has also edited *Joseph Conrad: Critical Assessments* (Helm Information, 1992).

GAIL FRASER is Instructor in English at Douglas College, New Westminster, British Columbia. The author of *Interweaving Patterns in the Works of Joseph Conrad* (UMI Research Press, 1988), she has written several articles on Conrad and is currently writing a study of women in Conrad's fiction.

KENNETH GRAHAM is Professor of English at the University of Neuchâtel. He has written *English Criticism of the Novel 1865–1900* (Oxford University Press, 1965), *Henry James: The Drama of Fulfilment* (Oxford University Press, 1975), *Indirections of the Novel: James, Conrad, and Forster* (Cambridge University Press, 1988), and *Henry James: A Literary Life* (Macmillan, 1995).

ROBERT HAMPSON is Lecturer in English at Royal Holloway and New Bedford College, University of London. The author of *Joseph Conrad: Betrayal and Identity* (Macmillan, 1992), he has co-edited *Lord Jim* and has edited *Victory*, *Heart of Darkness*, and a number of Kipling's works for Penguin Books. He is the former editor of *The Conradian*.

ELOISE KNAPP HAY is Professor of English at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She has published *The Political Novels of Joseph Conrad*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

(University of Chicago Press, 1963) and *T. S. Eliot's Negative Way* (Harvard University Press, 1982) as well as numerous articles on James, Proust, Kipling, and Forster. She is currently completing *Hawthorne/Tocqueville:: Dickens/ Burke*.

OWEN KNOWLES is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Hull. The author of *Joseph Conrad: A Chronology* (Macmillan, 1990) and *An Annotated Critical Bibliography of Joseph Conrad* (Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1992), he is the former editor and current reviews editor of *The Conradian*.

JAKOB LOTHE is Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Oslo. He has written a number of articles on modern literature and is the author of *Conrad's Narrative Method* (Oxford University Press, 1989) and the editor of *Conrad in Scandinavia* (Columbia University Press, 1995).

GENE M. MOORE is Lecturer in English at the University of Amsterdam. The author of *Proust and Musil: The Novel as Research Instrument* (Garland Publishing, 1985), he has edited *Conrad's Cities: Essays for Hans van Marle* (Rodopi, 1992). He is co-editing *Suspense* in the Cambridge Edition of Conrad and is editing *Conrad on Film* (forthcoming, Cambridge University Press).

J. H. STAPE is Professor of English at Japan Women's University, Tokyo. Co-editor of *An Outcast of the Islands* and *The Rover* for Oxford's World's Classics, he has edited Virginia Woolf's *Night and Day* (Blackwell, 1994). His publications include *Angus Wilson: A Bibliography, 1947-87* (Mansell, 1988), *An E. M. Forster Chronology* (Macmillan, 1993), and volumes on Forster (1993) and Woolf (1995) in Macmillan's 'Interviews and Recollections' series.

CEDRIC WATTS is Professor of English at the University of Sussex. Among his many books on Conrad are *Joseph Conrad's Letters to R. B. Cunningham-Graham* (Cambridge University Press, 1969), *A Preface to Conrad* (Longman, 1982; revised 1993), and *Joseph Conrad: A Literary Life* (Macmillan, 1989). He has edited a number of Conrad's works for Penguin Books, Oxford's World's Classics, and Everyman, and has written on Shakespeare and Thomas Hardy.

ANDREA WHITE is Lecturer in English at California State University at Northridge. She is the author of *Joseph Conrad and the Adventure Tradition: Constructing and Deconstructing the Imperial Subject* (Cambridge University Press, 1993).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

Like the work of other major writers, that of Joseph Conrad has occasioned a large critical industry devoted to its interpretation and appreciation. And since Conrad is read both in translation and in the original throughout the world, this body of criticism spans linguistic and cultural boundaries to include commentaries not only, as might be expected, in French, Italian, and Polish but even, for instance, in Japanese and Swahili.

Conrad's almost universal presence on school reading-lists and in university courses as well as at the corner bookshop testifies to the fundamental centrality of his writing to modern literature and the modern experience. In English alone the books, articles, and notes published about his life and work amount to several thousand items, and even the guides directing the student or the interested general reader to this mass of material now total some thousand pages.

While it does not and cannot make Conrad's writings easier, the present volume of a dozen essays aims at increasing their accessibility. It opens with an overview of Conrad's life and then proceeds to engaged readings of the major fiction. These chapters, devoted to individual works or to groups of texts, develop formal and thematic concerns with an eye on a range of ideological issues. This essential contextualization should help readers appreciate an author whose work is sometimes regarded as dauntingly complex and whose imaginative world and cultural framework may at moments seem remote from their own. The chapters that follow explore some of the larger questions raised by Conrad's writings as a whole. They focus on the special nature of his narrative techniques, on the current debates about his relationship to imperialism and to literary Modernism, and on the varied influence his work has exerted on other writers. Lastly, a guide to further reading provides information about Conrad scholarship and the body of standard Conrad criticism.

