

## *Contents*

<i>Foreword</i> Frank Kermode	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
1 Joseph Conrad: alienation and commitment	1
2 <i>Almayer's Folly</i> : introduction	20
3 Conrad criticism and <i>The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'</i>	64
4 Conrad's <i>Heart of Darkness</i> and the critics	85
5 Comedy and humour in <i>Typhoon</i>	97
6 The political and social background of <i>The Secret Agent</i>	112
7 'The Secret Sharer': introduction	127
8 Conrad, James and <i>Chance</i>	133
9 Story and idea in Conrad's <i>The Shadow-Line</i>	152
10 The decline of the decline: notes on Conrad's reputation	170
11 Around Conrad's grave in the Canterbury cemetery – a retrospect	186
12 'The Bridge over the River Kwai' as myth	192
<i>Index</i>	208