The emphasis of this volume falls on informed appreciation based on an understanding of Conrad's cultural contexts and fictional techniques. Con-

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

rad's own life, the object of considerable interest and comment, is discussed since it illuminates a number of the preoccupations of his fiction. These concerns are particularly contemporary in their nature and scope, and include, for instance, the complex interrelationships between an individual and his or her social and economic milieu, ethnicity and multi-cultural identity, linguistic confrontation and alienation, and the interactions between empire and colony.

The contributors to this volume live and teach in a number of countries and are actively engaged in the on-going process of discovering and re-discovering Conrad through a variety of perspectives. They bring to bear diverse scholarly and critical traditions – American, British, and Continental. The volume takes advantage of the rich heritage of Conrad studies that has evolved from the 1940s, and, more particularly, takes note of the critical movements and debates of the past two decades.

The task of preparing this volume has been greatly eased by the generous advice of Dr Owen Knowles, Hans van Marle, Dr Gene M. Moore, and, at Cambridge University Press, Josie Dixon and Kevin Taylor.

J. H. STAPE

CHRONOLOGY OF CONRAD'S LIFE

- 1857 Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski, only child of poet, dramatist, translator, and political activist, Apollo Korzeniowski and Ewelina (or Ewa), née Bobrowska, born on 3 December in or near Berdichev in the Ukraine.
- 1861 Apollo Korzeniowski arrested and imprisoned in Warsaw for anti-Russian conspiracy.
- 1862 The Korzeniowskis are exiled to Vologda, northern Russia.
- 1865 Death of Ewa Korzeniowska.
- 1868 Apollo Korzeniowski and his son move to Lwów.
- 1869 Death of Apollo Korzeniowski in Cracow. Maternal uncle, Tadeusz Bobrowski, becomes young Korzeniowski's guardian. Privately tutored because of ill health, also occasionally attends schools during the next few years.
- 1873 Visits Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and northern Italy with his tutor Adam Pulman.
- 1874 Leaves Poland for Marseilles to become a trainee seaman in the French Merchant Service. Works for shippers and bankers Delestang et Fils.
- 1874–7 Passenger and apprentice in the *Mont-Blanc* and 'steward' in the *Saint-Antoine* (to the Caribbean).
- 1878 Shoots himself in the chest in Marseilles after accumulating gambling debts but escapes serious injury. Joins the steamship *Mavis*, his first British ship. Serves as ordinary seaman in the *Skimmer of the Sea* (English coastal waters).
- 1878–80 Ordinary seaman in the *Duke of Sutherland* (to Australia) and in the steamship *Europa* (Mediterranean).
- 1880 Passes examination for second mate. Third mate in the *Loch Etive* (to Australia).
- 1881–4 Second mate in the *Palestine*, *Riversdale*, and *Narcissus* (to South-East Asia and India).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF CONRAD'S LIFE

- 1884 Passes examination for first mate.
- 1885–6 Second mate in the *Tilkhurst* (to Singapore and Calcutta).
- 1886 Becomes a British subject. Passes examination for master's certificate.
- 1886–7 Second mate in the *Falconhurst*. First mate in the *Highland Forest* (to Java). Injured on board, is hospitalized in Singapore.
- 1887–8 First mate in the steamship *Vidar* (from Singapore to various Netherlands East Indies ports).
- 1888 Master of the *Otago*, joined in Bangkok, sails to Australia and Mauritius.
- 1889 Resigns from the *Otago*. Settles briefly in London and begins *Almayer's Folly*.
- 1890 Friendship with marriage relation and writer Marguerite Poradowska. In the Congo Free State for the Société pour le Commerce du Haut-Congo as second in command and, temporarily, captain of the river steamer *Roi des Belges*.
- 1891 Manages the warehouse of Barr, Moering in London.
- 1891–3 First mate in the passenger clipper *Torrens* (to Australia). Meets John Galsworthy, among her passengers. Visits Bobrowski in the Ukraine.
- 1894 *Almayer's Folly* accepted for publication. Meets Edward Garnett, publisher's reader, and Jessie George, a typist, whom he later marries. Signs on as second mate in the *Adowa* but sails only to France and back. End of his sea career.
- 1895 *Almayer's Folly* published under the pen name 'Joseph Conrad'.
- 1896 *An Outcast of the Islands* published. Marries Jessie George (24 March) and honeymoon in Brittany. Begins *The Rescuer*. Settles in Stanford-le-Hope, Essex. Becomes acquainted with H. G. Wells and initiates a correspondence with Henry James.
- 1897 Begins friendships with writer and political figure R. B. Cunningham-Graham and with Stephen Crane. *The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'* published.
- 1898 Son Borys born. *Tales of Unrest* published ('Karain', 'The Idiots', 'An Outpost of Progress', 'The Return', 'The Lagoon'). Collaborates with Ford Madox Hueffer (later Ford) and takes over from him lease of The Pent, Postling, Kent.
- 1899 'Heart of Darkness' serialized.
- 1899–1900 *Lord Jim* serialized
- 1900 In Belgium with Ford. J. B. Pinker becomes Conrad's agent. *Lord Jim* published in book form.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Chronology of Conrad's life

- 1901 *The Inheritors* (collaboration with Ford) published.
- 1902 *Youth: A Narrative; and Two Other Stories* published ('Youth', 'Heart of Darkness', 'The End of the Tether').
- 1903 *Typhoon, and Other Stories* ('Typhoon', 'Amy Foster', 'Falk', 'To-morrow') and *Romance* (collaboration with Ford) published.
- 1904 *Nostromo* serialized and published in book form. Jessie Conrad injures her knees, remaining partially disabled for life.
- 1905 Sojourn on Capri. *One Day More*, dramatization of 'To-morrow', staged in London.
- 1906 Sojourn in Montpellier. Son John born. *The Mirror of the Sea* published. *The Secret Agent* serialized in US.
- 1907 Sojourn in Montpellier and in Geneva. *The Secret Agent* published in book form. Moves to Someries, Luton Hoo, Bedfordshire.
- 1908 *A Set of Six* published ('Gaspar Ruiz', 'The Informer', 'The Brute', 'An Anarchist', 'The Duel', 'Il Conde').
- 1909 Moves to Aldington, Kent. Breaks with Ford.
- 1910 Completes *Under Western Eyes* and suffers a nervous breakdown. Moves to Capel House, Orlestone, Kent.
- 1910–11 *Under Western Eyes* serialized and published in book form.
- 1912 *Some Reminiscences* (later *A Personal Record*) and *'Twiixt Land and Sea* published ('A Smile of Fortune', 'The Secret Sharer', 'Freya of the Seven Isles'). *Chance* serialized in New York.
- 1914 *Chance* published in book form. First financial success. Visits Poland in summer with family. Trapped for some weeks by the outbreak of war, returns to England via Austria and Italy.
- 1915 *Within the Tides* ('The Planter of Malata', 'The Partner', 'The Inn of the Two Witches', 'Because of the Dollars') and *Victory* published.
- 1917 *The Shadow-Line* published.
- 1919 Moves to Spring Grove, near Wye, Kent. Basil Macdonald Hastings's dramatization of *Victory* staged in London. Moves to Oswalds, Bishopsbourne, near Canterbury. *The Arrow of Gold* published. Begins 'Author's Notes' for Doubleday and Heinemann Collected Editions.
- 1920 *The Rescue*, begun in 1898, published.
- 1921 Visits Corsica, doing research for *The Rover* and *Suspense*. *Notes on Life and Letters* published. Collected Editions begin publication.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF CONRAD'S LIFE

- 1922 Dramatization of *The Secret Agent* staged in London.
- 1923 Visits the United States to a rapturous reception. *The Rover* serialized in US and published in book form.
- 1924 Declines a knighthood. Dies of a heart attack at Oswalds on 3 August, aged 66. Buried in Roman Catholic section of Canterbury cemetery. *The Nature of a Crime* (collaboration with Ford) published in book form.
- 1925 *Tales of Hearsay* ('The Warrior's Soul', 'Prince Roman', 'The Tale', 'The Black Mate') and *Suspense* published.
- 1926 *Last Essays*, edited by Richard Curle, published.
- 1928 *The Sisters* (fragment) published.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ABBREVIATIONS

Citations to Conrad's writings are to Dent's Collected Edition. Where a volume in this edition has been reprinted by Oxford University Press in its World's Classics series it is cited by the title assigned to it in that series. Full publication details of works referred to are given in the Works Cited section at the end of each chapter.

AF	<i>Almayer's Folly</i>
AG	<i>The Arrow of Gold</i>
Ch	<i>Chance</i>
HD	<i>'Heart of Darkness' and Other Tales</i>
In	<i>The Inheritors</i>
LE	<i>Last Essays</i>
LJ	<i>Lord Jim</i>
MS	<i>The Mirror of the Sea</i>
NLL	<i>Notes on Life and Letters</i>
NN	<i>The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'</i>
No	<i>Nostramo</i>
OI	<i>An Outcast of the Islands</i>
PR	<i>A Personal Record</i>
Re	<i>The Rescue</i>
Ro	<i>The Rover</i>
SA	<i>The Secret Agent</i>
SL	<i>The Shadow-Line</i>
SS	<i>A Set of Six</i>
Su	<i>Suspense</i>
TH	<i>Tales of Hearsay</i>
TLS	<i>'Twixt Land and Sea</i>
TOT	<i>'Typhoon' and Other Tales</i>
TU	<i>Tales of Unrest</i>
UWE	<i>Under Western Eyes</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-48484-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad

Edited by J. H. Stape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ABBREVIATIONS

Vi *Victory*

WT *Within the Tides*

YOS *Youth: A Narrative; and Two Other Stories*

Letters *The Collected Letters of Joseph Conrad*. Ed. Frederick R. Karl and Laurence Davies. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983–.

In quotations, spaced points (...) indicate an ellipsis by the writer, while unspaced points (...) occur in the work being cited.